

Look Here, Mr. Braun--

USA Platform Was Not 'Fantastic'

To the Editor:

In the interest of our government, we feel that the following comments are in order in answer to those of Kirk Braun in Saturday's Emerald, when he labeled the AGS and USA platforms as sure confessions of immaturity. We see neither constructive criticism nor logical arguments in his statements. However, the fact that he took time to review the platforms, plank by plank is gratifying. It is in the interpretation that we disagree. Let's look at the "fantastic" USA platform.

His first two comments concerned our recommendations for the Student Union. The idea that everybody ought to get into the act is exactly what we were trying to get across. From the size of the building itself, it's easy to see that the program is going to be a big one requiring the participation and leadership of more students than are now activity-minded. So, we say, the more leaders, the better.

The Student Union board, as we want it, will be responsible for the planning of a well-balanced program—well-balanced in the sense that the revenue-producing

activities (dances, shows, etc.) are sufficient to support the non-revenue producing ones (art exhibits, music listening rooms, etc.). The inevitable student turnover makes it desirable, of course, that this group be mainly a policy-forming body, and that full responsibility for the operation of the building be left to the permanent director. As for the 2500 off-campus students mentioned, we want the Union to serve them just as much as it does the on-campus students. This is quite possible without establishing a "private student union" for them.

A close tie between the ASUO council and the Emerald was one of our points under "more campus consciousness of student government." It remains that the Emerald is the sole contact between the students and their government, and the only way that student leaders can obtain their cooperation and hear their voice. Certainly they are entitled to complete reports of what their government is doing.

Unless there is a close tie between the council and the Emerald, student responsibility cannot be broadened. The fact that Kirk did not know that student body offices have been moved from

McArthur court for the past year and a half indicates the very lack of knowledge we are talking about.

Finally, regarding the millrace. It is true that the Millrace Development association has been doing well. However, they have done so with the cooperation and aid of not only individual students but their leaders as well. To insure that the millrace will be in by fall, it will be necessary to raise considerable more funds. This will require the unified action of both political factions, the student government, and the Emerald. In this way, we hope that the millrace will again become an integral part of campus life, just as our long-awaited Student Union will next year.

It did not occur to us until we read it in Kirk's column that we were not obligated to carry out our platform. In this we fully disagree, even more strongly than on the other points. We feel that, not only are we obligated to carry out our platform in the best manner possible, but that both parties, in making recommendations, have a responsibility to fulfill.

Also in Saturday's Emerald was a letter similar in note to

Kirk's article. Mr. Scullin states he refused to vote in silent protest to the impotence of our present student government. We wonder if Mr. Scullin realizes that it is this "silent" indifference that brings about the very ineffectiveness which is being criticized. The very essence of democracy prevents anything from being gained in silent protest.

Student government is charged with ignoring student interests. Few problems are brought directly from the student body to the council, but council members spend many hours every week working on campus projects, including such present ones as Student-Faculty Rating, O-Enter, Millrace, and Traffic Court. We would make the suggestion that Mr. Scullin and others attend an executive council meeting to learn more fully what the council does and what the special duties of the president are. Anyone who thinks that the office of student body president is no more than an honorary title should know that administrative duties alone (about which most of us know nothing) often require as much as forty hours of work a week.

It was stated that if the stu-

dent officials really had the interests of independent government at heart they would take steps to change the ASUO constitution. Apparently, Mr. Scullin lacked sufficient interest to know that in the election in which he abstained from voting there was an amendment to the constitution which would permit making the necessary changes.

This amendment did not get enough support from the student body to pass. Rather than waiting until student leaders liberalize the constitution and broaden the base of responsibility to include all students, we urged that every student assist by taking an active part in such endeavors.

We do not agree that there is no truly independent student activity or publication on this campus. Further check into how much supervision the Emerald, and especially the OREGANA, receive, will bear this out.

Many times our officers have been nothing more than figure-heads, but we still maintain that our government is limited only insofar as the individuals whom we elect are persons of ability and integrity.

Art Johnson, '50
Olga Yevtich, '49

We Must Not Fail!

It looks as if the old University of song and sentiment is just one more fund drive away.

With success in the coming drive for Millrace restoration money, the beloved stream should be restored. University bulletin writers will no longer be fabricating when they laud canoe fetes on the Millrace and dreamy afternoons spent on its banks.

The student body's share of the \$25,000 matching funds should be easy to raise. From the students, \$3,500 will be asked. It will be obtained by pledging over the remainder of the breakage fees.

There are more than 5,000 students, and breakage fees are—*theoretically*—\$5 per student. That's \$25,000 if you figure nobody breaks anything, which you can't.

The figure that can be reached in this manner is "variable," to understate. But anything raised in this manner will help.

The important thing is that we keep this matter stirred up, that we let nobody rest until there is once again water flowing in our cherished race. If there is a canoe fete in '50, and we pray there will be, it will not be because University students and their good friends downtown sat around and hoped for it.

Rather it will be because we have given 'em no peace. We have agitated, we have speech-made, we have "beat the bushes" for support.

Nor can anybody overlook the good services of people like Kieth Fennel and Dr. Milton V. Walker, whose good offices have been so valuable in pushing this thing. Nor can we overlook the services of William M. Tugman, managing editor of the Register-Guard, who makes civic beauty and civic improvement a religion. He has been especially valuable to the project through his good work in connecting millrace development with the development of beautiful "gateways" to the city.

No student can conscientiously escape doing his best in this last big push. Too much agitation, too much good work, too much toil has gone before.—B.H.

Paddling, Dunking Good Fun...

Editor Just Crotchety Old Veteran

Open Letter to Emerald Editor:

Three years ago, in the spring of 1946, a group of crotchety old veterans, irritated by the pomp and bustle they called "juvenile," petulantly cried for an end to the "brutal" Junior weekend traditions. The campus laughed them into a red-faced silence.

Judging from Tuesday's Emerald, it appears as if the whimperings have started again.

This issue has been hashed over throughout collegedom for centuries, but tradition, and tradition grown into custom, has continued to remain an integral part of college life the world over. Without them a University becomes a cold, mechanical sort of machine; one that gives off light, but no warmth.

Labeling these traditions—older than the editor himself—as "dangerous" or "brutal" is a rather old ladyish viewpoint.

For decades Oregon coeds have been having their

An Editorial...

Are You Building a Library?

Junior Weekend, with all its attendant gaiety, will not be all frivolity, for one of the scheduled events is the exhibition of student libraries.

At the same time when visitors can see the college students at play, they can view what is often closeted in the rooms—the individual libraries of the students. Probably better than anything else these books indicate what their owners are thinking and reading about.

Ever since the student library contest was started in 1938, interest in it has grown, until now more than 60 entries are anticipated. Nationally, this contest is recognized as the best in the country for actual participation and for building up student interest in books.

heads dunked. None were ever maimed; only a few ended up bald. Oregon men have withstood the occasional application of the paddle for years without permanent ill-effects.

In size, number of students, financially, intellectually and athletically, our University is growing bigger each year. These advancements will be hollow victories if we lose the intimate spirit that has helped make it a real "alma mater" to so many.

The Order of the "O" is, like so many other campus organizations, an instrument of custom previously established, not the inaugurator.

A good-natured acceptance of the few Oregon traditions that are enforced will be more in keeping with the spirit of Junior weekend than senseless whinings about practices long accepted by the lemon and green. Cordially,

ORDER OF "O"

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