

# Preferential Voting -- What it Means

IT WAS back in the spring of '37 that Oregon's ASUO executive committee became reform-conscious in the matter of the election setup. Emerald Editor Fred Colvig was a member of the council, then headed by ASUO Prexy Gib Schultz, and in the election day issue of the Emerald wrote an article explaining the complicated preferential balloting system.

Sunday night, Oregon's 1942 exec committee called together the candidates for this year's election and Dr. Fred Cahill of the political science department outlined the voting method in order to avoid post-election grumbling.

For the benefit of those who do not understand the distribution of votes under the preferential or proportional balloting system, excerpts from Editor Colvig's article of 1937 are printed here today.

It is only fair to add that Fred Colvig, visiting on the campus Sunday, admitted that if asked now how it worked he'd never be able to tell anybody.

## Proportional Representation By FRED COLVIG

THE assortment of the four successful candidates to their respective offices on the executive committee will be taken care of in (the ASUO) election by the procedure of preferential balloting, which is a feature of the . . . electoral setup. The successful candidate with the greatest number of first choices will at that time be pronounced president; the one one with the second highest number of first choices will be first vice-president, etc.

The preferential balloting method is described in the ASUO by-laws substantially as follows. Each voted will be given a ballot containing the names of the candidates, with a blank space beside each one. In these squares the voter will put number indicating the order of his preference for the different candidates, putting down as many choices in "1-2-3 order" as he wishes. The voting itself will be simple; it is in the subsequent tabulation of the ballots that the procedure becomes relatively

complicated, but even that is not so difficult to grasp.

### Figuring the Quota

FIRST of all, when the polls have been closed and the ballots are all in, the tabulators will figure out what in the lingo of proportional representation is known as the "quota," which is the least number of votes through which a candidate can be elected. This is ascertained by dividing the total number of votes cast by a number one greater than the number of offices to be filled and adding one to the resulting quotient. Thus, if there are 1500 votes cast and there are four offices to fill, the "quota" will be obtained by dividing 1500 by five and adding one, giving 301.

Then the tabulators will sort all the ballots in piles according to the first choices indicated. The ballots on which Joe Blow is given first choice will be put in one stack; the ballots on which Joe Doakes is given first choice will be put in another stack, etc. Following this, the ballots will be counted and each candidate will be credited with the number of first choices he has gained. If the number of first choices received by any candidate is equal to, or exceeds the "quota," which is, let us say, 301, he will at once be declared elected.

Still using the "quota" of 301 as an example, suppose a candidate receives more than that number. As stated in the preceding paragraph, he will be considered elected. But, under the system of proportional representations, these surplus ballots will not be wasted. From such a successful candidate's pile of votes a number of ballots equivalent to the surplus will be drawn, and the second choices indicated on these ballots will be credited to the candidates who are still in the running but not yet elected. If the addition of these second-choice ballots to any candidate's pile raises his total to 301 votes, he will be declared elected.

### 'Breaking Down' the Vote

THEN, after all of the first-choice ballots have been distributed, the candidate with the least number of votes will be declared defeated; and his

ballots will be distributed, each one going to the "continuing candidate" indicated as next choice. A "continuing candidate" is one not yet elected or defeated.

If this transfer of the "defeated candidate's" ballots raises the total of another candidate's votes over the "quota," he will be pronounced elected. After this has been done, if there have not been four candidates elected, again the one with the lowest number of votes will be considered defeated, and his ballots will be transferred to the "continuing candidates." This procedure of defeating the lowest candidate and giving his votes to the others who are still in the running will be continued until the election is ended.

The election will be ended when four candidates have reached the "quota," or when the total number of "continuing candidates" has been reduced by the process of defeating to four, the number of offices to be filled.

### Take Office in Order

AND, as explained at the first of this article, the successful candidates will take positions on the executive committee of the ASUO in the order of the number of first choices they receive in the initial sorting of the ballots.

There is nothing complicated about this new system of proportional representation if one but turns his mind to it. Experts in governmental science hold it out as the ideal method of electing a body such as a city council, to which, of course, the student executive committee is exactly analogous.

Proportional representation, just as its name and third choices effective through its preferential balloting feature, means the end of machine politics on this campus, just as it has in city government. No longer will any party machine, through controlling a bare majority of the votes, be able to grab all student offices for its partisans.

Proportional representation, just as its name implies, means that all groups among ASUO members henceforth shall have a voice in student government in proportion to their numbers.

## False Hope . . .

# This is No Picnic -- Despite Paper Headlines

. . . A long war

By DON TREADGOLD

We do not recommend that everyone worry all day and have nightmares all night about the war. But it might help if a lot of people got a little healthier sense of proportion as to what is going on. The fact that many of us have a somewhat distorted perspective of events may be in large part blamed on the newspapers.

