

Theme Thoughts

We're happy to note, in today's correction, that the Homecoming committee isn't quite so strong in its advocacy of the backward movement as we thought. "Ducks Track Back" seems a little healthier than "Ducks Back Track," even though the whole idea is just something to tie together a weekend of historical pursuits for the interest (we trust) of a greater alumni following.

Now we have nothing against duck tracks or ducks' tracks or Duck Tracks. The popular column on our sports page has carried this last name as long as we can remember. But when you, as a duck, back track or track back, the idea conveyed to us is a little too much like that of somebody's (not a duck, we hope) retreating.

And we're sure that the Homecoming committee feels the same way. They just want us to look back at our great moments and have given us a theme to help us do that. But that's not the whole story.

You see, we play a football game as sort of a fringe benefit to this Homecoming weekend. And Ducks Tracking Back or Back Tracking, either one, just doesn't sound good when there's a football game involved—especially with Beavers—and especially this year.

So please, Homecoming bosses, think it over again. We like to Back Track or even Track Back as individuals (it helps around test time). But let's not do it for Homecoming. We don't intend to see our Ducks doing any Back Tracking or Tracking Back to Beavers.

Congratulations

We take pride in joining our newspaper neighbor, the Eugene Register-Guard, in celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of that publication's service to the community and state. The Register-Guard, the University, and the city have experienced a great growth together in that almost-a-century. And in more than just a few instances, the growth of the University and community has been a direct result of work by the Register-Guard.

Perhaps we feel a bit of almost parental pride in the accomplishments of the Register-Guard, if just those accomplishments in the last generation or two of its service. Many ex-Emeraldites have passed through the R-G's offices in following their journalistic careers. And any roll call today of Register-Guard staffers would produce, we're sure, a large number who went from campus to community publication.

But in taking our pride in the ninety years of service—as Register and Guard or Register-Guard—we note the faithful fulfillment of the motto which runs, not just on the masthead, but through the operation of the paper: "A newspaper is a citizen of its community."

Acid Minority

Democracy in action was obvious to both sides of the Atlantic Saturday night on Mike Wallace's dynamic television interview program. The case in point was a shrewd, skilled English journalist—one Malcolm Muggeridge.

Due in part to Wallace's astute questioning, no punches were pulled on the TV show by Muggeridge, author of a highly controversial article in the Saturday Evening Post criticizing monarchical system.

The elderly Muggeridge, epitomizing English bulldoggishness, frankly and freely defended his opinions on the monarchy in general and Queen Elizabeth in particular.

This as Elizabeth began her historic visit to the United States.

It was an extraordinary occasion, as Muggeridge gave vent to his right to criticize the most revered of all English traditions—the monarch. He claimed that most of the quotations from his article were taken from context, but backed down at no point.

Nor was the United States absolved from constructive criticism, thanks to some capsule opinions by the fiery Muggeridge. John Foster Dulles, for example, was characterized as "sincere, portentous and rather stupid."

Unpopular opinions and unrestrained criticisms are not new to public life, but stiff upper lips from London to Washington must have cracked readily at Muggeridge's acidity.

Perhaps Muggeridge merely sought a headline or two, though in fact his Satevepost piece was assigned far in advance. We note with a slight bit of amusement that our democratic system allows us to sound off at will. Though embarrassing to some, such outbursts are beneficial in representing the minority—still a moving force in public opinion.

Fight for Freedom

(The following editorial is reprinted from the Colorado Daily)

Those embattled Polish students, who are now veterans of many uprisings against their Red masters, have fired another shot for freedom, which might well be heard around the world. The bone of contention this time was the Freedom of the student press, a subject close to the hearts of all collegiate editors.

Looking at the image of our courageous fellow students behind the Iron Curtain, we wonder how many University students could be uprooted from their sedentary afternoons in local pubs to stage a demonstration for freedom of the press. Not many, we suspect.

Like their city cousins of the commercial press, student newspapers hold inviolable the right to gather and to publish the news as it happens. Note that freedom of the press must encompass both the gathering and the publishing of the news, the twin pillars of editorial freedom. And from the days of John Peter Zenger, who affirmed this right, to John Foster Dulles, who denies it, American editors have remained in surprising agreement on this point.

But there is another side to the coin. Every liberty in the portfolio of a free people carries with it a corresponding duty, and newspapers are no exception. A free press must also be a responsible one, and publications which throw common sense to the four winds in reporting the day's events cast a shadow of distrust upon the entire profession.

Further, there are certain time-honored exceptions to the "right to know." When the public interest is obviously endangered through the release of news, the press will usually allow such matter to remain "off the cuff." It is by means of an unwritten journalistic tradition that the press honors the requests of its news sources in withholding information.

Even here, however, newspapermen would prefer to retain for themselves the decision-making on how the publication of a certain item would affect the public interest. In a free society, any such tampering with the free exchange of information and ideas is ticklish business indeed, and must be handled with only the utmost of care, lest the withholding of news become habit rather than considered exception . . .

Outside Experiment



"DID ANY OF YOU HAPPEN TO FIND THAT BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL THAT WAS MISPLACED YESTERDAY?"

Wynn Dahlgren

US Superiority Dwindling As Ivan Gets an Education

The United States is no longer the only great power in history that has dared to educate everybody. The Soviet Union in recent years has surged ahead at a terrific pace.

The Russians are giving much more than lip service to education. They are assigning it top priority. Thus, we are being severely challenged in the vital area that has so long been one of our strongpoints.

Comparing the two educational systems, the Russians appear to have the advantage because of the clear-cut goals of their educational system. It is their direct aim to train specialists for the service of the state. We seek to educate the "whole personality" or the "total man" without a clear idea of what this means.

Many American educators feel that because the Russians do not have a long educational tradition, their schools are inferior. This just isn't so. To achieve their goals, a thorough and rigid system of education, providing for few electives, has been established.

First of all, because of the importance accorded education in the Soviet system, there are enough teachers. Almost every university graduate is prepared to teach in a secondary school. Approximately one-half of all graduates go into teaching.

The salaries paid to school administrators and university professors approximate the highest paid in the Soviet Union. A professor's base pay is 6,000 rubles a month and for work outside the classroom he gets extra pay. At ten rubles to the dollar, a professor can earn \$20,000 or more a year.

There are many built-in incentives in the Soviet system to attract teachers and graduate students.

A professor's base pay is double that of a practicing physician and is on a par with that of the manager of a large manufacturing plant. His taxes and rent are low and he pays nothing for his medical services or the education of his children.

Students are admitted to universities wholly on the basis of scholarship and not on the ability to pay for higher education. As a result, all students have the chance to acquire a

university degree. And—check this—all university students are paid for going to school, the highest ranking students getting the most pay. What a contrast with the American system where, except for merit scholarships, athletes are the only ones paid.

Students incapable of doing college work are sent to farms or to technical schools. No university student is drafted for military service.

In the United States in 1957 there is a critical shortage of 120,000 teachers, and 80,000 others do not meet minimum standards. Professors in large universities receive an average income of \$7,000 a year (most butchers, belonging to a union, receive \$7,200 a year and a brick-layer's salary is even higher), while those in small colleges receive considerably less. Teachers must take advance training at their own expense and superior students can get a higher education only if they can afford to pay for it.

The Russian education system is far from perfect. It is extremely rigid not only in prescribed courses but in the requirement that a standard textbook be used for each course throughout the country. The humanities have suffered because of the great emphasis being

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