

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us No Fear Shall Awe"  
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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## It's Jester Joke

Lord Dunsany laments the discontinuance of the ancient office of court jester, and lauds the suggestion that it be taken out of abeyance. Writing in the New York Times, the British baron of remarkable literary labors, points out that the jester of olden times was a philosopher, heavily disguised in a cloak of motley and tinkling bells, who watched carefully the progress of the wine and seized the appropriate moment to give the king sound advice with a punch line. Dunsany concludes:

"There is indeed an international need for jesters at this time. For the world is taking a somewhat solemn turn, and anyone who had the duty of brightening it would, if he did his work successfully, be very well worth his pay. When civilized nations do ridiculous things there is nobody at present whose public duty it is to laugh at them. This would be the first duty of jesters, and what anti-aircraft guns are to the bomber these jesters would be to any politician whom they perceived to be growing too pompous, or any policy the egotism of which was perceived by them to be likely to start a third world war."

This is a capital suggestion. We have long been disturbed at the prospect of losing Adlai Stevenson from the national scene, should General Eisenhower win the presidency. The eloquent governor of Illinois fits Dunsany's definition of a jester as philosopher clothed in pages from Joe Miller.

We need a man like that in Washington—a man constantly reminding the administration to "keep it clean;" someone to assure the U. S. of having the last laugh. As Jack of old jokes to fit new situations, as a political punster par excellence, Ad Lib Adlai is the man we need. He could learn to juggle hot potatoes and with his barbs and pointed jibes he could deplete both stuffed shirts and issues blown up beyond all proportion. So after Eisenhower is elected, and the present "mess" in Washington is cleaned up, we hope that somewhere in Washington we find Adlai Stevenson, a man who can keep his sense of humor.

## Old Wives Tales—Sugar Coated

A few days ago we commented on the speed with which scientists are catching up to the comic strip prophets. Now we're happy to report that scientists are catching up to artists of a more ancient order, the old crones, who brewed magic potions for weal or woe of mankind.

The village witch, who gathered herbs and sundry ingredients for her sorcery, was expected to stock cures for coughs and croup and bellyaches but the most popular items in the trade probably were love potions and contraceptive teas or broths or powders.

Both the Indians of the American Southwest and the country folk of England and Western Europe have, since time immemorial, known of certain plants which would prevent pregnancy. Neighbors would smile knowingly if such plants were noticed in a farmhouse garden. And in European cities, those who feared the drastic effects of wormwood and anise (absinthe) could procure from cousins the more benign brews which served the same purpose.

The magic wasn't black—the old wives were in league with the devil; they were merely wise to the secrets of nature.

Scientists are getting wise to the same secrets. They have been able to accomplish what

medieval alchemists never achieved—turning base metals into gold. They have produced chemical pain-relievers and medicines and wonder drugs. Local drug stores can provide aphrodisiacs on a doctor's prescription. And soon the corner pharmacy may stock contraceptive pills chemically similar to the herbs used by the Indians and Europeans.

There are some who will charge the scientists with being in league with the sugar-coated devil. Roman Catholic churchmen already have pronounced anathema on birth control pills. On the other side, advocates of planned parenthood—like the old time pater familias who couldn't afford more mouths to feed—will herald the new pills as a realistic accommodation of nature and human nature.

## Subtlety No Substitute

Those little white cards have appeared all over Salem since their debut shortly before the Eisenhower campaign train went through here, and we wonder how many others reacted as did one local newspaper. The cards read as follows:

Honesty is No Substitute  
for Experience  
VOTE DEMOCRATIC

And our evening contemporary editorialized: "The latest democratic slogan . . . is the dumbest of all possible slogans for experience is no substitute for honesty . . ."

Dumb! That slogan is neither dumb nor democratic!

Unless we are as greatly mistaken as our respected competitor, those innocent-looking little white cards are a Republican dig at the experienced crooks in the democratic administration. And the C-J fell for the gag—hook, "line," and sinker!

That so astute and sagacious a journal as the Capital-J should be taken in by the latest GOP slogan is convincing evidence that, in politics, it doesn't pay to be too ingenious. You have to be ingenious. The meat-cleaver is more effective than the stiletto; the "give 'em hell" language is more understandable to more people than the sly jibes. Cleverness goes right over Joe Doakes; you have to "aim for their bellies," as one adviser cautioned Governor Stevenson.

