

From the ASUO Office

Last week an Emerald columnist (Jo Gilbert) wrote an article of despair concerning student government, which we feel overlooks a great deal, in addition to displaying an unusual attitude for one who has been so interested in student government in the past. Government on any level is limited in quantity and quality only by the interest which the governed take in their government. If we are in the predicament which she claims, we are there because of the attitude which she displays.

Fortunately, however, we are much better off, as a person who reads the front page of the Emerald or attends the ASUO council meetings will know.

Among the projects which Mrs. Gilbert either overlooks or considers too insignificant to mention is the Student Union—a symbol of many years of work and perseverance of student officers and their appointed representatives. The Mill Race restoration which she discounts with "all parties are for the Mill Race" is considered as a larger problem by the Executive Council which is trying to create a permanent park for the beautification of University property—not just a canoe stream.

In addition to these well-worn problems the Council is also struggling with the following:

1. The rewriting of the Constitution.
2. Investigation of high cost of living in University dorms.
3. Student Traffic Court and possible further disciplinary action in the hands of students.
4. Campus Talent committee.
5. Faculty Follies.
6. Assemblies.
7. Traditions.
8. Ore-nter.
9. Campus Drives.
10. Student Forum.
11. Faculty Rating.
12. Rally Board.
13. Registration Problems.
14. Activity Scholastic Credit.

This is only a partial list of the projects the Council has, or hopes to attack this year. In addition, members of the Council are represented on the many Student-Faculty Committees and Boards which are coordinating the affairs of students in activities, scholarship, and social aspects.

Executive Council members also feel that the scope of their undertakings would be greatly widened if those who cry for "more student government" would work with us instead of ridiculing our efforts.

We feel that the record and prestige of the ASUO Executive Council is constantly improving, and we appeal to Emerald columnists, and the Student Body in general, to examine that growing record, to give us your constructive criticisms, and to bring to us your problems and suggestions so that we may better represent and serve you.

Lou Weston, 2nd V-P, ASUO,
Art Johnson, ASUO Pres.

Motivated? Or Just Clever?

Any AGS party member could apply for an Executive Council position last night without fear of punishment by the party against his house.

This was decided yesterday afternoon at a special AGS meeting.

This, we feel, is as it should be.

No political party should attempt to prohibit, either by act or in spirit, the ASUO Executive Council's right to select individuals it feels are qualified to hold ASUO positions.

This reversal on the part of the AGS, we must unfortunately say, was not so much an indication of the group's higher motives, but rather a smart political move.

Just how smart, we cannot tell.

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Offhand Observations

A Little Bit More About Cheating

by Bill Rogers

A week ago Steve Loy made a beautiful case against cheating in his column, but, like death and taxes, it is inevitable. It was heart-warming to see the Crochety Old Vet wax so idealistic, and probably embarrassing to some of the second story boys to have their methods exposed. However, Steve knows as well as the next guy his plea was in vain. As long as the opportunities for cheating are present they will be turned to the advantage of those bold enough to use them.

It may be wonderful if the blame should be laid entirely upon the students. Outside of school, the individual is encouraged to cheat by an urge to get ahead. Here there is another drive. It is the emphasis placed by the administration upon the almighty grade point, which regulates all student activity outside the classroom. The bright student rarely cheats because he has no need to. It is the student who must struggle to learn; or the lazy one, who does the cheating. The reason is patent; it is considered a lesser evil than flunking out of school or going on social probation.

Naturally, no excuse can be offered for someone unwilling to do a fair amount of work. But there is a case for the worker who is perched on the borderline or anyone else who got a grade lower than the one he thought he had earned.

There is for example the reprehensible essay examination. Why it is used is a mystery to most students, for it is contrary to one principle of learning. When a student leaves

college he is presumed to have learned a few things that will help him in whatever line of work he has chosen. He might not use some of this knowledge for years, but sooner or later a situation may come up where it will be applicable. This situation will provide the key to make him use that knowledge, for it will be somewhere in the back of his mind, if not used constantly.

Essay exams do not operate on this principle. Instead, from a cold start the student is called upon to write a great mass of facts. He has no sure way to knowing exactly what the professor wants. He may know more than he puts down, but because he has nothing to remind him of that added information he might not recall it at the time. Another great factor to be considered in essay tests is the total impossibility of grading them objectively.

This columnist once had a couple of political science courses from a professor who earned his doctor's degree in examinations. Significantly enough, he gave only multiple choice and inverse multiple choice examinations.

There is something else—what about the really fine plan a student suggested last year for getting closer approximations of grade point averages? Did it go in one ear and out the other without significant thought on the part of the administration? After all, it does seem a little goofy to take the rough letter grades (with a ten to twenty percent span between each grade) and average them out of two decimal places.

Crotchety Old Vet

A Wish for Good English

by Steve Loy

Am in receipt of a letter addressed to "Lay Journalists." It is an appeal to the editor not to permit his columnists, namely myself, to write such "illiterate gibberish." The writer of the letter also is of the opinion that such problems as cheating should not be discussed in such a widely disseminated organ as the Emerald.

Nobody has asked me to write for the faculty bulletin yet, so I guess the high-school students of the state will have to be informed of our campus difficulties. Maybe it's a good thing; perhaps they should be prepared to deal with organized dishonesty when they arrive on the campus. I have come to the conclusion that the faculty is necessarily going to have to take initial action on the cheating

problem and the Emerald is so far the strongest pressure group operating on a mass scale on the campus.

Paul Jaeger (crotchety and independent) complains that the trouble with many women on this campus is that they have "in-sorority" complexes.

Art Johnson, Lou Weston, and Dorothy Orr, are to be commended for sticking their necks out with this letter yesterday. Not a rabid independent by any means, Art is a good friend of Will Urban, and to feel forced to put a principle before personal friendship is a good indication of the type of student body president we have. I feel, as I hope most of you do, that Art signed the letter not as a member of the USA party but as the head of the ASUO.

The 1950 Holy Year

By Sister Mary Gilbert

Press and radio have publicized the 1950 Holy Year; yet relatively few persons know what it's all about.

The reason is that primary emphasis has been placed on history and symbolism, with little clarification of certain key concepts.

"Indulgence," for example, is a term which recurs often in accounts of the Holy Year. It may be defined as "the remission in whole or in part of the temporal punishment due to sin." But just what does it mean?

A comparison may help. Suppose that a boy disobeys his father's command, and in so doing, breaks a window. He admits his fault. He asks pardon. He is forgiven.

But the window still has to be paid for.

That need for payment, even after forgiveness, corresponds to the idea of temporal punishment due to sin.

Catholics believe that the merits of Christ's sufferings and death were of infinite value. Saints, too, have amassed merits which far outweigh their sins.

These "surplus" merits form a kind of spiritual treasury. As custodian of that treasury, the church may apply the fruits of Christ's suffering to individual souls.

The Holy Father reserves the right to attach to certain works (prayer, fasting, almsgiving, etc.) a value they would not have in themselves.

The Holy Year, then presents an extraordinary opportunity for gaining spiritual favors. To encourage all in making the pilgrimage to Rome, a special indulgence is attached to this practice. At the same time, other indulgences, normally available to Catholics, are rescinded during the year of jubilee.

(Another article on the Holy Year will be printed in Tomorrow's Emerald.—Editor).