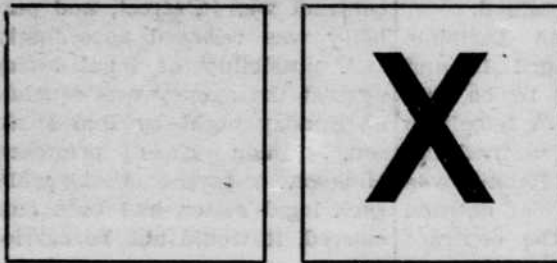


+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

PRIZE WINNING ESSAY

A Vote for Hinkson



The Oregon Daily Emerald is supporting Bud Hinkson of the Associated Greek Students for president of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon.

Three weeks ago or three days ago our choice might have been a different one—it was neck-and-neck. It is no longer so, in our opinion. Some time ago we decided that it would be the issues on which we made our choice, but there must be less concrete reasons—reasons which both go into and grow out of a person's thinking about issues.

The subjective, or less concrete reasons for our choice are two:

1. Hinkson is able to think on his feet. A glib speaker, or even an outstanding speaker, is not always the better man. Hinkson is neither glib nor outstanding as an orator, but is able to speak forcefully on his views of issues out of what we believe to be a sincere conviction.

2. Slow and cautious in giving a project his wholehearted support, once Hinkson decides to accomplish something he doesn't rest until it's accomplished.

Reference: Operation Easter Egg. This one project no more qualifies Hinkson for the student body presidency than the chairmanship of the senate crime commission would have qualified Estes Kefauver to be president of the United States (though there was some talk of it). But the execution of the project is an indication of the dogged determination inherent in Hinkson's character—and this determination might be the spark that will reactivate student government on this campus.

On the more concrete issues and qualifications, our reasons are three:

1. The candidates' conception of the office of student body president: Hinkson sees the public relations function of the office as the number one duty. Next in order, he ranks the task of finding out what the students want and of taking it to the senate, and third, he sees the function of organizing and running an effective student government.

Sam Vahey, United Independent Students candidate, sees the first duty of the president as carrying out the legislation passed by the senate. Second in importance, he ranks the task of introducing legislation, and third, the duty of looking for problems that concern the students.

The candidates talked about their conceptions of the office during interviews with the Emerald editorial board.

2. The all-campus (open) primary: We are the first to applaud Vahey's statement that action cannot be taken to abolish the open primary until a better system is found. We disagree with the idea that there is no better system. Hinkson wants to do

away with the complex, often-meaningless open primary—so do we.

Branching off from this discussion is the issue of the current political parties — Vahey favors the Greek vs. Independent split.

We won't mix words—we think it stinks. Hinkson phrases it more delicately, but his thoughts are the same: The current alignment is not a realistic one, or one calculated to arouse the greatest interest and participation in the student body.

3. Greek Week, or the Discrimination Issue: Perhaps this belongs as the background for one of the reasons in the first category, rather than in a separate category.

Hinkson believes purely and simply that if Independent students feel left out when Greeks are holding all-Greek functions it's the responsibility of some group other than the Greek houses to provide a replacement activity.

Perhaps it was the shrewdness of the questioning, but when asked about this problem after he had taken an initial stab at Greek Week, Vahey implied that if the Independents were the ones doing the discriminating, it might not be so bad. We know he doesn't hold this belief, but it's indicative of the surface-type thinking Vahey has done on several issues.

In conclusion, we still think it will be a close race.

Vahey has been in student government longer than Hinkson—and he's one of our best and most dependable workers on the Emerald. He has a quality of youthful enthusiasm that is compelling — and that would bring positive action if he were elected.

But these things alone do not make a student body president.

That is why we will vote for Hinkson.

... For Senator-at-Large

Action—action that comes as a result of thoughtful study and constant questioning of ideas—is the element we think the voters should consider when electing an ASUO senate.

This, of course, refutes both the theory and the reality of campus elections as popularity contests. If our aim is to show that we really haven't matured any since high school—then we should vote a straight party ballot or vote for the "neatest guy" or the girl with the most activity points.

