

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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'Higher' Higher Education

The University of Oregon has announced that starting next fall term students will be admitted as majors in the schools of education and journalism only after they have earned junior certificates, theoretically after two years of pre-major study in the liberal arts field. Effective with 1949, budding lawyers will tangle with new standards including three years of pre-law.

These changes follow a nation-wide trend emphasizing the importance of liberal arts in professional training offered by the better universities. It is understood that President Newburn, hoping to raise the educational standards of the university, has promoted this development for some time.

Further progress along that line is in order — the Oregon Daily Emerald, student newspaper, suggests shrewdly:

"The path is now cleared for a serious re-examination of the existing curricula in the professional schools. There is some dispute as to how much of the professional work is solid matter and how much is mere fluff. This study, of course, could be carried beyond the professional schools into the college where it would doubtless also unearth some rather startling information."

Decades ago, universities were more or less dedicated to the worship of the humanities, the archaic study of belles lettres or "polite" learning. Recently, a high-grade form of vocational education was the common affliction and some institutions converted into assembly-line production of accountants, teachers, chemists, artists on the zither and what-have-you. These schools, the critics yelled, were Babbitt-hatcheries.

Comes the reaction. Universities again embrace the once "impractical" humanities, now lumped together under liberal arts. It is to be hoped that the return means a practicable medium has been reached. If liberal arts is overemphasized we would have only another litter of stereotyped graduates. We would have newspapermen who glibly quote Caius Plinius Caecilius Secundus the Elder but who can't write an obituary.

This balance has long been a bone of contention among academicians and practical educators. But it is not enough for a man to be able to perform a specific task satisfactorily, otherwise we would have, not men, only automatons — irresponsible, and unable to derive any personal satisfaction from their work. It is necessary for workers in every field to take into account the relation of their activity to the scheme as a whole.

Study of the humanities, of liberal arts, provides not only "a greater maturity and richer cultural background," as Dean O. J. Hollis said, but also encourages a sense of responsibility and usefulness. That, in this day and age, it not "mere fluff."

Revive the Music Room

Music rooms, circulating record libraries and collections of motion picture films for public borrowing increasingly are recognized as part of the educational and recreational services of public libraries.

The Umatilla county library is building a music and lounging room as a living war memorial for the Pendleton community — a project made possible partly through the efforts of Librarian Neva LeBlonde, formerly with the Salem public library. In Eugene, Mr. Phi Epsilon, national music honorary, has sponsored library browsing room record concerts which helped spread the good cause of music appreciation. The Portland library's music room is a noteworthy example.

Ten years ago the Salem library had a soundproofed room which housed the Martha Draper Burhardt collection of music and the Steinway grand piano from the Joy Turner Moses estate. This mecca for music lovers was closed in 1942 when its WPA-sponsored staff was withdrawn, the library's budget was cut and the war effort drew interest away from music.

In 1943 Miss LeBlonde made the records and books available for general circulation and the room is now used for cataloging books. It seems unfortunate, when Salem allegedly needs more recreation facilities, that the library's piano should stand silent and the records suffer a high accident mortality.

Librarian H. G. Morrow has indicated that the room could again be made available for use by persons wishing to experiment with scores on the piano, or to listen to recordings of masterworks, or to read about Beethoven. The library at present is unable to provide a person versed in music to handle concerts, if some group would undertake the project as a public service. Mr. Morrow said he would be happy to cooperate with any volunteer organization qualified to offer advice and willing to take the responsibility.

Economic Bifocals

We give space in our editorial column to the reply of Ira D. Staggs, past president of the Oregon Woolgrowers association to an editorial of January 13th. The editorial was prompted by the demand of Staggs at the association's late convention for "the government to keep its long nose out of our business," made with reference to meat rationing and price control. We pointed out that while he demanded "hands off" meat marketing resolutions recommended government price support, "modernized" price parity, etc.

The reply of Staggs defends the sheepgrowers' position but by no means justifies the obvious inconsistency. Wool and meat to be sure are different matters; but the consumer doesn't appreciate insistence on price support when the wool price gets too low and resistance to price control if meat gets too high. Mr. Staggs however seems to wear bifocal glasses enabling him to see in two dimensions — both to his group interest.

Representative McDonough of California really acts in a good cause when he says cosmetics are an integral part of a working girl's attire and should be exempted from the 20 per cent luxury tax. It's all right to have personal opinions about the use of rouge, lipstick, etc., but there is many a job a girl couldn't hold without using it. And the average working girl shouldn't have to pay a luxury tax on her "clothing."

