

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Wrong Way Corrigan

The AGS policy committee, or at least some of its members, have come up with the first definite proposal to reorganize the political system at the University. Unfortunately, they're gone off in the wrong direction.

The goal of any political system at the University should be to make the most qualified candidates available for student body president and vice-president each year.

The present system does not achieve this goal because it limits the final candidates to one from each of the two permanent parties. If both outstanding leaders happen to be Greeks, or both Independents, one is automatically eliminated in the primaries. When no issues are involved, as the case has been recently, this system is a definite handicap.

The AGS proposal only makes this situation worse. It not only reinforces the Greek-Independent party system, it defeats the whole purpose of proportional and minority representation.

The party that commands the majority of votes, even if its margin is only 51 per cent, automatically elects 19 men to the Senate under the AGS proposal. The ASUO president, vice-president and 12 class officers would all be elected under a straight majority vote. Only the senators-at-large would be elected under the preferential system. This means that the majority party would elect at least five of the nine senators.

The best that a majority party could do, if it received 49 per cent of the vote, would be four senators. No one can say that a 19-4 split is a fair representation of a 51-49 popular vote split.

Furthermore, the AGS proposal limits the contest to 18 candidates for senator-at-large, 9 from each party. This makes no provision for independent candidates or any other form of majority representation outside of the parties.

The backers of this plan are looking neither at a long-run solution or at the welfare of the University as a whole. In order

to achieve the goal in mind, any system must be flexible. This latest proposal is even more rigid than the one now in use.

No one can say with any reasonable assurance what the proportion of Greeks to Independents will be 10 years from now, although everyone has his own idea. In order to improve the system, any new plan must be flexible enough to allow the most qualified students to run, no matter where they live. This latest plan can only solidify and emphasize a Greek-Independent split.

We cannot believe that this proposal was well thought out before it was approved, or even that all the members of the AGS policy committee agree with it. The answer lies not in changing the voting system, but rather in changing the basis of the political parties.

Footnotes

We understand that the Johnson hall parking lot Monday night was completely filled, with the only empty spaces being the areas in front of the sidewalk leading to Johnson hall, in front of the Co-op loading entrance, and the president's and chancellor's private parking spaces. Every car was carefully parked completely within lines marking off the spaces. It couldn't have been more perfect.

Sign in the window across the hallway from Commonwealth 138 last week said Institute of Oregon Universities. Sign in boarding house next to PiKA house (neon, yet) says Iota Omega Upsilon (in Greek letters). Either way you spell it, it comes out IOU.

The American alibi for longtime poor showings at the winter Olympics — poor weather for training — will soon be no good if the Portland weathermen keep up their work.

Significant sound at the beginning of mid-term week: the SU chimes played "Nearer My God to Thee" Monday afternoon.

Short-Sheeted



"You know how fast he jumps into bed—well, last night we short-sheeted him."

BLUE MONDAY

Of Parties and Politics; A Change of Sentiment

By Scott McArthur
Emerald Columnist

OREGON'S SEN. WAYNE MORSE, for many years a law professor here, is known throughout the nation for his break with the Republican party in 1952. Oregon's other senator, Richard Neuberger, also an old Webfoot, is another former follower of the Republican political philosophy.

During the presidential campaign of 1932 Dick Neuberger was editor of the Oregon Daily Emerald—and he was a good one. The Emerald faithfully reflected the campus attitude on the hotly contested contest that was brewing between Hoover and Roosevelt. And even Emerald Editor Dick Neuberger entered the battle.

Neuberger's actions in the '32 campaign leave him eligible for membership in the "Ouch-But-My-Face-Is-a-Bright-Beet-Red" association. For, on page one of the Sat., Oct. 22, 1932 Emerald is the bylined article by Emerald editor Dick Neuberger—"Why I Will Vote for Hoover."

Oregon's present junior Democratic senator did not espouse the New Deal precepts as strongly in those days. Instead, he lambasted presidential candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt as being "vacillating . . . demagogic . . . and radical." And he wound up his argument by expressing his doubt at electing a man whom the nation might not be able to "trust."

In explaining the dual switch of politics of these two senators, the Republicans might attribute it to aging, and hardening of the mental arteries. The Democrats will probably relate it to aging and wisdom.