So we suggest that Republican phrase-makers use for their own catchword:

"Subtlety is No Substitute For Simplicity."

Politicians used to kiss babies to win votes. Now it appears that their wives kiss society editors for the same purpose. Ann Connell, the Eugene Register-Guard's soc ed, bumbles in her column that she was received exclusively by Mamie Eisenhower aboard the campaign train after she, Mrs. Connell, gave Mamie a box of peanut butter cookies. Says Ann: "Frankly, it was such a wonderful favor to be received exclusively like this, we were actually embarrassed to press the advantage by asking questions." So the two women merely chatted woman talk: "Yes, peanut butter DOES make good cookies." And then Mamie said, "May I kiss you goodbye?" Concludes Ann: "When at our leaving she so graciously bestowed her kiss, she really won a heart!" . . . And they said Dick Nixon's show was soap opera!

Salem radio station KSLM will broadcast at 9:30 tonight a talk on the proposed milk control law sponsored by the Affiliated Milk Campaign Committees of Oregon, Mrs. Irene Taylor, state chairman. Voters are urged to listen to this argument for a fair milk law.

readily acknowledge that no one man among them really can command the confidence and respect needed to lead the group as it should be led.

There also are sharp differences of opinion on a few issues, especially on the role the group should play in the conflicts between Russia and the Western Powers. India wants the group to steer a neutral course; the Philippines is strongly pro-Western.

This divergence may show up during the Assembly's debate on Korea. India has been trying to persuade her colleagues to steer an independent course in considering expected proposals by Russia and the United States.

## Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

OCTOBER ISLAND, by William March (Little, Brown; \$3)

On an island far far away in the Pacific, so far that author March never needs to fear we'll check up on his entertaining story, Rev. Samuel Barnfield and his wife Irma attempt to persuade the natives to believe in God or, at the least, to dress as if they did. The Reverend, who is pushing 60, is even more ascetic than his wife, who has pushed 40, but there is more spirit than flesh in both of them. He has taken a vow of celibacy, and he is thankful that she in her person tempts him so little to break it.

If the happy-go-lucky, bare-bosomed islanders think this vow is just plain lunacy, they nevertheless have vows of their own which are peculiar, too. Little Irma, wandering around the island in the shadow of the old volcano Rahabaat comes across some ancient idols. The inscription, everybody is converted and contented.

So will you be. Have yourself a fine winter. Read "October

There also are conflicts between individual countries, such as India and Pakistan, on their own relations.

On other matters, there is much more uniformity of opinion. This is especially true on such issues as Tunisian and Moroccan demands for independence from France and the racial question in South Africa.

It is on these issues that the group will make itself felt most strongly at the coming assembly. It has carefully planned its strategy and is ready to go. Before the session is over, the Asian-African group will have demonstrated it has become a factor that cannot be ignored.

## African-Asian Group of Countries Command Rising Sphere of Influence in United Nations

By MAX HARRELSON  
AP United Nations Staff

For two years a group of Asian and African diplomats has been slowly cementing a powerful coalition which soon may prove itself a major factor in world affairs. This bloc has become an important influence in the United Nations and it will be heard from even more in the session of the U. N. General Assembly which begins Tuesday.

The coalition grew out of an informal meeting called early in 1951 by Indian delegate Sir Benegal N. Rau to consider a joint peace plan for Korea. Their attempt failed, but out of that meeting came the plan for a permanent working group.

Since then the group has met frequently. Several times it has presented joint proposals to the U. N.