The Indian government has directed its employees not to serve alcoholic drinks at official or semi-official functions, and expresses hope that at private functions use of alcohol will be avoided or reduced to a minimum. This is one idea that might well be imitated in this country. At too many affairs one must wear hipboots and a raincoat to keep from drowning.

The American Farm bureau is one of the more conservative farm groups. Yet it has come out in opposition to income tax reductions at this time. The bureau fears tax reduction would merely augment inflation. Why not first set the figure for the budget and for foreign assistance and then decide what to do about taxes?

We wouldn't mind having some stock in a good graphite company this year. From the way it started, it looks like several billion pencils are going to get worn to a frazzle before straw-pollers and percentage experts figure out how the elections aren't going to come out.

The Southern Californian who wants to trade sunshine for some of our rain should have been here in October when we might have really been interested. As it has been lately, however, we might dicker with him a bit to exchange a few of our run-down car batteries for a mite of anti-freeze.

A Russian Journal

Flash Bulbs Break Up Propaganda Play

(Editor's note: — The play reported here by John Steinbeck, with pictures by Robert Capa, was performed on a collective farm near Kiev, in the Soviet Ukraine. This farm was relatively little damaged by the Nazis, although its livestock were all killed. On the farm, 1,200 people were engaged in raising wheat, rye and corn when these two special correspondents of the New York Herald Tribune visited it last summer.)

CHAPTER VIII
In the evening, we walked down through the village, and past the pond, to the clubhouse. As we passed the little lake, a boat came across it, and there was music in the boat, a curious music. The instruments were a balalaika, a little drum with a small cymbal, and a concertina, and this was the dance music of the village. The players moved across the lake in the boat, and landed in front of the clubhouse.

It was quite a large building, the club. It had a small stage, and in front of the stage chess boards and checker boards, and then a dancing space, and then rows and rows of benches for spectators.

There were very few people in the club when we went in, only a few chess players. We learned that the young people came back from the fields, and have their supper, and then rest for an hour, even sleep for an hour, before they come to the club.

Stage All Set Up

The stage was set up for a little play that night. There were big chess tables on the table, and two chairs, and, upstage, a large portrait of the president of the Ukrainian Republic. The little three-piece orchestra came into the door, and set up its instruments, and began to play. Gradually the young people came in, strong girls in bare feet. Their faces were washed and shiny. Only a few young men came. There were very few young men.

The girls began to dance to the music. They wore bright print dresses, and head cloths of colored silk and wool, and their feet were almost invariably bare. And they danced with fury. The music had a rapid beat, accentuated by drum and cymbal. The boys stood around and watched. Finally we asked a girl why she did not dance with the boys, and she said:

"They are good for marrying, but there are so few of them since the war that a girl only gets into trouble if she dances with them. And besides they are very bashful." And then she laughed and went back to her dancing.

Young Men Scarce

There were so few of them, young men of marriageable age. There were very young boys, but the men who should have been there dancing with the girls were dead.

The energy of these girls is unbelievable. All day they had been working in the fields, since daylight in fact, and yet after one hour sleep they were prepared to dance all night. The men at the



Dancing in clubhouse of the collective farm. The orchestra is composed of one harmonica, one guitar and one accordion played by young farmers.

chess tables played on, unmoved and unbothered by the noise that went on about them.

Meanwhile the company which was to play was preparing the stage, and Capa was setting up his lights to photograph the play.

It seemed to us that the girls were a little impatient, when the music stopped. They did not want to stop dancing for the play. It was a little propaganda play, and it was naive and charming.

Story Outlined

The story was as follows: There is a girl on a farm, but she is a lazy girl, and she does not want to work. She wants to go to a town, and paint her nails, and use lip-stick, and be decadent and degraded. As the play opens, she is engaged in an argument by a good girl, a girl who is a brigade leader, a girl who has been decorated for her great work in the fields. The decadent girl who wants to paint her nails slouches around the stage, and is obviously no good, whereas the other, the brigade leader girl, stands very straight with her hands at her sides and disclaims her lines. The third member of the cast is a heroic tractor driver, and the interesting thing is that he is really a tractor driver, and the play had been held up an hour and a half while we fixed the tractor he had been working with all day. The heroic tractor driver had one dramatic trick, and only one, he delivered his lines pacing back and forth across the stage, smoking cigarettes.