Anyway you look at it, we think it's funny.

LAST WEEK'S COLD SNAPS made Eugene's fuel dealers mighty happy men. And, despite icy sleeping porches and an occasional frozen radiator, the Oregon student body seemed fairly happy too. For the first time in several weeks it was possible to step off the sidewalk onto what passes in nicer weather for lawn without running the danger of losing a shoe. Campus wits had begun to refer to the quadrangle, between Chapman and the library, as "Muskeg Meadows." One was habitually pointed to a particularly marshy spot and related the sad tale of the unwary freshman who wandered, and sank from sight there three years before.

BUT WHILE THE WEATHER was cold, temperature around Fenton hall rose sharply as second-year law student Lloyd Weisensee filed a \$50 law suit against campus cop Rex Holcomb and the J & W Towing service for towing Weisensee's car from the Johnson hall parking lot Jan. 23. It goes to court this afternoon at 2:15.

We rather pity defendants Holcomb and the towing company. Weisensee has about 75 law students working on his side.

TODAY'S FILLER . . .

The Interstate Commerce Commission said recently that in 1954 the chief export of Washington, D.C. was baled waste paper. The ICC does not recognize hot air as a commodity.

TODAY'S QUOTE . . .

Graduate student of colleague: "He spends all his time trying to make people think he thinks."

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:
An Open Letter to Student-Veterans on Campus:

During the recent solicitation of signatures for the petition which indorses the Senate Bill which would increase veteran's allowances, many veterans expressed interest in forming a campus student-veteran organization.

Therefore (entirely separate from the petition program), a few veterans have acted to provide for the inception of such a group.

Reservations have been made with Student Union officials for a mass meeting of student-veterans in the Student Union Wednesday at 12 noon. Letters have been written to student-veteran organizations on other campuses . . . requesting copies of their charters and by-laws (which we can use as outlines) in addition to a resume of their activities and accomplishments. A very able and well-qualified member of the faculty has agreed to act as adviser to a student-veteran organization Leaflets, announcing the mass meeting, have been printed and will be distributed on campus and elsewhere this week.

All interested student-veterans are urged to attend this organizational meeting. Noon is admittedly an inconvenient meeting time . . . however, the only other time a satisfactory meeting place is available to us is in the evening . . . which would probably be a much more

inconvenient time for most Veterans. We, who are promoting this meeting, have agreed that the meeting should not be conducted unless at least 100 Veterans attend. (That means slightly more than 10 per cent of total Veteran-students on campus.)

Participation in the meeting will, of course, be restricted to veterans of the armed services now attending the University. Reporters and other interested parties are welcome to attend.

Jerry Smith
Lou Coffin
Bob Pfau
Duane Mootry
Bill Willis

P.S.: Veterans are requested to eat their lunches either before or after the Wednesday noon meeting . . . as a Student Union regulation forbids the eating of lunches on the second and third floors.

Emerald Editor:

The proposal that the Greeks are voting tonight in Chapter meetings is a very important one. For this reason we feel that there should be some thought put into it before the Greeks as individuals vote on it.

This plan would not be fair to the University students as a whole. If it were to go into effect as it is now, the minority party or group, would only be allowed four, or maybe five, members on the senate, out of the 24 senators there are on the student group.

We feel that the Greeks are trying to do something to improve the present system of student government, but this is not the answer. To be fair, any proposed change would allow a minority representation on the Senate. This will not happen under this proposal.

If the Greeks also look to the future when the campus is expected to grow, they will see another reason why this should be defeated. What will happen, if and when, the Greeks are in a minority? Under this system, the minority group would only manage to place up to five members on the Senate, and we don't think that the Greeks will go for this at all. The policy committee of the AGS is trying to do something, and they should be commended for it, but it looks to us like this was not carefully enough thought out.

Therefore we strongly suggest that the Greeks defeat this plan and send it back to the AGS with instructions to look into it and make some changes that will benefit the whole University. As Sally Jo Greig said at the AGS meeting last week "When you vote, look to see if your allegiance lies with the University or with the Greek party."

Martin Brandenfels
First Year Law Student
Senior Class President

Bud Hinkson
Senior in History
ASUO President.

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