

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Perennial Pairings

The ASUO may be coming up soon with an answer to a perennial all-campus gripe, the house pairings for various campus events.

Inter-fraternity council has been chief agitator this year in trying to get some real action, especially in the matter of cutting down the number of actual events for which organizations are paired.

When ASUO president Bud Hinkson appointed Lewis Blue to investigate the matter he had in mind a definite plan of change or at least control for this matter, and seemingly Blue and his committee have come up with an answer, at least to the first question of a manner of controlling the number.

Blue and the presidents of IFC, Inter-dorm council and Heads of Houses agreed that a perennial system of reviewing should be done by the people who are presidents of this group, plus a Senate member to sit with them. In this way, both the organizations as such and the campus as a whole will be represented when the group meets to decide which events should have pairings and which should not.

There are problems, however, in the Blue committee's plans to have houses grouped, in cases of smaller organizations, to make a basic working unit for the whole year's pairings.

For one thing, as Blue himself is well aware, there are many "unknown factors" such as men's dormitories (and women's as well) which may express extreme interest at the beginning of a year, have their number of members duly recorded, then fail to participate fully. In other words, the number of people theoretically registered may not be actual and the yearly system would fail.

Then, too, a certain amount of jealousy or rivalry could result from, say, women's organizations were paired throughout a year for all events during that year. Questions of who is to receive trophies won, which, admittedly, occurs often now, would become a real sore point if the same two groups were paired throughout the year and only one trophy were won.

Also, there would not be the united cooperation in a pairing that there is when only two groups—one men's, one women's, are working partly for the "glory of the old frat club" as well as for the event's success.

There may also be much argument from groups, such as the rally board which has been this year's chief offender, who desire several unscheduled pairings throughout the year. Presidents of the three living organizations groups may be in for more argument than they now anticipate, and chairmen of the events might possibly take matters into their own hands in obtaining student interest in their event.

In other words, Blue's committee's plan is a rather loose one at the present time. But it at least has come up with a recommendation, and that recommendation in part meets demands for some action.

There's probably no really good answer. Some groups will always feel slighted. As long as the wishes of everyone involved are adequately represented and openly brought to discussion, however, no one has a legitimate complaint. We hope that Blue's plan, or some modification of it, will ultimately be adopted for the sake of harmony and equal representation.—(A.R.)

Sidestepping Segregation

Voters in Virginia last week took a big step towards a possible breakdown of their public school system when they approved by more than 2 to 1 a referendum proposed to eventually sidestep the Supreme Court ruling on no segregation in schools. They may regret this choice.

The vote made it possible for the state legislature to call a convention which would

amend the state constitution so that state money could be used to send children to non-church private schools. These grants would be available to pupils whose parents declined to send them to public, integrated schools, thus finding a loophole in the Supreme Court's decision of last year, affecting only public schools.

Few were surprised at the outcome of the election, since the proposal was backed by such powers as the governor and Senator Harry Byrd. The turnout was second only to the 1952 presidential election, although literacy tests and the poll tax presumably prevented many Negroes, as well as the poorer whites, from voting.

If the plan goes as expected it should be in operation by the next school year. Proponents say it would avoid mixed schools and at the same time meet the Supreme Court's ruling. Individual localities would have a choice of integrating schools, with tuition grants for those wanting to attend private schools; assigning children to separate public schools, or abolishing public schools altogether. Colleges would not be affected.

But if the local school boards were to assign a child to a school he did not like, he could appeal the case all the way to the State Supreme Court of Appeals. This could bring a test case that would cause more trouble than the new plan would be worth.

The real danger, however, lies in the possibilities of the loss of schooling for those children in counties which decide to close their public schools by not supplying them operating funds. Those children could not be forced to take a state grant to go to a private school and thus the state's educational standards would be worse than ever.

States like Virginia and Georgia, which is also considering a similar plan, thus would find that they had bought more trouble than they bargained for.—(J.C.)