Now the tractor driver is in love

with the decadent girl who wants to paint her nails. He is really in love with her, and he is in grave danger of losing his soul to this nail-polishing girl. In fact, as the play progresses, it is obvious that he is almost ready to throw up his job driving a tractor, and helping the economy of the people, to move into a city, and get an apartment and live softly with the nail-polishing girl. But the brigade leader girl, standing very straight, delivers a lecture to him.

It does no good. He is obviously distraught, and he is very much in love with the slovenly no good girl.

He does not know what to do. Shall he give up the girl he loves, or shall he follow her to town and become a bum?

Now the decadent girl goes off stage, leaving the brigade leader with the tractor driver. And the brigade leader, with feminine wit, tells the tractor driver that this girl does not really love him. She only wants to marry him because he is such an eminent tractor driver, and she would be soon sick of him.

The tractor driver does not believe this; and so the brigade leader says with a flash of inspiration:

"I have it. You pretend to make love to me, and when she sees you will find how much she loves you."

This new idea is accepted. The nail-painter makes an entrance to find the tractor driver holding the brigade leader in his arms, and lo

New Idea Accepted

closed, are equally deserving of some emphasis.

'Deterrents' Opposed
Some of the less politically minded soldiers objected, in the course of the dispute over Greece, to the whole idea of "deterrents." They argued that the Soviets would not be persuaded to relax pressure on Greece, or otherwise to change their policy, either by troops or bases which were not meant to be used. The clincher of those who hold the theory of "deterrents" was the experience last December in Italy, which involved still another official understatement.

The original withdrawal date for the American occupation force in Italy was Dec. 3, 1947. At the last moment, the withdrawal was temporarily deferred, for the declared reason that certain difficulties of transportation and administration had been encountered. The communist offensive against the Italian government had been timed to coincide with the retirement of the American forces.

GRIN AND BEAR IT
By Lichty

LeMay has a big job. Nor is this all. The role of Lt. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay in negotiating establishment of the Tripoli base clearly proves what has already been printed in this space but not even now admitted elsewhere. General LeMay's mission in Europe is not merely to command the small American air forces in Germany. He is there to review the whole European strategic situation with the British general staff and others, and to take necessary steps to improve that situation. The Tripoli base is only a first fruit of his labors.

Because these things have not been admitted, and are not now being admitted, they will no doubt alarm many Americans who have not studied the impelling realities of the world situation.

'Should Be Relieved'
In point of fact, Americans should be relieved, rather than alarmed, by the government's novel capacity to take drastic, head-on measures to safeguard American vital interests.

The trouble is not with what has been done, but with the doing of it in this curious hole-and-corner manner. And the way for the administration to overcome this difficulty is to tell the American people, in plain, blunt language, all the disagreeable realities which have so far been soothingly omitted from the testimony on the European recovery program.

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The lunch room at Carlsbad caverns, New Mexico, is 750 feet underground.



I don't think it's your lecture, professor — remember, they're up most of the night with their kids?

By John Steinbeck

Photographs by
Robert Capa

The Safety Valve

SHEEP GROWER REPLIES

To the Editor:

Will you allow me a bit of space in your esteemed paper, so I may answer, as best I may, your lead editorial, "Problems of Sheepgrowers," in the issue of January 13, 1948?

You speak in your first paragraph, after having expressed some doubt as to the genuineness, of the rugged individualistic characteristics, of the sheepmen, in this wise, "For the wool committee advocated continued price support by government, a 'modernized' wool parity program, protective tariffs, support of the wool products labeling act. Resolutions sought better facilities for research at the state college, reserve of wheat for feeding stock and poultry in the northwest and larger state appropriations for predator control."

Before we take up the various resolutions for further study, let us view for a moment the wool business in its entirety, as a national picture. Before World War II we were producing around 450 million pounds of wool per annum in this country and our mill requirements averaged around 600 million pounds per annum. Of course, the difference between our production and our mill requirements came from the British Dominions. At this time our wool production is down to around 300 million pounds and our mill requirements are around one billion pounds. This 700 million pound deficit must be made up. Where does the deficit come from? The "JO" or "Joint Organization" composed of the British government and the Dominions of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. This is a tight selling organization and all control has been taken out of the hands of the producers.

One would, of course, expect that, for is not Britain putting on the great socialistic experiment, for all the world to see?

