

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Last Week's Agenda

If Thursday's ASUC Senate meeting was any indication, student government at the University is beginning to take on larger and more important problems than at any time in the recent past.

Many students in the past have maintained, with some justification, that student government has no real power, and that its accomplishments have been limited to filling vacancies and selecting chairmen for the various weekends. It often has seemed that the Senate was too absorbed in routine tasks to see the more important problems facing the University.

However, there is every indication that this situation is being remedied. A look at last week's Senate agenda bears out this theory.

The Senate considered the problem of the proposed closure of 13th St. and of the lack of parking facilities. No one will deny that both of these issues are of primary importance to the University at this time, and that failure to act on them now could result in a critical situation later. Since both these problems affect the students, the student Senate should certainly speak out.

The ASUC group also considered two plans for mock political conventions, one of which involves a number of Northwest schools, and a second which would be held only for University of Oregon students. Either would have a great educational value as would the Crusade for Freedom program and the Model United Nations convention at OSC, both of which have come to the Senate's attention recently.

One of the best indications that student government is realizing its potentialities, however, is the fact that the Senate felt it was completely qualified to discuss the movement for increases in the G.I. Bill.

Had the sentiment existed, the Senate would not have hesitated to take a stronger position. The important thing is that student government now appears to be willing to tackle anything that concerns the students in the University.

The Stakes Are Too High

(Editor's Note: In the light of the current discussion over a possible realignment of political parties and changes in the open primary setup, we reprint the following editorial from the Colorado Daily).

This week, the Greek population of the campus will meet in their chapter houses

and decide the method they will use in selecting their slate for ASUC elections.

Although affiliated students represent only approximately 30 per cent of the student body, past elections have showed they are a major political power. Therefore their decision this week will most likely determine the quality of future student governments.

The issue before the Greeks this week is whether they will choose their slate by direct popular primary elections or through a modified form of the present convention system. The Greeks can do a great service to themselves and to their fellow students if they choose the direct primary plan.

Should they choose the alternative convention plan, they will continue to harm themselves and the rest of the students.

Under the convention system as it now stands or as it could be modified, politics and political considerations, not honest, selfless desires for good government are too often paramount. Selection of candidates can be and has been made by small groups who have persuaded convention representatives to vote for their nominee in return for political favor.

Delegates to the primary convention often go in with little or no instructions for voting from their respective houses. This means the majority of Greeks have little or no voice at the primary.

Worse yet, a representative may go to the primary with instructions from his or her chapter, and then ignore instructions and vote for another nominee. The motives behind such a switch in voting are not actually important. They may be because of promise from one of the "persuasion" groups, or they may be because the chapter's choice suddenly turns out to be obviously second-rate. Either way, the instructed representative must vote according to his or her chapter's wishes.

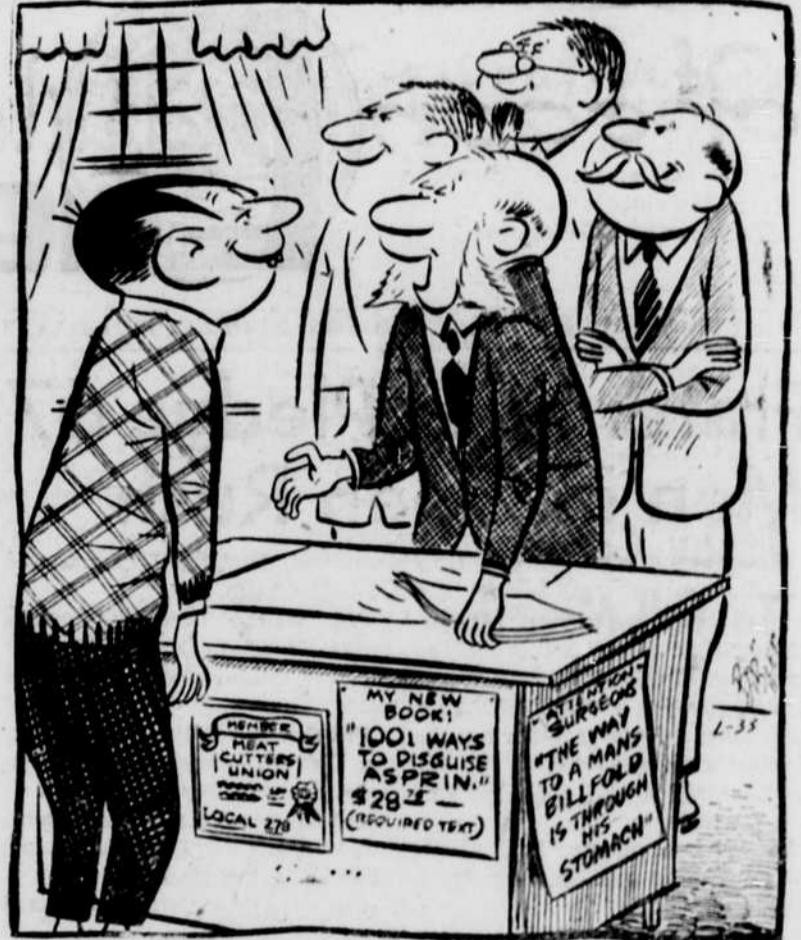
Then too, in the process of choosing the slate, nominees are defeated and dropped from consideration. Those delegates who were instructed to vote for such a nominee must make a new choice, and become prey for the "persuaders."

