

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Down Payment

University students may be missing the boat.

Over the years some Eugene residents have developed a slightly antagonistic attitude toward the University student, and possibly deservedly so, for what has the student offered Eugene in return for the support frequently requested for University functions?

Now, with Saturday's Operation Easter Egg, the student body has an opportunity to repay a segment of the community for past support and to make a down payment on future good relations.

Any single organization sponsoring such an event would readily realize the value and significance of such a project. However, by including the whole campus, students fail to see the benefit to be derived for the individual, for the living organization, and for the University.

First is community service. Each of us has a responsibility to our community—and this extends beyond the mere economic contribution made by students.

Second, public relations. Who can estimate the value to the University of 2000 enthusiastic youngsters reporting on their day on campus.

Third, the community has already demonstrated a willingness to put its faith in the students. Merchants have donated numerous prizes; radio and television stations have given time for interviews and announcements; 3000 eggs have been donated, and the Active Club has promised its assistance.

The response on the part of the children and their parents has been overwhelming.

Finally, the self-satisfaction to each individual to be attained in doing something for someone else—especially children. Too, in Operation Easter Egg, the junior class has an activity in the true Easter tradition, not just an activity for activity's sake.

Perhaps the difficulty lies in the fundamental attitude of Oregon's pseudo-intellectual students who are too "sophisticated" to participate in such a constructive program.

We hope not.

The answer will be written in the books Saturday.—(S. R.)

Vets' Committee

The glittering generality—always an effective instrument of propaganda—is more than evident in the first statements of the newly-formed campus Veterans' committee.

Undoubtedly campus veterans have several causes for complaint, especially in some social areas, but the sweeping statements and condemnations released Wednesday deserve careful consideration.

No claim was made by the 10-man committee to be representing the 700 veterans on campus—but the implication was there, and we wonder how many of this group will actively support the committee.

The committee could conceivably become a positive force in student government, and should certainly draw attention to its demands by participation in campus politics. Third parties, even though this cannot be strictly defined as a third party, are more than evidence of unrest; they are often prophetic of things to come.

Perhaps the goals of this group and the feeling that this is the time for action will be assimilated by other campus groups and some positive reform will be accomplished.

As for "social unification," it would be wise to remember the "23 or skidoo" club (proposed) of last year, a plan for the unification of older students for social purposes.

Several older students at that time expressed the opinion that if they were too old to participate in existing campus social life, they were probably too old to be in college,

or simply unable to adjust to an unfamiliar situation.

Many veterans and older students currently on campus are active in the social and extra-curricular activity life of the University.

Politically, we view the veterans' committee as a force which could exert a positive influence and perhaps awaken the campus and the rest of the state to the veteran's problems.

Socially, we agree that many of the restrictions placed on freshmen who come directly from high school are not applicable to veterans, but as for "social unification" we view this movement only as inability to adjust to a new situation.

The Real Issue

The Eighty-fourth Congress apparently intends no review of the somewhat hasty, obviously political bit of legislation passed last fall by its predecessor with regard to communism.

The question which was ignored in the debate about the amended Humphrey bill outlawing the Communist party was: Can the communist menace to our internal security be legislated out of existence?

The bill provided fines up to \$10,000 and jail sentences of up to five years for members of the Communist party. It also called for the revocation of citizenship, legal and political rights, and the right to secure a passport.

Obviously a political issue rather than a really essential piece of legislation, the bill put congressmen in the position of appearing as Communist sympathizers if they voted against the bill.

Attorney General Herbert Brownell and F.B.I. Chief J. Edgar Hoover urged the defeat of the bill on the grounds that it would drive the Communist party underground and render the Internal Security Act useless.

These protests should have been enough in themselves, but there are other objections to last August's communist bill.

The Communist Party has ceased to be the center of Communist activity in the United States. Its membership has dropped off from 100,000 six years ago to 25,000. The significant leadership of the party is in prison—the 67 convicted under the Smith Act were the "first team" and "second team" American Communists.

Secondly, those doing the most damaging work for the party are kept from becoming open members of the party by the party itself. Alger Hiss was not a member of the party; Harry Gold, notorious courier for the Klaus Fuchs atomic spy ring, was not a member; Julius Rosenberg was never proved to be a card-carrying Communist.

Thus, it is wholly unrealistic to assume that the Communist party represents the real Communist threat to internal security.

