

# A Case for Optimism

It's difficult to know how to look at this latest Russian-sponsored peace offensive. Some are telling us that this time we're really going to feel some changes in Red policy, perhaps the end of the Korean war and decreasing tension in Europe. Others seem to think that the opposite, if anything, will be the case; that it's only another maneuver designed to put us in a bad light. The Reds, these people say, will offer some proposals, but short of anything we can accept.

So what are we supposed to think? We'd like to believe that something will come out of this present flurry of diplomacy. There is a case for thinking it. Louis Fischer, here last week to lecture on Russia, made some remarks which are of special interest now.

For one thing, he said that one of the most dependable things about Russian foreign policy was that it always seemed to be directly related to Soviet domestic policy. That is, in the past, a tough domestic line was sure to have its counterpart in foreign affairs. A slack up at home, on the other hand, would also have its "softening" counterpart abroad.

We have seen signs of an easing up in Russia... or we think we have. The release of political prisoners, price cuts on some items and a more conciliatory propaganda line, making the West look not quite so evil to Russian people.

We don't know the reason for it though, as Fischer suggested, it could be the outward manifestation of a fight for power within the Kremlin, perhaps between the army and the secret police. The recent release of the Soviet doctors and the arrest of their accusers may have a bearing on the case.

Fischer also said, and perhaps this has a more direct application to Korea, that the Chinese must realize that they have little to gain by staying in the fight. It's been to Russia's advantage to keep them fighting, for in that situation they are dependent on the USSR for supplies. And, he pointed out, perhaps Stalin had a powerful influence over Chinese Communists — one which Malenkov cannot match. It is possible that on Chou En-lai's recent visit to Moscow—a Moscow minus Stalin—he told the Russians his troops were pulling out, and made it stick.

This is, of course, what we'd like to believe. And, on the basis of present developments, the prisoner exchange offer and true talk discussion, it would be easy, too easy, for us to convince ourselves that it had happened.

Of course, we might be riding for a big fall if we did. This hope must be tempered with the reality of Russian aims and our knowledge of their concept of foreign policy—a zigzag affair. But, with all this, there is still good reason to promote a cautious optimism. Things are looking a little better these days... for a change.

# 'Sing' Planners Meet in SU at 4

Preparation for the Junior Weekend All-Campus Sing will get underway today with a meeting of the members of the sing committee at 4 p.m. in the Student Union. Co-chairmen Jean Mauro and Sally Palmer have announced. Thursday, song leaders from the living organizations are to meet at 4 p.m. in the S.U. to submit proposed titles their groups sing. Duplications will be taken care of and directions and rules for the sing given out.

# Thursday Deadline For 1954 RE Posts

Chairmanship petitions for the 1954 Religious Evaluation week are due Thursday in the YMCA office, Student Union 318, Russ Walker, executive secretary of the YMCA, has announced.

The coming visit of James Stoner, director of the University Christian Mission, April 14 and 15 prompted the early call for petitions, Walker said. During his visit, Stoner will consult with the committee on the Protestant speakers to appear during Religious Evaluation week.

The committee will choose Catholic and Jewish speakers later.

# Mortar Ball Posts Petitions Wanted

Petitions for general chairman and committee chairmanships for the Mortar Board ball May 23 are being called for by Sharon Anderson, adviser to the general chairman.

Deadline for petitions is 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Delta Zeta house. Petitioners do not have to be members of Mortar Board, Miss Anderson said.

Chairmanships open are chaperones, programs, entertainments, tickets, traditions, publicity, promotion, cleanup and decorations.

# Mother's Day Post Petitions Due at 5

Deadline for petitions for general chairman of Mother's day is 5 p.m. today, according to Pat Dignan, ASUO president. Petitions should be turned in at the ASUO office, SU 304.

Interviews for candidates will be held at the senate meeting Tuesday night. The chairman will be named following the interviews.

# New Members Drive Opens YMCA Events

A two-day membership drive Tuesday and Wednesday will open a full month of events scheduled by the YMCA.

Men who are working on the membership campaign will have dinner meetings at Christian House at 5:30 p.m. both days, according to Russ Walker, executive secretary of the YM. Personal contact will be made by the workers and prospective members.

A series of inquiry groups on the problems of religion featuring University professors as discussion leaders are scheduled throughout April. The first group will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on the topic "Is There Life After Death?" Alburey Castell, head of

the philosophy department will lead the group.

### Inquiry Groups

Other inquiry groups will be held on April 16 on the topic "Why is there Suffering in the World?" with Luitpold Wallach, of the history department as leader; April 23 on the topic "Why Does Man Believe in the Existence of God?" with L. R. Sorenson, assistant professor of history, as leader; and April 30 on the topic "Is There a Common Denominator for all Religions?" with Paul Means, head of the religion department as leader.

