

Exit Bruin

The Bruins is all, but the Trojans and Bears is yet.

Liberally translated from the Pennsylvania Dutch, this simply means that UCLA has become the first Pacific Coast Conference school to formally and finally sever all athletic ties with the schools of the Northwest (save Washington).

In this bold stroke, the Los Angeles institution has apparently solidified its place in the sports sunlight, so long clouded by one-sided wins over Northern teams, as well as by recent predominance by these same Northern athletes.

The University, Oregon State, Washington State and Idaho have now been cut adrift from Westwood contact, but as recent weeks have been proving, the Oregon football schedule is rapidly filling.

California and Southern California have not as yet ended all sports relationships with the North, though they will join with UCLA on July 1, 1959, to leave the PCC as an infamous triumvirate.

We are tempted to say good riddance, though it no doubt will mean less money in the University athletic exchequer. For that reason, we'd like to continue an athletic future with these self-annointed titans of the South. But on all other standpoints, Oregon is just as well off.

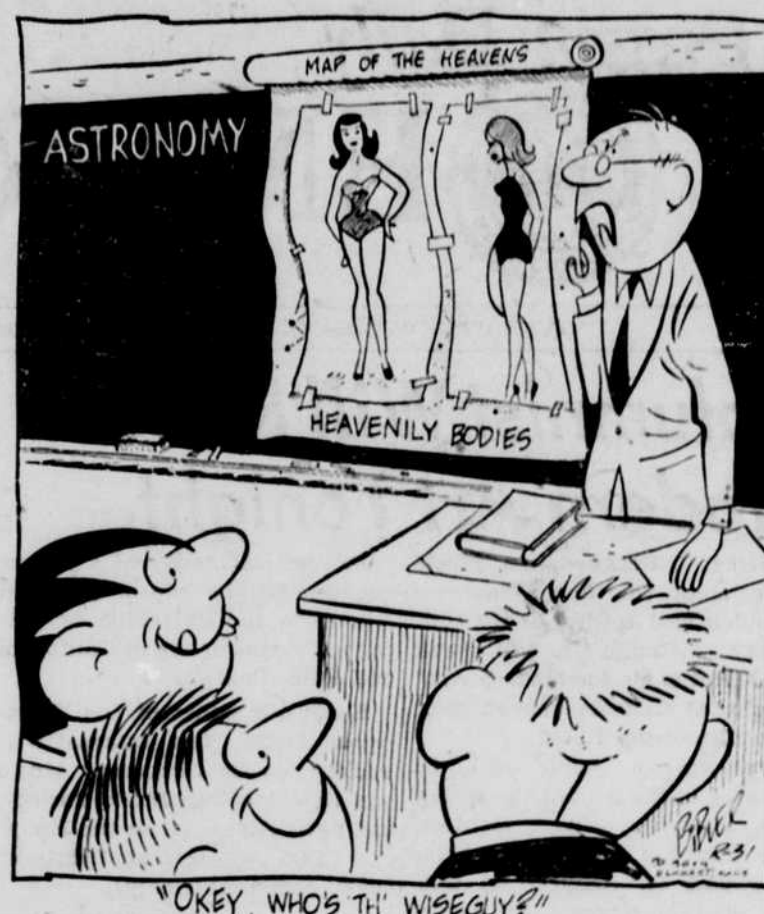
Our neighbors in Seattle still are in good graces with the three southern schools, as their past end-around plays on PCC rules have been similar. Unfortunately for Washington, its athletic success has been disappointing despite its feverish efforts on the recruiting front.

We suspect that USC and Cal will soon bolt fully—not just in football—from Northern relations. They probably aren't happy about the effect it will have on basketball, but football is the money-maker, and thus all-important. And after all this time and the mass complaints emanating from Los Angeles and Berkeley, the three really have little choice but to leave.

All of which indicates that athletic de-emphasis may come about indirectly through this break-up of the PCC. The Emerald would like to see active competition without having outside pressures interfere with an athlete's real mission in college—getting an education while giving school service through sports. If this means de-emphasis, we're all for it.

The PCC is not indispensable, however, to continued University success in athletics. After the Rose Bowl game this year, Oregon can speak for itself, sports-wise, as it has been able to do academically.

A New Model Explorer



E. P. McKean-Smith

Columnist's 1929 Cuban Visit Backgrounds Recent Events

(Editor's Note: E. P. McKean-Smith is a 48-year-old senior in journalism. His weekly columns in The Emerald will deal with topics from his experiences in traveling through 70 countries since 1923.)

Trying to write anything for The Emerald so soon after the recent issue of The Ephemerald is a bit difficult. It is even more so if the writer is a newcomer to these pages. By comparison his style will appear dull and his material colorless. Perhaps both qualities would be there anyway.



Quite often columnists think they have a mission and a message. This one has neither. He has no desire to control or mold student opinion—even if he could—and admits his inability to do so. He is writing this column for the fun of it. Possibly somebody may enjoy reading it.

