

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS +

## Operation Easter Egg

A triple-threat opportunity to promote the University has been offered by the Junior class with its plans of Operation Easter Egg April 9. The event has been planned to promote the Eugene area public relations of the University, to show the campus the ease with which a worthwhile activity can be handled, at the same time having fun, and to provide an Easter activity in the Easter spirit.

Actual contributions of students to the Eugene community have been seriously limited in the past. We feel that such projects as Operation Easter Egg or fraternity help weeks can go far to increase the standing of the University in the minds of the citizens of the community. We are glad to see students themselves take the initiative in such a positive public relations program.

Critics of another campus weekend have found it lacking in constructive purpose. Members of the steering committee, however, said that the service angle was omitted because of the time and work necessary in planning it. The juniors are out to prove that such a service project can be handled quite easily and successfully with a minimum of work and a maximum of fun.

Finally, the juniors have planned a traditional Easter activity—not just an activity for activity's sake. For this they are to be commended.

Plans for the weekend already have been okayed by the Interfraternity council, the Heads of Houses and the Inter-dorm council, so their cooperation is assured. Operation Easter Egg meets with the approval of the office of student affairs and has the support of the Eugene Active club. Coupled with the leadership of the Junior class officers, who have already displayed an unusual amount of initiative for a University group, success of the project is more than likely. We certainly hope so.—(S.R.)

## Neutral Policy

The subject of campus politics has already begun to fill the pages of the Oregon State Daily Barometer. The OSC paper kicked off the 1955 season last week when one of the parties chose its candidates and platform.

Accompanying the long news story was what we believe is a strange statement of editorial policy with regard to campus politics. It amounted to what we believe is an excellent statement of news policy for the coverage of politics, but a rather flat editorial policy.

"The Barometer has never chosen sides in campus politics. We feel that we can best represent the students of Oregon State college by observing, interpreting, and commenting," the statement said in part.

Nothing against their policy—it's one which quite a few papers follow.

We feel, however, that an almost diametrically opposed policy is the only one which a newspaper should follow. We feel that the newspaper, which by nature of its being is closer to politics and politicians than the average busy student, should take a stand editorially.

Editorials are clearly labelled as opinion, and the readers will usually take editorial comment for what it's worth.

The news columns, we feel, should even go to extremes to provide equal coverage of candidates and parties, but the newspaper should take a stand in its editorial columns. This is as much a duty as a right.

Politicians like to skirt the real issues and come out with sweeping, generalized statements. Part of the job of a vigorous editorial page is to keep the politicians on the stated issues—and even to discover the feeling of politicians on some of the more obscure but often controversial issues which have been overlooked.

Spring term is only a few weeks away, and with it the spring elections. Scanning the surface of the campus, there don't appear to be any real issues shaping up.

Campaigns without issues can result in popularity contest-type elections, which generally leave even the winners without any great feeling of elation, and which can result in a poor administration the following year.

We hope this won't be the case on the Oregon campus this spring; we hope that there will be issues, candidates who stick to the issues, and one of those exceedingly rare things known as a well-attended election.

## Thinking Again

Perhaps persistency is a virtue. In today's Emerald appears another letter requesting that the Emerald editorialize on state, national, and international news as well as on campus news.

Before discussing the pros and cons of such a policy, we feel that a few misconceptions should be cleared up.

The phrase "addicted to the AP wire" is indicative, apparently, of a feeling held by more than just Bill Swenson, the writer of the letter. Strangely enough, the wire copy does not flow magically into the Emerald office. Would finances permit, the Emerald staff would welcome the chance to work with the UP and INS wire service and additional features like Reuter's, a British press service, and NEA feature service. Unfortunately, that's not the case.

As for by-lined columns of opinion, the Emerald does not run them. Not only would these duplicate the columns offered by the professional papers received in the Eugene area, but again the cost would be prohibitive.

The "Interpreting the News" series of the Associated Press does not come under the heading of "opinion." Rather, it's the placing of the individual events in a broader perspective by correspondents whose experience qualifies them for the task.

As for the Emerald's function as a "medium of professional training in journalism," this is true only to an extent. The Emerald's first function is that of campus newspaper.

The Emerald was not established, nor has it been continued, with the idea of a laboratory for journalism students in mind. Many campus newspapers are run that way, to the exclusion of all but journalism majors.

While such papers often portray a mechanical excellence, we feel that when students are devoting their own time rather than doing a class assignment by working on the student paper, that the superiority of such a situation will be reflected in the paper.

As for commenting on world affairs, another consideration has been made: Are the Students interested?

The Emerald's editorial staff in the past has considered the idea of commenting on events outside the campus, but space and reader interest have been the deciding factors, and we've stayed pretty much with campus subjects.

On the assumption that letter-writer Swenson speaks for others as well as himself, we'll give the idea a try spring term. Campus comment, however, will continue to take precedence.