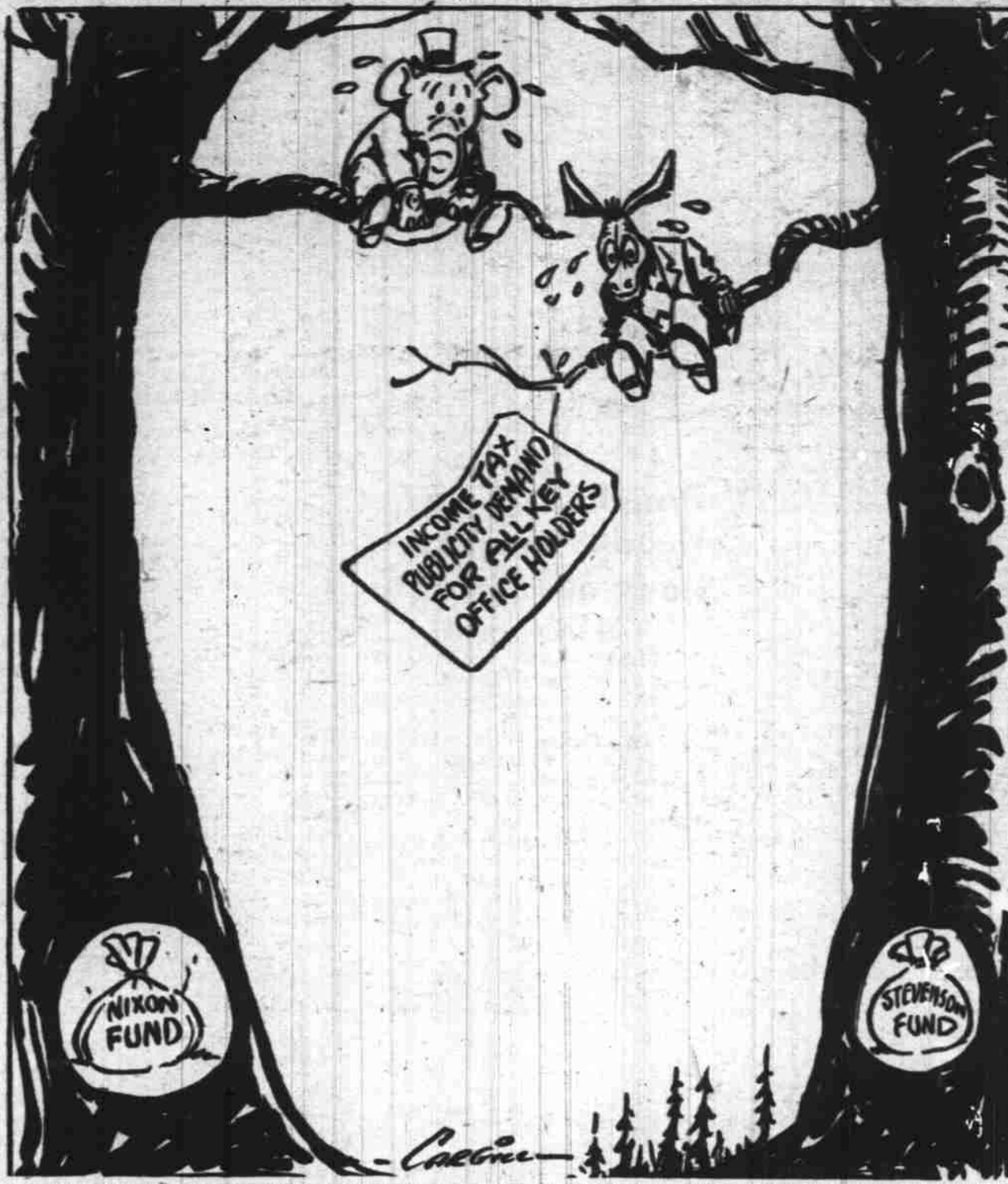
Known as the Asian-African group, the bloc includes 16 countries with a combined population of more than a half billion. Hindus and Moslems predominate numerically.

It commands fewer votes in the General Assembly than the 20-nation Latin American bloc, but it is more aggressive, more active and more cohesive. It also has greater potential strength.

Still outside the group are such non-members of the U. N. as Japan with its 90 million, the divided Korean peninsula with 30 million more, the Indochina states, and Nepal and Ceylon. China also is a potential member, although under present circumstances such a possibility appears remote.

Members are Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Ethiopia, Liberia, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. The greatest weakness of the group is lack of follow-the-leadership. The participating diplomats

## MIGHTY OAKS FROM TINY ACORNS GROW!



## Hollywood on Parade Oregon Polio Cases Climb

By GENE HANDSAKER

HOLLYWOOD—"The Thief" is an interesting experiment—a movie without dialogue. The picture is a comedy, but the story is that the thief who is kept so simple that not much of a story can be told at all.



Rather, this one depends for interest largely on emotional close-up of its star and on expertly photographed locations. "The Thief," a spy story, takes viewers inside the Library of Congress and atop the Empire State Building for some fairly suspenseful shots.

Ray Milland, the star, is a physicist employed in a government laboratory in Washington. Just what his job is, and why he turned traitor, are not explained. He photographs secret atomic documents with a tiny camera and turns the film over to a sinister little man (Martin Gabel).

