

Oregon Daily EMERALD

An Editorial

Appreciation Usually Follows Deprivation

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LORNA LARSON, Editor
PHIL BETTENS, Managing Editor
GRETCHEN GRONDAHL, BILL CLOTHIER, DON DEWEY, Associate Editors
GRETCHEN GREFF, Advertising Manager

What We Don't Know Can Hurt

An innocent-sounding phrase in the regulations for the Student Court went through the ASUO Senate a few weeks ago without causing a murmur.

But we submit that there are implications in that little phrase which have been overlooked—probably even by those who drew it up.

The section says that the student court will hold all meetings open "unless a majority deems it unwise."

The court's idea in leaving this loophole goes along with their bid for enlarged jurisdiction, extending from the present traffic cases to possible disciplinary matters. Just as a judge in a court of law may close the court if he deems that widespread publication of the case would be detrimental to the public morals, the court wants freedom to close its doors in the event of a delicate disciplinary case—if and when it gets such a case.

Our objection is not to the loophole as such, but to the fact that the loophole is too big.

We have every confidence in the present personnel of the student court; but it seems to us that there is a danger that some less responsible group might in the future abuse its discretionary privilege and close meetings unnecessarily. After all, the only thing necessary to discontinue open meetings is for the "majority to deem it unwise." A body which, for example, has come in for some public criticism of its procedures might deem it wise to close its meetings, thus stifling the criticism.

Something similar—although admittedly more extreme—has been going on at the University of North Carolina. A student court called the Men's Council has been holding trials in secret even though the accused students have requested hearings open to the student body.

And what has been the result of the Carolina student body's being kept in ignorance of the council's procedure? According to the Daily Tar Heel, there have been "two notable cases involving the student courts where the accused students were tried, convicted, and sentenced without knowing what the charges against them were. In one case the student didn't even know he was being tried until he was met on the campus and informed of his sentence."

From where we sit, such a flagrant abuse of the idea of secrecy doesn't seem likely on the Oregon campus. But we would like to record our agreement with the principles set forth in the Tar Heel's editorial:

"Secrecy is always a deadly threat to democracy and constitutionality . . . The American tradition is one of open courts, constitutionality, due process of the law and defined authority . . . What the students do not know, they cannot control."

It looks like such an innocent little phrase. But we'd like to see the student court's loophole redefined and more stringent limitations placed on that body's right to close its meetings.—G. G.

There's probably a large group (namely the undergraduate students on campus) who know nothing about the Inter-Library Loan set-up over in the library.

There's another group who know a lot about it. They're the inmates of the Oregon State Penitentiary at Salem. The head general reference and documents librarian, Elizabeth Findly, says the convicts borrow many books from the University library.

We're not going to draw any parallel between the inmates of either institution, but it seems somewhat ironic that it's necessary to take nearly everything away from a man before he realizes how much just a part of it was worth.

The Inter-Library Loan is maintained primarily for graduate students and professors doing theses or research. It's a rather informal organization whereby rare books can be exchanged between libraries across the nation. Periodicals concerning other countries are widely exchanged. Practically any book or magazine in the United States can be procured through the Inter-Library Loan.

If a student wants a book that is not in the University of Oregon library, he can go to the reference room in the west wing of the first floor and see the reference librarian on duty. Information relative to the book must be rather complete. Most of it can be obtained from the indexes in that same room.

If information about some particular book is not readily available, it can be procured by contacting the Pacific Northwest Bibliographical Center at the University of Washington. The PNBC is supported by member universities on a pro-rated basis according to the per centage of the total operating cost of the library. Oregon's quota is about one-fourth of one per cent. It cost the University \$700 last year.

Professors and graduate students merely fill out the two cards and the wheels start moving to get

the book. Undergraduate students have a little more trouble. If they are working on a term paper or a research project and need additional information, they will probably have no difficulty. A statement from their respective professor recommending the book he borrowed will do the trick.

The University also lends books. Its 500,000 books stack up rather favorably with that of most universities. Approximately 112 books are borrowed and the same number loaned each month.

If a particular set of books is requested through the Inter-Library Loan often enough, the University library buys the set. Nonotros, a Spanish periodical, is now coming to the University because it was borrowed so often.

Extension students derive considerable benefit from the exchange. In a way the exchange extends the library facilities beyond the bounds of the campus. A lot of off-campus people appreciate the service. A lot of on-campus students could.

Now we're not advocating that everyone rush over and try to get a book from the Library of Congress or Harvard University, just because it seems like a nice idea. The exchange wasn't designed for that. And you might get tossed out of your car.