## Footnotes

Much happened between the last meeting of the Class of 1955, during Orientation week in 1951, and its Tuesday meeting to elect permanent officers. We can look back with pride on the University's progress in our short stay.

## Letters to the Editor

### "... And To Stimulate"

Emerald Editor:

I greatly appreciated your editorial response to my letter of March 1.

My belief that the Emerald should editorialize more frequently on other than campus events stems from five basic assumptions. If these assumptions are wrong, please let me know. If they are right but not in keeping with Emerald policy, I would appreciate knowing that too. I present them herewith:

1. Most college newspaper staffs feel that they are mature enough to publicize in their columns their opinions of state, national, and world news, and do so.

2. Most newspapers which print news of events occurring beyond their locale of publication contain editorial opinions of such news. As the Emerald often appears to be addicted to the AP wire, it seems to me that Emerald opinions on such AP wire news should logically follow.

3. Most newspapers publishing by-lined columns of opinion also print their editors' opinions on the matters with which the column writers deal. They certainly do not let such columns suffice, as you admit you are doing, as their only offerings of opinion in a particular area. While I agree with you that the AP writers "... are certainly well qualified

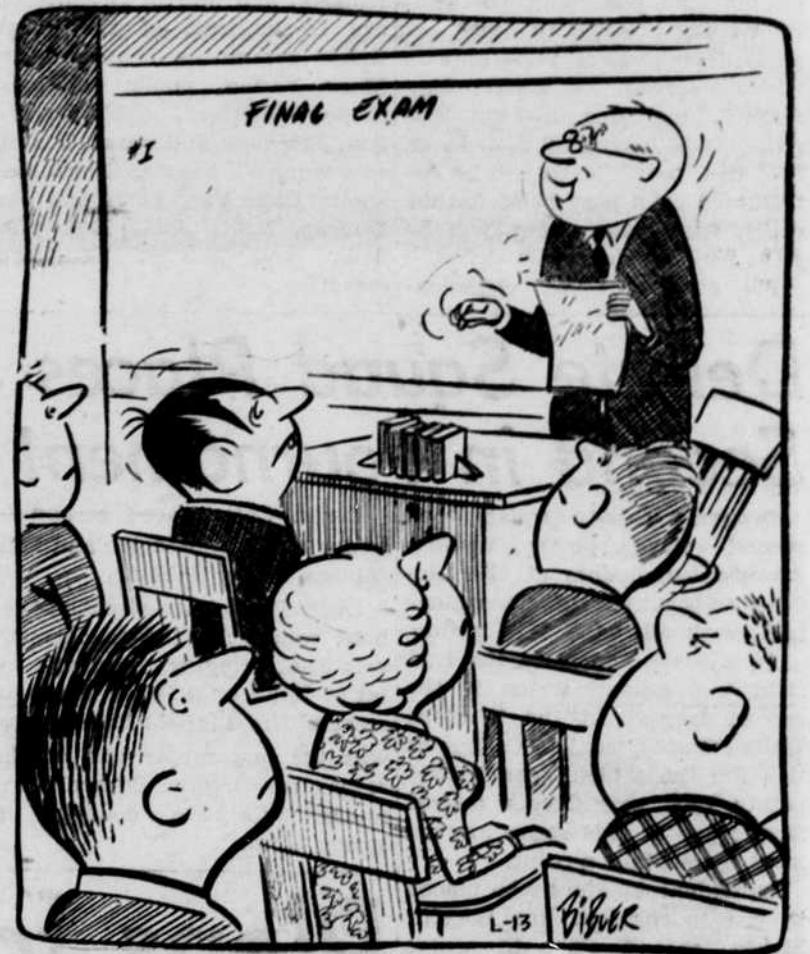
to comment on the news of the world," it seems to me that all journalists should be to some degree or other qualified to state their opinions on the news they are printing. If you do not feel yourselves so qualified I think you should question your journalistic capabilities.

4. I have been given to understand that the Emerald is a medium of professional training in journalism. I have therefore assumed that the Emerald editors would welcome the opportunity to submit to public reading and attack their opinions, not only on campus affairs, but also on affairs which do not immediately touch them, though, and because, these affairs are of far greater significance.

5. A newspaper, it seems to me, has two primary purposes: to inform and to stimulate. However, a person will only become informed because he is stimulated to do so. If the Emerald is truly concerned that only half the nation's college students know the meaning of SEATO (and assumedly similar examples can be cited with regard to the percentages of informed students on national, state, and local news), I hope the Emerald will attempt to stimulate the students it reaches through its editorial columns.

Respectfully,  
W. B. Swenson

## History Test



"Don't worry about those chapters we skipped—I believe I've covered them adequately in the final."



The Oregon Daily Emerald is published five days a week during the school year except examination and vacation periods, by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year; \$2 a term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are those of the writer and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or the University. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor; initialed editorials by members of the editorial board.

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