

'BLOCK AND TACKLE'

Club to Help Stutterers Started by Speech Prof

By Helen Jones
Emerald Associate Editor

Everyone stutters once in a while, and nobody notices it. But for those unfortunate people who stutter often enough so that it is noticeable, therapy is needed. School may be torture for the stuttering youngster. An adult career may be hurt because of stuttering.

Dr. Kenneth Wood, of the University of Oregon speech department, has found a new way to help Eugene stutterers, and a way that gets around the clinical situation of syllable tests and exercises. It's called Block and Tackle, and it's a sort of "stutterers' club."

Group Meets at SU

Every Monday evening about 20 stutterers, mostly adult townspeople, gather in the Student Union building on campus to fight their special speech problem. Block and Tackle is authorized by the school's speech department, but is Dr. Wood's special interest. The big step in getting over stuttering is to be able to talk about it, according to Dr. Wood.

Block and Tackle members relate embarrassing experiences of their own—experiences that were embarrassing to them because they stuttered. They share their problems over a cup of coffee.

Psychodramas Used

Members also take part in psychodramas—play situations in which they must argue a point or defend themselves. These situations are designed so that anxiety will be caused in the actor, for anxiety is the big reason for stuttering.

"Suppose," suggests a student speech clinician, "that Mr. Jones is your boss. He asks you to bring him a certain paper. You have filed the paper wrong and can't find it. Mr. Jones is mad. Now

what do you say to each other?" Then the scene is acted. Telephone conversations are also frequently used.

Student speech therapists attend each Block and Tackle session. They participate in the discussions as if they, too, were stutterers.

The experience is helpful, said Elaine Chambers, senior in speech correction at the university.

Wrong Attitude

People quickly develop the wrong attitude toward stutterers, Miss Chambers explained. They are either too impatient or too sympathetic. By contact with Block and Tackle members, student clinicians get used to stuttering.

Stuttering has been defined as an "anticipatory, apprehensive, hypertonic, avoidance reaction." This means simply that a person who stutters is afraid he might do so, freezes up, and then stutters anyway because he is tense. The original habit stems from

childhood, shyness, or some psychological reaction.

People stutter most when they're talking over their heads, to disinterested listeners, in competition with others, in situations involving conflict, or other distracting or disturbing circumstances.

Stutterers Are Intelligent

The stutterer is as intelligent as other people, and may have a very high I.Q. It has been said of extremely intelligent stutterers that their minds go so fast, their tongues can't keep up.

Stuttering is not hereditary. It runs in families, but only in the same way Catholicism can be said to run in families.

Aristotle thought stuttering was due to a defective tongue, but stuttering is never physical, as far as modern science can tell. Yet as little as 100 years ago, doctors were following Aristotle's theory and cutting off part of the tongue as treatment.

If they had looked closely at the tongue, they would have known it was normal. Practically all stutterers can sing, a mouth maneuver that requires much fancier action than ordinary speech.

Four Boys to One Girl

At school age, more boys than girls stutter. The ratio is about four to one. This is because girls learn to speak, read, and write faster than boys.

Left-handed children who are forced to use their right hands may develop stuttering. About one in every 100 children stutters for some reason.

In children stuttering may be traced to an unhappy home life, or to some definite cause of anxiety.

In adults the cause may not be found so easily, as it usually goes back to childhood. An almost sure cure, however, is to persuade the stutterer to talk as much as possible, and especially to talk about his problem.

Block and Tackle does just that.

'Krispie Mystie' On Sale Feb. 19

"Have a Golden Krispie Mystie"—so goes the slogan of the annual Phi Theta Upsilon Mystie sale.

"Are you wondering what a 'Golden Krispie Mystie' is? Then you'll have to keep on wondering until Feb. 19 and 20 when the 'Mysties' are slated to be sold," said Marilyn Parrish and Doreen Gienger, general chairmen of the sale.

The Feb. 20 sale will be held in conjunction with Women's day on the campus.

Job Opportunities

Hughes Research and Development Laboratories of Culver City, Calif., are offering a Cooperative Plan for Master of Science Degrees. Those eligible for application are June '53, college graduates and members of the armed services being honorably discharged prior to September, '53, and holding degrees in electrical engineering, physics or mechanical engineering. The plan offers opportunity for outstanding individuals to obtain M.S. degrees while employed in industry and making significant contributions to important military work.

Those interested should write immediately for application forms to Committee for Graduate Study, Hughes Research and Development Laboratories, Culver City, Los Angeles County, California. The final date for requesting application form is February 15, and the final date for submitting completed application is Feb. 28.

Under this plan, successful candidates will spend half their time in advanced study to complete their master's degree at the University of California at Los Angeles or the University of Southern California. During the school year the individual's remaining half time will be spent working in the Hughes Research and Development Laboratories in Southern California.

During the summers of '53 and '54 beneficiaries of the cooperative plan will be employed full time in the laboratories with advancement on the same basis as for full-time engineering staff members, and eligible for regular employee benefits, according to details of the Hughes plan.

Approximately 100 cooperative awards will be given if sufficient candidates present themselves.

Representatives of the Congregational Board of Foreign Missions will be on the University campus Feb. 17 to interview students interested in the missionary-teaching field. Interviewing prospective candidates will be a teacher recently returned from Turkey.

The teaching is primarily at the elementary and high school levels with teaching-administration also a possibility. Positions may lead to assignment all over the world for three years or longer on a career basis.

For additional information and appointments for interviews, contact the graduate placement office in Emerald hall.

S. L. Scott, personnel director of Du Pont, will be on campus Feb. 16 to interview students holding a Ph.D. in chemistry and any other interested parties for positions with the firm.

Additional information and appointments may be obtained at the graduate placement office in Emerald hall.

Winter Term Grants Released

Twenty-three new scholarships have been awarded for winter term, according to a list released by the office of student affairs. The awards fall into three categories: state fee, Oregon mothers' supplementary, and miscellaneous affairs. The awards fall into three categories: state fee, Oregon mothers' supplementary, and miscellaneous.

Recipients of grants are state fee, partial tuition: Warren Davidson, Margaret Dobson, Yvonne Holm, Marlene Lewis, Shirley Ann McCoy, Carolee Stamper and Rose Warner.

Oregon mothers: Carol R. Eldridge, Jill Hutchings, Sarah Jane Keeley, Loris Larson, Carol Saltus, Fren Kudriavcev and Alfred Wade Eaton.

Miscellaneous: James Briggs, Prudence Ducich, Alfred Wade Eaton, Lois Jean Frolen, Theodore Goh, William Albert Hall, Patricia Faye Johnson, Mary Eloise Peterson and Emsley Rogers.

Browsing Room

(Continued from page one)

may. The building originated the "balloon frame construction," one of the most fundamental elements of American architecture.

Among other buildings from which basic American forms have evolved, he pointed out the fundamental features of the original skyscraper frame which was invented in the 1830's in the Chicago area.

Oregon To Enter Bridge Tournament

In conjunction with the National Intercollegiate Bridge tournament, the Oregon bridge tournament will be held Feb. 19. Men and women compete on an equal basis.

Oregon is one of the 110 colleges in 37 states represented in the tournament. Three thousand men and women under-graduates are expected to enter the nationwide contest.

Winners will be awarded cups which will be in their possession for one year. Winners defending the national title from last year are Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, and Middlebury College, Middlebury, Ver., runner-up.

Students interested in participating should contact Judge Elderkin, junior in political science at the Theta Chi house by next Tuesday.

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