

On Legality and Morality *In the Bag*

Letters

The New Constitution did not pass at a regular election Wednesday. It failed because less than 50 per cent of the student body voted.

The ASUO Executive Council then decided to continue the election Thursday and Friday, in the hopes of getting the required 50 per cent.

Legally, the Executive Council feels it is within its rights to continue the election. Legally, the election has been contested, because some students feel that the Executive Council is not within its Constitutional rights.

Because of the contestation, the constitutionality of the election will be determined by the judiciary committee.

It is a shame that 50 per cent did not vote Wednesday. Of the 2,100 students who did vote, about 2,000 probably voted "yes," probably not more than 100 voted "no."

The legal question we will gladly leave to the judiciary committee.

But there is another question involved.

Is it playing cricket to take a look at the ballot boxes, to even glance at the ballots, and then decide that the election should be continued?

The Executive Council meant well in continuing the election. Obviously students who care do approve of the new Constitution. Because of the apathy of 2,000 students who don't give a damn, 2,000 students who DO care were denied the right to improve their system of government. (Granted, some of the students who didn't vote refrained from doing so because they disapproved of the new constitution or of student government; but many students who didn't vote would have had they realized that the simple casting of a ballot was of such importance to fellow-students.)

Still the fact remains: the Constitution did not pass Wednesday. After two terms of hard work, it is difficult to throw it overboard, but that is what should be done—at least for this election.

It is unfortunate the Constitution did not pass. But it can be brought up again. It can be brought up at the regular Spring term ASUO elections, at which it is easier to obtain 50 per cent of the votes.

And between now and the ASUO elections, the Executive Council can seek the legal advice of law students who should be willing to see that the judicial clause of the constitution is legal in word and spirit, and seek the would-be lawyer's advice on methods of enabling the constitution by legal student vote.

There is no need for student officers and law students to be hitting head on. The two can work together to bring about more effective student government. There has been some misunderstanding on both sides, with little feelings for the problems and attitudes of one another.

Because the Constitution fell down Wednesday does not mean it must stay defeated. If it is a good thing, and we strongly believe that it is, it can be further strengthened and placed before the students once again.

This may mean a delay. But if anyone can find a legal way to get the Constitution to go into effect next year, it will be found by the combined efforts of ASUO leaders and law student leaders.

* * * *

A band of shady figures descended on the University campus this past week—but authorities report no arrests thus far. Also, no burglaries. So don't get startled too quickly if they come prowling around your habitat. With flashlights in hand, they're only kids hunting night crawlers. The word is that the campus is full of 'em—night crawlers, not kids, or both.



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The Ore-nter Gets an Onion

To the editor:

We received a request at our last meeting to contribute toward publication of the Ore-nter. After discussion, we unanimously voted against such a move. We would like to explain our reasons.

We all agree that sending such a booklet to incoming freshmen is a very desirable move. It serves as good University promotion. But we disagree with the methods by which it is being financed. Why should each

student be asked to pay for the Ore-nter through his house, through Heads of Houses, Interfraternity, Council, Panhellenic, Interdormitory Council, professional and service honoraries?

It is unfortunate in the first place that the booklet cannot be paid for by University or ASUO funds. But if this is impossible, we feel that each student should not be hit more than once for such a purpose.

Sincerely,
Members of Phi Theta Upsilon

The Legal Side vs. the Technical Side

Dear Mr. Smith:

An editorial in the April 25 edition of the Emerald, entitled, "On the Technical Side," took issue with the interest shown by a number of the law students in campus activities. This admonition that perhaps it would be better for the law students to stick to their books seems hardly to be consistent with the usual policy of the Emerald which is to stimulate student participation in student government.

Whatever may be the motives of individual students who take an interest in campus activity can best be inferred from a knowledge of facts. It would be a sad commentary on student government, or any government, if every dissenting voice be dismissed by the group presently in power as the selfish grumbling of an obstructionist.

The charge of "technicality" is one frequently employed by persons who do not understand the subject under discussion and is used as a substitute for thinking. There is nothing technical about honest criticism,

which, if read in full, will be found to be constructive. A reading of the petition respecting the student traffic court should indicate to any layman just what the criticism is, free from "technical language."

A sound and respected student government can be achieved at Oregon only if those charged with the duties of government in turn respect the opinions of those who may see fit to disagree.

The suggestion that the law students might better have held their peace raises the question "Better for whom?"

If the ASUO or any branch thereof cannot stand open criticism and discussion of its policies, the remedy it is submitted, is not to silence the dissenters, but to correct the situation which feeds the criticism.

Respectfully,
Thomas E. Brownhill,
President, Law School

P.S. This letter was unanimously endorsed by the law school student body in open meeting.

Martin Agronsky and the Iron Curtain

To the Editor:

The Iron Curtain has fallen on Eugene. One of the few remaining liberal commentators in America. Mr. Martin Agronsky, has been forced off the local radio. This was done, according to available information from Skeie's, by the pressure of local individuals who by this action have denied the citizens of Eugene the right to hear a particular point of view. This is the very antithesis of de-

mocracy. Democracy demands that all ideas be freely expressed.

The president of the U. S. has said that this country needs an informed public opinion to solve our many problems. If we are to be permitted to hear only what certain influential people desire to be heard, we can not attain this goal.

Because the Young Progressives wholeheartedly support this statement of

President Truman, we are circulating a petition to urge station KUGN to find radio time for Mr. Agronsky. We are confident that this can be done as it was once before when Mr. Agronsky was taken off the air. If you are in accord with our petition, sign it and in addition phone station KUGN requesting radio time for Mr. Agronsky.

Yours very truly,
Robert L. Dresbach
Chm. Young Progressives

Just Stuff

Telephone Company Puts Bite On

by Vic Fryer

The upkeep on those little black books is going to be more expensive in the future if the telephone company gets the new rate increase it's asking. Not only will house phones cost more (up to a buck a month more) but you'll have to drop a dime in the pay phones each time you call instead of the lowly nickel.

Oh well, I guess the phone companies have their troubles, too—what with their employees striking for higher wages and threatening to jam the circuits so customers can't make long distance calls.

Today is the last day to vote for the Junior Weekend Queen and her court—which reminds us that Junior Weekend is only two weeks off.

Speaking of JW, congrats should be given the Junior Prom committee for getting Charlie Barnet for the Prom. It'll be a pleasure to dance to the kind of music his band puts out. Maybe a "name" band will draw enough dancers to keep the Prom from being a financial flop like so many recent all-campus dances

have been.

It's a shame Hazel Scott's concert was canceled. The Student Union Board went to a lot of trouble to book and publicize her in their attempt to get top-notch artists here. A lot of students were really looking forward to hearing her.

Heard one the other day about a guy who took his new gal friend on a canoe ride on the mill race. After coyly paddling down to a secluded nook, he found she wouldn't kiss in a canoe so he paddled her back.

The poor Aggies still don't have a liquor store closer than five miles. One enterprising individual applied for a license for a store just outside the city limits. The state liquor commission refused him on the grounds that it would "violate the spirit" of the Corvallis City Council's refusal to have a liquor store in the city. Oh well, it's only five miles by good road to Philomath.

That hotbed of communism, the University

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