

Timely Topic

The Distinguished Failing Lecture tonight is particularly appropriate in these times. Willard F. Libby, a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, will speak on "Our Atomic Future."

Libby has been prominent on the AEC. When Dr. Albert Schweitzer criticized the testing of all thermo-nuclear weapons on the ground that the fall-out produced was dangerous to humanity, the AEC assigned Libby to answer Dr. Schweitzer.

In addition to his AEC position, Libby is a noted chemist. He developed the radio-carbon method of dating fossils and artifacts which has proved so helpful to anthropologists, archeologists and paleontologists.

Advance copies of Libby's speech indicate that a good deal of his emphasis will be on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. And his speech is written for the layman—which will make it more worthwhile and interesting for the non-specialized majority of students.

The distinguished Failing Lecture series has traditionally presented valuable speakers. Tonight's lecture promises to be particularly good.

Ike's Budget

President Eisenhower Monday submitted to Congress a record peacetime budget request of slightly under \$74 billion. The President's budget stressed increased military expenditures and a general "belt tightening" in civil benefits.

For once, there was no loud clamor from congressional leaders substantially to trim the figure. Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson of Texas said only that Congress will have to determine whether the budget "is adequate to strengthen the nation's security." Chairman Clarence Cannon of the House appropriations committee said the boost in defense funds is "fully justified."

The reason for this quick switch in the legislators' reception to big budgets is obviously those two Russian sputniks fired into the sky late last year. American public opinion, which generally had cried for budget cuts, did a quick about-face when it became apparent that the Russians may be ahead of the U.S. in missile and satellite development. Now, instead of grumbling about high income taxes, John Q. Public has turned around and began to growl uneasily about "how far is the U.S. behind the Russians?"

Looking at the matter in this light, has the firing of the Soviet sputniks actually been so bad? Perhaps the sputniks were a "good thing," in that they have kindled a fire under a complacent public and a complacent Administration.

While the Russian scientific and technological developments have resulted in an increase in our government spending, they may also have a more indirect effect on the U.S. economy as a whole. Administration officials, among them Ike himself, have forecast an upswing in the nation's economy

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—due perhaps to just such prospects for increased government spending. Such an economic surge would boost tax revenues and help reduce the expected deficit in the proposed budget.

What Ho the 'O'?

One of the items to be brought before the ASUO Senate Thursday night is the question of Oregon's now-extinct 'O'.

The 'O' issue was intense during football season, due to the ingenious Beaver raiding party and the resultant kidnaping of three members of the OSC Homecoming court by the Order of the O.

The Emerald realizes that University spirit—of one kind or another—is easy to generate during inter-campus fun-fests. Unfortunately many students' ideas of spirit go no further than joining in Oregon-Oregon State rivalry.

With football, Homecoming and the Rose Bowl behind us, the question of spirit remains in a new form: What are we going to do, or not do, about the 'O'?

To some, the merits of the 'O' are still a question. Was it something to show "visiting firemen" and to impress high school seniors? Or was it just a nuisance to defend and a needless chore to paint for the sake of pseudo-spirit?

Was the 'O' a real symbol of something intangible? Would its continued absence from Skinner's Butte prove anything about Oregon spirit? Or does anyone even care what happens?

We're inclined to believe that last fall's 'O' removal brought a real reaction from the student body, while realizing that strong retaliatory action would have been unwise.

But aside from the symbolic values of the 'O', what about its practical value?

The mechanics of replacing the 'O' would not be particularly difficult, though some care would be needed to select relatively bomb, fire and theft-proof materials. And its cost should not be too great.

Is student desire to replace the 'O' strong enough to justify its replacement? Spirit obviously cannot be manufactured. But it sometimes can be encouraged.

The ASUO Senate is scheduled to discuss the 'O' Thursday night. We hope the Senate decides to replace the University's symbol on Skinner's Butte.

Grades Upset Staters

Word from the north indicates that fall term proved somewhat disastrous, grade-wise, to a surprisingly large number of Oregon State college campus leaders—and all this without a Rose Bowl to worry about.

OSC Daily Barometer editor Roger Widness intoned the sad news, in a recent column, that 56 male living group officers, the freshman and sophomore class presidents, four members of the Dads' Weekend committee (including the chairman), three Rook rally squad members and a male and female from the varsity rally group had been hit.