Their contacts seem amateurish enough for a Boy Scout to crack. Gabel waits on a sidewalk for Milland to approach, then drops a crumpled cigarette package containing instructions. Milland picks it up. The meetings are arranged by jangling signals on Milland's phone—two series of three rings.

Frequently you wish somebody would say something. Milland appears to hate himself increasingly but, for unexplained reasons, goes on co-operating with the ring. As the FBI closes in, he leads an agent on an exciting chase up inside the tower of the Empire State Building.

Rita Gam, a beauty from television, is seen briefly as an eye-filling prostitute in a cheap apartment building where Milland hides out.

"The Turning Point" based obviously on the Kefauver committee hearings, is a pretty satisfactory crime thriller. Edmond O'Brien is a crusading young investigator out to bust a crime syndicate. His newspaperman friend, William Holden, discovers that Eddie's father, a cop, is mixed up with the crooks. Meanwhile the two friends become not-too-friendly rivals for the affections of O-

Brien's secretary, Alexis Smith. What makes the picture exciting is the almost newsreel reality it achieves. Ed Begley gives an excellent performance of a sullen and ruthless gambling boss. Reporters behave, for the most part, like real newspapermen.

Downtown Los Angeles locations helped make the picture look realistic. The film's climactic chase takes place during a boxing event in the city's Olympic fight stadium.

## The Safety Valve

To the editor:  
Our boy of whom we were so proud is no longer a senior at Salem High and we don't have the thrill of watching him play football. Without talking to his father or me, he decided to withdraw rather than be suspended. Wise or unwise he made a decision and it is important to make decisions.

But do any of us as parents know the humiliation of being expelled from school? The far-reaching effects that will color their lives for years to come! The school authorities had apparently been watching them for months. Why if they were consistent trouble makers, always looking for trouble, weren't we parents notified. We will have to send our boy to relatives to finish school or move. If we had known earlier we could have done this before he was so deeply involved and hurt.

Why does Salem High have so much trouble with secret societies? Isn't there something else to take its place? Why are boys punished for having a secret society when almost all prominent adults belong to lodges that are basically secret? Why is gambling, drinking and obscene literature lawful?

Don't these boys need guidance rather than punishment? And don't we send our children to the public schools to be given the guidance that in all our love is not complete at home?

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Archer  
Rt. 1, Box 262  
Brooks, Oregon

## Oregon Polio Cases Climb

PORTLAND (AP)—The State Board of Health reported Saturday that so far this year in Oregon 320 persons have been stricken with polio.

That is an even 100 cases above the number reported this time last year, Dr. Samuel Osgood of the board, said. He added that the latest weekly total of 30 cases gave no grounds for hope that the disease was heading into a decline in the state.

The heaviest outbreak of new cases was reported in Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Malheur Counties.

## CALF EATS BLUE RIBBON

RALEIGH, N. C. (AP)—The calf that won the white ribbon at the recent junior dairy show was evidently contented until someone tied up a blue ribbon winning Guernsey heifer beside it. When no one was looking the calf reached over and lifted the blue ribbon with her teeth and ate it. Someone found another blue ribbon for the heifer, said G. H. Farley, county agent for the North Carolina State College extension service.

## Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "A credited representative called on him, but neither of them were able to suggest a solution."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "nee (born)?"

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Battalion, basinet, bassoon, balsam.

4. What does the word "umbrage" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with ab that means "first"?

ANSWERS  
1. Say, "An accredited representative," and, "neither of them was able." 2. Pronounce as though spelled nay. 3. Bassoon. 4. Resentment; offense. "An inner feeling of umbrage was evident, judging by his offended expression." 5. Aboriginal.

## Stevenson Leaves 'em Smiling, While Truman Leaves 'em Mad

By JACK BELL  
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—He sends them away smiling, this Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois.

Whatever political impression the Democratic presidential nominee is making on the crowds who see and listen to him, he seems to leave them in a mellow mood.

It is a striking contrast to the feeling aroused by President Truman in his successful 1948 campaign. Many of the Democrats who heard Truman's "give-'em-hell" speeches that year went out of the hall almost literally ready to slug any Republican on sight.

A reaction of that kind is a joy to the professional party leaders. He knows that his precinct captains are worked up to the point where they will be willing to do everything but shanghai voters to get them to the polls.

But this reporter has yet to see a rank-and-file party worker go away from a Stevenson speech with any such attitude.

