

# Letters to the Editor

## ON THE ART OF EDITING

### Judgment Questioned

Dear Editor:

In the article, "The 1954 Election and the Eisenhower Administration (July issue of the *Sooner Magazine*, pp. 19, 20, 21, 32), Dr. Cortez A. M. Ewing divests himself of any claim to scholarly detachment in viewing the political scene. The force of his relatively few true statements is dissipated by the constant injections of biased opinions and untrue statements.

I shall cite briefly, as indicative of Dr. Ewing's bias, such opinions as:

(a) branding Nixon, McCarthy, and Reece as a "careless breed" with "distorted perspectives."

(b) deriding the fear of Communism as a "bogey" and "nightmare."

(c) labeling our Pentagon military personnel as "those made gentlemen by act of Congress."

(d) calling Nixon the "*enfant terrible*."

(e) praising Edward G. Robinson's "immaculate artistry."

(f) saying, "President Eisenhower followed the doctor's prescription." (i.e., strategy that "would bring qualms to the conscience of any honest man, for it demanded a compromise of first principles.")

(g) characterizing Senator McCarthy as a Little Caesar, brazen, callous, refusing to be bound by any rules of decent behavior, an egomaniac, a gangster, and one who smites little people.

Dr. Ewing must be following his own gem of wisdom, "Presidents must cultivate the art of patience, rather than Mr. Jefferson's 'art of being honest,'" for I find the following portions of his article incongruous with the truth:

#### DR. EWING'S BRAND OF SAGACITY

"... as in 1952, for no tangible reason (for the 1952 change of administration) other than the desire for new faces on the Washington scene . . ."

#### FACTS

The country was sick of the New Deal with its corruption in government, Communists in official positions, galloping socialism, deficit financing, plain treason in U. S. and Yalta and Potsdam, and the betrayal of Chiang Kai Shek, etc.—so the people voted the New Deal *out* in 1952.

#### DR. EWING

Confuses the issue in discussing Congressional committee's "right to demand the dismissal of any foreign-service officer."

#### FACTS

The hearing transcripts do not reveal any such demand for dismissal by McCarthy or his committee.

#### DR. EWING

He (Eisenhower) warned against following "contemporary Savonarolas who shouted for bigger and better book burnings as a prerequisite to the preservation of our Christian civilization."

#### FACTS

Not one book was burned. McCarthy let the public know that its tax money was being spent for Communist-tainted books to fill U. S. Government bookshelves abroad.

#### DR. EWING

These outraged purists "refused to make peace with the *Zeitgeist* of America . . . In the words of Bernard de Voto, 'They resented the Twentieth Century.'"

#### FACTS

The assumption that the New Deal is the *Zeitgeist* of America, or an inevitable blooming of the demand of the people from the ground up, is an absurd formula not in any way justified by the facts. The New Deal was admittedly cooked up by a small group of bureaucrats at the top and forced downward into the economics, politics, and sociological fabric of the nation in a straight totalitarian pattern. It does not bear the slightest resemblance to a free democratic process.

#### DR. EWING

"McCarthy's mistake was in attacking an institution—the Army."

#### FACTS

McCarthy never once attacked the Army—he attacked the civilian politicians who were responsible for an Army officer receiving a promotion and honorable discharge after the Communist activities of the officer were known and on file.

#### DR. EWING

"He (Adlai Stephenson) richly deserves the office (Presidency of the United States)."

#### FACTS

No man "deserves" the office of President of the United States!

In his last paragraph Dr. Ewing does not make himself clear grammatically as to who holds the vantage point, he or the Democrats. However, in either case, the unchristian and unpatriotic thought that "the Democrats should hope, and pray, that the President would make a serious mistake

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within the next fifteen months or that the national economy would suffer a noticeable decline" hits a new low in political science guidance.

It is quite discouraging to realize that Oklahoma University finds it desirable to employ such a Professor and that the University of Oklahoma Association is willing to lend itself to the printing and propagation of thoughts of this man who sees fit to point out no wrongs of Communist and Socialist trends while greatly exerting himself to condemn things and people non-Marxist.

Yours for the exercise of better editorial judgment in the selection of *Sooner Magazine* material.

Mrs. Loraine Coppedge Oakes, '26ba  
Edmond, Oklahoma

*(Editor's Note: It is possible that phrases or sentences taken from context may not reflect the author's true meaning. The reader may wish to draw his own conclusions. If so, he is referred to Professor Ewing's complete article, Sooner Magazine, July, 1955. Also, the word "facts" that appears prominently in the letter is the writer's word and does not imply the editor's acquiescence.)*

**Judgment Upheld**

Dear Editor:

I read Dr. Ewing's Article in *Sooner Magazine*. Hats off to him. It's one of the best "things" of its type I've ever read. You've no idea how much I enjoyed it . . . It's an evidence of fine writing and the logic delighted me too. My most sincere congratulations on the article. Dr. Ewing should be commended for the fine scholarship he brings our University . . .

George D. Hann, '36m.ed  
Superintendent of Ardmore Schools

*(Editor's Note: Expressions of opinion are welcomed by the magazine. Letters, in the future, should not be more than 250 words to be considered and the editor reserves the right to edit letters if space requirements dictate. Letters should be addressed to the Editor, Sooner Magazine, University of Oklahoma, Norman.)*

**1952 DAD'S DAY WINNERS REPORT  
From Honolulu**

Dear Editor:

. . . Have been living in Honolulu for the past year enjoying the terrific weather —85 degrees all year 'round, swimming ev-

ery day, going barefoot or else wearing the Japanese open sandals.

I am organist at the First Methodist Church of Honolulu and have spent the last twelve months teaching at Palama Settlement Music School. It is just what the name implies—a settlement house in the midst of an extremely crowded slum area of Honolulu. The settlement has not only the music program, but athletic, medical and group work departments as well. The youngsters are all of Japanese, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Filipino and Korean ancestry. Quite a valuable experience . . .

Dorothy Young Mallory, '53mus  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**From Saigon, Viet Nam**

Dear Editor:

. . . I have been in Saigon for more than four months now. There is a small American military group here (the Military Assistance Advisory Group) whose job is to work with the French in training the young Viet Nameese army and supervise the use and distribution of American military equipment. My own job is one I enjoy more than anything I have ever done, aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. Perry, the deputy chief of MAAG for Indo-China . . .

Much to my consternation, I found myself right in the middle of a civil war not a month after arriving. My house is located only about ten blocks from the heart of the area where most of the battles took place. When I awakened the first night to the sound of machine guns and exploding mortar shells, it was a bit terrifying, but after a while, we learned to stay off certain streets and keep our shutters closed, and war became a part of everyday life, but I never got used to it. The war is over now, but it's the Viet Minh who are making life uneasy by tossing hand grenades at American cars and buildings . . .

Bill Spohrer, '53journ  
Saigon, Viet Nam

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