

OREGON *Daily* EMERALD

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No Snow Job

Sounds, quite similar to muttering in the ranks, have reached this office concerning the adoption of a new constitution by the ISA senate. It seems that you can snow some of the troops some of the time, but you can't snow all of the troops all of the time.

In a letter to the editor published in the January 10 Emerald, two Independent women object to the adoption of the constitution without a vote by the students it affects. The ISA senators passed the new document unanimously, but some of their constituents were not too well informed about the action until it was announced in the Emerald. The letter appeals for a more democratic way of handling such action.

The ISA president answers the accusations in a letter today. He indicates that the constitution was adopted by the senate in order to expedite matters. Evidently he believes that since the senators are the duly elected representatives of the students, their approval of the new constitution was enough to merit its acceptance.

Bickering

All this bickering may seem petty, but actually it is a healthy sign that there are students interested in their government. If we are going to play at democratic student government at all, it should at least be active. And students should participate at times other than merely on election day.

Nevertheless, it must be realized that many of us have idealized democratic government to an impracticable degree. As Walter Lippmann once said, "Democratic government is not the direct expression of the will of the people. The people do not govern. By their occasional mobilizations as a majority, people support or oppose the individuals who actually govern."

This is true on the campus as well as on the national scene. In the ISA, it is the senators who govern; the students merely lend their support or opposition to them. In the Greek party, the governing is ostensibly done by the Greek bloc made up of two representatives from each sorority and fraternity, and actually done by an anonymous few who, through the bloc, direct the political actions of the Greeks.

In no sense do the majority of the students govern at all.

Democrats

To some political thinkers it seems foolish to even pretend that the people are sovereign. In reality, they say, a minority does and must govern. And they advocate that our democratic processes be abandoned altogether. On the other hand, there are democrats who insist that the voting powers of the general public tends to check the arbitrary actions of the governing few, and insures that representatives who generally concur with public opinions will do the governing.

We agree with the latter view. Misses Goetze and Brophy have a legitimate gripe. A constitution which affects all members of a party should be referred to the party members for consideration before adoption. If the ISA senate felt that a special election would be too cumbersome, it would have been possible to present the proposed measure to the students in some other way. An assembly could have been called, speeches in living organizations could have been made, and the text of the constitution could have been published in the Emerald.

We believe the ISA officers and senators acted in good faith. However, all politicians should remember that you can snow some of the troops, etc.

The American people cannot be too careful in guarding the freedom of speech and of the press against curtailment as to the discussion of public affairs and the character and conduct of public men—Carl Shurz.

Not Wanted: Jim Crow

The racial problem on this campus has been largely unnoticed. The smug comment that there is no racial problem here has often been heard. This may either be wishful thinking or weak-kneed refusal to recognize facts.

The fact remains that there is a potential racial problem here. The campus has all the ingredients to cook up a nasty kettle of Jim Crow. We have members of several races among the student body; we also have prejudice and intolerance, both among students and faculty although the latter attempts to disguise its personal shortcomings as much as possible.

The only reason that the problem has not become acute is because members of the so-called "white" race are in such an overwhelming majority.

The attitude of some University personnel that any situations like this likely to arouse public indignation should be kept quiet only tends to drive the hate-peddlers underground. The only way to cure trouble is to bring it out into the open and allow the sterilizing caustic of public opinion to clean it out. Avoiding a potential problem is an almost sure way to bring it on.

The letter from the One World Club, published today, is a definite indication that minority groups are beginning to take cognizance of their status on the campus. It is pretty well known that some sororities and fraternities will not pledge Jewish students, or members of colored races. It is less well-known that colored students have accused faculty members of discrimination.

If there are any University regulations dealing with the rights of colored students, then let them be made clear. And if these regulations in any way condone discrimination, let the voices of democratic students and taxpayers erase them forever from the rulebooks.

Telling the Editor

ABOUT ISA

Discredit has been brought to the constitution committee and senators of the ISA through the inferences in the letter written jointly by Roberta Brophy and June Goetze in Friday's Emerald.

I think it significant that the senators unanimously accepted the new constitution, realizing its superiority over the clumsy out-moded and somewhat vague instrument under which the Independent Students' association operated in the past.