Warm Feeling  
Instead, there seems to be a warm feeling that this is a pretty sensible fellow who has been talking—a fellow who demeans his own abilities—but one who has the fortitude to say what he thinks regardless of the circumstances.

The Illinois governor is no "give-'em-hell" man. He isn't cut out for the bludgeoning attack that seems almost second nature to Truman.

Instead, Stevenson uses a stiletto with a quick thrust and a twist. Sometimes he is so subtle the crowd never gets it all. But the pained retorts of some of his Republican opponents attest to the fact that their skin has been pierced.

His supporters had a chance this week to compare two Stevensons in action.

Acid Tongue  
In Milwaukee, the Illinois governor dipped his tongue in acid and lit out against his Republican opponent, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The sizable crowd loved his cracks, and—judging from his own abashed grin at each sally—so did Stevenson. He got 40 bursts of applause in a 30-minute speech.

An exploding firecracker in the hall didn't throw him off stride. In fact, hardly anything—including an "I like Ike" chant from a bunch of school kids in Saginaw, Mich., while he was speaking—seems to disturb his poise on the platform. He meets all of these interruptions with a grin and a quick crack that usually has the crowd laughing on his side.

Nation-Wide Talk  
The second Stevenson went on display in St. Louis Thursday night. This was the candidate talking to the nation-wide television and radio audience.

He spoke in a serious vein about the economic future of the country as he sees it. There was room for one small joke or two. There was no time—and he evidently thought it not the place—for more than two or three subtle digs at Eisenhower.

When a listener shouted "pour it on, Steve," he replied with a smile: "Thank you very much, but this is no pour-it-on speech."

The crowd inside and outside the hall, estimated by police at 20,000 persons, was obviously partisan. There was no mistaking the fact that it came to hear a slambang attack on the Republicans. It didn't get it, but applauded loyally, if not always vigorously, at 38 points.

If his listeners came away somewhat disappointed, they nevertheless seemed to carry with them a warm feeling for him.

Nobody Hates Him  
It can be said without much fear of argument that nobody hates this fellow. There is strong feeling in some sections against Truman. There was just as strong feeling against the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But the crowds who see and listen to Adlai E. Stevenson seem

to like him, even if they don't agree with him. Even the "boo's" he has encountered from some Eisenhower partisans are good natured in tone and usually uttered—if by adults—somewhat shamefacedly after his car already has passed by in parades.

There seems little question that Eisenhower, as a national hero and a five star general, has captured the imagination of the kids. Their "We like Ike" chant has something of the ring of "Hi ho, Silver." But it is being matched more and more by "We want Adlai" chants.

And thus far, Stevenson, like Eisenhower, has yet to encounter snarl. Maybe it's a new era of good feeling in American presidential races.

## Truman Letter Victim Tosses Bouquets Back

By B. L. LIVINGSTONE

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington music critic who once dared to call Margaret Truman's singing flat—and was promised a punch in the nose by Papa—proved Sunday he holds no grudge.

Paul Hume, critic for the Washington Post, bowed gracefully toward 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in his Sunday afternoon broadcast, which he devoted to a sort of musical history of the executive mansion and its occupants.

Truman—a handy man with a piano—is "the most musical president in our history," Hume assured his listeners.

And for good measure, Hume tossed in a couple of recordings by the musical Trumans—Margaret's recording of "Over the Hills and Far Away" by Francis Hopkinson, and a transcription of Papa's partial rendition of a Mozart Sonata given during his televised tour of the newly restored White House last spring.

Got Letter in 1950  
It was in December, 1950, that Hume got into hot water with the world's best-known contemporary letter-writer.

Reviewing Miss Truman's first concert appearance in the capital, Hume wrote that Margaret is "extremely attractive on the stage" but "cannot sing very well" and "is flat a good deal of the time."


That provoked a knuckle-cracking letter on White House stationery which, according to published versions, said the writer had "read your lousy review" which sounded as though it had been written by "an eight-ulcer man on a four-ulcer job and all four ulcers working."

Music Lover Praised  
In his broadcast Sunday, Hume referred to the President's deep interest in the national symphony orchestra, and said a speech Truman made a couple of weeks ago in its behalf "has no precise parallel in our history." Truman is a frequent symphony concert-goer.

Hume also said he considered Thomas Jefferson the most musical president before Truman. He added that Warren C. Harding played the slide trombone, and that Vice President Charles G. Dawes wrote and had published a piece called "Melody."

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