

Education and World Affairs

Awareness is the Basic Ingredient in Liberal Learning

A distinguished group of educators have drafted a report which charges that the U.S. College is failing in its responsibility to prepare Americans for world leadership. The report, "College and World Affairs," bears further examination for the educators have perceptively analyzed some of the short-comings of American higher education.

The report maintains that "too few institutions . . . in the nineteen years since the war ended, have taken vigorous action to educate our youth to meet the requirements of a changing world." Many colleges and universities have failed the purposes of liberal education "by emasculating or cheapening the curriculum or by permitting the course structure and the college community itself to become weedy with modes of living and learning antithetical to liberality of mind and spirit," the report maintains.

But this report goes a step further than most. It looks at U.S. education with historical perspective and comes to the conclusion that "both the power and responsibility came to the U.S. before either the government or the people were prepared for it. They had neither the knowledge, the outlook, the skills nor the understanding required." The report continues, "unfortunately the condition still exists after twenty years." Much of the recent educational advances have been little more than reactions to the Russian sputnik.

Most interesting is the positive program calling for a break with emphasis on west-

ern-oriented teaching. In its program for action in education the educators suggest:

—More cooperation among colleges, pooling facilities to offer common language and area studies programs.

—Increased interest in non-western culture and languages.

—Focus on the dynamics of interaction and change.

—Less emphasis on broadening the curriculum and more on concentrated study in areas in which present faculty members can contribute most.

—More courses with a comparative approach, analyzing and scrutinizing similar programs and problems in other nations.

—Emphasis on the importance of textbooks which have not kept pace with the results of scholarly research and development of methodology. An awakening on the part of faculty members who do not recognize the contribution to effective teaching which text books make.

Faculty members at the University ought to examine the report and its recommendations. In many areas the University like other institutions of higher education is not doing an effective job in interpreting the significant changes in other nations. We concur with the report which regards an intelligent understanding of the changing world as the basic ingredient of liberal learning. Awareness need not remain superficial in the educated man. As the report states succinctly, "any unawareness is certain to be ignorance, probably compounded by arrogance."

WUS and the Red Hot Professor

A new innovation in this year's World University Service week festivities is the "Red Hot Professor" contest, a novel but frankly rather shocking plan to raise money by electing 10 faculty members to ride in the annual donkey basketball game. It is hard for us to believe that the same faculty which objected strenuously to the Donald Duck cartoons on their parking stickers will support this idea, even for a worthy cause.

Under the announced rules of the contest, professors may be nominated for the "honor" by making a 10 cent donation in their name. The ten professors receiving the most nominations will then be voted on during WUS week by donating money in the name of the favored candidate. This plan may actually be a shrewd way of getting faculty members to donate large sums in the name of the opposing candidates and prevent their own election. Unless this is the case, we can't see how the WUS week committee can expect anyone, student or professor, to take the contest seriously.

Finalists will play in the first half of the donkey basketball game, a tradition which in the past has seen the ASUO Senate and the Ugly Man candidates play basketball while mounted on donkeys. This is fine for students who really don't mind the afternoon fracas but it is a little hard to believe that even 10 of the University faculty would feel that WUS week was a cause worthy of such an unusual faculty effort.

The major part of the annual WUS week

activities traditionally centers around the Ugly Man contest, a good chance for students to painlessly contribute money while having fun. If the committee feels that faculty members should be involved in the drive, efforts should be made to plan some more serious event which would appeal to the segment of the campus not interested in donkey basketball games. A coffee hour or a series of films might raise money for WUS activities and yet be in keeping with the reason for the entire drive, to aid world-wide education.

Lesser Breeds

It is not news that Alabama's Gov. George Wallace is not too fond of colored folks. Also, though, there are other folks of whom the governor is not too fond. This is very important as the governor seeks the Wisconsin vote in the April 7 Democratic presidential preference primary. Wisconsin, be it remembered, is the home of many persons of middle European ancestry, notably Poles and Germans.

