

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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A Step Toward Democracy

By a 19 to 4 vote in an AGS meeting Thursday afternoon that political party instituted a direct "primary" election system.

It looks as though AGS "saw the light," so to speak. Their rival party, the United Students association, has utilized a direct primary for several years. This didn't seem to bother AGS until a USA senator, Virginia Wright, proposed an ASUO-sponsored primary election for the entire campus, with students voting on their respective party ballots.

The senate, in which AGS holds a majority, was not enthusiastic about the proposal. One senator, Bill Frye (AGS), asserted that the AGS candidate selection system actually was a primary, so why would another be needed?

So, at the March 4 AGS meeting, a new "primary" for AGS is announced by its originator, President Larry Dean. The reason given for the Greek change is "more democracy." (Formerly each house collectively turned in one vote for a candidate.)

Under the AGS "primary" on April 14, ballots containing the names of all AGS members petitioning for student body president will be distributed to the AGS houses and each member will vote for one candidate. A student must have a majority vote to become an AGS candidate; so, if no majority is secured in the first balloting, a second will follow.

Dean said this setup is similar to the USA open primary. But there's one major difference. AGS members will be allowed to vote only on presidential candidates. USA has all primary candidates on its ballot.

Still Miss Wright's original proposal has not been entirely forgotten, (though it might have been as far as this year is concerned). An 8-man committee, (5 AGS and 3 USA), headed by Pat Dignan (AGS), was appointed to study the all-campus primary.

You haven't heard much about the committee because it was waiting to see the results of yesterday's AGS meeting.

Now, says Dignan, they'll go to work. He feels the AGS change is a "big step" in the right direction, but recognizes there's still a definite weakness in the selection method.

ASUO President Bill Carey seems to disagree. "With the primary in both parties we won't need the ASUO primary."

We'll go along with Dignan. He says he doesn't necessarily agree completely with Miss Wright's proposal, but thinks the matter worthy of much careful study.

He shares our view that the problem isn't solved, as the individual student still has some say only in selection of the top man.

We fervently hope a direct primary for the entire campus, with individuals voting on all candidates, is in the offing.

Give Us Our Long Vacation

The fate of spring vacation 1954 may be decided in a meeting April 15.

The Board of Deans, which meets next on that date, has been intimating that there is a strong relationship between attendance the first day of classes this term and whether the full week of spring vacation will be continued in the future.

We're safe for next year; the calendar has already been made out.

The background for the discussion is that in 1949-50 and '50-51 the deans adopted a shortened spring vacation consisting of a "long weekend," because they chopped a week off classes in June in order to help job-hunting Webfoots. Attendance at early classes after this abbreviated vacation proved low, so the deans decided to experiment with a full week this year.

The deans discussed the situation at their first meeting Tuesday. According to Dean of Administration W. C. Jones, the general impression was that attendance this term was pretty good. But the deans didn't have complete figures, so they postponed the discussion to Apr. 15.

Meanwhile, the Emerald has taken an informal survey of departments. Results, which appear elsewhere in today's paper, indicate an average attendance of 65 per cent for all classes, with the professional schools scoring up to 95 per cent.

We don't know what the Board of Deans will think about these figures. But in our opinion a 65 per cent attendance for the first day of classes isn't so bad. There is always a certain proportion of absences due to registration for new students, illness and other unavoidable factors.

Besides, we can always hope that the deans enjoyed their longer vacation just as much as we did.—G. G.

It IS Books at the UO



x50-17

"Dead Dad—This probably will come as a surprise to you—writing another check for more books—you must think I have quite a library by now, and the cost of books seems . . ."

On Stage and Screen . . .

More Plays for the Common Man

By Toby McCarroll

There has been considerable complaining around the towers of Villard. It usually takes the form of a criticism of the "average" student for being derelict in his cultural duty and not attending the plays.

Maybe if the closed shop which regulates the policies and chooses the plays of the "University" Theater (when used in this sense "University" seems to mean "Villard") would throw itself open and allow for greater University participation the students might perchance get a few more generally enjoyable plays. More students would probably attend were it not for the fact that so many plays are for the sole purpose of training actors to be "good" someplace else.

"Rasho-mon" has come and gone, but the talk lingers on. A letter to the Emerald from Toshio Horikawa told us that the film is Japanese and not designed for a western audience. However, we would say the setting might just as well have been in a New York penthouse and it would not have seemed strange to have seen the name of Eugene O'Neill or Elmer Rice as the playwright, nor to see Akira Kurosawa directing "The Great God Brown" or "The Adding Machine." The production follows very closely the principles of the modern American theater.