Says Letter - to - the - Editor - Writer J. W. Reeves in the last Time. For some time it has appeared to me that the newspapers are unintentionally doing the country . . . a disservice in playing up without warrant and out of all proportions the few successes that we have so far had in this war . . . when the truth comes out, the country will blame the military services and will lose confidence in them and possibly in itself."

### The Answer

To which Time's editors rejoin pithily: "One big trouble has been that few editors know as much about war as their sportswriters know about sport." An example is the front page bearing the black headlines, "Jap Ship Sunk by Yanks" while down in the corner we learn of "Ten American Tankers Lost" or "Japs Seize New Island Group."

We may rejoice over the heroism of the A.V.G. pilots in Burma, but we must not read down far enough that the Chinese troops in Burma are bombed at will by the Japs, and must repel mechanized onslaughts on land and by air without planes or artillery. The headlines declare

"100,000 Germans Trapped," a cock-and-bull story anyway, while it is not mentioned that the Soviets have failed to recapture the major Nazi strong points from which Hitler will start his spring drive. "Malta Holds" may only mean that tomorrow Malta may fall. "Yugoslav Guerillas in Bold Raid" does not disclose that General Mihailovitch and his men are desperately in need of food and supplies for the want of which they cannot long keep resisting.

### No Picnic

What the Allies really face this spring is no bedtime story. With 40 per cent of her industrial plant in Nazi hands, Russia is not in a comfortable spot. Despite the best Soviet efforts and the Russian winter, the main Nazi line is unbreached and German tanks will soon begin to roll again. It is absolutely vital to the Allies that Russia hold, but if Hitler is prevented from reaching Caucasus oil, it will surely be in defiance of military mathematics. India, which now declares it will defend itself, is in reality well-nigh defenseless.

The Allies won't collapse this  
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# Nothing Sacred

By J. SPENCER MILLER

Being as the baseball season is open and we're really a sports-writer doing a poor job of writing a gossip column we are going to pick an all-girls baseball team for beauty—which is about as silly an idea as most of the others being passed about the campus—Atanyrate . . .

Pitcher—Peggy Klepper, Kappa.

Catcher — BeeLoo Brugman, Theta.

First base — Rozzy Morrill, Dee Gee.

Second Base — Jeanne Hines, DeeGee.

Shortstop—Adele Canada, Alpha Fee.

Third Base — Neida Rohrback, Alpha Chi.

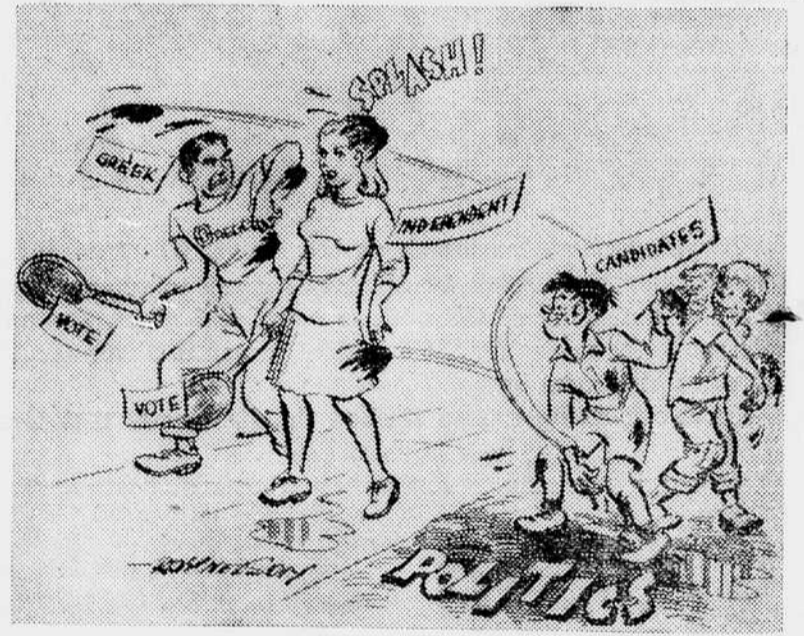
Left field — Mary Jane Dunn, Tri Delt.

Centerfield — Nancy Lewis, Chi O.

Right field — Verlie Myers, Pi Phi.

And to manage this \$\$\$\$ bevy of talent Hen hall's Jean Spearow, who could probably anyone we know.

Both Independent and ADS dances showed plenty of hustle—There were a lot of guys and gals that like Hal Hardin a lot better than Ole Faithful Art Holman—Plenty of ATOs and Fijis showed up . . . Fijis on the stag line and the ATOs with dates—One Kappa had an Independent sticker right above her Kappa key (Don't worry, Les, they're not bolting the  
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