Rummaging through its files, the Milwaukee Journal finds that the governor, only last May, sought to explain the South to the Times of London. The people of the South, he told the Times, are like the British, pure Anglo-Saxon stock. But the rest of the United States, he told the Times, is "full of Poles, Italians, Germans, and other lesser breeds."

— Eugene Register-Guard

Herblock



"Have Some More Luggage, We Don't Want You To Go At All Unless You Can Go In Perfect Style"

Letters to the Editor

'Poppycock!'

Emerald Editor

Once upon a time, in a far-away city, some people wanted to put a lighted stop-sign on top of a hill, contending that it would make the hill "more beautiful." Another group of people opposed this project, since to them it "respected an establishment of a police-state"—the stop-sign being rather clearly the symbol of police authority. The land in question belonged to the public, and a great controversy arose among the people concerning this stop-sign. Those who favored it were called "Stoppers," and those who opposed it became known as "Goers." Candidates for local offices were elected or defeated principally on their views concerning the stop-sign. Local schools offered courses entitled, "The Importance of Having (or Not Having) a Stop-Sign on the Hill."

One day a stranger came to the city—which had now become very run-down, since everyone spent all of his time arguing about the stop-sign. Naturally, he was soon asked to state his views on the controversy. He did so, and as a result of this, the citizens were again able to live in harmony; the neglected city was restored to its former beauty. The grateful citizens erected a statue of the stranger in the city; inscribed on a bronze plaque at the base was his full beneficial statement on the great stop-sign controversy: "Poppycock!"

Gene A. Barnes
Graduate Student in
Physics

Vote For It

Emerald Editor:

Student government has been accused of being a hodge-podge of glory hounds who in actuality do nothing. This may be true. However, even the most biased opponents of student government realize and admit that student government can be effective.

After a quick perusal of the new constitution it seems the opponents of student government will finally be pleased (if such a thing is possible).

If the new constitution is passed it will be the first time in our school's history that the terms of student body officers are defined, and for once we will know exactly what duties the ASUO president and vice president have. We also will have recall, as well as referendum. And lastly, the separation of powers within student body governments will have been spelled out for us.

It does appear then that the passing of the new constitution is of utmost importance in improving our student government.

Let's vote. . . . but let's vote for it!

Larry Williams
Senior, Journalism

Supports Cross

Emerald Editor:

There has been quite a bit of banter on the new cross for Skinner's Butte recently. The city was wise enough to approve it. Many people argued for or against this form on all kinds of religious, moral and political grounds. Of all these zealots, few or none have grasped the planning and design values of such a simple but powerful form at that location.

It is something at which to look at the end of a not very interesting main Willamette Street in Eugene, Oregon. It has visual value especially at night when its simple form brings a peaceful and definite end to the garish proclamations of troubled and restless businesses and world. It is a visual anchor and mental stabilizer. It is now part of Eugene; identified with Eugene, at that location, separately from its mere religious significance.

Everyone who cares knows there is too little basic religion and goodness of any kind practiced honestly in this world. This form and symbol should be left to form whatever religious and visual forces it may. I can't believe that any negative or even neutral influence can possibly result from its continued existence.

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OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published twice in September and five days a week during the academic year, except during examination and vacation periods by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates \$5 per year; \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the Emerald and do not pretend to represent the opinion of the ASUO or the University.

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Letters to the Editor

Immature Readers?

Emerald Editor:

Your editorial of April 1, mentions treating students as 'mature and responsible individuals'. How about sending a copy of your editorial to the librarian? They believe in treating the students as immature, and irresponsible thieves.

Every time a student wishes to pass the turnstile, the lady on the desk implicitly charges him with theft and then tries to prove this charge by carefully examining everything that he is carrying. It is indeed a pity that all her adventurous efforts do not yield any victims.

It will be interesting to know

why the 'mature and responsible' students of this university are given the honor of individual search (which is the privilege of criminals or alleged criminals only!!) by a 'mature and responsible administration'?

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Administration