

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

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Oaths vs. Reality

As the current school year wears on it becomes increasingly apparent that the policy of requiring loyalty oaths of all ROTC students is developing into a major problem.

The most recent flare-up, the winter controversy at Syracuse University, shows how unworkable the loyalty oath is in a democratic society.

The free intercourse of information and ideas has never, until recently, been a problem in the United States. Consequently, many organizations which had already been recognized on college campuses have now been added to the Attorney General's "subversive" list for one reason or another.

At UCLA, the thing went a step farther. Since ROTC is required for all physically fit male students, even those who would or could not sign the loyalty oath must participate in the program.

So those who have not signed drill in a separate group, without uniforms and without rifles.

At the University of California the Daily Californian, the student newspaper, carried an article Fall term on what it termed a "loophole" in the ROTC Loyalty Oath program. Chancellor Clark Kerr of the University's Board of Regents issued a statement denying the existence of a "loophole" in the plan.

Kerr said that the phrase "formally enrolled" had been added to the original amendment requiring the loyalty oaths, so that students not planning to take the full four year course in ROTC leading to a commission in the armed forces would still be able to take the required two-year basic course.

What does it all add up to?

It all adds up to a good case against loyalty oaths, or to any regimentation of the thought of a free people.

It's pretty basic that a loyalty oath at best can be little more than negative influence. A person who had attended one meeting of a "subversive" organization but who might be loyal and yet is not willing to lie to conceal the fact is discriminated against. The ardent Communist, however, would certainly feel no qualms about signing the oath.

If some bureaucrat needs a little piece of paper for each ROTC student and each member of the armed forces so that he can be satisfied as to their loyalty, he could at least seek a more positive form of evidence.

Attendance at meetings and subscription to publications later deemed "subversive" doesn't appear to us to be any indication of a person's loyalty or disloyalty. Why not require a simple positive affirmation of one's loyalty to the United States government and constitution?

Oregon has not had any trouble over the loyalty oath. Perhaps if a realistic attitude is adopted in higher quarters, we won't have trouble in the future.

Test Files?

What's to become of the University's Test Files?

The way it looks right now, the orphan examinations may suffer the same fate as the Honor code system under which they were to be administered.

The library doesn't want them; the Student Union doesn't have a ready place for them. The files have been taken from the library as requested and are currently in the hand of the ASUO senate's test files committee.

The committee plans to take a poll of campus living organizations to see if students really want the test files saved. The committee has asked for the opinion of off-campus students in the form of letters in the ASUO suggestion boxes.

If anyone wants the test files saved, they should do something about it within the next three weeks—after that there may be no more files.

We've never used the files, but we know people who have and who say that the files have been helpful, for discovering the methods of testing used by different instructors if for no other purpose.

If there are others who want them, this is the time to shake off their good old Oregon do-nothingism and let themselves be heard.

Chimes Need Help

One thing leads to another.

Now, because of a shortage of experienced musicians who have an excess of spare time, an automatic player is needed for the chimes in the Student Union.

We've become accustomed to the chimes. Actually, they sound good in the morning, and they're always usable as evidence that you're really not late for class because the chimes have not finished bonging.

We question the reception that a plan to take the money voluntarily from breakage fees would receive. True, everyone forgets about the breakage fee and is pleasantly surprised if he gets a refund in the middle of the summer, but once reminded that the breakage fee exists, people might be reluctant to give it up.

It's probably the best plan, though, and should the ASUO senate, the SU Board, or whoever ends up with the idea decide to recommend it to the students, we hope the response will be good.

The chimes could be a nice thing to have around—traditional and that type of thing.



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

The first thought that comes into our minds upon entering college is, of course, marriage. But how many of us go about seeking mates, as I like to call them, in a truly scientific manner? Not many, you may be sure. Most of us simply marry the first person who comes along. This can lead to unpleasant consequences, especially if the person we marry is displeasing.

Let us today make a scientific survey of the three principle causes of marriage—homogamy, personality need, and propinquity. We will examine these one at a time.

Homogamy means the attraction of like for like. In marriage it is rarely opposites which attract; the great majority of people choose mates who resemble themselves in taste, personality, outlook, and, perhaps most important of all, cultural level.

