

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS +

## The Party Line

The proposal of a realignment of political parties at the University has been favorably received by a great majority of the campus leaders and political aspirants.

However, there is some opposition from the extremes of both the Greek and Independent parties for several very different reasons. The opposition among the Independents insists that an Independent party is necessary to give those students representation, and at the same time claims that the Greeks are trying to legislate Independent parties out of existence.

On the other hand, there are those Greeks who insist that the sad state of the United Independent Students party is no problem of theirs. They contend that the solidarity of the Greek bloc would be destroyed if the present political parties collapsed, and can see no way in which a change could improve the status of the Greeks, which is their primary interest.

We believe both of these groups are shortsighted. The important factor is the welfare of all the students of the University, not just the Greeks or the Independents.

Those who insist on an exclusively Independent party maintain that Independents would lose all their representation on the Senate under coalition parties. We cannot believe this would be true. Good candidates would be elected regardless of where they lived. In fact, coalition parties might put out additional effort to secure good candidates from all segments of the student population in order to broaden their vote-getting ability.

At the same time, we believe that a realignment would help the Greek houses by making all the good Greek candidates available to the ASUO, rather than cutting many of them out in the primary. We cannot subscribe to the theory that AGS does anything for the Greek houses now that IFC and Panhellenic could not do.

Certainly neither party represents Greeks as Greeks, or Independents as Independents, in the Senate. In the three and a half years we have been observing the Senate, we have seen only three or four straight party votes. All of them were on the selection of students to fill vacancies on the Senate.

The Senate has made no move to abolish the present two political parties, as has been charged, although it probably does have the power. We doubt if anyone who favors a realignment would object if a few students wished to stick with small all-Greek or all-Independent parties.

But such parties do not represent the wishes of the large majority of campus leaders.

## Drink Beer, Drink, Beer...

Fraternity beer drinking isn't so bad, after all.

That's the conclusion of an article in the Wisconsin Alumnus, a publication of the University of Wisconsin.

Actually, it's kind of disillusioning to students who have long objected to being forced to parade several blocks down 13th to get their beer, for they've heard—and told—many glorious tales about beer in the student union at Wisconsin. And now someone's been casting aspersions. What they don't hear is that beer ranks about number five on the list of most bought beverages at the Wisconsin SU—behind such favorite WCTU beverages as milk, coffee and coke.

The liberal attitude towards John Barley-corn even pervaded the Wisconsin Homecoming parade. Last fall one of the fraternities, obviously all tired out by the weekend's festivities, hired a truck for the parade. This in itself wasn't particularly unusual, but it seems that in the center of the truck was a keg of beer. The fraternity members accompanying the float took advantage of this,

naturally, and even went to the trouble of making a sign which read, "Win or Loose, We'll Still Booze."

The anti-beers charged that Langdon street was "almost a river with the boatloads of beer unloaded there." This outraged the Badger beer crew. They claimed that "a keg of beer to 50 couples at a party didn't even make a creek."

Even the dean of men came to the defense of the fraternities. He said that student beer drinking must be measured by student conduct, and that student beer drinking created no problems for his office. The district attorney concurred, saying that student arrests were few, and created no great problems.

They even considered what problems would arise if beer were forbidden on the campus. Beer would continue to flow, they recognized, either in off-campus parties or in the houses themselves. Any off-campus beer drinking would be likely to result in bad publicity and would be difficult to control. Instead of "no problems," university officials would be swamped with cases demanding disciplinary action.

The result? The students want to leave the beer situation as it stands...hardly surprising. We hope that the status quo of beer on the Wisconsin campus is unchanged. After all, what else would we have to compare Oregon's situation with spring term, now that our country cousins no longer have to have car parades to the nearest green front—Philomath? It would be downright disillusioning.—(S.R.)

## Shattered Illusions

It's been a hard week for those boyhood illusions. Of course, the Brink's case break-up is something that probably should be viewed with "mixed emotions," as the novelists say. Still, more than two million dollars and all insured—it was hard to keep from hoping down deep somewhere that they'd get away—like wishing that one of those two-bit western movie heroes would get knocked down and run over by his loyal horse just once.

But this is real life, so perhaps it's best after all that somebody "played stoolie" and gave a little honor to the FBI. The other matter, however, can not get off so easily.

So this brick-layer's daughter thinks that her position now is such that she can run off with the first castle owner that comes along, while deserting the millions of us brick-type American men. But if that's the way you want it, Miss Kelly, go ahead, forget us clean-cut American youths and our high aspirations. From now on you'll just be a skinny blonde. After all, Grace, what has he got that we haven't got?

(On second thought, look your billfold in the eye and say that.)—(C.H.M.)

## Footnotes

Not even the 1939 champions could break Oregon's segregated seating completely. Their wives sat in the same section, but were still separated.

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Overheard between two members of the Lane County Sheriff's posse at Saturday's game, "Say, Russ, I was watching those rally gals out there at halftime, and you know, if we could do that on horses..."

\* \* \* \* \*

Spring must have sprung last week: the Terrors of 15th St. were out flying model airplanes.

## Wisconsin Fireman



"NO-NO! TH' NEXT ONE — THAT ONE'S FULL O' BEER!"

## WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS AWAY

# Party Shift May Help Realization of Purposes

By Bud Hinkson  
ASUO President

There has been considerable discussion on campus lately on the subject of political realignment. Before we dive into this topic too deeply, let us glance for a moment at the purposes behind campus politics, and then see how we can best realize these purposes.

At Oregon, campus politics exists for several reasons, but there are probably three primary ones:

1. To elect the most capable student body officials.
2. To help the individual gain experience in political practice.
3. To provide an enjoyable interest for the student body.

Any proposed change then should attempt to improve upon these three points. The question at hand is: Can a better system be provided?

The alternative most frequently being discussed is the flexible multi-party system. Temporary parties would be formed around candidates for different offices. Although these parties may not attempt to fill an entire slate, they should certainly try to get as many groups participating as possible. After a few weeks of campaigning the general election would be held, with all candidates names and party affiliations appearing on a single ballot, and the voters then selecting the individuals desired.

The following year, an altogether different coalition may arise, depending upon the potential candidates that appear.

Now let us attempt to analyze this system in terms of our original criteria. There is some question whether this system will actually bring about the election of better candidates.

Certainly it would create more competition in some of the races. As it now stands, there is often very little or no competition in the UIS part of the open primary, while in the AGS party most positions are being contested. In the general election, with the two party system, student body president and class officer candidates are assured of a position even if they lose. With the multi-party system, however, candidates would be elected more on the basis of their own merit, than on their party affiliation.

As far as enabling us to practice politics, I think that the two party system is less realistic than its alternative. The supposed split between Greeks and Independents provides little basis for political alignment. The candidates make up the real differences, so why not base party structure upon different candidates? Not only would the amateur politicians have more freedom of action, but also the voters would have more opportunity to choose in the end.

It is hard to tell whether the proposed change would be more enjoyable than the present system but I have a tendency to think that it would. It would certainly be more colorful. With more opportunities to play politics, and more segments of our student body finding representation, the general interest is bound to increase. Then the system is something new, untried here at Oregon anyway, and new things also stimulate interest; although I don't suggest we change for this reason alone.

So all in all I think we're missing a bet if we fail to make the change; besides who knows, it may happen anyway.



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