

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

How to Cross a Street

Once again University President O. Meredith Wilson has come out strongly in favor of closing that section of 13th Ave. which runs through the campus as a solution for the conflict between traffic and student pedestrians. But, after reviewing the history and present status of the 13th street problem, we are not sure that this is the best answer.

Wilson, together with several other administration leaders, met with the Eugene city council last Friday to discuss the issue for a second time. The result was a further postponement of settlement in favor of meeting with R. H. Baldock, superintendent of the state highway commission, to get an expert's opinion.

Here is the problem: During the final 10 minutes of each school day hour, student pedestrians clog 13th street between University and Kincaid. Special traffic control signs for this area have been in use for several years, but have not been satisfactory. The question: Can 13th be closed off entirely and traffic bypassed around the campus?

The committee definitely wants to seal up 13th and plant lawn there. He emphasized this for the second time in recent weeks Friday. The council originally wanted to take down the 10-minute signs and open up the street, but Wilson has twice postponed a decision. The President and his committee contend that the street must be closed, and that the real problem is to find a bypass.

Wilson suggested Friday that the University (actually the state) could trade a strip of land bordering the University for the 13th street right-of-way. What he meant was that should 13th be closed, other streets around the campus would have to be widened to carry the extra traffic load. Widening of Kincaid, Onyx, 11th Ave. and Franklin Blvd. would cut costly slices off the campus in several places.

This will be the main theme at the meeting with Baldock Nov. 14. Having such a meeting at least shows sound thinking in calling in an expert rather than railroading the issue. But we think a plan of cutting off an arterial and not having a single through street between Franklin Blvd. and 18th Ave. is impractical. Think about not having 13th and the inconvenience without it.

One of Wilson's arguments that doing away with 13th will not hinder traffic is based on a finding by a 1952 survey that said "82 percent of all non-University" traffic can bypass the campus "without increasing the total trip length." This was a survey made by the state traffic engineering department during a similar discussion of the 13th street problem.

But there are many other important conclusions in the report showing the other side of the controversy which makes this single argument look pretty weak. The report is out of date, an important point, due to the rapid growth of the city and the campus.

Among the main findings of the report that can still be applied to the case include: (1) about 40 percent of daytime traffic is generated by University activities; (2) about 4 percent of all traffic using 13th Ave. "could use some other route," (3) both 11th street and Franklin Blvd., which would get most of any rerouted 13th Ave. traffic, could not handle it properly.

It is important to note, however, that no pedestrian survey was made, which could have really hit upon the problem as to how necessary 13th is as a crosswalk. The traffic percentages, together with the fact that about 7000 cars a day were using 13th back in 1952, shows that the street is valuable both to city and University motorists. Many who "could use" another route probably

would not like it, both because of habit and convenience.

After this 1952 survey was taken, the present signal signs were put up, costing about \$3000. With a policeman catching many light-runners, this system has been disliked immensely. Thus three years have been wasted and little has been accomplished. We hope that the result of this next attempt will not be more surveys and a lot of needless spending on a problem which perhaps is not serious at all.

A somewhat strange aspect about the case is that the students, for whom the benefits of the street closure are intended, seem not to be concerned. But they know how to cross the street themselves.—(J.C.)

A Hearty Thank You

University students have a couple of treats in store for them in the way of assemblies and speakers in the near future and possibly a third attraction which will outdo both of the other offerings if it materializes.

The first of the two "treats" is the speech tonight in the Student Union by literary critic, Francis Fergusson, on the "Comparison of Bertolt Brecht and Thornton Wilder." Fergusson was the speaker at the Tuesday assembly earlier this week.

Next week, on Thursday at 1 p.m. instead of the customary Tuesday, Ralph Lapp, director of the nuclear science service in Washington, will be on hand to talk on atomic energy.

Lapp is the man who was first to call attention to the menace of atomic fallout. He is now a member of the Atomic Energy commission and among his many achievements have been the writing of several technical magazine articles on nuclear physics. Here, then, is a man who can't help but have something of tremendous value and interest to say to the college student of today who is being forced to have great concern for present conditions and future possibilities of atomic power.

But the third "treat," the one that is still only a possibility, will be of the most interest of any of them to University students.

If things work out as planned now, at the Tuesday assembly of Nov. 22, Gov. Averell Harriman of New York, who many believe will be the next Democratic candidate for President, will be on hand as the speaker.

R. D. Horn, chairman of the assembly committee, said Wednesday that he had talked to State Democratic Chairman Monroe Sweetland early this week and that Sweetland had indicated that chances are "very good" that Harriman will be here for the assembly. We hope he is right.

Writing about those three outstanding speakers can only make us look with pride to the outstanding job that the assembly committee is doing this year in lining up top attractions for the students. Maybe a hearty "Thank You" is not out of place here.

—(B.R.)

Footnotes

If the monsoons continue, the Millrace and 13th St. issues may disappear. The swirling waters of Lake Sigma Chi will soon have more flow than the Millrace and 13th will be blocked off to all but canoe traffic.

The Oregon Lemon...

to the Eugene sewage system which cannot handle a day's rainfall even without the leaves clogging the drains.

Post-Rush Week



"YES, TH' OLE FRAT IS GETTING BACK ON ITS FEET SINCE TEX FLEDGED."

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

Closing Hours Issue Brings Explanation

By Bud Hinkson
ASUO President

What rights do students have in their dealings with faculty committees? More specifically, what right does a group of students have to originate a proposal for a change in the accepted method of behavior here on the campus?

This question was brought to my attention last Tuesday in the student affairs committee discussion on closing hours. The point was made at that time that while Heads of Houses should review any proposals for an extension of closing hours, it is not necessary that all such proposals originate with the various Heads of Houses.

This means that any group on campus has the right to make a proposal directly to the student affairs committee, and to represent its case before such committee. The same principle applies to the discipline committee.

It is the responsibility of the dean of women and the dean of men to administer the discipline code. However, if a student is dissatisfied with the decision, he has the option of appearing before the discipline

committee. If the decision of the dean of women or dean of men involves an expulsion, the case automatically goes before the discipline committee.

A somewhat different principle applies to the academic and scholarship committees. The academic committee establishes educational standards, while the scholarship committee is concerned with academic deficiencies. Any student who has scholastic difficulties may petition to the scholastic committee to have his case reviewed before it. At this hearing, the student will be represented by either the dean of men or the dean of women.

In contrast to this, the academic committee concerns itself with setting requirements for graduation. A case such as that of a transfer student wishing to receive credit for work done at the institution previously attended by him would properly be considered by the academic committee. Again, he would be represented by deans of men and women.

Both the student affairs and discipline committees have student representatives on them, whereas the academic and scholarship committees are composed strictly of faculty members.

Oregon is one of the few major universities having student representation on the discipline committee, and is fortunate in having such close cooperation between students and faculty.



The Oregon Daily Emerald is published five days a week during the school year, except during examination and vacation periods, by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year; \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or the University. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor; initialed editorials by members of the editorial board.

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