

Education and the Press

Oregon Newspapers Have Serious Shortcomings In Their Failure to Report Education's News

Not long ago an alumnus of the University returned to the campus for the first time in 15 years. We encountered him in the Student Union and over a cup of coffee he asked us questions which demonstrated his concern for the University. But at the same time the content of the gentleman's questions fully illustrated his lack of contact with the trends in higher education. Ironically, the man is quite interested in education, but although he reads two of Oregon's daily newspapers he rarely comes in touch with news of education.

This alumnus is not unlike other citizens of Oregon who are concerned about higher education, but have no physical contact with Oregon's colleges and universities. His problem is that he relies on the Oregon press for news about higher education. The bland news diet which this state's press offers him features only the most overt events. If the fraternities are hazing their pledges he hears about it. If a professor receives a national honor he hears about it. And if the students demonstrate he hears about it.

But outside of the most superficial, easily available news the average Oregon resident has no access in the press to the story of trends and new developments in higher education. The state's press, for example, has virtually ignored the development of the graduate education program and its impact on the educational process. Nor has our state's press illustrated any awareness of the tremendous economic impact of the increasing grants and contracts which some University departments have been receiving.

Educational philosophy—the changes in the development of policy under new presidents (Flemming at UO and Jensen at OSU) at the state's two major institutions—has virtually been left untouched. Some of the state's papers occasionally mumble about the possibility of Federal aid, but few have surveyed the considerable influence of Federal funds at our institutions of higher education. Are they aware that federal monies have completely changed the picture of graduate education, both in enrollment and scope, or that some departments have gained national renown only because Federal funds have kept top-quality professors here?

The Second Curriculum

The Condon Lecture fund and the Eric W. Allen Memorial Fund are providing two outstanding speakers on campus this week. Sherwood Washburn, a University of California anthropologist has been the Condon Lecturer. Barry Bingham, editor and publisher of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, will be the Allen Lecturer today at 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union.

These two funds have brought outstanding speakers to the campus for several years who are able to discuss topics of current interest in the scientific and communications fields. Their talks aid in stimulating the thinking of students within the specified disciplines and augment the education of students in other fields. They are constituents of the "second curriculum" the University endeavors to provide its students.

Anthropologist Washburn has brought to the campus information he gathered while working with primates in Oregon and the Far East. Bingham, one of the distinguished editor-publishers of the South, will discuss the "One-Ownership Newspaper Town," a topic of increasing concern among journalists and newspaper readers.

Some observers maintain that higher education in Oregon has a weak base of support. If outspoken legislators accurately represent their constituencies this would seem to have validity. We are not asking that the state press give first priority treatment to higher education or proclaim unequivocal support for educational projects, but we are hopeful that the press will recognize its serious shortcoming in this area and endeavor to offer the citizens of Oregon comprehensive educational reporting. Certainly weekly newspapers in remote sections of the state cannot be expected to send teams of reporters to the campuses, but the state's 21 daily newspapers have an obligation which they are not meeting. We are hopeful that the editors and publishers of Oregon, on the campus today for their annual convention, will give thoughtful consideration to the criticisms they will hear from students and members of the faculty. They might also utilize some of their time in digging out stories previously unreported. It takes an educated society to lubricate democracy's machinery and the responsibility of the press to report news of concern in the field of education should not be overlooked.

Mark O. and the Logs

Rolling logs on Oregon beaches have been quite a problem lately. Several deaths have been reported in the last couple of months. And when accidents of this kind happen the public looks to public officials for answers. This week the citizens of our state received one from none other than Gov. Mark O. Hatfield. The governor has ordered the State Highway Department to burn the logs. Now it isn't any secret that Mark Hatfield is not an outdoorsman, but we were unaware that he hasn't visited the Oregon beaches. If he had surveyed Oregon's beaches from Astoria to Brookings he probably would have come to the conclusion that there are neither enough men or gasoline in all of Western Oregon to handle the job. In an election year we could have expected a more imaginative proposal such as a log problem prayer breakfast, but 1966 is two years away.

