

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

A DAY AT THE ZOO

Hippity, Hoppety Water Echoed at Song Trial

By Bob Funk
Emerald Columnist

They were having song practice. Song practice began every evening at a signal (which was the house president's apple bulging out to accommodate her last swallow of dessert) and ended when more than forty percent of the members had dropped from exhaustion sometime late at night.

They had not won the sing since 1927, when the house which would have won otherwise was disqualified for inserting a canned routine into the middle of their number.

It's for the house," the song leader chortled as they lined up tiredly in the living room.

"But we've been practicing ever since Christmas —" the house president began, but the song leader knocked out five of her teeth. The song leader was large and muscular, and could knock out four teeth with just her little finger, doubled up.

"Now sopranos, this time remember that you're supposed to sound like tinkly, hippity-hoppety water coming down from the hills." The song started, and the sopranos strained to sound like hippity-hoppety water.

"You're slurping!" growled the song leader, stopping them. "And someone in the alto section—I won't say who—thinks just because they're short and

are standing behind a tall girl they can get away with smoking. There's no smoking during song practice." The short alto ground her cigarette out on the rug. The song began again.

"More softly," screamed the song leader, choking a couple of the second sopranos. "You got to give it feeling. Think of yourself there in the forest, in the evening, with the last vestiges of sun hanging in torn ribbons from the tops of the tallest trees."

Everyone desperately tried to think of herself in the forest at evening, but it was no good. The song began for the third time (they could not remember more than once that they had gone past the first bar on the first try).

The song leader stopped them by sitting on the piano keys from middle C up to E above high C. It made an awful noise. "You're flattening again, Glopflia."

"I can't help it," Glopflia sobbed, "I've got a terrible cold and my nose is all plugged up and—"

"And another flat and I'm going to slam the piano top on your hands again." They sang on, Glopflia singing in a rather nervous, if not hysterical, sharp.

The song began by the altos singing "In the evening" like they were the wind in the pines, and then the second altos came humming in like the big, maternal, mystical river, and then the sopranos became the hippity-hoppety water coming down to the river, and the second sopranos kept screaming "Alone, alone, always alone." After considerable confusion at the top of

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Of Planks and Men

The platforms are out, the issues are drawn, and the campus political horses are at the starting gate.

Let's stop for a minute to consider the platforms of the United Independent Students and the Associated Greek Students. How much is chaff and how much is palatable grain?

The Primary

First of all, AGS is out after the abolition of the all-campus primary again this year. This plank was hardly unexpected, even though things have been quiet since the party hassle over the primary last fall.

UIS, we assume, still favors the all-campus primary—though Heaven knows it doesn't help them any. The Independents chose to remain silent on the question in their platform, thus the assumption that they'll follow their previous line of supporting the primary.

Greeks vs. Independents

Second, from interest if not significance, is the fact that there seems to be developing a real split along Greek vs. Independent lines—the split is Greek Week.

We've maintained from the beginning that if the all-Greek celebration is to remain a social-athletic function with no further meaning, it would best be done away with. But it's Greek-planned, financed, and executed, and even if "class conscious and discriminatory" in nature, it's the Greeks' business.

We'll have to go along with Bud Hinkson's remark at the AGS-platform meeting, "We shouldn't need to announce a stand just because UIS did. Greek Week is none of their business."

Deferred Living

Both parties gave recognition to what we believe is a real problem—How is deferred living working, and along with it, how could the fresh dorm counseling program be improved?

Both parties have a vested interest in deferred living, but IF the AGS examination or the UIS investigation gets bi-partisan leadership, determined leadership, chances are that something will come of the examination.

Here's the kind of issue that will separate the political men from the boys—it's the kind of thing that's touchy. After you examine and recommend, you've got to follow through, ask why your recommendations were not implemented, and keep asking until they are implemented or until you've got a good reason for their rejection.

Tax Burden

UIS didn't take a stand on "unjust discrimination against Greek living organizations through student affairs use of pledge fees for its own purpose." But how could they? We know a lot of Greeks who didn't even know where the money went until the current campaign — some probably don't know yet.

Careful examination will probably lead many campus politicians to our conclusion—a good deal of that money, which becomes the Pre-Freshman Week Account, goes for promoting the University and therefore we won't deny that we can and should help foot the bill. The state board won't let the University have promotional funds of that nature, and the money has to come from some place.

But we agree that Greek and Independent alike should share this expense, if it's to be incurred. A tax on some for the benefit of all is unjust.

Reorganization

Both parties acknowledge the need for some sort of governmental reorganization.

UIS stresses the cabinet (which, incidentally, this year's AGS administration promised a year ago to reactivate) and AGS speaks in elusive political language: "Functional innovation in the legislative and executive branches of our student government."

The Race

A big issue, and one which we don't want to see become political, is the Millrace. AGS states in positive language that it wants the Canoe Fete as an addition (which it already is) and restoration of the Millrace.

