

## Those Improved Ducks

When Steve Belko arrived at the University in 1956 to take over the head coaching job of Oregon's basketball team after successfully leading four Idaho State College squads to the NCAA regional playoffs, he probably wished he could turn around and go back to the secure setting of the small potato state institution. At Idaho State he had molded one of the top small-college clubs in the country; at Oregon he inherited one of the weakest big-college teams in the country.

But Belko has brought Oregon basketball a long way since the day he first set foot on the campus. After limping through with a 4-21 record and a last-place finish in the Pacific Coast Conference in 1956-57, Belko's work has begun to pay off.

The 1957-58 Webfoot basketball team has a new look. From last year's undefeated Duckling squad is sophomore guard Chuck Rask, who's been the play maker this season. Stu Robertson and Jerry Anderson, two forwards who figure to play a big part on future Webfoot teams, are also up from Don Kirsch's excellent 1956-57 Duckling squad. Three top junior college transfers also dot the varsity squad this season. Forward Dale Herron has been starting in recent games; Forward George Padovan is a rugged junior from Gray's Harbor Junior College in Washington; and Guard Otis Davis is a two-year veteran from Los Angeles City College.

Add three improved regulars from last year's squad in high-scoring forward Charlie Franklin, top-rebounding center Hal Duffy and deadly distance-shooting guard Bud Kuykendall and the 1957-58 Oregon basketball club is one which no team can take lightly.

Most observers feel that the best results from Belko's work won't really come out for another year or two, but this year's team will be no pushover. Already winners in seven of nine games, Oregon looks tough in the 1958 PCC race. The seven victories, incidentally, all came in succession, the first time that's happened since the 1953-54 season.

Tonight and Saturday night the Webfoots move to Los Angeles to take on two always-tough conference customers, UCLA and Southern California.

The Bruins, one of the pre-season picks for the PCC title, defeated the Ducks last Friday 64-58. Oregon, however, suffered from a below-average shooting night. The Trojans currently lead the conference with a 3-0 record after a so-so pre-conference showing.

Both clubs will be stiff tests for Oregon's improving cagers and may show just how much the Ducks have.

## Time to Get Busy

It's time to start studying again. The release of fall term's living organization grades will cause rejoicing and despairing among the campus study chairmen, the library will again fill up each night and Greeks will be comparing the size of their initiation classes.

The only drop noted on the list was that of campus fraternities. No fraternity received a grade point average above the all-University average; sororities received approximately the same house GPA's as

spring term. Freshmen dormitories all earned averages above a 2.0, which speaks well for the counselling program.

The all-campus average, 2.539, is well above the pessimistic results expected. It was a "busy" term, with more Portland games than usual, many activities and a few midterms occurring near the bad weekends.

There's always a danger that students who do well fall term will be inclined to rest on their laurels. One term's grades may seem quite significant, but upperclassmen who have faced the problem of raising an almost immovable GPA realize that the average performance is what counts in the long run. A poor showing one term has to be balanced the next. An excellent fall term record can be grounded quickly by too much winter term "goofing around."

So congratulations to those groups that did well, and better luck next time to those who didn't. It's never too late to start studying.

## It's Up to Congress

President Eisenhower's State of the Union address to Congress and the nation Thursday contained an eight-point program of "safety through strength." The program is aimed at strengthening the nation's position in the face of Soviet rocket and missile successes.

A significant note on the President's program is that only three of the points are directly concerned with the military and defense. The other five are all aimed at other cold war fronts.

Seven of the eight points are appeals to Congress for legislative action, but the eighth point is a direct appeal to the Russian people to join in a drive for enduring world peace and to take part in a first step toward disarmament. This, of course, will probably have little effect on the Russian people if indeed they even hear of it. But by thus borrowing a page from the Soviet manual of propaganda, Eisenhower may restore some of the free world's confidence in our leadership.

Eisenhower, at long last realizing the necessity of competition with the Russians on more than military terms, proposes to establish scientific co-operation with our allies, including sharing our atomic secrets, now legally impossible. This would appear to be a real step forward for the Administration if it hadn't discontinued in 1955 the State Department program of "scientific attaches" at our embassies and consulates abroad which was started in 1951.