Take, for example, the case of two students of a few years ago named Anselm Glottis and Florence Catapult. Anselm fell madly in love with Florence, but she rejected him because she was majoring in the Don Juanian Poets and he was in the lowly school of forestry. After graduation Anselm got a job as a forest ranger. Still determined to win Florence, he read every single Don Juanian Poet cover to cover while sitting in his lookout tower.

His plan, alas, miscarried. Florence, sent on a world cruise as a graduation present, picked up the betel nut habit in the Indies. Today, a derelict, she keeps body and soul together by working as a sampan off Mozambique. And Anselm, engrossed in the Don Juanian Poets, failed to notice a forest fire which destroyed 29,000,000 acres of second growth blue spruce. Today, a derelict, he teaches Herrick and Lovelace at the Connecticut School of Mines.

The second reason why people marry, personality need, means that you often choose a mate because he or she possesses certain qualities that complete and fulfill your own personality. Take, for instance, the case of Alanson Duck. As a freshman, Alanson made a fine scholastic record, played varsity lacrosse, and was very popular with his fellow students. Yet Alanson was not happy. There was something lacking in his life, something vague and indefinable that was needed to make his personality complete.

Then one day Alanson discovered what it was. As he was walking out of his class in Flemish pottery, a fetching coed named Grace Ek offered him a handsome brown package and said, "Philip Morris?"

"Yes!" he cried, for all at once he knew what he had been needing to round out his personality—the gentle fulfillment of Philip Morris Cigarettes, the soul-repairing mildness of their vintage tobaccos, the balm of their unparalleled taste, the ease and convenience of their bonny brown Snap-Open pack. "Yes, I will take a Philip Morris!" cried Alanson. "And I will also take you to wife if you will have me!"

"La!" she exclaimed, throwing her apron over her face, but after a while she removed it and they were married. Today they live in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where Alanson is with an otter glazing firm and Grace is a lookie.

Propinquity, the third cause of marriage, means closeness. Put a boy and a girl in a confined space for a long period and they will almost surely get married. A perfect example is the case of Fafnir Sigafos. While a freshman at Louisiana State, he was required to crawl through the Big Inch pipeline as part of his fraternity initiation. He entered the pipe at Baton Rouge. As he passed Lafayette, Ind., he was agreeably surprised to be joined by a comely girl named Mary Alice Isinglass, a Purdue freshman, who had to crawl through the Big Inch as part of her sorority initiation. When they emerged from the pipeline at Burlington, Vermont, they were engaged, and, after a good hot bath, they were married. Today they live in Klamath Falls, Ore., where Fafnir is in the weights and measures department and Mary Alice is in the roofing game. They have three children, all named Norman.

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INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Transport Centralization Urged

By The Associated Press
The Hoover commission proposed Sunday that the government centralize its transportation services, costing three billion dollars a year, under civilian and military directors.

The commission said in a report to Congress that government-owned transport facilities are competing with private operators and, in the Defense Department, with one another.

It estimated its recommendations would trim costs by 150 million dollars annually, and relieve the government of some business it said is needed by the private transportation industry.

The report was one of a series from the commission headed by former President Herbert

Hoover on reorganization of the government's executive branch.

It said "horrible examples of waste and carelessness" in government transportation could be "multiplied almost to infinity," and it cited such examples as these:

Defense department aircraft carried about eight million passengers in the 12 months ended June 30, 1954. About 4,800,000 of these were "hitch-hikers," or servicemen on leave.

Canned salmon bound for Bremerhaven, Germany, was shipped overland from the west coast to the east coast. The cost was about twice what it would have been had the salmon gone by an all-water route.

Ping-pong balls were flown from Westover Field, Mass., to

Berlin. "A substantial quantity" of dog food was flown from the west coast to Okinawa. As a result, the commission said, some dogs on the island outpost were fed at a probable world's record cost per pound.

The commission recommended that transport management for all civilian branches of the government be placed under a central traffic bureau in the General Service Administration (GSA), the government's house-keeping agency.

The Department of Defense, the commission report said, should establish a director of transportation to oversee, coordinate and consolidate the military's world-ranging hauling systems.



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