The ladies' statement that "most of the students whose interests these senators were elected to represent had little or no knowledge of the provisions of the constitution" is an unjustified reflection upon the senators.

Early in November a constitution committee was appointed by the senate. All meetings of the committee and the senate were open to any interested parties—who were really interested in offering constructive criticism.

Many suggestions offered by students not on the committee were evaluated first by the committee and then by the senate. Their suggestion "that final approval of the document be delayed" was deemed inadvisable by the senate as was evidenced by its unanimous adoption of the constitution.

As it now stands we have a strong, workable organization. This document, more than any other in existence on this campus, offers unlimited opportunity for practicing democracy.

Our senate meetings will be held every two weeks. The meetings will be open to any interested members of the Independent Student's association. We hold no secret meetings and visitors are entitled to express their opinions on the floor of the Senate.

I sincerely hope that all independents will read the new constitution when it is distributed and participate in senate meetings.

Howard R. Lemons, President
Independent Students'
Association.

ODD FELLOWS LODGE

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ABOUT GRADES

Friday afternoon slightly more than five thousand students formed the traditional queues to learn the results of their past term's endeavors. This needless waiting, and aggravating inconvenience, was the result of a University's growing pains.

The problem of how the grades should be announced has been handled rather badly and as a natural result there has been considerable complaint, both among the students, to whom the question is a vital one, and also to the editorial page of the Emerald.

For any school of large size this task is not an easy one, and for this reason I believe that in all fairness the administration can not be blamed too heavily. However, many schools are faced with this problem and it seems to be that U. of C. has the answer. There the situation is placed squarely in the student's lap: if he wants his grades before they have completed the administrative cycle he simply gives each of his professors a self addressed postcard along with his final, and goes home knowing that in several days he will have the results.

By the way, it will work at Oregon too, for I followed this system and received all my grades before Christmas.

Vern Flake

ABOUT JIM CROW

At a meeting of the ONE WORLD CLUB held Wednesday evening, January 8, 1947, it was brought to the attention of the group that there are certain "Jim Crow" regulations regarding the dormitory policy here at the University of Oregon.

The facts, as presented to the club, are these: A colored girl and a white girl, out of friendship and on a voluntary basis, decided to

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SIDE PATER BOB WHITELY

The Law School announces with justifiable pride . . . The Beauty Contest of the year! Today's Side drippings deals entirely on the new and unique innovation of the law school freshman class to find "The Ideal Girl the Law School would rather commit a Tort upon." For days the freshman class of the Law School have been hard at their books peeking out the front window at Fenton Hall wondering who those beeyootiful gals are that amble by in between classes. Weird sounds emanate from the room as the sweet young things jounce by. One freshman girl from Fossil swore a cougar was trapped in the room as she walked past one recent gusty day. Having called a special meeting, the born leaders of the class have proposed a popularity contest open to all girls between the ages of 13 and 25 who attend the university. This is strictly a non-political contest, no bloc meetings, no secret gatherings, and approval of the weekly winner will be taken orally. If you gals take any thing but Music Appreciation, you are bound to pass the Law School portals, where the eager freshman will judge you on your individual points and merits. All that is required as an entry blank is a friendly smile and a slight nod as you rush to your elementary geography class. For winners of the weekly contest, the committee will formally call at her living organization where a suitable gift will be bestowed. Names of the winners will appear each Tuesday in this column. The time element is no problem at all, as the lawyers will have their operatives stationed at the newly scrubbed windows at all times from 8 till 5. As an added feature for this week's contest, the winner will receive the big combination special, a date to the Sigma Nu house dance, a date to the Law School winter term tea-dans-annte, ALL with the pride of the Freshman class, and former King of Hearts in 18 . . . oops, 1943, Ed Dick's little brother Roger. The overall winner for the term will be presented with a suitably engraved compact from the lawyers, and a mass date at Tiny's. Judging will be on personality of your walk, clothes consciousness, ravishing smile, and other physical attributes. Remember co-eds, the first week's winner of the Law School's search for beauty will have a lively weekend with ROG DICK! Push pull . . . click click . . . look chic! Look sharp . . . feel sharp . . . BE SHARP . . . WIN WITH THE LAW SCHOOL! PD ADV.

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