

# EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE BEACON

## Once There Were Greenfields...

Jeff Greenfield, Collegiate Press Service (CPS), is the topic of an interesting reaction in today's "Letters to the Editor" section.

Last week, Mr. Greenfield addressed an essay to the entering freshmen of the nation's colleges. This article was furnished by CPS to member newspapers to expand their vision on the national level.

Since it was aimed at all freshmen in America, there were some obvious terms and criticisms of American college life that do not apply to the University of Portland, such as "the need to publish for the sake of publishing," "Greek Week," "Fiji Island Romps," and others.

Just as Mr. Greenfield is not totally accurate in his description of American college life, neither is he totally inaccurate, as there are certain problems mentioned which ring a bell or two here.

This puts the BEACON in a difficult position: while being neither 100 per cent wrong nor 100 per cent right, Mr. Greenfield is somewhere in between.

Admittedly, the techniques Mr. Greenfield employed can be easily misunderstood. Hyperbole and exaggeration for effect tend to maintain the interest of the reader.

If Mr. Greenfield's criticisms of American college life are put in context with the last three paragraphs of his article, he certainly has faith in the American education system. His is a difficult argument to digest, but the optimism expressed in the last sentence, "May those moments in the arid wasteland you are now entering be many," resolves the initial criticism. He has not just pulled the skeletons out of the closet, but has offered a grave to bury them in to the reader.

Mr. Greenfield has been criticized and his article generalized as "the sourest bit of nihilistic pseudo-intellectualism," a charge that raises more questions than answers.

Is his article totally "nihilistic"? Is his resolution of the problem in the last three paragraphs "nihilistic"? Is his purpose in writing this article, to encourage the freshmen who have been disillusioned to "perceive what education is all about and see why men spend their lives teaching others," "nihilistic"?

Discussion about Mr. Greenfield's article will not end tomorrow, for the deep-seated controversy around which it centers did not begin last

## Letters to the Editor

### Who Is This Man

Who is this creep, Jeff Greenfield of "Collegiate Press Service"? His last week's Letter-to-the-Editor and Frosh is the sourest bit of nihilistic pseudo-intellectualism I've seen in some time.

Such calm assured generalizations as: "Your four years will be spent in the company of little minds on both sides of the classroom lectern". . . "you will be scribbling notes in the company of 'students' whose every thought and every deed is a mockery of that term". . . "your teachers are a breed of men too often forced to an obsession with the trivial". . . etc., etc. . .

Granted that not all college students are as high in intellectual ability and ideals of educational work as might be desired; and that not all college teachers are as inspiring and challenging as they might be expected -- these are still cruel, cynical and misleading generalizations which I certainly do not consider deserve publication without comment.

Such small time intellectual snobs as Mr. Greenfield with nothing better to do than to spew out this kind of drivel should be ignored rather than given the chance to preen their piddling egos over having gotten into print.

Sincerely,  
George L. Dum, CSC

### "This Bitter Earth"

desire for truth makes these risks worthwhile. You are in fact, its future; you will decide its destiny and its purpose. It is up to you to preserve the nation for your children, as I, in my own way am doing.

The text of "This Bitter Earth," is in every sense of the word, unique. It offers a great challenge to youth, who seek the nourishment of wisdom and truth, both vital ingredients for a better way of life and a progressively improving nation.

For those who would support this cause, please write to Mr. Maximilian Becker, 115 East 82nd, New York, New York, requesting that the novel be made available to you.

I believe that knowledge must be made available, since without it there is no basis for human digest and appraisal. Its value can only be assessed by each individual according to his standard, not by those of power whose interests are unveiled. I can no more than give you my word in the promise that "This Bitter Earth" is worth your effort and that it will prove your faith justified.

In good faith  
Sincerely yours,  
Janeius Fawn, author

### Pilots in Paris

To the Editor and Portland Pilots,  
Rushing from the London Tower, to Canterbury Cathedral, to "Auf



rather than describe definite facts with statistics, events, etc. On the other hand, as to whether his generalizations are "cruel, cynical and misleading" remains to be seen.

Perhaps St. Paul's words best describe the criterion for understanding: "It is the letter which kills, while the spirit gives life." Indeed, taking Mr. Greenfield verbatim would kill his argument, but taking him with a grain of salt, the spirit of his argument is given life.

## A Question Mark?

An ASUP office that seldom seems to be a "full house"?

Are appearances deceiving? Does this mean that our student-elected ASUP representatives are doing more or less than last year's capable group? Or does it mean absolutely nothing at all?

Let's hope the latter is true . . . and that the 1964-65 student government year is as successful as it figures to be on paper.

## Spirit? Frosh Have It

More spirit at UP this year? Sure, there are more frosh around. They're just out of high school, eager, high-spirited and friendly. Let's hope the spirit is contagious.

week. It will continue, it would be hoped, as will the "thrill of dissent, the sparks of intellectual challenge, the lust for inquiry."

It would be hoped that this discussion will promote a close investigation of the issue, and will stimulate thought among the students and faculty of the UP community in conversation, comment and in "Letters to the Editor." It would be hoped that the challenge to "wonder at a new thought" and to "question what you have believed all your life and you will search . . ." would be preferred to the calm assurance that such ideas "do not . . . deserve publication" and that "this kind of drivel should be ignored."

All of this strongly tempts the BEACON to ask: "What does the UP community have to say about this issue?"

## Don't Knock Commons

Are lines in the Commons longer or shorter than last year? Are meals better or worse? Are spoons cleaner? Fewer cockroaches around? Who cares!

As long as the people in the Commons are doing the best job they're capable of considering circumstances — such as hungry frosh and "mannerly" undergraduate students descending upon the mealroom with different tastes and appetites — why are questions needed at all?

Live with it (or on it) and question greater things.

In dreams anyone can obtain riches, in reality it takes education regardless of form, handwork and constant, determined effort toward definite goals in a formulatedly sound, enlightened and purposeful program. Those who are rich are not divided from the poor in distant genius. They are enlightened people, aware of life and the economic tools to be necessarily applied toward the goal of power, for business is not difficult, but complex.

The novel "This Bitter Earth," may never be read because it fully exposes the elements in industry, government and organized labor at work in the war to pyramid economic power, while the unenlightened grope about in the dark for essential survival.

Enlightening works have no friends other than their pupils. They are written for you at the risk of consequences. Only your


of Dover, and "Gruss Gott" to Bruges, Versailles, and the Notre Dame, there has scarcely been time for the European Pilots to breathe — let alone fill the American Pilots in on the scene abroad.

There have been many lost sheep (or should we say lost Pilots?) on adventures to the British Museum, to the Louvre, or even to a nearby Belgian pub. How can we be expected to stay together long enough to compose an illustrious article for the BEACON?

As soon as we establish our UP Extension in Salzburg, we will scream "Guten Tag" again across the ocean — and at that time all details will follow.

And so for the present — what a terrific experience!

Auf Wiedersehen fur jetzt — The Salzburg Pilots on Tour P.S. We will be at home in Salzburg from September 27 on.



the BEACON

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