

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

CAMPUS COMMENT

An Open Mind

The "fearful, conformist atmosphere" which pervades so many corners of security-crazy America in the "H" (for Hydrogen or Hysteria) Age is apparently making no headway in Oregon.

On the heels of the announcement that J. Robert Oppenheimer's scientific lecture series had been cancelled by the president of the University of Washington came the announcement by Chancellor Charles D. Byrne of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education that there is not and has not been any question of cancelling Oppenheimer's invitation to come to Oregon.

Scheduled to deliver the Condon lectures on science in late April and May, Oppenheimer was invited before the Atomic Energy Commission's "hearings" on the scientist's status as a "security risk."

Anti-Oppenheimer feeling in the scientific-military world of atomic energy was brought into the open when he opposed the development of the thermonuclear ("H") bomb — fearful of what this new force would do when unleashed in the world.

The charges against Oppenheimer were threefold: "Persistent and continuing association with Communists, . . . substantial defects of character, . . . and persistent and willful disregard for the obligations of security."

Many of Oppenheimer's associates on the Manhattan project, professional security agents as well as fellow scientists, testified to his loyalty to the country. A relatively few were able to sincerely question Oppenheimer's loyalty to the country for which he had done such monumental work during the development of the atomic bomb.

We are happy that the State board, apparently with the support of the institutions of higher learning, and, we hope, with the support of the people of the state — has left its invitation open.

All the evidence points to the fact that J. Robert Oppenheimer is not a "security risk;" he is undoubtedly one of the world's most brilliant physicists.

He will not speak on matters concerning the investigations, only on scientific subjects. We are happy that Oregon has kept a level head and an open mind in the midst of the hysteria which surrounds it.

Barrington Report

Oregon's legislature will make an important decision when it votes on the Barrington Report. This report directly effects employees of the State Board of Higher Education and all other employees of the state.

The 122-page report is the result of a survey made by the Barrington Associates of New York City. Its purpose is to categorize state employees and give salaries or wages

commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of each category.

We wish to pose two questions in regard to the report:

First: Will employees of the State Board of Higher Education, from the chancellor on down, wish to be categorized and have a number signify the type of work they do?

Second: Has justice been done to all state employees when their jobs were categorized?

In answer to our first question, we cannot see how members of the faculty, in particular, would allow a Roman numeral from I to XXIII to signify their duties. It would seem to be a slap in the face to the academic world to have such a thing happen.

In answer to our second question, we state a resounding "NO." In one particular instance (that of printers, pressmen and compositors) some wages would be lowered below the prevailing rate by as much as 45 per cent. This would hardly show that the report had given proper consideration to all jobs. We have been unable to ascertain whether this is an isolated case of injustice or the general rule.

The State System of Higher Education could be very seriously hurt by the adoption of the Barrington Report. We do not believe that the elimination of a few overpaid jobs is worth the evils which would be brought on by its adoption. — (P.K.)

Press Battle

(Eugene Register-Guard)

Up on campus the Oregon Daily Emerald is embroiled in a "freedom of the press" battle with the Inter-fraternity Council. A reporter, given his choice of reporting only what the fraternity boys wanted printed or of leaving the meeting, stomped out in a huff. That's what he should have done.

Because the council is a private club, the reporter had no "right" to be there. He could be kicked out, if the council members wanted him kicked out. And he was right in refusing to stay and "cover" the meeting by printing only what the members thought ought to be printed.

It was a good example for student journalists, and it was a good lesson for campus politicians who have got to learn sometime they can't control everything that goes in the paper.

This reporter's going to be a good man to have on a city hall beat some day.

Footnotes

Footnotes get results! Have you noticed the new flag on the SU flagpole. Thanks, Si.

* * *

Recently installed at the Side is a "hi-fi" juke box. The machine has three speakers in front and one on either side. It's the greatest.

**'Which Came First?'
A Matter of Relativity**

By Sam Frear
Emerald Columnist

It's all relative, somebody said. You can't really tell which did come first, the egg or the chicken. Some kiddies were like the way they are now before they became what they are now and so forth, if you get what is meant. And vice versa.

Take, for example, that great huge shapeless glob of humanity that forms



a grotesque reservoir of non-entities—people with the vague major called "liberal arts." Were they always so insignificant?

A large part, of course, are transients, casuals, vagrants, little boys lost, and little girls the same way, and mobs are freshmen in the process of finding the easiest major.

Liberal arts majors are people "stopping by" until they move into a new major field. It is perhaps, a valuable stopping off place, but many, no doubt, wonder just why in hell they are here. Others are the compatible type—they like "everything." Anyhow, they all move on, sooner or later, and many, we wonder why, move on to the School of Business Administration.

Business majors are very sensitive to the fact that they are wasting their time here at the University. Upon being ridiculed for being a burden upon his parents and the state, the BA major is apt to retort that "at least I won't starve after graduating."

Thus it would seem that the BA school mass produces ardent materialists. It is, perhaps, a sad commentary on American higher education that business graduates form one of the largest groups of college graduates.

Briefly subjected to a superficial indoctrination of cultural courses while freshmen, these quasi-educated people are ground out by the thousands each year to form a bulwark of American society.

Were business majors always intellectually stagnant or did their frightfully dull field do this for them?

The Journalism School leans in the other direction. A professional school that limits the professional courses its majors can take, it sets standards so high that of the mass that start as freshmen only a bare trickle matriculate some four years later.

This tends to bring about a sort of intellectual snobbery among J-majors that cannot be justified in the quality of the newspaper which many of them help to produce. And journalism students present a paradox that is inexplicable. They should abhor closed societies and yet they form one of the tightest cliques on campus.

Are J-majors extroverts because they are J-majors or are they J-majors because they are extroverts? Or is it all, like the man said, extremely relative?

Next week we will investigate whether speech majors are required to be dirty joke experts, if psychology majors really analyze themselves, and who those strange people are that lurk in the dingy confines of Condon hall.

Phone Duty



"She's getting up off the sundeck now—whose turn to phone her next time?"

Letters to the Editor

Court Called 'Farce'

Emerald Editor:

The Student Traffic Court is a farce and an utter failure in attempting to do a job for which it is incompetent and incapable of handling, for;

1) It lacks any complete official vehicle and traffic code against which to punish violators (but this it proceeds to do regardless of this deficiency).

2) It claims to be an appellate court to which one appeals traffic tickets, but in order to have a court of appeals you must first have a court of original jurisdiction (of which there is none). Thus, a holder of a traffic ticket is

considered guilty in the eyes of the court before they even hear his plea.

3) The court itself is a most informal and arbitrary body which takes the ticket and its citation at face value, so that it is the student's word against the scribble on a piece of paper which the court deems free to interpret and so put words in the mouth of the officer who issued the ticket and who is not present at the court's meetings. The accused stands alone. His accuser is not present.

Indeed, the court itself is in sheer confusion as to its duties and jurisdiction. One member claims that the court is an "administrative" body. Another tells you that the

court makes no claim to a fair knowledge of the law (and justice for that matter), and when the accused tries to point to rules of common sense of law or justice, the court members accuse him of trying to "trip them up."

And as a grandiose example of the unorthodox nature of the student traffic Court, it proceeded last Wednesday night to hear cases and pass judgments with four members present instead of an odd number (such as one, three, five, etc.), as is common to judging bodies. Such a situation forces a member of the court to arbitrarily change his mind when he sees that a "hung" judgment is in the offing.

Benton C. Flaxel



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