

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

THE LOOKING GLASS

The Weak Links

The ASUO-sponsored panel on "The Role of Student Government," scheduled for one week before primary elections, should be interesting.

Set up with the twofold purpose of education of students and evaluation of the work of the ASUO senate, the panel has also been seen as a possible contribution to the formulation of issues for the Spring term elections.

ASUO President Bob Summers, who read the committee report on the panel at Thursday's senate meeting, said that the panel might also help to dispel some of the "apathy which is a result of misinformation or just plain not knowing."

The latter appears to us to be the place where student government in the past few years has fallen down on the job. If a proper job of education in student government and preparation for student government were done, the ASUO might be able to play a more active role than it has in campus life—indeed it might become the very center of campus life.

If student government is to assume its proper position in student life, it should be the leader of student opinion and the body through which students work to achieve their aims.

The ASUO could have led the fight for a one-card student body and athletic ticket, and did to a point. Then it backed down when the going got tough.

The ASUO could have led the request for a return of pre-registration, for next year if not for this year. But it contented itself with holding a discussion at a senate meeting and then forgetting the issue.

The ASUO could, and in many cases should, act as the students' representative before the faculty and administration. It could win the support of more students if it would develop the qualities of leadership to a greater extent.

We hope that the braver and more vociferous critics of student government, those who complain without suggesting, will be at the spring term panel. We also hope that the defenders of student government will be present, and in good voice.

In this way, the panel could do some real good. But we're afraid that most students, including the more severe critics of student government, will content themselves with sitting at home and criticizing, never realizing that they themselves are the weakest link in the chain.

A Straight Jacket

University President O. Meredith Wilson Saturday termed the Barrington Report, the new salary schedule for state employees now before the state legislature, a "strait jacket" on higher education.

In an address to alumni leaders President Wilson said that he does not believe that the legislature will adopt the report which is currently before the Ways and Means committee.

Prepared by a New York firm, the plan would place all state employees, from fish liberator to University president, in 23 "job group" pay brackets.

Even more significant at Saturday's meeting, we believe, was the opposition to the plan expressed by State Senator Gene L. Brown, for even though it is in part the persons in higher education who would be restricted by the plan, adoption or rejection of the report rests in the hands of the legislators.

We hope that the entire legislature takes the considered, intelligent approach to the Barrington report expressed by Senator Brown Saturday.

Awareness?

Less than half the college students in the United States have heard of SEATO!

This fact, revealed by the most recent Associated Collegiate Press poll of student opinion, is not amazing, but it certainly is startling.

The alleged future leaders of the nation, or at least half of them, have no idea of what their government is doing in the area of foreign policy.

Specific figures showed that 47 per cent of the students questioned had heard of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. Two per cent said that they had "no opinion," whatever that means in answer to a specific question. Fifty-one per cent had never heard of the organization.

A total of five per cent of the students interviewed could name the nations which belong to SEATO.

We think this is fairly significant evidence of a growing ignorance of public affairs on the part of college students—an alarming situation to say the least. The student opinion poll is taken in major and minor colleges in all parts of the country.

We don't know what the answer to the problem is, but the results of the poll is a poor testimony to the awareness of college students.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Many Questions Arise Over New Burmese Proposal on 13 Fliers

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

It's a strange bit of business, this belated word through Premier U Nu of Burma that Red China would like to have "informal" talks with the United States about releasing 13 convicted Americans and easing international tensions.

For one thing, it comes weeks after U Nu's return from a visit to Peiping. During the period he made no mention of the proposal to the United States but did let it seep out unofficially, so that his announcement Sunday by no means represented first publication.

Reporters in Rangoon got the impression that the idea was U Nu's own, presumably presented to the Peiping regime during his visit there. It's a guess, since the Reds have taken no initiative on their own, that its reception

on their part was primarily passive rather than active approval.

The idea fits their general tactics, however. They got quite a propaganda lift from the visit of the secretary general of the United Nations, an organization which bars them and brands them as aggressors.

They would get a similar lift out of their international discomfiture. First State Department reaction—in the absence of any word from Secretary Dulles since U Nu took the matter up with him—was that the United States should not bite.

For the time being, the United States is standing on her original position that the fliers were representing the United Nations when captured, that their detention is illegal, and that it is up to the UN to free them.

The realities of the situation, however, are that the United States has obtained the re-

lease of few hostages from behind the Iron Curtain except on a barter basis.

The trouble in this case is that she has little if anything to offer outside the direct appeasement by knuckling under to impossible demands, such as the scuttling of the Chinese Nationalist regime or a switch on UN membership for Peiping.

There is recognition in Washington, too, that while it is proper for the UN activities to continue, the time for release of the fliers is actually not ripe. The Reds, be they European or Chinese, never turn loose of such an issue until they have squeezed the last drop of propaganda benefit from it.

Also, they naturally want time to try to get from at least one of the prisoners a reaction such as that obtained from two other Americans, just released, who are spouting the Communist line.

Earrings Form Plot Of 'Pleasing' Movie

By Len Calvert
Emerald Columnist

"Madam was an elegant, sparkling and very celebrated woman. Nothing at all might have happened except for those jewels."

And it is these jewels which provide the plot basis for "The Earrings of Madame De..." current French film at the Mayflower.

Starring Charles Boyer, Danielle Darrieux and Vittorio De Sica, the story tells of the Count (Boyer) and his Countess (Darrieux), who have always been "good friends," until she falls in love with the Diplomat (De Sica). Through it all runs the business about the earrings, which is somewhat reminiscent of the celebrated "La Ronde."

A brief summary of the plot can be obtained by following the course of the earrings through the film:

Madame needs money to get out of debt, so she sells the earrings to her jeweler without telling the Count; the jeweler sells them back to the Count who gives them to his mistress, who is leaving Paris; she hocks them in Constantinople where they are bought by the Diplomat who brings them back to Paris where he meets the Countess; they fall in love and he gives her the jewels, only to have the Count niece her to give them to her niece who has just had a son.

The niece sells them to the jeweler and he sells them back to the Countess. The earrings are last seen on a church altar where the Countess has placed them to save herself and her love from death, to no avail.

A warmly told love story with comic and tragic overtones, the movie is essentially the Countess' story, a woman who tortured men by keeping them waiting, until she fell in love with the Diplomat.

A "different" type of Boyer emerges in the film. In this picture he is not the sticky sweet lover of so many of his past efforts, but a straight-forward military aristocrat. We found him to be rather good in this type of role.

The beautiful Miss Darrieux turns in quite a different sort of performance than her fiasco in a thing called "Vera Cruz," her latest American movie. Her acting as a wife who gets entangled in her own web is touching and nicely done, without being melodramatic about it.

We also enjoyed De Sica as the Diplomat stricken with Madame's charms. As a middle-aged lover, he stayed on a level plane throughout the film.

The film is of the dark, shadow-filled variety which the French seem to do so well. American audiences might tend to find it a little over-long and slow moving, but pleasing, over-all.

New Pledge



"I believe we pledged the Leroy Van DuPont chap since you were here last."



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