

# Oregon Daily EMERALD

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## An Editorial

# CAMPUS POLITICS: JACKSON VS. DIGNAN

The USA and AGS candidates for presidency of the ASUO are two very nice people, who have presented two nice—though similar—platforms.

Helen Jackson is an excellent speaker and those who heard her platform speech at the nominating assembly last week have used adjectives ranging from "great" to "wonderful" in describing it. There is no question that she would be an excellent representative of this institution. And her long list of campus activities and accomplishments indicate that she would be an effective administrator—as effective as a non-Greek administrator could possibly be on this campus.

Pat Dignan is equally likeable. People who have worked with him report that he is an easy man with whom to cooperate.

Dignan lacks Miss Jackson's speaking ability. Many who heard his nominating assembly address admitted disappointment. They accused him of saying little and of hedging on part of what he did say.

But more than personality is involved in the selection of campus leaders.

Both candidates favor sending an observer to the National Students association convention, though it is included only in Miss Jackson's platform. She would like to scrape together the funds by cutting the Pacific Slope President's Association convention to finance an observer at the NSA convention this summer. Dignan prefers to wait until next year when funds could be definitely set aside, or to try other sources, such as alumni gifts this year, so that student government would not be short-changed by omitting PSPA, which he feels is of proven value.

We have always favored sending observers to the NSA convention to gain some concrete knowledge over which student officials can haggle.

The opinions also coincide on the removal of pay telephones from the dormitories. But what politician would dare come out in favor of the pay phones?

There is decided difference on Dignan's united fund drive plank. Miss Jackson is opposed, arguing that she wants it to remain on an individual basis so she, and other students, can donate more or less to whichever drive they consider more worthy. Dignan contends—and he's talked to drive officials about this—that an all-campus drive would actually bring in more money, and be less trouble for the students.

We'd like to see it tried.

Omitting several minor points in their campaign platforms, we are left with the one really important issue. Miss Jackson favors a campus open primary election in which anyone could vote for whatever candidate he favors. So, in essence, she favors the break-up of the Greek bloc. Dignan, speaking for himself and not his party, also desires an open primary. The AGS platform this year advocates a popular primary within the Greek party itself, but Dignan has indicated that he hopes the potentialities of an open primary will be displayed to the Greeks through the success of an in-party popular primary.

Miss Jackson has presented an idealistic platform. She plans to put through a much-needed improvement in student government. An open primary and the resulting coalition parties would result in the removal of much of the dirt from dirty politics. But her plans are nebulous. She seems hazy as to just how she will bring about the change, aside from 'cooperation' with the AGS leader.

Dignan's stand is less idealistic but a good deal more practical. He prefers a slow approach to an open primary. He contends that the Greek blocs and the Independent Independents must first be educated toward such a plan; that they cannot merely be TOLD to vote for the good of the University rather than the faction.

Miss Jackson promises a great deal. We would like to see her platform incorporated into student government. However we do not see how she can do it. It seems simply impossible for an independent student to tell the Greek bloc to break itself up.

Dignan promises less, but there is more chance that he will be able to "produce." Dignan has not been closely connected with the powers behind the party if he were elected president. As vice-president under Miss Jackson he would be only an AGS figure-head and would not be able to encourage reform within the Greek bloc.

Because he stands for some long-needed improvements in the AGS, and consequently in the entire campus political scene, we favor Pat Dignan for the ASUO presidency. Because her excellent ideas and ideals do not seem as possible of attainment, we pass over Helen Jackson.—The Editorial Staff.

## Stassen's Right

"Only with... a trained and informed leadership... does America have the best possible chance of meeting successfully the challenges which lie ahead in the last half of the twentieth century."

That's what a letter received by a University student the other day said. The signer? Harold Stassen, candidate for the Republican nomination for president. The receiver? Neil Chase, promotion man for Friday's Republican mock political convention—"Operation Politics."

Stassen went on to congratulate the University of Oregon for holding such an experiment in national politics.

He's right. We do need that "trained and informed" leadership. And what better place to obtain some of that training and information than right here in college.

You'll have an opportunity Friday. You'll have the chance to hear an important politician—Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska—speak in person on the Republican party. You'll be able to view, and participate in, a replica of the illustrious national convention of the Republican party.

Here's hoping for a better informed—politically—student body after Friday night.

