

# Combella Says Homer Was Softy

The Greek poet Homer was an old softy in his treatment of Helen of Troy, F. M. Combella, associate professor of classic languages told Wednesday's browsing room audience.

Speaking on "Homer's Iliad: Ladies Dead and Lovely Knights," Combella emphasized that only once in the epic is Helen described. In one of the middle scenes, some old men are bewitched by the sight of her unearthly beauty, in spite of the fact that they grieve for the suffering she has caused the city of Troy.

The important fact to Homer is that Helen is so beautiful. He is concerned with the evil in her life. Any further description of the queen in the story would be anticlimactical. Describing her only once is an effective device of characterization, Combella commented.

"The story of the Iliad is a simple one," Combella said, "of two generals who quarrel over a woman. It is a tale of revenge. It becomes a sad story of the death of great kings."

Combella pointed out the effectiveness of several literary devices employed by Homer. One of these is the use of a goddess or muse at the beginning of the poem to communicate through the poet to his audience.

"This is to assure the audience

## SU Committee Post Petitions Called In

Petitions for chairmanships of Student Union standing committees are due Sunday in the SU board chairman's office, according to Virginia Dailey, assistant chairman.

Petition forms are available on the SU third floor. Standing committees are art gallery, browsing room, coffee hour forum, personnel, recorded music, publicity, music, public relations, movie and dance.

Chairmen and committee members will be selected this term in order to begin early planning for next year's SU program, Miss Dailey said.

of authoritativeness of the epic," Combella pointed out. This device appealed to the audience of Homer's day.

Dramatic irony also is illustrated very well by Homer, Combella stated. There are many situations in the books in which the audience is aware of the doomed fate of the characters, the character himself is not.

One of the most controversial elements of Homer's work is his use of humor, Combella said.

"Most scholars try to read subtle humor on every page of 'The Iliad,' he went on. 'I think this is carrying things too far. Homeric humor is present, but it is of the 'whimsical, immoral, cruel gods,' " Combella added.

Combella also commented that the original Greek in which Homer wrote was "completely artificial and has never been spoken by anyone anywhere. It was created expressly for poetic purposes."

## Wickham Reports Trip Informative

A recently completed trip to the East and Southwest, highlighted by a talk with Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, was "very interesting and informative," Mrs. Golda P. Wickham, associate director of student affairs, said Tuesday.

Mrs. Wickham returned Friday from the three-week tour during which she attended a convention of the National Association of Deans of Women in Washington, D. C., and the Associated Women's Students convention in Tucson, Ariz. She also met with the Oregon Mothers Club in Long Beach, Calif.

## Cressman to Discuss Early Oregon Indians

"Oregon's Early Indian Inhabitants" will hold the spotlight Friday in the Student Union browsing room at 7:30 p. m.

L. S. Cressman, head of the anthropology department, will be the lecturer and will show various slides to illustrate his talk. The lecture will include discussion about Indians from different parts of Oregon, their environment, and their background.

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