If you have been looking at the daily papers you will have noticed that the recent hassle in Cuba has gone off the front page. It will return to the front page again.

The Havana dateline takes me back to a December day in 1929 when I was an undergraduate in Montreal. A telephone call from the office of Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways, advised me that a reservation at a greatly reduced rate, was available on one of their ships sailing to the West Indies during the Christmas holidays. Could I go and did I want it? I could and I did. Havana was the last stop on the itinerary.

At that time of year the port of Montreal was frozen solidly and all the passengers from Canada went to Boston to embark. There were a great many Americans going too. Everybody looked forward to the sunny skies and warmer temperatures to be found on such a trip once the Gulf stream was reached.

There was another feature of the voyage that appealed to the

Americans. This was the bar which would be opened once the three mile limit was reached. You must remember that prohibition was still on the statutes at that time. To these thirsty ones this booze cruise was a delightful interlude.

Cuba meant very little to me except the sinking of the battleship "Maine," Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders, Corona cigars, sugar, Bacardi rum, and the rhumba. I regret to say that almost 30 years later Cuba still means "Maine," cigars, sugar, rum, and the rhumba.

Havana in those days was a city of half a million. It was a beautiful place famous for its parks, boulevards, golf courses, resort hotels and Casino. The real appeal was the weather which was a comfortable 70 degrees. Montreal with its 10 below zero temperature seemed happily remote. The International Telephone and Telegraph building was the tallest in town. Most impressive was the National Capitol. Art critics claimed it was too gaudy but I thought it rather imposing. Maybe the \$20,000,000 construction cost made it seem so.

I was lucky to have an I.T.&T. official show me around. It was here in Havana that I saw my first automatic dial telephone exchange in operation. I was told it was the first or one of the first in operation in the world. We went to the beautiful National Casino and the orchestra played the "Peanut Vendor" to death. It was the rage then. I suspect I was guilty later of boring my Montreal friends, whenever I heard this selection played, by telling them I had danced to it in Havana. If "drop dead" had been in use then they would have told me to.

It is doubtful if college students then were any more aware of political happenings and their significance than the undergraduate of today. I know I wasn't. But I do remember that Cuba was under strict military law. Police were in evidence in Havana but they never seemed oppressive to the tourist. It did not take long to learn that General Gerardo Machado, also known as the "butcher," was in full charge and intended to re-

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A Necessary Evil

There are a few students who still hold pacifist sentiments, if faintly. We received an anonymous letter to the editor Wednesday from a person who identifies himself only as the "Spirit of Man." He was protesting the Army rocket display in the Student Union. He said:

"Peace in the world or the world in pieces." These words are the essence of man's pledge of compassion for his fellow man.

"The United States Army has infiltrated the University of Oregon with displays of munitions that violate this creed. The NIKE adorns our Erb Memorial Lobby and the motion pictures of atomic destruction are constantly in movement on the second floor of this same building. Why?

"What kind of intellectual people are we to allow this exhibit to remain standing? Tear it down and the ROTC building with it. Send the 'professional warriors' home."

Noble sentiments these, but not too practical, we're afraid.

Those of us who viewed the Army's display were struck by these examples of the highly advanced state of modern warfare. Few students, we're sure, would voluntarily face such weapons in combat—that is, unless they felt such combat was necessary to

protect and preserve something in which they strongly believed.

We are, or should be, all aware of the many-faceted attack the Communist bloc is making on the Western world. An important front in this attack is the military one. Under the direction of the Soviet Union, the Communist bloc has been building its military strength since the end of World War II.

We have been thus forced to build our own military forces to counter this threat to our system (which we presume our anonymous letter-writer also supports). As long as we keep the military instrument of national policy strong, we are in a position to counter attack on political, economic and ideological fronts.

If we were to disband or extensively cut back our military forces, we would be inviting the Soviet Union to advance militarily. And, in a situation where the Soviet Union had a strong military advantage, we can be sure they would take it. For it would be quicker and cheaper for the Russians to defeat the Western world by the force of superior arms than by the methods they are now forced to follow.

Surely, we'd like to see a world without armies and wars. But, for the moment, we cannot afford to disband our military forces without strong guarantees that nations now opposing us will do likewise. The price we pay for our military forces is part of the price we must pay for freedom.

Footnotes

A graduate student speaking to a seminar class was making a pitch to interest class members in joining the department's honorary. He finished with: "I don't know if this is a come-on, but we've been doing some drinking lately."

Locking the co-op after the book has been bought is a certain professor, who'll invariably require two expensive texts for his course and spend half his class time describing the poor quality of the books.

We're a little dubious about the merits of the new all-night laundry. Imagine this excuse to housemother by after-hours-arriving sorority girl: "But Mrs. Legree, I was just rinsing out a few things . . ."

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