Under the direct primary system, none of these disadvantages exist. It is extremely difficult for any person to "buy" enough votes to elect his nominee. The selective process is taken from the politicians and given to the students and will be responsible to them—and not to the few politicians.

It is fun to play politics and have political machines and what-not. But the stakes are too high to make an entertaining game out of a serious business.

—From the Colorado Daily.

Admissions Test



"Congratulations—your written application for med school has been accepted. We couldn't read a word that you wrote."

GULLIVER'S TRIFLES

Eugene Businessman Lauds Campus Action

By Ken Kesey
Emerald Columnist

From my office in downtown Eugene, I have been following the 13th street discussions with avid interest. I think your plan to buy the street from the city is a fine one, and I especially like the idea of digging up the unsightly pavement of the street and seeding the strip in beautiful, luxuriant grass.

Your vast lawns has been one of two things that has pleased me most about your campus; the spacious green in front of Carson, the lovely quad, and countless other acres of untrod-den grass is a constant joy to my eye. I revel in its beauty. If fixates me. I only regret that other natural beauty spots are marred by the harsh sight of row upon row of cars parked on filthy pavement.

The parking lot, standing in sharp contrast across the street from the exquisite quad lawns, is outdone in ugliness only by the terribly nauseating parking lot next to the administration building. Both of these cement eyesores are constantly crammed with dirty cars and cast a tough, materialistic hue over the area which is completely out of keeping with the aesthetic wonderland of the rest of your campus.

These ugly lots should go the intended way of 13th street; lawn should abound where now only cement stands! (And, for Heaven's sake, don't let anyone talk you into turning the cement strip of 13th into a parking lot, no matter how convenient they might make it seem—it would be a deathblow to beauty!)

I suppose a university should have some parking space, but it should be for students who find it necessary to drive, such as the parking lot between Villard and Deady—large enough for 30 cars—is thoughtfully for handicapped students only (speech impediments), but normal students living near campus will have to either find other parking places—there is abundant space in Junction City or Goshen—or find other means of transportation.

The other thing that has always pleased me is the liberal use of yellow paint. Every time I revisit your campus I receive a pleasant surprise in finding new areas of otherwise drab curbing patriotically painted a lovely yellow. But it does infuriate me when I see some thoughtless person covering these golden curbs by parking in front of them, and bully for the noble policeman with the sharp eye and the quick tow-car.

The green of your great lawns and the ever-increasing yellow of your streets provide a background for your campus which is not only an ethereal masterpiece of beauty but also a stirring symbol of school colors, and I say, bully for them.

And don't, o campus officials, let the off-campus car drivers pressure you into changing this; beauty must not be ground beneath the mechanized heel of the auto industry! Car drivers must find other means.

Yours truly,
J. C. Feathernest
Pres. Eugene Taxi Lines

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Europeans Approach Unification Through Atomic Energy Pool

By J. M. Roberts
Of the Associated Press

Europeans, like Jean Monnet, who are resuming their efforts for unification, are making a very practical approach through atomic energy.

European unity took a beating when France repudiated her own idea of a European defense community with political overtones. The European Union finally evolved was bereft of surrenders of sovereignty and other steps toward unity beyond the military alliance with West Germany.

That left the coal and steel community as the only instrument of unity. Because of political troubles at home, Monnet resigned as head of the community, and there are signs that it is having its troubles without him.

The unity planners originally conceived of additional economic pacts similar to coal and steel

but more in the field of general business, as their next objective after coal and steel. But the emergence during the last year, under the Eisenhower plan, of cooperative development of atomic energy for peaceful uses, gave them an immediate new lever.

Europe, more than the United States, really needs atomic energy now.

Britain already has launched a long-term development program in an effort to overtake her power shortage and resume the industrial leadership she once enjoyed because of her coal, now depleted.

All Western Europe is in much the same position. Even West Germany and Britain are importing coal, and oil is becoming more and more important, and expensive, in European industry.

Monnet's committee for creating a United States of Europe

has seized this situation as a focal point at its current meeting.

If successful, they would consider it a major step toward unity. Indeed, it would be more fundamental in some ways than coal and steel, although the latter touches an old European problem-control of the basic materials for making war.

But the coal and steel community merely embraces industries which were established, pooling productions which were known factors.

An atomic energy pool would mean cooperation among the nations from the start of a new industry. They would be creating something which, for some of them, might be difficult if tackled alone, and the end result would come from a real community effort. It would be the sort of thing to give a great psychological as well as economic boost to the idea of union.



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