## A Successful Weekend

Now that the dust has died down, it looks as if it was a pretty successful weekend.

The changes in this year's Duck Preview program—setting the Vodvil back to Friday night rather than Saturday, as was the case last year; switching exchange dinners to Saturday, thus avoiding a last-minute rush on Sunday; providing more things for the high schoolers to do Saturday afternoon—seemed to work out quite well.

In fact, the only major gripe about the weekend which has reached our ears to date was the result of a rather comical oversight in the Saturday luncheon preparations: 825 persons were assiduously plied with hot dogs—without a single blob of mustard.

Maybe Oregon State had more guests for their Senior Weekend—they reported 1550—but at least ours were all invited according to the legitimate rules. And we'll hazard a guess that they had just as good a time, if not better, than their friends at OSC.

Congratulations and the sincere thanks of the campus are due Jackie Wilkes and her staff of Preview planners for a job well done.—G. G.

## Letters to the Editor

### National Acclaim

Emerald Editor:

Friday night, May 2, University of Oregon's venture into "Operation Politics" will be unfolded in the form of a Republican mock convention. This convention will be in the hands of the students themselves except for the opening keynote address by Governor Val Peterson of Nebraska. In so far as possible "Operation Politics" will be a realistic replica of the Republican party's national convention this summer in Chicago.

Promotions Chairman Neil Chase has arranged for nationwide coverage of the event by the newspapers and several magazines including Time, Life, Newsweek, and Collier's.

All living organizations are again reminded that they must have enough students on the floor of the convention to fulfill their number of delegates. Pat Ritchey is promotion chairman for Eisenhower, Verla Thompson for Taft, Sylvia Winsor and Nancy Yates for Stassen, and Bob Hooker for Warren.

All students are urged to participate regardless of their political affiliations. It does not matter whether one is a Democrat, a Republican, a member of another party, or a nonregistered voter in order to take part in this convention.

The significance is that it will give all students a chance to acquaint themselves with the convention aspect of the American political party system. The success of the affair depends on us, the student body. Let's put U.O. in the limelight of the political arena. National acclaim is beckoning. Let's get it.

Bob Hooker

## The Atomic Age Kremlin Commies: 'More Errors Than Centipedes Have Legs'

By Phil Johnson

A recent book has been published to prove that the men in the Kremlin are not infallible.

Actually, it hardly seems necessary to prove the fallibility of these men. They have made more errors than centipedes have legs. It might be said of the Communist movement:

"Leaders to the left of them, leaders to the right of them, leaders in front of them, Follied and blundered."

Communism itself is founded upon a number of mistaken assumptions. Marx assumed that the workers must rebel against the oppressors and set a dictatorship of the proletariat. No reason is given for leaving the farmers out of this dictatorship. Nobody explains why the workers should have complete control of the nation.

In addition, Marx assumed that the dictatorship of the proletariat would later be disbanded. Here he ignores the fact that dictators almost never voluntarily relinquish their powers.

Another fallacy is the atheism which Marx demanded of his followers. The Communists would have gotten along much better if they did not oppose religion. This opposition has alienated a great number of peasants in the Slavic regions and has led to useless persecutions of Christian ministers and followers.

The Communist Manifesto has

many other propositions which seem unreasonable, but none of them compare with the classic blunders of Stalin and his followers.

The worst of these is the unrestrained brutality of the Soviet leaders. Millions of people have died in Siberian slave labor camps.

The harsh brutality of the Soviet regime has probably alienated foreigners more than any other feature of Russian policy. The fear of the secret police, the suppression of the press, the numerous other horrors of Russian life, all contribute to the growing dislike of Communism in other lands.

It is difficult to convince others of the "advantages" of Communism when the great massacres in China or the slaughter of Polish prisoners of war in Katyn forest are remembered.

The main reason for the harshness of Russian life is probably the officials' fear of revolution. However, there is no need to fear revolt as long as a decent standard of living is assured to the people.

Portugal has had a dictator for decades, and there is no threat of revolution. Franco has had little trouble since he gained control of Spain. Hitler, even when his nation was crushed and ground under in 1945, faced no revolutionary threat outside of the army.

Consequently, the Soviet Union did not need to introduce the slave labor camps, the secret arrests and the quiet massacres. Their system, which has alienated much of the world, was totally unnecessary.



PHIL JOHNSON

## A New One



"You've been tardy three times already. What's your excuse this time?"