But it's a sad fact that many students can complete four years of college and receive a degree without ever having gone to the library except to get out of the house or to digest some assigned reading on the open reserve.

There may be others who consider themselves interested in a certain field but shrug off any idea of research on the subject because "there's nothing in the libe about it."

You're wrong, Mac. There's anything in the library in which you might be interested. If it's not there now the Inter-Library Loan can get it for you.

Ask the convicts in Salem.—B.C.

A Day at the Zoo

Now We'll All Join Hands and Circle Right--Funk Flunks PE

By Bob Funk

Lately we have been spending small portions of our time up at the east activity court indulging in a course know as square dancing.

Places that have not been bent since we were a freshman have been bending, and several rather painful places become sprung, or something.

There is a great deal of method behind square dancing, but so far we have not caught on to too much of it. For us, the course consists mostly of being pushed and pulled various places around the floor by a strange young lady who keeps insisting she is our partner.

Many happy and exciting things happen during a square dance. There is the time, for instance, when everyone runs into the middle of the floor (not quite everyone; you have to know which are the runner-inners and which are the stayers) and shouts

wheel! or something uninhibited like that.

There is one call where everyone links right hands. There is usually an embarrassing delay while everyone carefully sorts hands to determine which is right and left. This call has been largely abandoned for the sake of continuity.

At the last meeting of square dancing we learned a new one called a grape vine (or something like that). First you are dancing frontwards, between two people, and then suddenly you are in a long chain dancing backwards. If you are on the end of the chain, you are also playing crack-the-whip and are about to be shot off into space. This is not supposed to happen, but it is very interesting.



BOB FUNK

From the Morgue...

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 7, 1921—The faculty volleyball team has scheduled a series of games with the downtown business men's team. The faculty team has been practicing regularly on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

20 YEARS AGO
Nov. 7, 1931—Tonight, for the first time this term, libraries will be open on a Friday night. Closed previously because of a cut in operating expenses, the libraries will now be open until 9 p.m., due to a campus-wide student demand.

10 YEARS AGO
Nov. 7, 1941—The Independent Students' association was given the official sanction by the student affairs committee. The group will try to bring persons living outside campus living organizations closer to campus activities.

5 YEARS AGO
Nov. 7, 1946—Gradual leveling off of registration has now made it possible to offer University housing winter term to students who were forced to live off campus this term.

Inter-library Loan Candidate



"Th' boys whipped up a B'l party for ya, Worthal—Ed opened yel letter from the probation board."

-- Letters to the Editor --

Save Our Bonfire

Emerald Editor:

All that we who are working to make the 1951 Homecoming a success have heard since the date of the event was announced can be summed up in one word—complaints. We realize what an inconvenience it is to all of us that Homecoming should coincide with Thanksgiving. It's a hardship to Chairman Francis Gilmore; it's a hardship to the students, faculty, and maybe even the alums. But let's face it . . . Homecoming will be November 23, 24, and 25, and there's nothing any of us can do about it. What I mean is, there's nothing any of us can do about the date of the event. We can do plenty about Homecoming itself.

From what I have heard around campus it seems that most of the students are not coming back until Saturday noon before the game. That means you'll get one more night of sleep

in your own bed; one more chance to nibble at the Thanksgiving left-overs; a Friday night with no closing hours other than those designated by your parents. That's fine, but in the meantime there are going to be some of us right here on campus Friday night of Homecoming who aren't going to be so lucky.

There's going to be a bonfire Friday night, and Jack Beyers, chairman of that event, is going to be working right up to the end to make it one of the best we've ever had. Jack would like to see it remain standing until an Oregon student sets it off. If enough of the fellas pitch in to help defend it, it will remain standing. Otherwise, while you sit home eating a turkey sandwich OSC will succeed in doing to our bonfire what we did to theirs. This is not just a supposition. It is a definite strong and pressing rumor reported from more than a few Oregon students who have

visited the OSC campus in the past few weeks. If this rumor, which in effect means that a rather strong movement and organization is under way to burn our bonfire, is true, then it shows me only one thing. If Oregon State students can break up their Thanksgiving vacation to attempt to burn our bonfire, why can't we? It's our bonfire and we should have enough pride, if not school spirit, to be there ourselves.

Most of you are coming back for Saturday's events. Why not come back one night earlier and help with the bonfire rally and dance? If the Aggies can take time out to give us trouble here, certainly the Oregon students can take time out to come back early to celebrate their Homecoming and to make it a success.

Sincerely,
Donna Hart
Sally Thurston
Homecoming Publicity