

Looking Out

Should 'Joe' Really Do It?

By DOUG NEWMAN
For the Emerald

Selflessness is not dead.

In this day and age, in too many spheres, this is a surprising commentary. People can be murdered, robbed or assaulted, while others walk on by. A pop-tune of a few months back set this theme to music. "Let Joe do it" is the order of the day.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday, though, over one hundred people squared the ledger. They got involved. Six climbers were lost on the frigid, blizzard-blasted slopes of Mt. Hood, long overdue and with slim chances for survival. Searchers left homes, jobs, schools and security, expended hundreds of man-hours of labor and succeeded in bringing all six down. Five lived.

Now what exactly does this mean? It means, first of all, that people still care. That they can, and do, give a damn about other individuals, people they've never met, who are in need. That they are willing to go out, at economic and academic loss to themselves, and do what must be done. This is truly remarkable. And it restores one's faith in humanity.

The logistics of such an operation are fantastic. Searchers were dispatched in teams from two co-ordination centers, Timberline Lodge and Hood River Meadows. They departed on foot, skis, and snowshoes. Aerial observers were put up. Sno-Cats drove climbers to nearly 9,000 feet on the 11,245-foot peak. The Salvation Army provided coffee, donuts and sandwiches. An Explorer Post which serves as a support group for mountain rescue units provided man-power for litter carrying and equipment moving.

Many climbers were operating on pure stamina. Oregon mountain rescue units had met at a state conference at Hoodoo Ski Bowl over the weekend and had returned home Sunday after an arduous day of rescue practice. The Eugene unit, which sent nearly 40 climbers, had scarcely arrived home only to be sent out at midnight to Hood.

Such trips are also financially expensive. Many men were sacrificing a day's wages, plus the expenses of driving up and eating enroute. Equipment was also lost, expended or misplaced. And few were reimbursed.

But it didn't seem to matter. And that was the beauty of the whole day. Men were there because they WANTED to be there. They chose to be involved. They stood up and were counted. And they rightly felt pride in their actions. Not pompous, vain, flag-waving pride, but the personal, private pride of self-worth, of a job well done, of the value of contributing their personal small bit to the success of the whole. And this has worth.

This worth is something of an intangible, and men of science and psychology would no doubt say that in the execution of these pride-rewarding actions, some unknown psychological need is fulfilled. Perhaps so. And perhaps this is something of the mystic which sends men to challenge mountains in the first place: The way it makes them feel.

Another factor, which lends relevance to those involved, stems from the knowledge in the back of every climber's mind that it could be him out there. On virtually every climb, the possibility of mishap is always present, and the knowledge of this presence lends cohesiveness to the mountaineering community in that the existing self-help mountain rescue organizations have been formed. Similarly, when the call goes out and help is needed, no thoughts of "let Joe do it" are entertained. Only sickness, ill-health or irrefractable commitments keep men away.

That such men, fellowships and philosophies exist is one of the key drawing factors of the climbing community. It sets these men apart from others, and is reflected back in the attitudes and courses of action they take in other facets of their lives. They are better men because of it. And such a day as Monday makes them proud.

Gamble, Inn Win Title

Pitcher Steve Gamble led College Inn to a 20-2 victory over Young Hall Tuesday night, giving the winners the 1968 intramural softball championship.

Gamble, a doctoral candidate with a blazing fastball, held Young hitless for six innings while his teammates built up the 20-point lead, an 11-run third inning outburst breaking the game open. Centerfielder Tom Roth pitched the seventh

and gave up two runs on three hits.

Catcher Jerry Boucock and Steve Solbeck, who hammered a fifth inning home run, led the College Inn attack.

The Inn-dwellers, who topped Phi Delta Theta in Monday's semifinal round while Sigma Nu was falling to Young 14-2, gave up only five runs while scoring 83 in nine games this season.

Six Pitchers Lead Varsity Over Frosh

Home runs by Steve Arnold and Jerry Knutson powered the Oregon varsity to a 7-0 shutout of the Frosh in a 10½-inning non-counter Tuesday.

Six varsity pitchers limited Duckling batters to three hits, all singles, while whiffing 15.

The Ducks scored their first two runs in the bottom half of the first. Rod Pitcher singled to left, stole second and came home when a throw to second base in an attempt to catch sliding Larry Hanson went past the center fielder.

Hanson moved to third on the play and scored on a sacrifice fly by Scott Cress.

The varsity increased its lead to 4-0 when a single by Colby Howe and a home run by Arnold over the left field fence produced two tallies.

Knutson's blast over the same fence with one aboard in the third gave the varsity their fifth and sixth runs.

Ron Malony opened the eighth with a base hit to right and scampered to third on another single by Larry Hand. Malony then scored on Jim Van Wyck's fly ball to the left fielder.

The Frosh threatened only twice during the game.

Larry Hayes collected six of the varsity's 15 strikeouts when he fanned the side in both the fifth and sixth frames. Also pitching for the varsity were Eric Olson, Joe Kniser, Mike Nicksic, Fred Cardwell and Fred Massar.

Volleyballers Play

Oregon's volleyball team, under coach Tom Swanson, is competing in the National Volleyball Tournament in Portland this week.

First match for the Ducks is today against University of California at Santa Barbara, one of the pre-tourney favorites.

IM Schedule

TENNIS

Pi Kappa Alpha vs. Hawaiians

GOLF

Phi Delta Theta vs. Pi Kappa Alpha

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