

An Editorial

A LOOK AT THE AGS CANDIDATES

"My vote's going to . . ."

That's what a lot of the Associated Greek Students are saying these few days before Monday's primary. The last word in the sentence is one of three aspirants—Bill Frye, Pat Dignan or Mike Lally.

So we'd like to say something, too.

Our conscience has been bothering us.

We do not think that one of the candidates running for the AGS nomination should become president of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon.

Our reason? Questionable integrity. We firmly believe the representative of our student body should be absolutely trustworthy.

We hold this above proven organizational ability; above speaking ability; above the sheer impact of a "good" personality; above an excellent knowledge of the ASUO program; above an active interest in that program.

We'll tell you a story.

On Feb. 22, 1951, a news story was submitted to the Emerald by Bill Frye, then assistant news editor. The story did not contain complete information. It was given to Gene Rose, an assistant managing editor and also a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, and rewritten. The story? Some Phi Psis had taken a desk sign from the police department. A charge was made by the police. The Phi Psis were placed on social pro.

Rose turned his story in to News Editor Gretchen Grondahl late in the afternoon. Shortly after she returned from dinner, it was discovered that the

story then in the news office was not the story Rose had turned in although it was labeled with his name. Some pertinent facts had been omitted. The carbon copy of the original story had also disappeared.

Miss Grondahl informed Frye that the attempt at substitution had been discovered. Suspecting that Frye was responsible, she asked him point-blank, "What did you do with the original story?" "I lost it," he asserted. Later, in speaking to Managing Editor Lorna Larson, he claimed, "You'll never find it."

Frye later admitted his part in the disappearance and substitution of the story, and submitted an apology. The incident was considered closed.

Why have we reopened it now?

Because we feel the incident has importance when the person involved is presenting himself before the student body as a candidate for their support.

It's not that the individual news story involved was important. It's simply that a story was secretly removed; that the name on the story was falsified in an attempt to sneak through a substitution; and that a person attempted to represent another person falsely. Putting another person's name on your own writing is certainly falsification.

Frye may deny this now. But it's perfectly obvious that the Emerald would not print these facts in its columns without definite proof.

Mr. Frye later said he'd "lost his head." He probably did. But is that a desirable quality in a student body president?

In our eyes, that leaves two candidates.

What about Mike Lally? His list of activities is lengthy and indicates leadership experience. On his performance, we've heard little but the average amount of praise and complaint. His biggest job—that of general chairman of Junior Weekend—is yet before him.

It's the program which Lally presents as his set of goals were he elected student body president that disturbs us. We quote from his own statement: "The rally board should be the core of university activities." Strange, but it had always been our impression that the students' elected representatives in the Senate—which, after all, controls the rally board—should form the core of organized university student body activities. We assume he means extra-curricular activities. It's nice to have effective rallies; we're all for them.

But we feel that Oregon's student government has more important needs which should more deeply concern a student body president than the rally board. There's a place for a good rally board—but not as the core of student activities.

Lally also comes out in support of a unified campus fund-raising drive. This idea has possibilities; we and other students have done a bit of research on it. The trouble is that Mr. Lally hasn't.

We asked him the other day what his ideas on working out the drive would be, and how he would meet some of the difficulties involved—and there are many. He confessed he hadn't done any research on it—just thought it was a good idea. He couldn't

That leaves Pat Dignan.

His activity list is shorter than that of Lally or Frye. But the longest list is not necessarily the best criterion for judgment.

Dignan's statement in Thursday's paper advocates a primary for AGS, and perhaps one sponsored by ASUO for the whole campus, under which the students would select the entire party slate by popular vote. We are strongly in favor of such a plan, which would give the individual a specific opportunity to have a say in the slate's makeup, without having to depend on the choice of a few representatives and resulting political chicanery.

Dignan, like Lally, suggests one unified fund drive. He has talked with drive officials, and knows some of the prime arguments for and against such a plan. He indicated this during a discussion the other day. He knows what the present situation on the campus is.

We, too, would like to see something done about

foresee any problem in getting the independent fund-raising agencies to cooperate; however, both Red Cross and March of Dimes have national policies against unified drives.

Lally wasn't aware how many or just which drives are permitted to come on the campus by the ASUO; his campaign statement is that there are about two a month. (There are four a year, only one of which is actively sponsored by the ASUO, the other three being permitted to use student personnel.)

Now there's nothing essentially bad in Lally's ignorance about the campus drive situation. He's still better informed than many a student. But it seems to us that a candidate should do some investigation about a problem before using it as a main plank of his campaign.

Lally also supports the honor code, which is fine with us. But he goes on to say that his program—the active rally board, the unified drive, and the honor code—is the "concrete route to the elusive and long sought for goal of a less apathetic student body."

School spirit is made up of a number of things. It's a feeling of pride in an institution which results from students' relationships with their professors, from the subject matter of courses, the objectives and attitudes of the administration, even the food the students eat and the buildings they live in. There's no one panacea for apathy or magic formula for building up school spirit.

So we're not convinced that Mike Lally is the best candidate.

the deplorable Millrace situation. We would like to see a candidate in office who would work for a Millrace park. We know this is not a wild dream; there is good possibility for such a park, and a flowing, swimmable Millrace.

Pat, like the other two nomination-seekers, is aiding in the honor code orientation program. But his statement on the code confuses us a bit. He says he is neither for or against it and believes it desirable "only if the students want it." Isn't he planning to vote on it in the coming poll? Of course he's right that it won't work if the students don't want it. But he's one of the students who will decide, isn't he?

