

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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The Majority Suffers

It must be difficult, right now, for some of the foreign students on this campus to believe that all American college students practice democracy. It must have shocked some of them to learn, from Friday's Emerald, that a fraternity had pledged a student simply because his campus political affiliation (and intent to achieve an office through that affiliation) was not that of the majority of the fraternity.

It's difficult to understand how fellows can sit in American government classes, hearing about the rights of the individual and the principle of free choice upon which our society is founded, and then go home to their fraternity and vote a fellow student out of membership simply because he's exercising these individual rights.

And, in this case as in many others, the majority suffers for the actions of the few. All University of Oregon Greek living organizations will undergo public condemnation for the Delts' action.

"That's just the Greek system," many will say. But we can remember other "individualists"—Kay Kuckenbergh from Delta Gamma, Herb Cook from Sigma Chi, Donna Buse from Delta Zeta, Herb Nill from Theta Chi—who are still members of their respective fraternities. But the people attacking Oregon's Greek houses now will remember only Tom Shepherd.

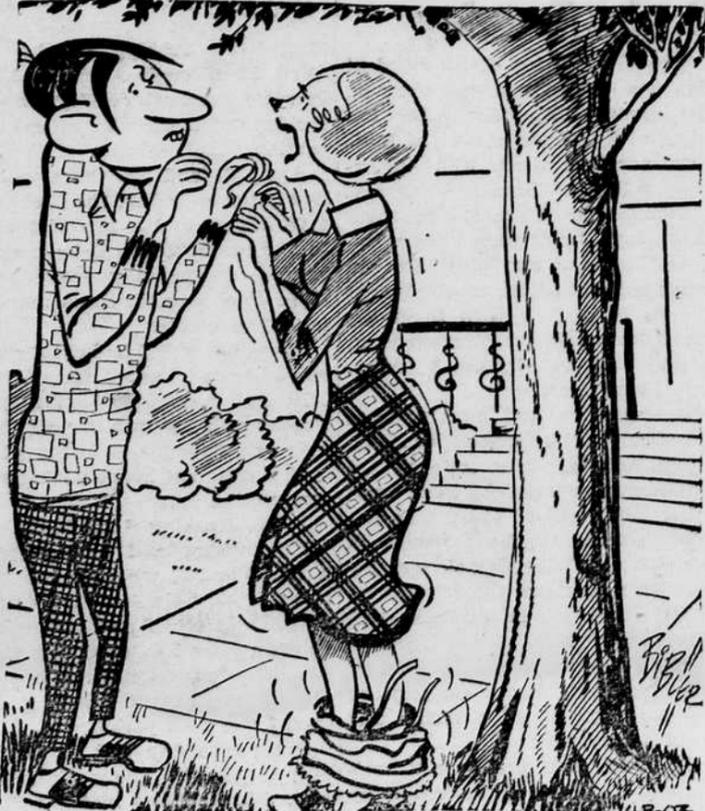
It is precisely this type of action that is losing the U.S. so many friends abroad. We claim high ideals, yet reality does not always uphold these ideals. What do foreign peoples think when they read of the Ku Klux Klan?

The cold hard truth is that actions do speak louder than words. Fraternal organizations can declare that they are the very symbols of democracy and, though many of them may be just that, the irresponsible thinking and consequent action of just one group destroys all the influence of the words.

In this country we have the right to determine our own political affiliation. This right was denied Shepherd by the Delts, if he wished to continue living in their house.

The Delts who engineered Shepherd's removal should spend some time thinking about these basic rights and try to place them above the petty machinations of campus politics.

Ooops!



"... of all th' times to ask for your old Fraternity pin back..."

-- Letters to the Editor --

Emerald Editor:

Beautifully timed, Emeraldites! To Lorna Larson and her editorial staff I can only say, your journalistic inability is exceeded only by your politically wise choice in material. I'm certain it took one concerted effort from all of you to blow the dust off that 14-month-old skeleton you pulled from the closet and revived for your Friday Parade of Character Assassinations.

Oh no! I'll not deny the facts of that trivial incident of more than a year ago that you "considered closed." It's the facts you omitted that make it regrettable. Such facts as: my story contained all the information given me; it was changed without consulting me or my news source; Mr. Rose's version included a charge not yet made but written in only for color; and, Mr. Rose's name appeared on the third rewrite because Emerald style always credits rewrites to the reporter of the original story.

You may think my defense of that incident merits even more attention by this page. Hack away if you will—now or a year from now. But my reply to the stated facts is not altogether the essence of this letter. Questionable integrity; unimportance of qualifications—these are what I'm really concerned with.

If my integrity was in question at the time, why was I left in the position of assistant news editor? Why was I told two months later by Miss Larson (newly chosen Emerald editor) that I was to be her assistant managing editor—an advancement instead of a demotion?

You question my integrity because you say I didn't play it clean with the Emerald staff or the readers. You say I wouldn't be a good ASUO president because I'm "untrustworthy." What about your own integrity? How trustworthy are you?

I could tell you two stories. One happened late in fall term of this year.

It concerned a serious incident involving a member of Chi Omega and would have made a dynamic news story. But Editor Larson, fearing for the reputation of her sorority hushed the whole thing up. My respect for the individual will not permit me to go into the details, but I ask how fair is that to the readers in view of your stand that they should have all the news? The other took place just Saturday night. I was led into a room in Vets' dorm where a wire recorder was concealed, in hopes I would say something that could be used against me. Waiting in another darkened room, windows open, were Associate Editor Don Dewey, Al Karr (running for USA senate position), Jim Haycox (Miss Larson's choice for ASUO president) and several dorm residents.