We hope students will realize the educational enrichment intent of lectures established by special foundations, and will attend them with this in mind.

Footnote

Noting the current beard controversy whisking around campus, and the infiltration of "Beatlemania" into our contemporary culture, one could be led to think that maybe modern homo sapiens not only descended from the apes but are desiring a return thereto.

In the midst of this, we noticed in a recent edition of the Register-Guard that the University's All-American swimmer, Dick Boyd, has announced possible intentions of shaving himself, head-to-foot, before the upcoming swim meet here. This procedure, as all good swimmers know, enables the body to glide through the water with much less resistance and thereby greater speed. Another swimmer noted that he whacked seven seconds off his time by whacking off his unnecessary hair.

So, the bearded ones may conquer the world, but it doesn't appear likely that they will conquer the swim meets, at least.

Herblock



"They Have This Wild Idea That The House Of Representatives Should Be Representative"

Wonderful Governor

Log Burning Brings New Oregon Industry

By LINDA BROWN
Editorial Board Member

Oregon's Governor is a wonderful man. He's hardworking, hard traveling and always eager to bring new industry into Oregon. Why, just this week he asked the Highway Department to burn all the logs on the major beaches in Oregon. I personally think this is tremendous. This simple declaration will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on the Oregon economy.

To begin with, more Highway Department men will have to be hired. It will certainly take more men to keep up with Highway Department duties and to burn all the logs on the beaches.

More Salaries

More men will mean more salaried people. Of course Oregon taxpayers are paying this salary, but it shouldn't upset them too much because these workers have to pay taxes so the money will all be going back to the original source, wherever that is.

There will definitely be a need for log patrollers who would make sure stray logs don't take it into their heads to come rolling up on the beaches. The log patrollers could busy themselves day after day shooing the logs back into the ocean or stacking them for burning, or something. And during critical stormy periods we could have special storm troopers — men who could quickly band together and rid the beaches of its dangerous intruders.

All of these men would of course have to go to a special log patrolling and storm trooping training school. And right away we increase Oregon's industrial capacity. A training school means buildings, teachers, lawns—all sorts of construction. And of course, having training will give prestige and status to the graduates. Log patrolling and burning could become a skill. Maybe even an art. And thus contests, critics and reviews will be necessary and this will involve many people and create more jobs.

Shelters Needed

And what about all those logless beaches? People won't be able to build bonfires or have wind shelters. There will definitely be a need for some sort of replacement. Thus Oregon's research laboratories could busy themselves inventing an instantly disposable log. The market would be tremendous. Little log stands could open up at the beaches and log disposal cans

would of course have to be invented and installed. All this would, of course, create more jobs.

Oregon's lumbermen should all be behind our Governor's edict. No longer will people be getting free wood off Oregon's beaches. They will be forced to purchase it. And instantly-disposable logs would of course use Oregon timber. No longer would Oregon lumbermen be able to complain about the decline in timber sales.

Other industries would naturally develop in the wake of log burning. For one thing, a special fire corps will probably have to be established . . . in case the log patrollers and storm troopers can't handle the situation. Besides, there are undoubtedly enormous complications involved in burning all the logs on the beaches. Certainly the patrollers would just want to patrol and others would have to burn (a union would probably originate — another job opportunity).

Smoke Control Needed

All that smoke is going to create problems too. There will have to be special committees on smoke and smog control and new devices will have to be invented to help prevent smoke congestion.

Log burning also has serious implications for our nation's defense. The smoke could be an effective screen against any spy planes overhead. We could be developing rockets and things and no one would ever know.

And have you considered the amount of fuel necessary to burn the logs? Not to mention the matches. We would have to establish our own plants to provide the necessary igniters.

I haven't yet mentioned one of the most important outcomes of log burning. What is going to happen to all our major beaches while this burning is going on? Where will people go?

Tourism Unaffected

To Oregon's minor beaches of course. Which will then have to

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