Finally, governmental activities at the time the law was passed were realistically directed toward the actual threat. Under The Smith Act, those who conspire against the government are subject to prison. Under the Internal Security act, any organization found to be the tool of a foreign government must register and disclose its officers, finances and other particulars.

Under this law the Communist party was classified "subversive" and has thus been placed under official surveillance. The existing Immigration and Nationality Act prohibited the entry of suspected Communists, provided for the deportation of convicted Communists, and allowed for the denaturalization of those Communists who had acquired citizenship.

Let's bring the Communist Party back out in the open and let the responsible government agencies handle it.

We'll never legislate the party out of existence, and even if we could, the threat of communism would remain relatively unchanged.

A DAY AT THE ZOO

Deceptive Poetry Explained in Full

By Bob Funk
Emerald Columnist

"Literature" is something that Emerald columnists tend to think about as little as possible, largely because of the rather sizeable gap between Emerald fare and that which rests comfortably under (or perhaps superciliously on top of) the category literature. However, for those who do involve themselves with literature, particularly freshmen, who this term are once again interpreting great works of great authors with disturbing results, I am writing HOW TO INTERPRET LITERATURE — A SPRING TERM STUDY AID.

Great poetry and great prose is often hard to decipher, due to the deplorable lack of pictures and plot. However, with a little imagination, anyone can unfold the delicate blossom and get down to the nectar (however, Bees are best at this). The cardinal principle is this: never accept obvious meanings.

Take, for example, this line: "The stag at eve had drunk his fill. Where danced the moon on Monan's rill." This is from "The Lady of the Lake" by Sir Walter Scott, who is dead. Lying beneath this apparently innocent lines are a whole mess of meanings undiscernable to the untrained mind.

The true meaning of these lines has been somewhat confused by the Ladies Expurgation Society, which has foisted this interpretation upon our innocent school children:

"This is a lovely pastoral scene in Scotland, a land north of and somewhat kitty-corner from England. The stag is a large, voluptuously constructed, hairy animal with horns, which gambols and cavorts in the hill country. Here, the stag has come down to the rill (a little bitty river) in the cool of the evening to quench his thirst with sips of sparkling, playful water. The moonlight dances and skips upon the water. No doubt the stag is thinking, 'My, what a lovely evening, it makes one feel like singing.'"

This is a pack of lies. The stag, as anyone knows (and this takes in Sir Walter Scott), is a gentleman out on the town alone. How Scott came in contact with this particular stag is a rather amusing anecdote in the history of literature. Scott was on location in Scotland for the writing of "The Lady of the Lake," and happened into the historic town of Stirling. At 5th and Q in Stirling stood, and still stands,

Dad Monan's Bar and Grill. Upon the particular evening that Scott happened into Stirling, the neon "G" on "Grill" was out, which led to the foolish error of referring to the place as "Monan's rill."

At any rate, Scott happened on into Dad Monan's, and there was this stag at the bar who bet Scott two whiskies that he, Scott, could not remember the middle initial of the Loch Lomond monster.

He, Scott, said "Ha, ha, my dear fellow, the initial is Z for Zanzibar, and you lose," at which point the stag said he had already drunk his fill and so Scott would have to drink alone. Whereupon the stag moved off to the other end of the bar in a churlish manner.

Now, what about Eve? The Ladies Expurgation Society would have us believe that "Eve is that delightful time of day when the sun sinks tiredly behind the heather, and little children flock into the parlor to sit upon Father's knee and listen to pretty tales of long ago."

Terrible. Eve is, and was, Heaven only knows, the name of a girl. Eve Monan was the publican's daughter in Stirling, and gossip has it that she was not all that she might have been—a predicament common to persons with that Christian name. In fact, the following poem was found by an historian:

"Why doth old Monan's daughter, Eve,
Disport with such abandon?
A stag is plying her with drink
And pinching her at random."
Which gives you some idea of what kind of a lady Eve was. "A delightful time of the day" my eye.

"The stag at Eve." This takes a little digging, since the stag was at Monan's, and not at Eve. However, it is obvious (sort of, anyway) that Scott

(Continued on page three)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Emerald Editor:

From your editorial "Chimes Need Help" in today's (April 4) Emerald: "True, everyone forgets about the breakage fee . . ."

Everyone? Many of us depend upon its return for midsummer assistance, and figure it into the budget. Hasty generalization, no?

Niel Chambers
Vernette Kilger
Shirley Hathaway
Dick Chan
Frederick C. Osgood

Editor's Note: Hasty generalization, yes! But since yours is the only response, pro or con, it might be an accurate one.



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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