

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

'Tis an Ill Flood . . .

University students who left Eugene for the Christmas holidays missed seeing a major problem of the city of Eugene brought to light, that of surface water flooding during times of heavy rainfall.

The flooding problem was most acute in the area around Amazon creek which includes Eugene high school and the Amazon apartments, which serve as residences for many married college students each year. At its worst stage, the water got so high that it closed both 18th and 19th streets to traffic for a time.

The December rains in Eugene broke all kinds of records for the area but this isn't the first time that the flooding Amazon has caused trouble. In fact, it has overflowed its banks several times in years past when the rainfall wasn't nearly as heavy.

So what is the city doing about the problem? According to a recent Eugene Register-Guard report, close to \$900,000 has already been spent in efforts to improve the flow of Amazon creek through Eugene.

These improvements have helped, there is no doubt about that. But, as was so vividly brought out by the December rains, the problem still isn't completely solved.

Because of the recent flood crisis in the area, city officials are working with renewed vigor to correct the bothersome and costly situation once and for all. Last year Congress approved a final phase of the Amazon project and appropriated \$22,000 for detailed planning on the matter. This year, the city hopes for a federal appropriation of approximately \$277,000 and a Eugene taxpayers' contribution of \$56,000 to provide the funds necessary to finish the job.

If the federal appropriation comes through and if the city is willing to pay its part of the expense, a concrete-lined channel will be built from East 22nd Ave. to Pioneer Park in west Eugene.

The final phase plan looks good and it should work. Every effort should be made to see it completed. The destructive surface water that filled streets, yards and basements during December might have been a blessing in a way. It certainly called attention to the need for corrective action. We hope to see this action taken by Congress and the city in the near future.—(B.R.)

Partisan Politics

One of the disadvantages of discontinuing publication during final week is the big story that may be missed. The Emerald missed such a story at the close of fall term

—the story of restrictions on political speakers on the campus.

The story is closed now. The President of Oregon State college has said that his statement about such restrictions referred to such institutions as California and Washington, not Oregon. President Wilson has said that no "gag rule" is put on political speakers who appear here. And finally, Averell Harriman has answered a letter from the faculty asking if he was told that he could not speak on political issues by saying that he was not.

To us, that is enough to write "30" after its connections with the University. Oregon students are fortunate in this respect. At the University of Washington, for instance, in 1950 the regents reiterated their traditional rule that no political speakers may be invited to appear on the campus. Washington was also the institution which barred the appearance of J. Robert Oppenheimer last spring.

Important issues, whether political or otherwise, should be presented to University students for open discussion and consideration. Such discussion and consideration are a vital part of the educative process, and this is, after all, an educational institution.

Also, political party organizations are quasi-public in nature. Presentation of political platforms, and even candidates, to the public is essential in the democratic electoral system. Any university has a unique opportunity as a state institution to make possible the presentation of political issues. We're proud that our administration has seen fit to take the attitude which it has.

—(S.R.)

No Pennies Here

Oregon students must have heard with some amount of self-satisfaction the accounts of how referee Al Lightner forfeited a basketball game at Berkeley after the California rooters persisted in throwing pennies onto the floor during the game.

Oregon has always had a reputation for sportsmanlike conduct on the part of the fans, players and coaches. University fans, like those everywhere else, boo mightily at disputed decisions, but this is a part of the game.

Never within our memory have officials been subjected to accurately aimed small change, which was the case at California, or to other indignities which have occurred at other Pacific Coast conference schools in the past few years.

The University has a right to be proud of this reputation and should be extremely jealous of it.

Minor Factors



"AFTER LOOKING OVER YOUR GRADES I'D SAY YOU BOTH HAD SEVERAL FACTORS WORKING AGAINST YOU—THE FACULTY."

GULLIVER'S TRIFLES

Undying Knowledge Of Ancient Scholars

By Ken Kesey
Emerald Columnist

"Now students," said Professor Irk, snapping his mandibles for attention, "you will be able to observe first hand the evidence of the great knowledge of our dead past. We are about to enter the newly unearthed 'Citadel of Culture!'"

