

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Barrels of Politicians

Does our University have the measles, or has it become a social outcast? Organizers of tonight's mock political convention, or "Operation Politics," may have wondered at times as they canvassed the country for a keynote speaker of some national prominence. Polite "no's" were heard again and again.

So the search was directed back to Oregon, and Howard Morgan, chairman of the Democratic state central committee, consented to appear. Morgan is an intelligent and capable party leader and a good speaker. He should launch the mock convention off to a good start. But the question remains, why was it so difficult to obtain a keynoter?

The answer is obvious. We waited too long. Politicians are busier than ever these days with primaries cropping up throughout the nation. Most of them are committed weeks in advance. Yet it was only two weeks ago that we tried to obtain Adlai Stevenson. And to make matters worse, his campaign workers waited five days before they said "sorry."

Then John Kennedy, youthful senator from Massachusetts was contacted. He would have made an ideal speaker for a college audience. But the story was the same—"not available." Similar replies were received from Thomas Finletter, ex-secretary of the Air Force; Representative Richard Bolling of Missouri, and Oregon Democrats Wayne Morse, Richard Neuberger and Edith Green. They all would have been happy to come, but couldn't make it on such short notice.

It's apparent that next time the selection of a keynote speaker should be considered months, not weeks, in advance of the event. It wouldn't be too soon to begin the search three or four months beforehand. Undoubtedly we'd have considerable more success.

Luckily, however, we do have a well-informed and able speaker. Tonight's experience in practical politics should be more fun than a barrel of politicians, and more important, it will be educational—if we want it to be so. And we do, don't we?—(J.C.R.)

Independent Study

An experimental change in curriculum which has been tried at Brown university the past three years has shown some interesting results, according to an article in the recent quarterly report of the Carnegie corporation.

Three years ago a special series of courses for freshmen and sophomores was added to the school curriculum. Briefly, the idea behind these courses is to direct the student in independent study, group discussion, critical writing, reading, and thinking. This method replaces the traditional lecture-recitation method. The program is optional the standard curriculum is still offered.

The series of courses is called "The Identification and Criticism of Ideas" (IC). Twenty-four of these IC courses are offered, such as history IC and economics IC.

The administration of Brown university believes the program has been very successful. It says that more students choose the new curriculum than had been expected. Upperclassmen regret that the IC courses are not open to them. Faculty members say they had never realized the capacity of their undergraduates. The students taking the courses are showing more interest in education, especially on the graduate level.

Henry Wriston, former president of Brown university, has said, "The greatest mistake that has ever been made in American education at all levels, from kindergarten to Ph.D., is underestimating the capacity of the student."

Perhaps Mr. Wriston is right. The results at Brown would seem to indicate that he is.

If so, this leads to another interesting thought: What is the learning capacity of modern American student? How much does he want to learn? The answers might be found in the results of such programs as Brown's. And these results might greatly surprise us.—(A.H.)

Birds 'n Bees



RUMP CONVENTION

Canadian Beavers Go Pogo for President

Ottawa, Canada, May 29 (By Special Correspondent) — The American Possum, Pogo, was endorsed for the Presidency of the U. S. by a wildly enthusiastic mob of prominent Canadian Beavers today in their annual convention at this Canadian capital. Delegates will be sent to both the Democratic and the Republican conventions in the States. "Pogo definitely has the Canadian vote in his pocket," declared one happy Convention-er.

"Canada, for some strange reason," said this spokesman,

to make our weight felt at Chicago and at San Francisco. If we are not seated, we will high-tail it out of there and start a rump convention." Shrieking whistling and bombastic applause greeted this remark and one speaker was carried from the hall and presented with a beautiful new convertible containing seventeen gallons of gas. A short, unpleasant scene occurred when the bill for gasoline was presented to the recipient. Despite some ugliness on the part of a splinter party of beavers who claimed that the automobile was a balsa mock-up, and was sticking in their teeth, the affair dissolved in good spirits and a fine show of friendliness all around. The spokesman, still bandaged, spoke cheerfully from his hospital bed today to a nationwide audience of relatives. "No comment," said the speaker.

Observers here are convinced that Canada favors the Possum on a three-to-one basis. "After all," said one, "it was in one of our sister countries that the Australian ballot was first conceived. And what is Pogo if not a marsupial and what is Australia if not the home of the marsupial? The vote will be in the bag."

A hard-of-hearing gentleman objected that Austria was NOT the home of the marsupial. "It is the home of apple strudel!" he cried. The man was ejected.



"has never nominated or elected a President of the United States. We feel this, if not sheer discrimination, at least is a bona fide oversight. We intend

LOOKING AT THE WORLD

Keystone Kops Stir Up Traffic In 'Down Memory Lane' Revival

By Bob Davis
Emerald Critic

Seldom do revived films stir up much enthusiasm on the part of the movie-goer, for there is that demand for newness in movies which has not seemed to have carried through to the stage and the novel. A revival that should definitely be seen for its historical value is "Down Memory Lane," now playing at the Mayflower theatre.

The movie is narrated by Steve Allen, and consists of film strips from previous decades, taken from old Mack Sennett productions. The theme is strictly humorous throughout, with the Keystone Kops stirring up Hollywood traffic with a frenzy all their own.

Bing Crosby is handed a good share of the film's time to warble through a succession of insipid little plots. If you haven't heard an old Crosby record you will be surprised to find that Bing, in his youthful and hungrier years, could really sing. He looked alive back in the 1930's and progressed from note to note as though he was singing instead of yawn-

ing. His fame justly rests on the great voice he had years ago.

The other headliner of the show, W. C. Fields, is now dead. All we have left of this great comedian are a few old films which are revived less frequently as the years pass. "Down Memory Lane" has a sizeable chunk devoted to this immensely funny man.

It takes a sharp ear to pick up Field's corner-of-the-mouth sarcasm, for he mumbles through his parts in such an off hand manner that the laughter of one line will completely drown out the often funnier follow-up, most of which are said to be ad-libs. This picture will bring a lot of new people into his circle of followers, and build up in his old fans that hunger for Fieldian humor which the years are making harder to satiate.

The co-feature at the Mayflower is "Notorious," a Hitchcock thriller of ten years ago. It has to do with American and German espionage in South American and is as good or better than any of Hitchcock's later tri-

umps, despite the undeniable fact that the women in the picture wear "funny looking clothes."

Cary Grant is the cool, slick-tongued, and aloof American counter-spy who gets a German girl, Ingrid Bergman, to help him trap the Nazi agents. Although not dead like W. C. Fields, Miss Berman also seems to belong to another age of film makers since her tempestuous affair with that Italian producer.

Her forced, or perhaps voluntary retirement, is a shame because she can out act most Hollywood actresses today and seems to add an intangible dynamic quality in her actions, looks, and speech that you do not often see in most dramatic actresses on today's screens.

From the Files

May 11, 1929

With Johnny Anderson leading the onslaught, the Web-foot water polo team played circles around Oregon State here last evening, winning the battle 8 to 1.



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