

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Well-Rounded View

Welcome, future Ducklings, to the University of Oregon.

Many events have been planned for you. Tonight a Vodvil show will take place in McArthur Court giving you some sort of picture of college life. Saturday afternoon you can go to the Amphibian show, the WUS auction or just wander around the campus. Saturday night you can attend a dance in the Student Union.

In short, you will be kept very busy while you are here. And you will get a picture of Oregon college life, or at least the extra-curricular side of it.

We hope you get another picture of Oregon college life, though. We hope that you realize that the University is primarily an institution of learning.

You can get this other picture by looking Saturday morning at displays and exhibitions in the various schools in the University. You may spend as much time as you wish at any one display.

Emphasis is placed upon your interests, so that when you return next fall, you will know what branch of education you wish to enter.

By attending all events planned for you, you will get a well-rounded view of college life. This we hope you will do.

Meanwhile, welcome to this weekend that has been planned just for you.—(A.H.)

Purpose and Trappings

The University's mock political convention here May 11 can be a worthwhile experience for the many expected participants, but only if they want it to be one.

By this we mean that it should be considered by all concerned as more than a "good time had by all" affair. Smoke-filled rooms, bands, and flag-waving are all necessary trappings for a political get-together such as this. But they are by no means the purpose of the occasion. The latter is two-fold—the formation of a platform, and the selection of a presidential candidate.

These two tasks should provide everyone with plenty to do in the smoke-filled rooms

and on the convention hall floor. Laying the platform planks in itself offers an ideal opportunity for some real political maneuvering. Such issues as civil rights, foreign policy, government spending and foreign trade are far from being settled within the ranks of the Democratic party. And look at the array of potential candidates in addition to the top twosome—Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver. Such favorite sons as Lausche of Ohio, Williams of Michigan, Leader of Pennsylvania or Symington of Missouri must not be counted out.

With such a variety of issues and candidates over which to ponder, the student delegates should get a valuable insight into what constitutes the makeup of the real thing.

So strike up the band, fill the rooms with smoke, wave the flags, and cheer the candidates—politics can be fun. But don't lose sight of the purpose of the occasion amidst all the trappings. Then it won't be time wasted.—(J.C.R.)

They're Ugly!

There's something about ugly men that defies comment—especially the collection of ugly men that the World University service campaign committee has assembled to vie for the campus honors. This year the contest is strictly anonymous as far as contestants go, based strictly on the made-up merits of the gentlemen in the pictures on the SU Fishbowl wall.

It might be that we could say something about the literary prowess in the houses of the sponsors apparent from the near-familiarity of the contestants' names to old Appreciation of Lit heroes. Or there might be an appropriate comment about the obvious genius of the art majors as shown in the application of makeup gimmicks. Or better still, we could mention the good cause benefiting from all these hi-jinks—because obviously no Oregon men are THAT ugly.

But such feeble attempts at comment are waste of space, so we'll just go along with the reaction of the grimacing coed who offered, "My goodness they're ugly!"

—(C.H.M.)

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Russia Nears All-out Effort To Break Anglo-American Entente

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

Russia is about to make an all-out effort to break up the Anglo-American entente, the world's greatest stabilizing influence.

The suspicion that this is one of the chief aims of the Kremlin's "new look" has existed for a long time. Bulganin practically confirmed it when he denied it at a time when there was no immediate accuser.

Now, by announcing she will aid in keeping the peace in the Middle East, and by abolishing the Cominform, she is attempting to move into the peacemaking position which the British accuse the United States of not filling properly.

Russia has expressed her position in almost exactly the same terms as those used by the United States. She has called upon Israel and the Arab states to make their own settlement. She says she will support United Nations efforts to bring this about.

But Russia's statement attains added significance because she is accused of trying to foment the trouble. In order to appeal to British and Western European desires, she is trying to make it appear that she is actually doing a turnabout.

Aside from the advance and false optimism she spread about the Geneva conferences last year, it is the most important move she has made in the "smile offensive."

