

Germany Votes Yes, and So Do the Freshmen

(Note—The editors of this frosh edition have no desire to condemn the administration of the former freshman class under its elected officers. To our knowledge there is no great dissatisfaction with the personnel of the present sophomore class officers. Let at least this much be granted, because we do intend to use the class of '41 as an example of the way class politics should not be run. We believe the fault to lie in the system, not in the persons using the system.)

ABOUT a year ago a new constitution for the ASUO was put into effect by the University student body. That new constitution completely separated student body business from the administration of the four classes. The classes of '38, '39, and '40, then already in the University, each chose an individual constitution. Then came rush week last fall, and a new crop of freshmen. What did they do? First, a 50-cent class card fee was charged all who would pay, and the money went into the care of the educational activities office. Second, a nomination and election assembly for the freshman class was called by the ASUO president, and only those bearing class cards were admitted at the doors. The group split into two blocs, voted accordingly, and elected three officers.

But a few freshmen, adhering to no bloc, protested the meeting and election. They maintained that the ASUO president had no right to call the meeting, that the class cards were unauthorized and that they did not constitute a legal contract, and that the whole chain of events was in the worst possible parliamentary fashion. Editorially, we believe that their claims were legitimate. Their protest disrupted the whole campus politically. The matter was referred to committees, to meetings, and it seemed that the whole tangle could be solved only by a decision from the faculty. Finally the

matter was straightened out in a rather anti-climactic, but nevertheless turbulent class assembly.

For the rest of fall term and through the winter the frosh political front appeared fairly placid, with only an occasional murmur about abolition of old blocs, coalition parties, and direct primaries. But with the arrival of spring term and time for new elections, the brew began to bubble again. Campaign managers and prospective candidates for the new sophomore offices began to call their blocs together to do some astute horse-trading. Came election day, and the individual members of the class found themselves in the same position as citizens in Europe's much-publicized "dictator" states. They voted for only one candidate, because only one candidate was on the nomination list.

THUS far, we have offered nothing more than a statement of acknowledged history. In doing so we are not attempting to reveal any skeletons in the closet, but we are trying to point to a solution for future classes. Last September, when the class of '41 was in the turmoil we told of, everyone was highly resolved that "something ought to be done" to protect the next freshman class from a similar fate. In fact, a few of the leaders committed themselves to the task of "doing something" when spring term came. The results of those commendable resolutions have failed to materialize, and now we wonder if the University student body, as a part of an institution of "higher learning," is going to perpetuate a political system that has failed to prove successful. We wonder if, instead, they shouldn't be setting an example of political progress to the nation.

We propose, first, that an addition be made to the ASUO constitution or by-laws, outlining a skeleton constitution for each freshman class

as it enters the University. That constitution need be no more than a statement that three officers be elected. After being organized, the class could add to the document as it pleased. The ASUO president should be empowered to preside over the first two assemblies, the first one for receiving nominations for office, the second for elections. And if sophomore fingers are to be kept out of the freshman pie, call both meetings before announcement of pledges is made. That won't keep the freshmen from forming blocs of their own, but it may delay operation of the political "machines" to some extent. It is granted that this system would have the disadvantages of not being soundly organized. The chances of students coming from the larger schools would be raised. It cannot be said, however, that the individual members of the class know much about the nominees under the present system, except that the upperclass brothers tell them to vote for "Ginnsberg, he's a swell fella." Being followers of the principles of democracy, perhaps somewhat optimistically, we feel that if the freshmen are at least selecting their own choice, that in itself is an advantage. And very few people will be willing to say that the freshmen have voted for their own choice in the past and present scheme. As a test, they might try to persuade a group of freshmen to vote against bloc instructions.

AFTER those first two meetings, we would put the class on its own. Then it can enlarge upon its handed-down skeleton constitution, select its membership qualifications, sell its class cards, and plan its activities. But in leaving them, we would offer one bit of advice. If the members intend to vote upon the officers who will govern their class when they, too, become sophomores, then let them incorporate a system of direct primaries into their constitution. The world has long recognized that horse-traders are shrewd dealers.—G. R.

Our Orchids Are Reserved for Editor Leroy Mattingly

WHEN May comes, and college students write to the folks back home, saying, "We'll see you soon," it is usually deemed the appropriate time to write a farewell or a swan-song for the senior class. The inference that those seniors are going to face "life" for the first time appears highly questionable in the case of most college people; they are going, however, to leave the realm of classes, professors, "houses," athletics, and campus dances. So to the members of '38 we wish the best of luck.