Also slated for the month are a series of discussion groups on the general topic of "This I Believe." Information about the meetings which are scheduled for April 14, 21 and 28 for 7:30 p.m. may be obtained at the YM office in the Student Union.

### Men's Meeting

A series of noon meetings open to all men have also been slated. Topics for these meetings are of general campus interest. The first of the sessions is slated for Thursday, April 16, with Donald DuShane, director of student affairs, speaking on "Standards—Double or Nothing," a discussion of women's house rules.

"Behind Campus Politics" featuring political leaders from Associated Greek Students and United Independent Students, will be discussed on April 23. The last meetings will be held on April 30 when Ray Hawk, director of men's affairs, will answer students' questions on "Will the Draft Catch You This Summer?"

# Construction Starts On New Fiji House

Construction of a new three-story Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house began last week after the issuance of a building permit by the Eugene city building department.

The house, at 1825 Harris St., will cost approximately \$60,000, according to the permit application, and will be ready for occupancy by fall term.

A basement recreation room, guest and dining space on the ground level, study rooms on the second floor and dormitory and library on the top floor are included in the plans.

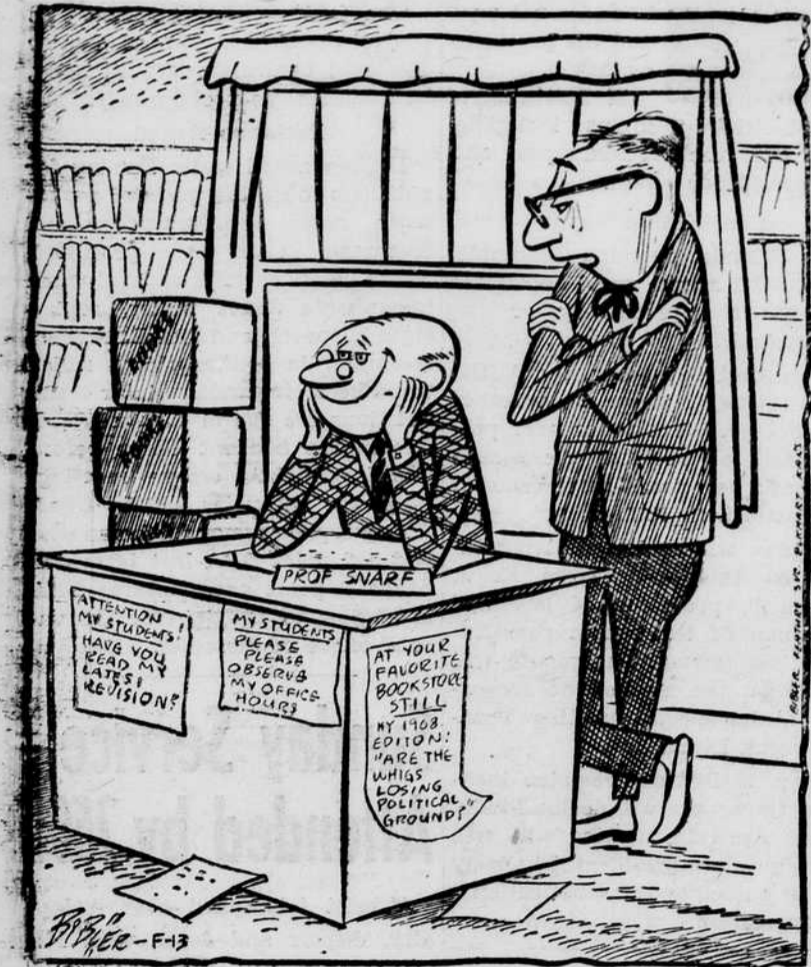
# CAMPUS CALENDAR

Noon Sigma Delta	
Chi Lunch	111 SU
YM HI-Y Lunch	112 SU
Mill's Lunch	113 SU
4:00 Red Cross Bd	111 SU
All-Campus Sing	
Ch	112 SU
Vodvil Comm	334 SU
7:30 Co-ed Coun	110 SU
ASUO Asbly	
Prac.	Ballroom SU
7:30 Pub Adm Grp	111 SU
Council for Except.	
Children	334 SU
8:00 Fuller Lec	123 SU

# Hawk Attends Confab

Ray Hawk, associate director of student affairs, and Donald DuShane, director of student affairs, are representing the University this week at the Conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators in East Lansing, Mich. They will return from the conference April 12.

# Not Here, Of Course



"Well, I sell more of my texts when I give lots of open-book examinations."

**Oregon Daily EMERALD**

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Interviews to be conducted on the campus April 9. For additional information contact Karl W. Onthank, Graduate Placement Service