

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)
itself, apart from the civilian context.

I would point with apprehension to some widely accepted changes in this country's thinking. Americans have traditionally had a fear of a standing army. In the period prior to the last world war when Germany for the first time introduced peacetime universal military conscription many voices raised in America to declare this as proof of Germany's fascism. Today we are part of a generation that knows practically nothing else. Also traditionally propagandizing has been out of bounds for the military. Is this being followed?

The road to peace is a reasonable willingness to take risks for peace as opposed to war. Unless this is attempted the overcoming of "apathy" by a militaristic disturbance will lead to a general excited state that is not only fatal, but fatal.

Gerry Brown
Junior in Liberal Arts

Emerald Editor:

It is hard for me to understand the position of the Emerald regarding the controversy over atomic tests. If I did not know that the college student was above your level of reporting, I would undoubtedly join the ranks of people who consider a college education of no value to the individual or to society. Your editorial page presents a picture of this University that would uphold these people's beliefs.

If the editorial staff of the Emerald does not consider the college student anything more than a four year playboy, how can it expect the general public to have any different attitude? If the editorial staff considers intercollegiate athletics and sorority problems more important to its readers than the current atomic test controversy or the current world dilemma in general it cannot rightly call itself an organ of the student. Either the representation of the paper is wrong or the editors had better get their heads out of the clouds and begin giving the student the calibre of journalism that is supposed to be a part of the college campus. It is from this college campus and others like it, that the legislation of today and the leadership of tomorrow should rightly come. I wonder how much of this legislation has to do with

the trivial matters that you present editorially. It appears that you consider the University of Oregon something separate from the world.

On the basis of other editorials that I have read in the Emerald, I was not surprised to see the direct parroting of the "accepted" attitude regarding the atomic test continuation. Even if these "accepted" attitudes were accepted by the staff of the Emerald, it is still your duty as the sole student publication on this campus to present the prevailing public attitude on this campus. It is not up to you to decide what the student should think. It is rather the duty of the Emerald to make public the thoughts and desires of the students in general.

The "letters to the editor" column serves this purpose to some degree, but the editorial columns ignore the opinions expressed in it. Is the Emerald afraid of controversy? Is the Emerald truly a student organ not directed by the University administration? I think not. Your editorial stands have consistently avoided reflecting student opinion. For example, how many persons on this campus agreed with your rubber stamp exposition on the dry zone issue? What is the consensus of opinion on this campus about the continuation of atomic tests? Is the "letters to the editor" column the only source of student opinion that is available to you? It is not. There are more than five thousand sources of opinion available to you, and it is your journalistic responsibility to go to them. How do they feel about your editorial stands? I am sure that you don't know and am beginning to realize that you don't care.

Knowing that you are not dependent on sales and that the student on this campus has little to say about how you run your newspaper, I can only hope that an increasingly larger amount of papers are returned to your office unread and that the students who want a paper that is theirs will let you know by getting together and doing something about it. It is about time that the college student began to assert himself and stopped being afraid of his intellectual superiority.

Larry Cole
Sr. in Psychology

AEC: OVER-SECRECY

Porter Hits Atom Tests

By WALTER SLOCUM and
RODNEY HUGHES
Emerald Staff Writers

Charles O. Porter, Congressman from Oregon's Fourth Congressional District, was on campus Tuesday speaking to students in a coffee hour, press conference, and in the University assembly. Presented here is a summary of the most frequently voiced opinions and questions of the afternoon.

U.S. Nuclear Policy

A subject of wide interest was the American nuclear weapons policy.

Porter prefaced his opinions with criticism of the Atomic Energy Commission for its "overstress on secrecy" and its overvaluation of atomic testing. This has led the commission to withhold and to understate contamination statistics that should be known, he said. He quoted the phrase "No contamination without representation."

All scientists agree there is danger of radioactive contamination, but not on the degree of danger or the degree of contamination, the Congressman said.

"At present," he commented, "we don't need any bigger bombs to deter Russia," and that is why I favor suspension of the testing. In the meantime we can investigate the dangers of testing in which the AEC has been nearly 'criminally negligent' in keeping from the public," Porter said.

Ridicules Limited War

He said that non-atomic limited war is "a poor policy upon which to found peace since limited wars will certainly expand into large wars. I would rather have limited wars than large wars," he said,—"in fact I'd like to fight only with checkers or pillows." But he added at the coffee hour, "I don't trust the Russians to limit themselves to small wars simply because big wars are not nice."

The world's danger does not lie in a willed, voluntary aggressive war, but in the accidental or unauthorized explosion of a bomb that may be mistaken as an act of aggression, Porter added. The time in which a nation must determine whether an explosion was accidental or whether it was a warhead from a foreign nation is narrowing down to less than two hours, he strongly emphasized in the three discussions during the afternoon.

As the U.S. makes more bombs, more people handle them, and because people are "error-prone and fallible," each additional bomb increases the chance of accidental explosion, he pointed out. "This is why I want the tests and manufacture of atomic bombs stopped now."

"In view of the tremendous number of bombs we have," he said in ominous tones, "disarmament may now be too late." However, he said the U.S. must "act as if it is not too late" and negotiate, negotiate, and negotiate more" if it is not to "stumble

into a world war."

Until now, he pointed out, war planes could be called back but today's missile cannot be recalled. Pressing the button is irreversible."

Porter said that Senator Wayne Morse had drafted a resolution to call for test suspension until an investigation is completed.

Arms Agreement Needed

If Russia and America agree to stop tests and even junk their nuclear arms, world opinion will force other nations to do the same, he claimed.

Besides, Russia is now fighting the cold war on other fronts, he

said. "The psychological and economic fronts are now the most rewarding, and I am drafting a bill to allow the drafting of specialists into the International Cooperation Agency and foreign service work," Porter stated.

The work would be largely political and psychological in nature, he said, and would help remedy the serious error Congress continues to make in voting little money for administration of foreign aid programs that involve millions. He predicted not more than four billion dollars in foreign aid programs will be passed in Congress this session.

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SU CURRENTS

A meeting of the Student Union publicity committee will be held today at 4 p.m. in SU 312.

The Recorded Classics Club will meet tonight at 6:30 in the Student Union.

Open to Sophomores

Sophomore women at the University are eligible for a \$200 Tri-Delta scholarship. Applications for the award are available at the office of the Dean of Women. Deadline for applications is April 18.