There was a general nervous quivering of antenna as the history class followed professor Irk across the bleak lava rock and into the excavation grounds. They finally stood before the huge door and stared up at the mystic symbols of learning printed on it: two triangles separated by an X.

"This is the best preserved ruins we've yet unearthed," the professor was saying. "Everything is almost completely intact. Here, follow me under the door."

The class followed the professor through the huge crack beneath the massive door, then stood inside, dumbstruck by the greatness of the room.

"This ancient civilization devoted entirely to the pursuit of knowledge, lacked none of the necessities for study. The huge machine which stands before you is a sight-transmitter. It enabled the scholars to sit in front of it and view all of the educational programs of the day. You can see the immense skeletons of the bygone students now, sitting and studying the screen even as they were killed in the terrible holocaust one million years ago. There, beside them are the squat, brown jugs that we believe contained the elixir of intelligence on which they thrived. Jugs of the same type were found all about the diggings."

The class left the viewing room and spent the rest of the day climbing the stairs to one of the upper rooms.

"This—the professor panted, breathing deeply through his knee-caps, "is our greatest

find." He ushered the students under another door and pointed to a chair towering above them. "This scholar—this great mental giant sitting there—has been perfectly preserved through the ages, still at his studies. Our scientists cannot explain this phenomena of mummification, but they suspect it has something to do with the empty bottle which he is holding—a mystery we shall never solve called 'Smirnoff's!'"

The giant sat fixed in his chair, perfectly preserved, as if in alcohol. There was only the faintest sign of radiation burn on his cheek and neck. On the floor beside him was a huge, unopened book by a man called Plato. In front of him was another book, opened. The professor and his class filed across a page of this sacred book of the past, and stared down at its huge print.

"As you see, the student was studying the life of the greatest peacemaker of his time. We found many similar books in his dwelling, each book showing pictures of this great, orange-clad man dealing evil a harsh blow, helping the sick, stopping wars.

"We can learn a mighty lesson here, class. We can learn how we should live and learn. At peace, without wars, that our culture may reach the sacred height this one did."

On this holy book, tears flowed from the many faceted eyes of Irk; some of his class were humming the National Ant-hymn.

"Yes, class, remember the words of this great benefactor which this scholar was studying one million years ago—the eternal word of higher education:

"Shazam!"
They wept openly.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

First Post-Revolutionary Objective Of Expansion Cause of UN Hassle

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

Outer Mongolia, which caused such a hassle in the United Nations, was the first post-revolutionary objective of Russia's expansionist policy.

It is almost as much a part of Russia as is the Ukraine. Indeed, the Ukrainians have given greater evidence of a desire for freedom than have the Mongols.

Russian agents staged a revolution in Outer Mongolia 31 years ago, and the Reds have held it ever since.

Admission of Outer Mongolia to the United Nations would be very like the separate representation allowed the Ukraine. Puerto Rico has far greater autonomy.

For centuries all Mongolia was, for all intents and purposes, a part of China. Inner Mongolia, into which the Reds also

infiltrated, is now being re-incorporated into Red China with Russian consent.

During the war Chiang Kai-Shek wrote a book, suppressed for a time at Allied insistence, outlining his demands for return of territories lost by China over the long years. He wanted Hong Kong, part of Burma and, among other things, all of Mongolia. It's Chinese, he said.

But the objective has always been a part of Chinese policy, until the Reds made their deal with Moscow. Now Chiang is refusing to admit, by permitting UN membership, that the area is independent. He clings to his claims, just as he does regarding the mainland of China.

The United States feels much the same way, but was willing to admit Outer Mongolia and

four other Red nations as part of a package deal under which Russia would withhold the veto on admission of 13 non-Communist nations, some of them of considerable importance.

There has been a great deal of resentment over the Nationalist Chinese stand among other UN delegations. Some are reminding forcefully that the Nationalists themselves are threatened with loss of membership through recognition of the fact that the Red regime at Peiping actually controls all of China except Formosa.

The Nationalists have no chance whatever of ever controlling Outer Mongolia. For the sake of the record, they have alienated UN votes they are going to need some day. The principles and rights involved are so tenuous they hardly seem worth the risk.



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