

OSU professor claims

Economy caused imperialism

By DON MACK
Of The Emerald

Explaining American expansion as a result of economic factors, William Williams, professor of history at Oregon State University, told a University audience of 100 on Jan. 24 that the American farmer of the late 19th Century was "acting as an economic imperialist."

Williams argued that "The Roots of American Imperialism," the topic of his lecture, appeared in the post-Civil War era when the nation's majority, commercial farmers, sought an outlet for their surplus commodity and found it in the expansion of the foreign market.

Such expansion, Williams said, was intended to be "in the name of freedom," since it was felt that if backward nations could be developed into an agricultural market, they, too, could enjoy America's prosperity and freedom.

The tremendous increase of American exports following the nation's depression, "literally shook Europe," Williams said.

Williams claims the expansion of the export system, not American industrialization, "scared the rest of the world."

American farmers, according to Williams, were determined to

break the British control of world economy. He said the agricultural majority was convinced that if silver was remonetized, America could "destroy British supremacy and replace it with American economic supremacy."

When the nation's leaders, who Williams called "the metropolitan elite," realized the success of the American agricultural export market, they saw it as a "system," according to Williams and "began to transfer the agriculture experience to the industrial, metropolitan sector."

Theologian says God is real

By LINDA CREASEY
Of the Emerald

What are the grounds for believing in God? John Hick, philosopher and theologian, considered this question Thursday, Jan. 23, in the concluding lecture of a three-day series.

Since the end of the Middle Ages, Hick said, there have been many arguments offered for belief in God.

A conclusion drawn from these arguments is that God

exists or is real. This concurs with those who demonstrate the reality of God or show that this is a probable conclusion. Those outside the realm of faith are trying to build a bridge of rationality to others who don't believe in God, Hick said, speaking to about 125 people in the EMU ballroom.

One area of data available to those who believe in God is religious experience. Since the nonreligious man doesn't have this data of religious experience available to him, he finds belief in God irrational, said Hick.

Religious experience is an awareness of a different world; it is a different way of looking at this world. It is possible to study this in men of strong faith such as Jesus of Nazareth, Paul and prophets of the Old Testament. Their religious experiences made it natural for them to live in divine presence in this external world. Faith was a personal reality to them. Hick said.

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday thru Friday, September to May, except during exam and vacation periods. Bi-weekly June thru the first week of August, once a week the last three weeks of August, by the Publications Board of the University of Oregon.

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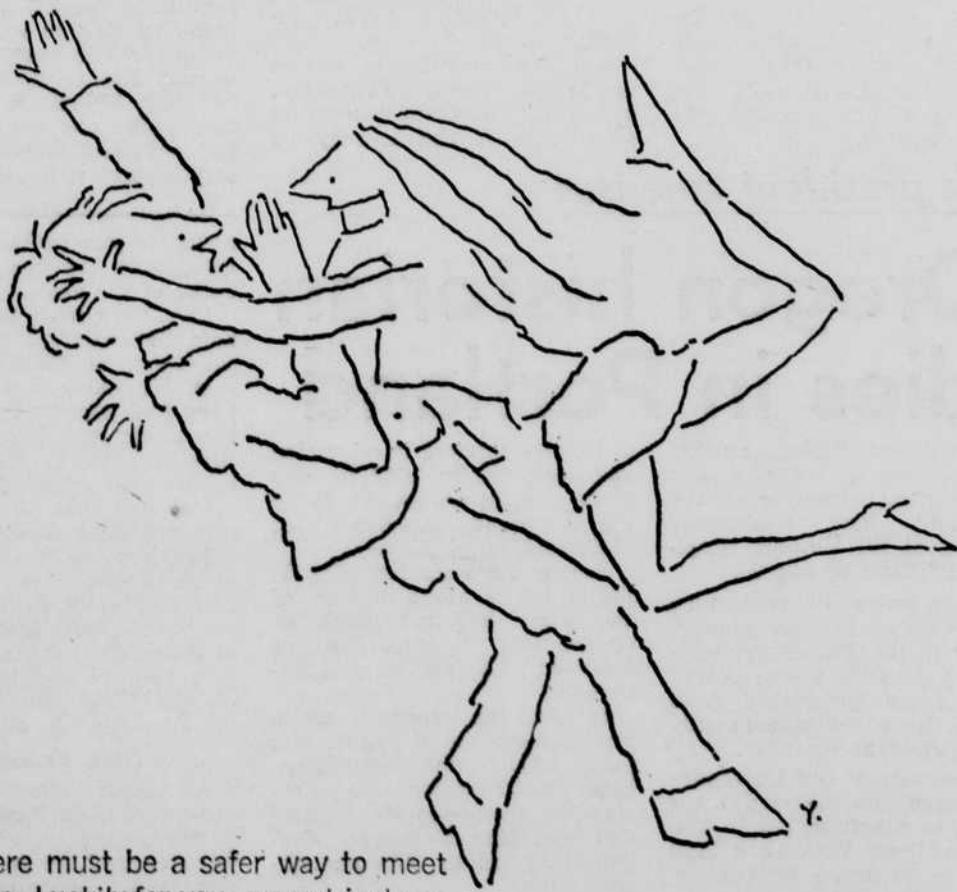
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