

Sneaky Trick



"YES, I KNOW YOU HAVE THE SAME ANSWERS AS SMITH — YOUR ANSWERS ARE WRONG BECAUSE YOU TOOK A DIFFERENT TEST."

RE Evaluation

The Emerald and its columnists have, on several occasions this year, inquired into the function and value of many of the extra-curricular activities which appear to plague students and impede real progress in the more educational aspects of the University.

An extra-curricular event which ended last Thursday, Religious Emphasis Week, is one activity which violated the rules which seem to govern most campus extra-curricular activities—RE Week actually performed a service to students and had some educational value.

Those who went to the major addresses will attest the high quality of the speakers and the value of what they had to say. They frankly discussed some thorny problems in the topic area of "love and marriage." And through the discussions, firesides, morning worship services, students could see the what, if not the why, of the different faiths in relation to marriage.

We have only one real quibble on the week. The name should be changed. It is not the business of any state university to "emphasize" any religion, but only to evaluate it and relate it to society. Last year, RE Week was called "Religious Evaluation Week." And it should be so called next year.

Double Standard

Western observers have always suspected Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev of two-faced tendencies, but now definite evidence has been uncovered to prove the pudgy Communist boss talks out of both sides of his mouth.

The Associated Press reports from Moscow that Khrushchev has scathed Russian farmers who have been converting the peoples' sugar beet crop into home brew, and then drinking it!

"The time has come to declare war on the

drunks and moonshiners in Russia," Khrushchev told an agricultural conference at Minsk recently.

This view hardly measures up to Khrushchev's own performances at embassy parties, state receptions and other vodka-laden occasions. Or perhaps Khrushchev is just borrowing a little from aristocracy in condemning home brew while personally quaffing vodka.

Perhaps Khrushchev following a familiarly-heard charge in our own political system—expediency.

Enrollment Up

With perhaps much of the credit due to a freshman class which fall term earned a high 2.25 grade point average, winter term enrollment here at the University has increased from 5,807 a year ago to the present figure of 6,259.

Interesting to note is the senior class increase—a healthy 21 per cent—which indicates that many upper-classmen are transfers from other schools. Conversely, the sophomore class this year decreased one per cent from the winter term registration of last year.

The added number of students is, in most areas, still reasonably imperceptible. But when the "World War Two babies" start hitting the colleges about 1960, enrollment increases will be painfully felt by everyone.

The need for "limited enrollment," to be started next fall, will then be evident to nearly everyone.

Footnotes

Apparently the partially-clad male who has been strolling near women's living groups during the wee morning hours lately hasn't checked up on the groups' "man-hours" schedules.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

Ninety-one concerned upper class women signed a petition requesting that Carson be an upper class dormitory next year. The petition now rests with Dean DuShane. Most of us signed because we felt the present dormitory housing for upper class independents and transfers (which now includes lower classmen) is most unsatisfactory.

We feel that the new dorms are better suited for that all important group living which is so desirable for freshman and sophomores.

"As the occupant of a single room which is poorly situated by the entrance, I am disturbed by piggers and im-

mature and thoughtless people who shout and sing with enthusiasm outside my window and in the lobby and halls when entering, departing, and good nighting.

Women who desire privacy to the point of paying extra for the privilege of a single room have a serious purpose of concentrating on their studies. Dorm meetings and activities fail to fit in with heavy study loads which require many hours of preparation.

For these reasons, I feel that senior women over 21, who are screened for maturity and purpose, should be permitted off campus housing or have dormitories facilitated to their needs. (Name withheld by request)

William Cook

'Vigilance Committee' Poor Method to Clean Up County Newsstands

The censor's hand is about to be felt on the reading matter available to residents of Lane county. District Attorney Eugene Venn has announced his intention to "clean up" county newsstands by ridding them of lewd and indecent publications—particularly "men's magazines" which contain suggestive pin-up pictures of women.