One of Moscow's chief motives in making the Middle East statement on the eve of the arrival of Premier Bulganin and Communist Party boss Krushchev in London is one which she will probably play up in London, but with a wily twist.

By the statement she asserts her interest in the Middle East as a great power, an interest which has always been present but which has never been recognized by the West. But instead of letting this appear as a challenge to Britain, B&K will try to make it appear as cooperation.

And after all, they will ask, isn't cooperation what the West has been demanding of Soviet Russia, and do you think we are liars? The silent British answer will be "yes," on both counts, but the published replies will be diplomatically correct and therefore confusing, and Anglo-American relation, already strained, will take it on the chin again.

Abolition of the Cominform is an empty gesture, as was the

abolition of the old Comintern during the war.

The Cominform has never amounted to much more than a vehicle for communicating to the Soviet satellites, and to the Communist parties in other nations the "line" put out by the Kremlin. It has never been a real policy-making organization as was, to some extent the Comintern.

Stalin used the Comintern as a front for his contest with Tito of Yugoslavia, but ordinarily it was merely a transmission line. Reconciliation between Moscow and Belgrade foreordained the end of the Cominform, and its abolition meets, on the surface, one of the complaints of the West against Russian interference in the affairs of other countries. It will be succeeded by a clandestine and therefore more dangerous system of conveying Kremlin orders to non-Russian Communist, and that's what that amounts to.

Russia is playing a deep and sly game, playing it with greater skill and greater guilt than she has ever displayed before.

If Secretary Dulles ever said an important word it is his reminder that, in dealing with Russian emanations, it is most important to read the fine print.

Season's Opener



PARADE OF OPINION

Average Student Does Not Express Himself

(ACP)—IS THE AVERAGE American student capable of expressing himself with good writing? Apparently not, says this editorial from the Miami Hurricane:

Writing action good—There's some tightening up going on in the college of arts and sciences and in the school of education. It is good that it's being done, but there is at least a small element of sadness that there's a need for it on the university level.

The tightening is being performed on standards of writing competence. The two schools are asking professors to report any students who consistently turn in grammatically poor papers.

There is one thing behind all this. It is simply that standards generally accepted for the writing of college graduates have not yet been met.

There is obviously just one goal for this program. That is improvement in writing, a meeting of standards. It seems a little sad that the need exists in the first place.

Some people have been so extreme to argue that language is, per se, thought. Whether you accept this view or not, it is at least established that language is a major tool of thought. This being the case, it seems tragic that people with at least a high school education in this land of plenty should be so sadly lacking in this basic tool of thought and communication."

(ACP)—SYDNEY J. HARRIS, "Strictly Personal" columnist for General Features had this to say about some college editorials he looked at in Illinois:

"College students can think—and do—Last month, following a lecture, I spent the day on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan university. After breakfast, I read the college news-

paper, and found its editorials so stimulating that I asked for back copies.

"I was particularly impressed with one editorial, called 'Why Humanities?,' which gave a reasoned and moving argument for the extension of humanities courses in colleges. It should give heart to those young people who are vaguely worried that they ought to be learning 'how to make a living' while in college. Here are the last three paragraphs:

"The average student believes that the civilization into which he was born and which he makes use of is as spontaneous and self-reproducing as nature. He is not interested in the basic cultural values of his age and is not prepared to place himself at their service. He has an inborn impression that life is easy, plentiful and without serious limitations. He is armed at birth with marvelous mechanical devices, healing medicines, watchful governments and comfortable privileges.

"On the other hand, he is ignorant of how difficult it is to invent these instruments and to secure these privileges. The average student is characterized by an extreme ingratitude toward all that has made possible the ease of his existence. He is unintelligent enough to imagine that his role is limited to demanding the benefits of civilizations as if they were natural rights.

"The tremendous importance of the Humanities course, then, lies in its power to make the student realize that civilization is not 'just here'; it is not self-sustaining. The Humanities course impresses upon the student the fact that if he wants to make use of the advantages of civilization, he had better be prepared to concern himself with the upholding of that civilization."



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