UIS didn't mention it. Why not?

We've editorialized, we perhaps even preached about the Millrace. We want it restored. It's a big job that will take big leaders, and a job that none of us will see completed while we're here, but a job that should be done.

Et Al

Meaningful, but likely to be put aside after the campaign are several issues: popular election of the yell king (AGS), study space in the library Friday and Saturday nights (UIS), parking facilities (UIS), and a housing area for married students (UIS).

Most of those who've thought about it come to the same eventual conclusion about a yell leader—no matter who he is he doesn't get the respect that he (and his position) deserve. Popular election might be the answer—we don't claim to know.

Study space in the library on weekend nights would be a fine thing for those who would use it—how many would? It's up to the senate to find out, then act.

Parking facilities and housing are good issues—they show deep thought by students about the university's problems. But, as far as we've been able to learn, work is being done on these things and can't be hastened much.

It's the job of the senate, however, to help keep the state board and the University administration aware of the fact that the students too consider these pressing problems.

Two o'clock closing hours? Well, it's been tried before, not in a general election, but in groups like IFC, Panhellenic, and Heads of Houses, and we've heard that it was the students, not the administration, who opposed the change.

Might be nice for all-campus dance nights, maybe even for Saturday nights in general.

The combination student body-athletic card? We've used this issue frequently as a basis for arguing principle, not specifics. We'd like to see the new card become a reality, but the principle on which it was defeated is more important than the card itself.

This brings us to our final comment.

The Key

UIS has said that the ASUO senate "too frequently refuses to disagree with the administration when they have good reason to do so. We believe that the efforts of this year's senate have been misdirected . . ."

Here is the key. Here is where student government stands or falls, wins or loses, is meaningful or meaningless.

Why didn't the AGS mention it? We assume it's because they're the party in power and good political sense won't let them denounce the administration they've controlled. If this is not the reason, if AGS is deliberately dodging this key issue—then here's one UIS vote.

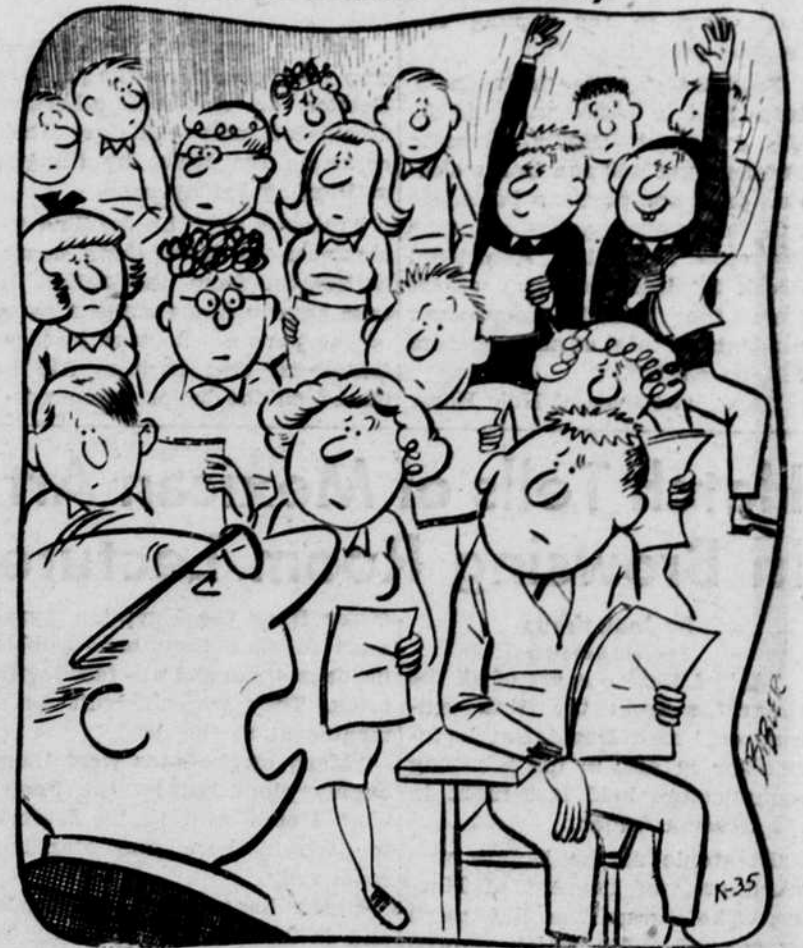
So What?

So it all comes back to two key words, "men" and "action." These are the things which can make next year's student government good, can get things accomplished.

The platform the men stand on is important, as is each plank in that platform—but the men and their ability to act are the key.

We haven't made up our minds. When we do it will be on the basis of which man we think will have guts enough to follow up this spring's promises next fall.

Intellectual Honesty



"Now that you have exchanged and graded papers—do we have anyone who made a '100'?"

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