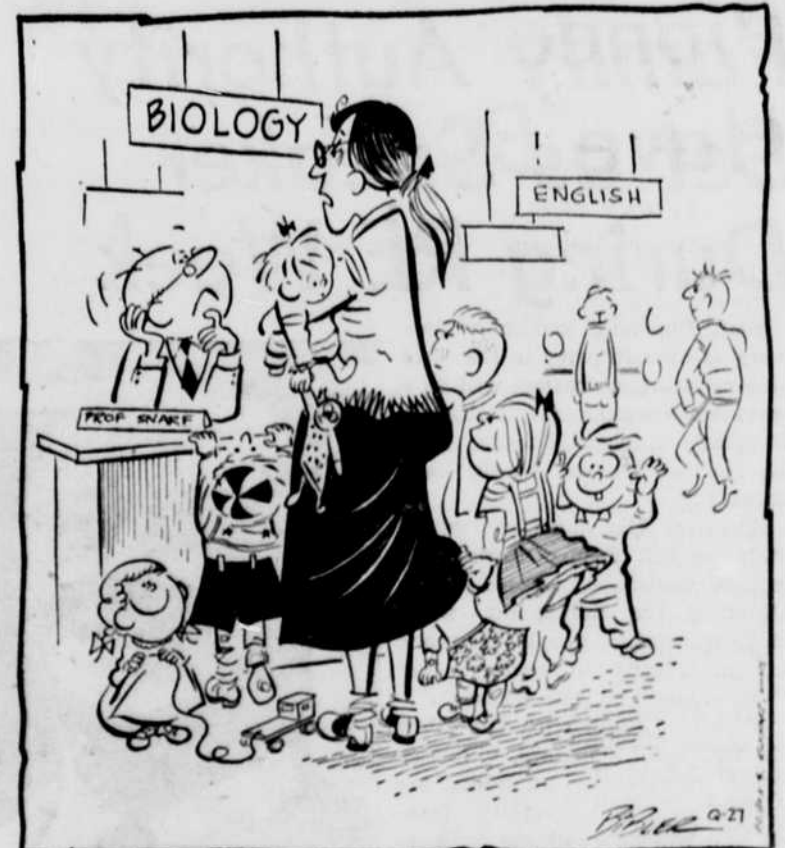
In addition, a scholarship chairman for a Greek living group got the gate from his job "for consistently poor grades." Widness added that eleven social chairmen also fell by the wayside in the battle of the books.

And to top off the whole business, an unnamed fraternity realized that 21 of their 27 fall term pledges were on probation. (They were probably too busy plotting ways to steal the University 'O').

In the interest of inter-institutional good will, we'll hold back from the natural remark (quantity, quality . . .?) and merely hope the Beavers don't do as badly when it's their turn next year to again go to the Rose Bowl.

But we do wonder if the "Country Club" title hasn't been assigned to the wrong school.

Almost Too Late



Jack Wilson

College Courtship Patterns Stereotyped Across Nation

An article by Nicholas David in the latest Esquire, a magazine noted for its contributions to the worldly knowledge of many a college student, endeavors to dissect the mating habits of homo universitas. And, setting aside the author's heavy-handed strokes of sarcastic humor, the articles comes very close to the truth.



David, claiming that what he writes applies to nearly every campus in the land, laments "the uniformity of the current college generation." The "Early Dating Stage" of the campus "battle of the sexes" is especially similar across the country, he says. He could be right. His cold-blooded analysis of the First, Second and Third Dates sounds suspiciously similar to the data I have collected over the years.

As for instance, here's his description of the First Date:

"He asks for and she agrees to a date. He arranges with his roommate for an evening of double-dating. They dress casually, go someplace to dinner where he can get out for about \$5.00, and take in a movie. They have little to say to each other.

"On the way home, if they walk, he offers her his arm. She takes it but she avoids touching, brushing, or otherwise coming into contact with his hands. He is wondering if he made enough of an impression to risk a good-night kiss try. She is wondering how she is going to avoid him, and she also weighs her chances for a second date in the event she refuses him.

"She reads a lot about the male sex drive and is prepared for the worst. They spar at the door. He brushes her cheek with his lips. She bolts for the door. He leaves, determined to be on target next time. She is determined to hold him off until the third date which, in spite of several million possible exceptions, is today the proper occasion for a coed's first kiss."

The Second Date consists of dancing and more sparring, and the Third Date starts with

drinking and ends with the man "encouraged by her display of passionateness."

Then comes a time of decision, and the fourth date is either the last or the beginning of a "going steady arrangement." Going steady ends in either the "crack-up" or "victory through marriage."

Sound familiar? It's hard on the ego to find your dating habits classified and filed away as identical with those of millions of others, but I know of very few individuals who can claim a striking difference from Mr. David's norm.

It's not pleasant, but there's not much we can do about it. As far as relations between the sexes go, the college atmosphere is highly artificial—there is no chance to really get to know a potential mate other than through the stereotyped dating pattern outlined in the article. And, for our generation at least, it isn't "safe" to deviate very far from the accepted way of doing things.

The article goes on to describe the "devaluation" of the fraternity pin. That it ever had any real value as a love-token is open to question, but David cites the case of a Dartmouth Deke who was pinned to five girls at the same time as an illustration of "inflationary activity."

But pinning, it seems to me, should not be taken too seriously — more seriously perhaps than our friend from Dartmouth takes it, but not enough to put the engagement ring in any danger of being replaced. A pin should be just what it usually is, a sign that the two are "going steady."

David's main thesis seems to be that college love is a shallow love, with the men interested only in sex and the women only in snagging a man. Anybody have evidence to the contrary?

Our Contemporaries

(ACP)—One innovation in the pinning, engagement, married series at the University of Texas involved being "dropped." A co-ed who is "dropped" wears a gold pendant of her fellow's fraternity letters on a small gold chain around her neck.