The best show of the week seems to be the one which the SU will show Sunday, a Japanese film called "Kimiko," based on a popular story by Minoru Nakono. The Mayflower brings back the excellent but pointless psychological drama, "A Place in the Sun" George Stevens (the director) received the Academy Award for this film.

At the MacDonald we find "Retreat, Hell"; this is the unimaginative story of a group of Marines in Korea, complete with lonely wife and green warrior; if you are an escapist this won't help and if you aren't an escapist you will be if you see it. The only person who should see this is a veteran—this (according to Hollywood) is how he should look.

The Heilig crawls through with "Boots Malone," this is about a jockey; all the race-track stereotypes are thrown in and to top it off the main character has run away from a rich home.

The Very Little Theater (2350 Hilyard) will present "Light-

nin," featuring Archie Holeman, a "better-than-average" veteran actor.

The Theater's twin musical bill is progressing, with music majors learning that audiences get tired of one gesture, and drama majors learning that an orchestra can't ad lib. The show opens April 18.

After a relatively long time Dr. Hunter has cast the "Seagull." It is to be hoped that the painstaking care in the selection will be to the benefit of the audience on opening night. Judging from the various factors which have already converged on the production it should be different.

Campus Headlines --- Elsewhere

Look Store Buys Comic Books

By Rae Thomas

Classified ad in the Purdue Exponent: "Students" buy your reading materials and save 40% to 75% at the "Exchange Book Store." We accept pocket novels, comics and current magazines in good condition at 1/2 sale price. What a business they'd do here!

A former dorm opened at Kansas University to take care of an overflow of measles from the hospital. Over 200 cases have been reported.

A graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, last month created a hub-bub in the chem lab. When asked why he shot a fellow student, he replied, "I don't know."

He admitted that he was intoxicated at the time from drinking sniffers made of 190 proof alcohol taken from the laboratory—he had been drinking the stuff all day.

Two former roommates from the University of Purdue found themselves on opposite sides of a court decision. One alum sued the other for "wanton and willful misconduct" in failing to observe a stop light—and was awarded \$21,500 for the injuries she suffered.

The Sketch, literary magazine at Iowa State College has folded. Says the "Iowa State Daily": "Perhaps the material presented, which was student-authored, was too much like freshman English themes . . ."

Letters to the Editor

(Letters for this column must be 400 words or less in length and signed by the author or authors. Requests that names be withheld will be given careful consideration. Letters may be mailed to the Emerald editor or left in the Emerald quonset adjacent to the Journalism building.)

Phone Stand Praised

Emerald Editor:

Many thanks to the editors of the Emerald for their strong editorial policy concerning the removal of pay telephones. Your job in forming public opinion was, in my own estimation, one of the most powerful factors in our successful campaign to return to the business telephones.

I should personally like to award the roses which the Emerald so often grants to those who complete successful endeavors.

Diek Kading, Chairman
Special Telephone Comm.

Can't Speak for Europe

Emerald Editor:

Gerhard Zahn must have traveled very recently all over Europe. If not, I do not see his authority to speak for the "European" in his article "Europeans Favor Eisenhower as Next President (April 2). Moreover, I did not find any mention in the article of the fact that Eisenhower is so popular in Europe because it was he who liberated the many European countries from German oppression.

I think Mr. Zahn forgot one fundamental argument. Europeans might think (I am not an authority to say they do) that a Republican victory is inevitable. And when it comes it is better to have the Eisenhower of the Western defense on the job than a Taft with a no doubt isolationistic background.

But if a Democrat is elected it might be just as all right with them, because they are then sure that the Truman doctrine will be continued. And that, after all, is all that matters for Europe.

William van Eekeren
The Netherlands

Robert Davis will be president of Cincinnati's Senior class for the rest of the year—even though he has left for active service. The remaining officers will carry on—"there need be no break in continuity of leadership," said the officers.

At Cincinnati, too, is a prospective woman lion-tamer.

Eloise Burchard, 16, called the fencing teacher and asked for private lessons so as to become quick and light on her feet. She goes on tour with a circus on April 5th, as lion tamer.

One of the fellows at the University of Texas fell down one flight in an elevator shaft. It seems that the floor was dark and he opened the elevator door and stepped in—no elevator! But he is all right except for a touch of shock.

Students at Hastings College, Nebraska, weren't happy when coffee at the campus canteen went up from 5 to 10 cents. A newspaper poll indicated the majority may very well buy their coffee elsewhere.