Problem Program

The ASUO Senate may have created a problem when it organized the Crusade for Freedom program under its own jurisdiction to run in conjunction with Greek Week. This, of course, is subject to the approval of IFC and Panhellenic, who sponsor Greek Week.

The Senate felt that giving the entire project to Greek Week might result in the subordination of either the Crusade program or of other Greek Week functions. Some members felt that if the Crusade were run by Greek Week, the Independent students would not be drawn in.

The Senate's plan eliminates the necessity for taking up another weekend for a new major project, but it adds the problem of coordination between the two events.

The most important job the co-chairmen of Greek Week and the Crusade co-chairmen have will be that of consulting and co-ordinating their activities. There is bound to be some conflict of interests in the combination of the two events.

Essentially the same type of organization was used last year with the combination of the ASUO-run Canoe Fete and Junior Weekend, run by the junior class. Even with the same general purposes there was some conflict and friction during the course of the planning.

Since Greek Week and the Crusade will not necessarily have the same purposes, the conflict could become much more extensive. It will be the job of the two sets of co-chairmen to insure that this friction does not damage either program.

Footnotes

Oregon State's coeds should know their basketball. Coach Slats Gill explained the fundamentals again this year to them at a women-only basketball assembly. Sounds like something Oregon could use for football.

Monday Morning



"I SEE THEY'VE PATCHED THINGS UP."

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Calling Bluff Could Score Success for U.S.

By William L. Ryan
Of the Associated Press

Instead of raising once again the specter of nuclear warfare, the United States might score a decisive success in the cold war by calling the Communist bluff.

The Soviet Union has retained the propaganda advantage in this argument. The position stated by Communist boss Khrushchev in India is this: Lacking agreement to end nuclear weapons tests, the Russians are forced to continue experimentation. But the Soviet Union, he says, stands for outlawing such weapons.

The American reply, as illuminated by various statements made by and attributed to Secretary of State Dulles, probably will appear lame to many Asians. In the first place these statements indicate that the United States was prepared to use nuclear weapons in Asia. In the second place, they serve notice that the United States will continue to test nuclear weapons.

Both these statements are likely to resurrect the basic fears of the Asians which were so apparent two years ago when the secretary of state was speaking in terms of "massive retaliation."

Moreover, the secretary has been quoted as indicating that a means of deterring the Soviet Union, to bring the world to the brink of war and take the long chance that the world would not be pushed over that precipice. This is likely to do little to calm the fears of the Asians and other people who dread the prospect. Soviet propagandists likely will seize upon the statements.

The "Wake-up-America" statement endorsed by the President and the secretary

of state is likely to be welcomed throughout the United States as a courageous assessment of the condition of the country in the cold war.

It might have been followed up most effectively by a frontal assault on Soviet propaganda. A strong statement that the United States not only opposed nuclear warfare but was prepared under safeguards to end experimentation with atomic weapons would have an electrifying effect on world opinion.

Up to now the Soviet Union's horror of nuclear weapons has been a matter of words alone. When the chips are down, Moscow is likely to be found a poor position to follow up the words with action.

If the United States were to say: "We are against experimentation with nuclear weapons and here is how we propose to stop it," a set of conditions could be laid down which could be most embarrassing to the Kremlin. The realist knows the U. S. S. R. is not going to throw open to inspection its position in nuclear weapons, and the stalemate is likely to persist.

The world has been waiting for American action. The welcome accorded President Eisenhower's "open skies" proposal at the Geneva Summit conference, and the temporary embarrassment it evidently caused the Kremlin, could have served as guideposts for the direction of U. S. policy. But the way matters stand now, much of world opinion unjustly blames the United States for a state of affairs which causes people everywhere to live in dread of a catastrophic war.

The U. S. S. R. says that it is for peace and prohibition of nuclear weapons. So far nobody seems to have thought of asking them bluntly to prove it.



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