How low, how sneaky, how untrustworthy can these people be who run our campus newspaper and who put themselves up for public support? The Emerald has reached the abyss of yellow journalism. It is resorting to such filthy tactics as tearing down the reputation of its opponents and pumping USA party members for damning statements in order to put its own staff members in high political offices.

And then your editors have the gall to say that the representative of the student body should be trustworthy "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."

But I doubt that the voters agree with you and the under-

hand tactics you have displayed in this whole campaign to keep me from competing against the USA candidate Apr. 30.

Bill Frye

(Ed. Note: About these "facts" we omitted: Mr. Frye's story was changed after consulting with him, since he definitely refused to include the information on just what his fraternity brothers had done at the police department.

Mr. Frye preferred to dismiss the thing as "an incident with the Eugene police department" rather than explaining about the lifting charged to the Phi Psi of a sign from the police desk; it was the feeling of the Emerald that the resulting rumors on campus as to just what they had done would be of infinitely more harm to the Phi Psi than the actual revelation of the facts.

It is not now, and was not then, Emerald practice to put the original reporter's name on a rewritten story, any more than it is Emerald practice to take the story away secretly and substitute another in its place.

Something was omitted from the original editorial. Since he asks for all the facts, we'll tell you. When Miss Grondahl discovered the changes in the story, she called the Phi Psi house and asked for Gene Rose. The man who came to the phone represented himself as Rose. Miss Grondahl recognized the voice as that of Frye, and told him so. He answered, "Okay, what do you want? Gene isn't home." Don't ask us why anybody well known to the Emerald staff would try to disguise his voice, but that's what happened.

What does Frye mean by the "whole story?"

This fall term he, being a delegate to the OFCL conference in McMinnville, covered the story for the Emerald and purposely neglected to include himself (he was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization) in the story. When an Oregon student is elected to the third highest office in a state organization, it's important news.

Why was it left out? Why were we told we had no business putting it in when we discovered that it had been left out? Because there had been hard feeling in the Senate due to the fact that it had been given no choice as to who was accompanying ASUO President Bill Carey and Frye did not want to intensify that feeling by showing that he had been elected to an office.

Carey later told us this was the reason.

Though this admittedly was not an incident of nearly as great import as the one of the previous year, it brought back memories of the previous one. In fact, had nothing happened this year the Emerald editorial page never would have printed Friday's comment on Frye, and the incident would have been dropped, as Frye requested last spring.

Why was Frye appointed assistant managing editor this year? The editor, against the desire of Frye's immediate superior placed him in that post. She naively believed he was sorry and would cause no further trouble. She acted against the advice of friends.

She was guilty of gross misjudgment.

This fall Frye's column was discontinued, as was that of Pat Dignan, because the editorial staff judged they were not getting good readership. Frye accused the editor of discontinuing the column only because of what he called a "personality clash," saying the editor was "out to get him," and saying that he was undoubtedly the Emerald's "best columnist."

These and other incidents of a purely technical nature led to the relieving of Frye from his position winter term.

That's right, the Emerald said he had resigned. Frye asked that favor; we gave it to him.

In regard to the Chi Omega "serious incident," this information was not printed in the Emerald not because it would have damaged the reputation of the sorority, but because it seriously would have damaged the individual. It was a highly personal matter. It did not involve a charge of any kind. A similar incident occurred in the dorms this year, and it did not appear in the Emerald for the same reason. The day after the incident occurred the news was told to the managing editor. He said, without any prior knowledge of the editor's opinion, he would not consider running the story in the Emerald.

As for the Saturday night incident—it was a childish trick into which Mr. Frye has tried to read sinister motives. Frye was not led into any room, he went there himself to check on a "witness" he thought might be used against him. Among those present in addition to the USA members listed by Frye was News Editor Larry Hobart, a member of an AGS-affiliated organization.

The editor has not made her choice for the ASUO presidency; that will be formulated in full staff meeting of all the associate editors after the primaries are over and all candidates have made their positions clear.

We had hoped to end our comment on Frye with Friday's editorial. But his accusations leave us no choice.

We repeat: We do not think William F. Frye is fit to be president of the student body of the University of Oregon.

Cook Acted Alone

Emerald Editor:

As chairman of the USA party, I would like to request that the opposition this year refrain from making irresponsible insinuations about the supposed intrigue that we are engaging in. I am referring to Mr. Landrud's column of Thursday, in which he said that we are "up to our old tricks" of propositioning AGSers to accept our backing.

Although Mr. Landrud does not see fit to name names, I presume he is speaking of his fraternity brother, Herb Cook, who has registered with Helen Jackson his desire to support the principles of USA, and incidentally, to seek our nomination.

We are perfectly willing to leave Mr. Cook's fate to the decision of our party members voting in the primary election Wednesday.

We cannot take it upon ourselves to decide who is sincere and who is not, whatever our personal opinions may be; in a democracy, that privilege belongs to the people. However, we do protest unfounded accusations, especially when contrary to the facts of the case. Mr. Landrud is misinformed, since we have approached no one in AGS, and since Mr. Cook has, in fact, approached myself, and others.

I suppose I will be a voice in the wilderness, but please, let's have honest communication from both sides. The result will be a better senate next year.

Virginia Wright