One can find no serious fault with the fact that she is desperate to sell her only great export, the greatest market in the world. And American dollars are an absolute necessity if she is to survive. But, and here is the rub, I do object to her putting the American sheepmen in America out of business and depriving this country of a wool growing industry. I do not believe that people do good business for the people of this nation.

Then, how may this be prevented? We cannot now and never could produce these wools as cheaply as the British Dominions. What are we asking for? A protective tariff, to equalize cost of production. If tariff is what we are asking for, why then do we ask for "continued price support by government?" For the simple reason that tariffs are ineffectiveness in war time. We are asking protection against the dumping of great military stock piles of wool that were built up in the country during the war. After the first world war these wools were dumped on the market and broke a tariff for the relief of the disarmed wool growers. Naturally, the country that is an unfair and unjust thing. We are not asking for anything unreasonable when we ask that it not be repeated.

It is impossible to have a tariff under the present set up at Washington. If the congress brings out a tariff for the relief of the distressed wool growers, the president vetoes it. President Truman cut the tariff on wool 25 per cent as of January 1, 1948. Foreign wools showed an immediate advance in prices to offset the cut in the tariff of 8%.

I submit to you that the sheep man has sacrificed no part of his individual ruggedness of character, if he ever had any, in fighting for the things he believes in as I have outlined in the foregoing.

Now, let us examine this "modernized" wool parity program business as you mentioned in your first paragraph. You realize, do you not, that the present congress favors a long range program for agriculture? You will recall that both the senate and the house had committees in that field last fall taking "grass roots testimony," as they called it, for the setting up of this program. These committees were called in when the president issued the call for the special session. If we are to have a long range program for agriculture, the sheep man must have equality with other basic commodities. Hence the request for a "modernized" parity which would take into account labor costs. No crime in that as I see it. Merely an insistence on a square deal for wool.

And now, let us examine the next to the last paragraph in your

editorial which reads like this: "The sheepmen can hardly run with the hares and hunt with the hounds. They cannot with consistency lean on government for price support and wool rationing of most Government relations with agriculture and industry are not just a one-way street."

I present the premise that there is no analogy between the wool situation and the meat situation. They are as far apart as the poles. Wool has been in politics in this nation since the first fleece was clipped from the back of the first sheep. It will always be in politics if we maintain a wool growing industry in this nation. Why? Because we never have been and never will be able to grow it as cheaply as the British Dominions.

Meat is a product that does not lend itself to any kind of political controls or repressive measures. The meat industry thrives and flourishes under the age-old law of supply and demand. A law that seems to be losing favor among the people of this nation. Meat finds its way into black market channels under restrictive directives and the police are not from the markets. The meat producing business is a "heavy risk" industry. Remove the profit incentive and people just don't produce it.

The sheep men are opposed to control because they are in direct opposition to the American way of life. They lean definitely to the left. They are a definite deterrent to full production, which, by the way, is the cure that will bolster our wobbling economic machine.

Full production of goods and commodities. Full production of meats? Not until the grain shipping abroad has been curtailed. Full production of meats simply does not go hand in hand with three dollar wheat and ninety dollar lamb.

Everybody knows this. The administration knows it. The congress knows it. The people of this nation have made a definite commitment to feed the starving of Europe. This program means higher cost of living, higher taxes and less money in the pockets of the people using the food situation to make political capital. They think. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ira D. Staggs
Baker, Ore.

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

cutting under careful forest management.

Under the terms of the proposed agreement cutting schedules would be set up, an integrated road system for the area built, and cutting would be done by the federal government and protected from fire. Purchases of timber from government lands would be on an appraisal basis rather than by bid. The agreement would run for 100 years, with certain privileges for withdrawal or modification of terms.

This issue is of vital importance for the present and for the future. Most of those present at the hearing were those whose pocketbook nerve would be touched by this or later agreements. Naturally their own interests affected their attitude toward the agreement. One group of opponents has gone as far as to seek an injunction to restrain the government from entering into the agreement. Barring court intervention the decision will be made by the secretary of the interior after consideration of all the evidence presented.

The public interest demands some bridging of this transition period between the time when our largest forests covered the land and the time when forest is put in a permanent, perpetually-renewing basis. Monopoly is a word with an evil meaning, but the great danger ahead is the monopoly of destroyed forests and seriously damaged economy of the whole area. A proposed agreement must be studied in the light of the realities of the mixed pattern of land ownership, the property rights of private owners and the alternatives which may be proposed.

The whole west is interested in what comes out of this hearing at Eugene.

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