

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Eng. 428, Sec. 6.1

Baby-Teethed By-Law

We are somewhat heartened by what seems to be forthcoming from the Interfraternity council this week. The council will vote on a by-law which opposes hazing and Hell Week, and calls for punishment in case of property destruction or "actions adversely affecting the fraternity system."

If it passes, all well and good. What still disturbs us is that article seven of the IFC by-laws, as revised in the spring of 1954, provides in part that "there shall be no form of initiation which subjects the initiate to public ridicule or which reflects discredit on fraternities." Following this is a provision that "the initiation ceremonies conducted by the fraternities must not interfere with the initiate's academic work." Finally, there is the provision that violations of the constitution shall be punished at the discretion of the tribunal.

It would seem to us that any form of hazing would be subjecting the initiate to ridicule. We admit, however, that not all such hazing is equally "public" as the current by-law makes provision for. It does reflect discredit upon not only the fraternities involved, but upon the whole fraternity system, including the sororities which manage to channel their initiation activities into more constructive paths.

And as for the provisions forbidding interference with the initiate's academic work, how can a lack of sleep which results in the initiates sleeping through classes be considered anything but an interference with his academic work? This does not even consider the time taken from his studies.

Either these provisions in the by-laws are very flexible or the tribunal has been very discretionary in punishing violations.

If this has been true in the past, we cannot see where the proposed by-law will tighten up the restrictions placed upon initiation procedure. It is an expression of opposition to all forms of hazing and pre-initiation activity by IFC as a group, and an expression which already has been challenged by several fraternity presidents on the grounds that IFC has no right to regulate initiation procedures unless destruction of property was involved. If IFC does not have the right to "provide such regulations as are designed to promote the best interest of the fraternities and their individual members with due regard for the

well-being of the University," as its constitution provides, just what powers does it have?

We hope that the proposed by-law is adopted, for we'd like to see this year's IFC go on record as approving the ideas the by-law contains. It's just that we'd like to see something more than babyteeth sunk into the problem.—(S.R.)

Come Out Fighting

Lincoln and Douglas set quite a precedent when they carried on their now-famous debate. Everybody seems to want to get in on the act these days.

The most recent verbal competition was waged by Oregon's U.S. Rep. Sam Coon and Sen. Richard Neuberger last fall over the merits of the John Day partnership bill, sponsored by Coon. They stumped all over the state, thoroughly discussed dams and kilowatts and settled nothing.

Now the challenges are flying thick and fast. Rep. Ellsworth wants to argue with Sen. Morse over the Cougar and Green Peter partnership proposals. Sen. Morse says no. Sen. Neuberger would like to talk about the Al Sarena case with Rep. Ellsworth. He says no, but adds that he would be glad to hash over the Green Peter-Cougar business. Sen. Neuberger says okay, but only if the Al Sarena matter is thrown in, too. Rep. Ellsworth isn't sure he'll buy that. Meanwhile, Charles O. Porter, Ellsworth's possible Demo foe this fall, wants to get into the game as well.

Political debates have become a good old American custom, but unlike apple pie, they probably are of dubious value—at least to the politicians. People who favor more government in business go back home after the debate—still favoring more government in business. Those who advocate more business in government return—still advocating more business in government. And the politicians, they just go home—tired.

But this is an election year, so go to your corners, men, and come out fighting.

—(J.C.R.)

Footnotes

It's a good thing that we know that is the State of Oregon flag flying on the flagpole. If we didn't know, we couldn't guess—the flag is that faded.



"Worthal, are you reading ahead of the class again?"

BLUE MONDAY

Own Office Characters Provide New Material

By Scott McArthur
Emerald Columnist

The good thing about the journalism racket is that when you run out of things to write about, you can always fall back on the characters in your own office.

For instance:

Each year the powers that be on the Oregon Daily Emerald make out what they call a "headline chart." On this big poster-sized hunk of cardboard are imprinted samples of headlines in various sizes, type faces, etc.

The Mamas who managed to force the high brass into closing our near-campus beer halls several years ago would probably fly into another tizzy if they could view the text of some of the Emerald's "sample" headlines.

We name no names, but the author of these short journalistic gems sure must have had a time of it.

There's more truth than fiction in the one that reads:

"PORTLAND STATE OPENS EXTENSION IN EUGENE."

The licentious is hinted in the headline that reads:

"FLASHBULB GOES OFF IN CEMETERY; UO MALES AWAIT EXTORTION LETTERS."

A laughing compliment is paid to campus officialdom by two headlines:

"GOLDA SPIKES MOTHERS TEA."

and

"FROSH MEN PICKET EARL HOUSEMOTHER."

Come to think of it—we think we'll save the rest and add them

to our "shorties" in each week's column. We will, that is, if some of our narrow-minded friends don't picket US instead.

And talking about narrow minds—we're still wondering about the rejection of the University of Oregon exchange assembly by the high brass of the Portland public school district. The boys in the celluloid lars in the ivy towers of the city's schools decided that offerings of the students of the state university would endanger the morals of their youth charges.

The cast of this year's exchange assembly, some members of which will themselves be teaching before long, has the right to feel mighty insulted. For, while newspapers scream stories of high school parties and beer busts, the moss-backed educators of Multnomah county turn down the UO exchange assembly, perhaps one of the greatest recruiting devices the University has ever fostered.

If this typifies the attitude of the administrators of today's public schools, we can hardly wonder at the reluctance of the college student to enter the field of education.

WISH IT WERE TRUE DEPARTMENT

Headline in the Los Angeles Times: "College Official Taken in Theft." (Editor & Publisher.)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Frustrated underclassman: "If I spent as much time worrying about my classes as I do about the draft, I'd have a straight 4.00."

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Doctors' Terms Lead More People To Assume That Ike Will Run Again

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

A good many people, on the basis of what the doctors had to say, are assuming now that President Eisenhower will seek a second term.

Indeed, the terms in which the doctors spoke—and bearing in mind that they had been talking to Eisenhower about the very point—are hardly those which would have been used if they had any inkling he would not run.

Dr. Paul White's reference to the possibility that the President would make himself clear about the intensity or lack of intensity of the campaign he would conduct seems strongly indicative.

Of course, a lot of people have become conditioned to think of the President's decision as being based entirely on his health. However, even before his attack, he had carefully refrained from any public indication of whether he would run.

On Monday the odds seemed to be that the President would not gamble on the possibility of being able to carry through another term.

On Tuesday the doctors went further than had been expected. The good report on the President's condition was not surprising. Then, at their news conference, they were finally led by questioners into a comparison of the President's capacity for work with the requirements of the presidency. OK, they said.

There was jubilation in the Republican camp and in the business community despite the repeated assertion of the doctors that the President's decision would be personal.

Eisenhower himself had said that he would probably rely more on his own feelings than on the medical report.

He had applied this specifically to whether he felt he could carry on the world's heaviest job "effeciently."

The doctors said he could carry on for "five or ten years" at the rate of the last five weeks. Press secretary Hagerty indicated the rate was quite heavy insofar as business was concerned, with any reduction from normal being largely on the social side. But whether the President considers this rate "efficient" will be one of the things he ponders while away from the White House.

Taken all together, the President's public statements on the subject since his illness have seemed on the negative side.

The apparent shift to the positive may be there because he was trying to get an indication from the doctors about what he couldn't do, and accepted in good humor their decision that he could if he wanted to. It may not be truly indicative.

But the odds have certainly shifted.

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