The President urged Congress to continue the vital foreign aid program and the reciprocal trade agreements. These programs, it seems, should be extended and enlarged rather than merely continued unchanged since they rest on some of our greatest national strengths.

Education and research were naturally mentioned. Eisenhower proposes to spend \$1 billion to "create the intellectual capital we need for the years ahead."

The strictly military proposals of the President all seem sound. He proposes to re-organize the Defense Department—a long overdue proposal. He proposes an accelerated defense effort all through the military. And he proposes to raise the pay scale of military men to maintain the skilled military manpower now rapidly being drawn off by private industry.

All this will require a budget about \$4 billion larger than last year's.

Now the problem is up to Congress. They can try to seek out a scapegoat for our lag behind the Russians. Or they can try to create an effective and realistic legislative program out of Eisenhower's suggestions. We hope the legislators will try to follow the second.

## Low Blow



"BUT HE TOLD ME IT WOULD LEAVE A SCAR!"

## Specter of State Religion Haunts American Society

(Editor's Note: The following editorial was taken from the Colorado Daily, student newspaper of the University of Colorado.)

Don't look now, but a specter is haunting the United States—the specter of government religion.

On the state government level, it hovers over the campus in the form of agitation to establish a University chapel and a department of religion. And on the national level it hovers over the country as a crusade of much greater import (of which the above campus efforts are merely a reflection)—the growing movement to officially establish the United States as a religious nation. We will concern ourselves only with this larger and more dangerous movement.

A certain series of events should make it obvious to anyone who might reflect over them that the spiritual spirit has pervaded our nation's capital. Without further comment, we offer some pertinent evidence:

In 1954, Congress passed a resolution calling for the President to declare a National Prayer Day.

The Pledge of Allegiance now contains the words "under God."

A new code of conduct for the U.S. Army includes "I will trust in God and in the U.S.A."

In 1955 Congress passed a joint resolution calling for everyone to join in prayer.

Several years ago, Senator Flanders proposed an amendment to the Constitution praising Jesus Christ.

The words "pray for peace" are often used to cancel stamps. "In God we trust" is now the official motto of this country.

Recently, an immigrant who wouldn't take an oath on the Bible was denied citizenship.

Many other instances could be presented, but they would only serve to prove what the above examples already make self-evident: The U. S. Government is becoming an official sponsor of religion. This fact is extremely unfortunate, for two reasons in particular.

First of all, the efforts along this line contain an element of insincerity. At times it all seems like a gigantic public relations campaign. Every attempt is being made to have this nation appear officially re-

ligious.

One can easily see the propaganda value in labeling religion as the dominant theme of this country. The Soviet Union, we proclaim to the world with a great measure of truth, is the classic example of the "Godless State." But look at us, we cry. Why we are a Godly state, whatever that is, by an act of Congress.

Secondly, this unfortunate trend toward federal advocacy of religion stands in frightening opposition to the fundamental American principles of religious liberty. We must remember that the next step after government promotion is inevitably government regulation.

Recognizing this, James Madison, the founding father of religious freedom in the Bill of Rights, wrote in 1785 that neither believer nor non-believer should be taxed to support religion of any kind. He urged that true religion did not need the support of law, and opposed every form of official relation between religion and government.

The United States has adhered to these principles throughout all but its most recent history. As late as 1947 a Supreme Court opinion held that the federal government could not pass laws which aid either one religion or all religion.

As U. S. officialdom drifts farther and farther from these cherished principles, we can only point out that there is still considerable difference between a state which is labeled religious by official decree and a people that is truly devout.

If the recent upsurge in church affiliation in this country indicates that the American people are turning more and more to God, all well and good. If not, only the churchmen and the people can do something about it.

But of one fact we can be sure—federal legislation is definitely not the answer.

## Our Contemporaries

(ACP)—At the University of Texas there is an intermediate stage in the pinning, engagement, marriage series when a couple is known as being "stuffed." A couple satisfies this stage in their relationship by the exchange of stuffed animals.

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published four times in September and five days a week during the school year, except during 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 year, \$2 per term. Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of The Emerald and do not pretend to represent the opinion of the ASUO or the University.

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