Venn seeks to encourage all news dealers to voluntarily quit selling publications which fall under the nebulous and subjective definition of being "lewd and indecent." He is prepared, however, to prosecute dealers "who wish to ignore the simple dictates of decency as embodied in the law."

According to a letter from the district attorney's office to the dealers, Venn has two main reasons for his newsstand clean-up campaign:

First, he is "genuinely concerned with the effect such indecent publications have on the young people of the community."

Second, he is concerned with the effect of such publications "within easy reach of a borderline abnormal individual who may find the additional needed stimulus (in them) to make him

a real menace to your community."

Under existing Oregon statutes, Venn has ample authority to carry out his campaign. The law (ORS 167.150) provides that anyone who in any way traffics in "...any obscene or indecent book, paper, writing, printed matter, picture, drawing, photograph or engraving ... shall be subject upon conviction to imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months or by a fine of not more than \$500 or both."

Under the statute, the same penalty can be meted out to anyone connected with any play, show or drama or with "...any book, paper or other publication that contains accounts or stories of crime or lust or deeds of bloodshed ..."

If the statute were to be strictly enforced, all Oregon newspapers, many magazines and books (including the Bible), and numerous radio, television and movie news and dramatic productions would not be available to Oregonians.

The statute, in effect, provides the legal sanctions for a zealous district attorney or other state officer to conduct a genuine, Inquisition-style book-burning. His problem, however, would be to convince a jury of the rightness of his charges.

But Venn is not working in accordance with the law. He has compiled a list of 21 "lewd and indecent" magazines (not

including "Playboy"). Instead of charging the magazine dealers with violating the law by selling the listed magazines, Venn is trying to pressure the dealers into allowing him to judge what they can sell.

Venn's method—in which the community has no voice—could lead to many varieties of censorship with all its inherent evils.

Yet it is not hard to sympathize with what Venn is trying to do. Certainly, the county would be better off if some publications now sold were banned. The almost-insolvable problems are to decide which publications should be prohibited and by what means the prohibition should be effected.

Where should the line be drawn between, on the one hand, public safety and morality and, on the other hand, individual rights and freedom of the press? And who should decide where the line should be drawn?

The Eugene Register-Guard, discussing the problem in an editorial last Friday, advocated the formation of a quasi-official "citizen's committee" to compile a list of "acceptable" publications. Dealers who adhered to the committee's list would be awarded a seal to display.

The committee, said the R-G, should represent a cross-section of the community. "It should have no authority to pull magazines off the newsstands. It

could only withdraw the seal which it bestowed."

The R-G observed that "most merchants, we think, would find the value of the seal far greater than any small profit they might make from a few magazines."

The R-G believes that such a committee would better fulfill the function of deciding what is lewd and indecent than would any district attorney and jury.

But the paper quoted a Supreme Court decision from a case involving indecent publications which said that "...the jury... is the exclusive judge of what the community is, and in determining that conscience you are to consider the community as a whole, young and old, educated and uneducated, the religious and irreligious—men, women and children."

The citizen's committee, if it followed the rules prescribed by the R-G, might do some good. But numerous objections are obvious which make the plan inferior even to following the method set up by law.

The committee would probably be drawn from the "dogood" set in the community—clergymen, society matrons and other self-appointed keepers of the public morals. For these persons would be most interested in serving on such a group. The R-G admitted this possibility and said this would be "unfortunate."

The committee would be answerable only to itself. Its legal

status would be comparable to old-time "vigilance committees," or, at worst, lynch mobs.

If, as the R-G hopes, the committee's seal of approval gained enough community prestige to convince reputable merchants that it was to their benefit to display it, the stage would be set for the committee to make the list of acceptable publications ever smaller.

The minority of merchants who didn't display the seal would, for a time, enjoy a monopoly on the racier publications. But those dealers would then be easy marks for the district attorney.

The committee, if it were successful, might take up larger goals and, as the R-G feared, "go into the book business, to poking into libraries and compiling lists of wrong books."

The committee—and this is most likely—might be held in low regard by the community.

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