So we hope that, prior to the April 30 general election, we'll be comparing Dignan's qualifications with the United Students association candidate, whoever he or she may be.—The Emerald editorial page staff (Don Dewey, Gretchen Grondahl, Roger Nudd, Marjory Bush and Lorna Larson.)

From the Morgue...

10 YEARS AGO

April 11, 1942—"Politics have become un-democratic and I don't think we need to run things like that on this campus," charged John Busterud as he filed independently for student body office.

A surprise element in the ASUO nominations assembly Tuesday was a blasting speech by Jack McCliment commenting upon the TNE sponsorship which presidential candidate Les Anderson was "alleged to have."

Campus Political Scene

What Happened to the Primary?
The Big Stall Seems Successful

By Merv Hampton

(Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of "Campus Political Scene" columns which will appear during the next three weeks. The writers are Merv Hampton, USA, and Jack Landrud, AGS.)

Trying to find one's way through the maze of tactics that have revolved about the proposed ASUO primary is about as easy as picking the next student body president. We'll try, though. From this side of the fence it's interesting.

When Virginia Wright first proposed the plan Jan. 24, copies were unfortunately not available for every member of the Senate. Normal procedure would have postponed a vote on it anyway until the following meeting. A rather weird motion to table the plan followed, which completely cut off debate and would in effect have killed the primary unless the AGS wanted to take it off the table sometime later.

All this without the benefit of any comprehensive debate of the plan. Needless to say, the motion to table passed along strict party lines. Evidently Greek thinking followed the line of one rather highly placed AGS Senator who commented "With this thing you'll be able to organize the independents and we (AGS) won't have a chance." Not very intelligent reasoning but typical that they cared to voice publicly, of the party thinking. We'll give them credit for usually being a bit more subtle, though.

The next meeting found the plan being brought off the table, much to the glee of the USA Senators. Apparently no one could find a good enough reason, for keeping it there. The discussion was postponed for still another week, though, much to the glee of the AGS Senators, especially since a USA Senator

moved for the postponement.

The next session appeared to be critical, with discussion taking place and a vote apparently due—when up popped a stalwart and moved for the plan to be sent to committee. It was. This was Feb. 14. It's, in effect, still there.

The presidentially appointed committee was made up of five AGS and three USA Senators. A safe margin, it seemed, if it were found necessary to kill the measure.

The high sign for a stall was up and the AGS Senators carried the ball beautifully, almost as if it had been rehearsed.

Apparently the machine in control of the party figured that a direct primary by Greek voters would knock off their No. 1 candidate. Tradition has it that you just don't have two student body presidents from the same house consecutively.

But surprise of surprises, up comes the party with—of all things—a primary, apparently hoping to scotch one of USA's strongest platform planks. The machine, still in control of the situation, has now adopted a reform line to get their boy the nomination: "as long as the party is being renovated, it's about time we forgot about our archaic notions of passing the offices around." The sentiment is noble but the tactics stink.

Well, where does all this put the ASUO primary? Probably in a much better position to be passed. With both parties committed to the principle of "democracy" we don't see how the Senate can turn it down in spite of what the student body president says. The opposition won't be so tough now that the big stall has been, for the most part, successful. But you won't see an ASUO primary this year.

On Stage and Screen...

French Comedy Proves Witty

By Toby McCarroll

Have you ever seen a French play? You might enjoy it, especially if it is Moliere's (Poquelin's) "The Doctor in Spite of Himself."

Last night began the three-day run of the play as presented by the French honorary. The play is a 17th Century farce and the humor is not that strange brand peculiar to the humanities but very enjoyable. The play (in French, but understandable) begins with an English prologue written and spoken by R. D. Horn, professor of English. (What it lacks in clarity it makes up in wit.)

Dave Eakin stars in the production and performs his part well; Bob Luoma goes through some contortions, together with some fine acting, which will be long remembered. The cast is adequate; it is unfortunate that some of these people have not acted in regular University plays. Jim Blue, of just fame on the regular stage, gives an excellent performance as a peasant.

The Buddhas of Villard, smug in their self-inflected pseudo-sophistication, smile down from their niches in scorn at these performers. But, despite this small point, the fact remains that the play is enjoyable, rewarding and refreshing.

The top movie of the week will be at the Heilig on Sunday. M.G.M., winner of the Academy Award for "An American in Paris," is trying to do it again. "Singing in the Rain" stars Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds. As with most musi-

icals the plot is unimportant. The main dance is the "Broadway Ballet" which will rival, if not equal, the famous Paris scene from "An American in Paris" (also a Kelly film).

The Mayflower presents "Flower an Fantasy," an enjoyable but not outstanding film with more flesh than fantasy. On Sunday they will bring back "All About Eve." A rather carnal weekend for the Mayflower.

The heralded film "Decision Before Dawn" will be at the Rex, and across the street will be playing the worst bill this week. The MacDonald shows two pictures which would offend the taste of an ape and insult the intelligence of a moron, "Cat People" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." We wish someone would find out what type of people go to those things, thus making them possible.

"Battle of Apache Pass," starring Jeff Chandler, plays at the Heilig Friday and Saturday. This film makes as good a western as it is possible to make, and the results are not too unpleasant.

Contrary to a story in the Emerald, Dr. Gelhausen (music) is directing "The Old Maid and the Thief," not Mr. Hunter (speech), who has begun rehearsals for "The Sea-Gull." This is a bad place for there to be any confusion. The Musical bill opens a week from today. The magic touch of Horace Robinson seems to have done something to "The Devil and Daniel Webster" that has never before been done—made it enjoyable.

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