

Students Rally to Fight Pay Phones

See Story, Columns 4 & 5

More Snow Showers . . .
... are predicted for today. High temperature, about 37 degrees. Low, 30.

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Wright Opens Religion Session, Asks Questions

By Larry Hobart

What are you? What is the universe?

These were the questions posed Sunday night by the Rev. Paul S. Wright, Presbyterian leader, in the opening address of the four-day Parliament of World Religions.

Reverend Wright urged his audience of more than 300 persons gathered in the Student Union ballroom to ask themselves these questions as they participate in the parliament.

"Religion starts when you ask ultimate questions," Mr. Wright declared. "The world today is suffering from a gigantic anxiety complex. We must tackle the mess we're in through religion."

"Human convulsions—wars, revolutions and unrest—have taken men to the foundations of their lives," the religious doctor asserted.

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Prof. Mills Dies Of Heart Attack

Randall V. Mills, assistant professor of English, died suddenly Friday afternoon from a heart attack.

Mr. Mills had been on the staff of the English department since 1938. He was 44.

An authority on folklore and Western American transportation, Professor Mills had written extensively in this field. He was the author of two books on Northwest transportation, "Sternwheelers Up the Columbia" and "Railroads Down the Valley" published in 1951.

He also contributed to many periodicals including Western Folklore and American Speech.

Founded Folklore Group

Deeply interested in Oregon history and folkways, Mr. Mills was founder and first president of the the Oregon Folklore society formed in Eugene last October.

He was named chairman of the Oregon committee for the collection of proverbial sayings of the American Dialect society in 1947 and in 1948 was made director of the Pacific Northwest for the society.

Professor Mills had been scheduled to address the Rocky Mountain Folklore conference next July in Denver.

In 1949 he was appointed associate editor of Western Folklore and was also named associate editor of Steamboat Bill of Facts that year.

Collected Folk Music

Mr. Mills collected folk music, literature and art work, much of which is now housed in the University library.

He was a member of the Philological association of the Pacific coast and the Modern Languages association.

Pursuing his interest in folk dialects, Mr. Mills spent time locating origins of Lane county place names. His studies led to the tracing of influences responsible for speech patterns unique to the Willamette and Columbia river valleys.

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An Editorial...

IT'S YOUR MOVE

You're paying a dime today . . . and every day from now on unless you get rid of the pay phones.

You want action. And to know in what direction to channel that action you must know whether your administration is going to openly back your efforts to rid yourselves of an unfair financial burden—the 10-cent phone call—or remain, as they have so far, noncommittal.

We know some members of our administrative faculty are behind us 100 per cent. We wonder about the others.

We, the students, want to know where you, our administration, stands. And we want Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, the public utilities commission and the people of the State of Oregon to know, too.

Only when you, the administration, officially and not "off-the-record" state that you feel the imposition of pay telephones upon the students is grossly unjust, will we feel you have done your part. Then . . . and only then . . . will we know what to do next.

This is a matter for student-administration cooperative action. Together we must fight.

We may not be fighting only for ourselves, you know. The phone company justified their action here by saying OSC already had the phones. Couldn't they easily say to Washington or Idaho or Montana: "Well, they have pay phones in Oregon."



"I still don't think you're getting even with the telephone company, Mort."

TELEPHONE TROUBLES BEGAN LAST SPRING

(Ed. Note: In order to present the complete picture of the pay telephone situation since its beginning, the Emerald is running a two-day series on the development of the situation. The following is the first of the series, covering events up to the time immediately preceding the meeting held in Salem in December to discuss the problem.)

By Al Karr

First public indication that the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company was going to install pay telephones in University living organizations came late last spring term with an announcement by the company.

The pay phones would have come earlier, the company said, but lack of equipment held up the installation. PT & T told the University two years ago that pay phones were bound to come.

Previously Planned

A confidential report from a source closely connected with the situation had previously indicated that the telephone company had been seriously considering putting

in the phones for more than a year prior to the actual installation and the action was liable to be taken at any time if students abused long distance regulations.

(When dormitory telephones were on the University switchboard exchange last year long-distance calls could not be made from a dorm through the board. The company said such calls had to be made through the downtown facilities.)

Matter Allowed to Slide

The delicate situation continued until last spring—then came the company's decision. A howl went up among students informed of the proposed move. Some plans were made to confer with the company's Eugene offices, about the proposal, but somehow the plans never came off, and the matter was allowed to slide.

The telephone company was busy, however, and installed the pay phones in all fraternities, sororities, dormitories, and women's co-operatives during vacation. When students returned to school fall term, they found telephones with new numbers (begin-

ning with 5-9) and new charges (an added five cents per call) for personal calls. Business calls were to be made on non-pay phones (generally only provided in fraternities and sororities).

Installation Based on Tariff

PT & T's basis for installing the pay phones was a more than 20-year old tariff ruling, originally requested of the state Public Utilities commission by the company, and subsequently filed by PUC. (If the commission files a tariff request, it constitutes approval, in effect.)

Three extracts from this PUC regulation provides the specific authorization for the installation, according to PT & T interpretation. These extracts state:

1. Public service (pay phones) will be furnished in semipublic and public locations. (PT & T considers fraternal living organizations, dormitories and co-ops in this classification.)

2. Flat rate service (non-pay phones) is not provided on public or semipublic premises where phones are accessible to the public in general.

3. Public or semipublic places—when private phones are used by the public—and such establishments as rooming houses, hotels, and apartment houses are to have terminals and sororities, and does not.

semi-public coin box service upon request.

So the pay phones were installed. Some dormitories previously had pay phones, but flat rate phones were also available, the coin box service available when the regular phones were in use. Now nearly all living organizations (except the men's co-ops) had one, two, or three pay phones; some also had a flat rate phone for business calls.

Everyone's Misinformed

When Louis Eade, local manager of the PT & T, was contacted by the Emerald, he said Oregon State college had pay phones in its dormitories, fraternities, and sororities, and Oregon was just next in line. Administration officials said they were told the same thing. But, as it turned out, OSC did not have the coin box service in fraternities.

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Letters to Emerald Demand Action; Committee Meets

By Jim Haycox

Letters protesting the pay telephone situation poured into the Oregon Daily Emerald offices over the weekend.

To discuss the present telephone situation and means of carrying out the ASUO senate's mandate of Thursday evening, the Oregon phone committee will meet today at 4 p.m. in the Student Union.

Alumni Attorneys Will Help

Meanwhile, it was learned Sunday that several alumni attorneys believed Oregon has "a good case" against the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

The senate overwhelmingly passed a motion Thursday to file a formal protest with the Public Utilities commission and contact the governor of the state, Oregon newspapers and the school administration for help.

At the same meeting senators approved a move to withdraw from circulation a P.T.&T. proposal for an intra-campus telephone exchange and voted to give the phone committee full support, secretarial, financial and legal.

Kading Reports

Dick Kading, chairman of the committee, said Sunday that some publicity information had already been released to Oregon newspapers through the University's news bureau.

He also stated that Oregon State college, presently battling with P. T. & T. over the possible installation of pay phones in fraternities and sororities on that campus, would welcome joint action with Oregon. (One senator said Thursday that OSC did not want interference from Oregon because OSC would not consider an intra-campus exchange as a compromise.)

OSC Lawyers

"We can also get help from lawyers hired by OSC and the OSC Co-operative managers association," he said. "OSC wants us with them all the way. The idea that they don't is mistaken."

Kading also said OSC had contacted or had attempted to contact Gov. Douglas McKay already.

"The situation is entirely different here (than at OSC)," he explained. "We have co-ops and dor-

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