But among all others, there is one senior man to whom we desire to dedicate this editorial. "Mat," known in some places as LeRoy Mattingly, is listed by the Oregonian in the senior class section as only a journalism major, but the "loyalists" of the Shack know that Emerald Editor Mattingly is

also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Friars, and that he also represents the University on the baseball field. To those of us who do the term's studying during exam week, when there is no Emerald to publish, this list of Mat's accomplishments is especially astounding.

As an editor, Mat can gain no praise from us higher than that from the National Collegiate Press when it awarded to the Emerald under his direction the honor of the Pacemaker award. As the director of the paper's editorial policies, Mat has been fair, just, and as impartial as possible; but if occasionally he found it necessary to trod upon someone's toes, he had no fear in doing so. As a student leader, he has been respected, and has drawn towards him the people who have helped to make a Pacemaker paper. And if in that light,

Mat must share the honor of the award with Lloyd Tupling, who contributed his well-directed efforts in the management of the staff and in the make-up of the pages, he is in no way discredited by it.

As we struggle through a maize of awkward phrases striving to hit upon a likely reading combination, we realize that Mat's task of writing several of his own editorials for each edition was no soft one. So far as one man can serve as a model for other men, he will probably continue to be the example set for the generation of this frosh edition.

Now the time has come, when after writing paragraphs of praise, we shall expose the favor which we have come to ask. If Phi Beta Mattingly would do one last good deed, let him accept both our thanks for what he has done, and our best wishes for whatever he may do in the future.

Wanted: One New Set of Kilts for the Duck Band

NEXT Wednesday, as far as this University and the Oregon State college are concerned, is Governor's day. Classes will be dismissed for the afternoon, and all the forces of the combined ROTC departments will pass in review. That ceremony will no doubt cause the services of the two bands to be called to duty, and any appearance of the Duck band reminds us of another subject.

About three months ago, John Stehn, director of Oregon's band, announced plans for buying a new set of uniforms to brighten the appearance of the musical rallymen. The announcement was received with enthusiasm by the campus because the preceding football games had convinced the

fans that the two sets of suits the band now wears have lived beyond their time. One of the suits was made in typical "cadet" style. The pieces of that set are now either incomplete or falling apart. When the band wears the other set, the bystanders wonder when the convention of taxi-drivers came to town.

Now all this is no reflection upon Director Stehn. He himself can purchase no new uniforms. We suppose, however, that he must have had some reasonable assurance from the University's purchasing agents that action would be taken before he announced that new dress would soon be on its way. In fact he seemed confident at that time that the new set would be here ready for use when the

state high school band contest was here. But the contest time passed long ago, and the new uniforms appear no closer to reality than before.

Little more can be desired of the band's playing. Such has been the success of Stehn's leadership and directing ability. But when passing before military review, when marching on a football field, or when parading for a rally session, a bright and neat appearance makes a good impression, which when lacking leaves only a sense of disappointment.

It is impossible to get any new uniforms now before Governor's day. But there is plenty of time to order them before the 1938 gridiron schedule is opened. Let's be sure they get here.

Not Responsible---or Foo on All the Upperclassmen

WE freshmen who have struggled heroically through night and morning to give the campus this journalistic epic have accomplished this work, good or bad, without the guiding influence of any upperclassmen. In fact Friday's edition pointed out especially that the regular editors were disclaiming any responsibility for our efforts. All we can say is that we disclaim any responsibility for that front-page story concerning this paper.

Now anyone who can see beyond the end of his

nose, be it ever so short, can also see that the story on the front page concerning our edition was not marked "editorial." And anyone who was sufficiently patient to read the story through to the last paragraph could quickly and correctly discern that the statements contained therein were editorial by their nature and were not of pure news.

We wouldn't for the world imply that our wise upperclass veterans would do anything outside the realm of sound journalism. Nevertheless, we

feel obliged to point out to the campus that the newspaper is obligated to present the news impartially and without unnecessary comment from the reporter.

But we will be lenient and understanding about the whole matter. Maybe they didn't do their "elementary" assignments either and don't know better. So we apologize for them, knowing all the while that they are now hunting feverishly for some slight errors, perhaps on this very page.