But this type of voting will result in a senate that reflects the maturity of its electors—they won't question things, they'll just raise their hands or mumble "aye" when called upon to vote.

Using either records or potential for positive action as a basis, we've worked out what we think is the best possible senator-at-large list for next year. It contains five AGS candidates, four UIS candidates, some experienced in student government, others not so experienced—all possessing what we believe are the necessary qualities.

Assuming that the number one vote goes to one of the presidential candidates, here's the Emerald's idea of the best senator-at-large slate: (2) Darrel Brittsan, AGS; (3) Anne Ritchey, AGS; (4) Chuck Mitchellmore, UIS; (5) Dick McDaniel, UIS; (6) Louis Blue, AGS; (7) Sue Lamb, UIS; (8) Dave Lobb, UIS; (9) Rob Roy, AGS; and (10) Walt Ching, AGS.

It's a senate that would be likely to question the things they're asked to pass upon—rather than just raise their hands mechanically. It would, in our opinion, be most likely to argue and discuss intelligently the issues at hand.

It's our idea of what a student senate should be.

'Student Government On The UO Campus'

(Ed. Note: The following is the essay by Anne Ritchey, junior in journalism, which won the ASUO senate's contest on "Student Government on the University of Oregon Campus.")

Student government on the University campus is unusual, in that its role in relation to the student body is continually changing. Actual governmental structure, if it can be called that, between student and faculty areas of administration is relatively stable.

But the actual function of this structure is little-known to most students and therefore, in their eyes, students' role in the whole setup changes from time to time. It is because of this that I maintain it changes with each new entering class.

Joe College and Betty Co-ed, who come here from everywhere in the state and many neighboring states, know little about college administration in general or administration of this one in particular. Therefore their early interest is shown only at election times, which is something they have had some contact with as seniors in high school and even before.

And the difference accounting for varying degrees of student interest in elections, regardless of issues that may present themselves or be "drummed up" by candidates, is in individual personalities.

Perhaps this is a carry-over from high-school days for all of us, when the football captain was about the most important person in school and the chairman of a dance, at the time that dance took place, was a real student leader.

The usual channel for creating idols begins with the freshman elections each year, when candidates for the four freshmen offices look around, make quick decisions and campaign furiously on the basis of things that will make freshmen "interested" in the University and their role in it as freshmen.

The propose to change the dormitory system, or the propose bigger and better social functions for freshmen, or they propose a new and different Frosh Sno-ball... or the complete abolition of it.

Some of them are a little more conservative, and they turn to the experienced politicians, either in their own Greek houses or among friends of these older students in their own houses.

From them they learn that there has never been a "differ-

ent" Frosh Sno-ball; that you cannot change the dormitory system; that freshmen traditionally complain about freshman social functions and just as traditionally refuse to participate or to offer constructive help for them.

The conservative freshman politicians, unless they have a very powerful house backing them, seldom get far because they have gained the depressive wisdom of their elders and begin to wonder, really, why they want to be on the Senate anyway, if it can't do anything.

Occasionally one of them is elected to a freshman office, when he is joined on the Senate by his classmates who have campaigned on the basis of their enthusiasm and their "neat ideas." From then on the four of them begin to get disillusioned together.

Because, as it is actually set up, student government operates within relatively rigid limits.

But more of these individual student personalities, the ones especially in the junior and senior classes each year, help create the impression that there are actually many powerful things being done each year.

They see to it that their work is publicized and that it entails a program on which many students work...the more that work the more important the campus sees the project.

But, in one way, they are not wrong. Because it is the work, done on the initiative of a class or a single student leader, that is responsible for any major change in student government's role as it changes from year to year.

As a body, the Senate does much work. But it is, on the whole, routine work. It is not the same from year to year, or even from term to term within one year, but it is nevertheless routine. It has to be.

Without the senate there would be no student voice in the University's administration. With the Senate much investigation and research is done that would not be done without its existence.

But, even in view of this rigid role of the Senate, individuals can and do play an important part.

When, for example, a handful of students decide to revive the Canoe Fete—Eureka, there is a Canoe Fete. It is staged at the expense of hundreds of collective hours' hard work and actual physical labor; and the majority

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