

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Parkas, Sarongs And Politics

National politics were fun here in the spring of 1952, and 1200 University of Oregon students learned an immeasurable amount about the workings of our country's political system.

The ASUO has tentatively decided to repeat the mock political convention responsible for all the fun and education this spring, but the final decision is up to the students.

Here's how the 1952 convention worked:

The various living organizations represented different states, voting and performing as the actual delegates from those states would be expected to do. The Republican party convention was adapted; the 1956 convention would probably be Democratic, unless President Eisenhower announces definitely that he won't run by that time.

A keynote speaker was brought in—then-Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska—and he was escorted to the campus from the railroad station in a special parade. In his speech Gov. Peterson flailed away at the Democrats, saying that the Truman administration was marked by "incompetence, corruption, five per-centers, mink coats, scandals, influence peddlers, Gen. Vaughn, a letter-writer and other impediments not necessary to mention."

The convention nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower on the second ballot, after heading off a Warren movement started as a desperation move by Taft supporters. The platform adopted at the convention included statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, civil rights legislation, international control of armaments, repeal or revision of the Taft-Hartley act, and many other planks.

Educational and informative, certainly. But it was more than that. Student delegations didn't lose the chance to push the states or territories they represented.

Delegates from Alaska wore fur-trimmed parkas, those from Hawaii had cotton print sarongs, Texas delegates had high-heeled boots, jeans and stetsons.

They got Gov. Peterson into the act, too. Georgia presented him with a blossoming peach-bough, Florida gave him an orange, Kentucky came through with a mint julep and the honorary title of Kentucky colonel.

Maryland, knowing that politicians were interested in kissing babies, presented him with a luscious brunette. This led convention

chairman Marko Haggard to express the hope that he would "receive a delegation from the Virgin Islands."

Waldo, the Theta Chi's publicity-hungry dog, appeared on stage decorated with Taft signs and others proclaiming that the "Democrats were going to the dogs."

The only sour note came from the fire marshal, who objected to the clouds of cigar smoke going up from the politicians, including the University's director of student affairs.

The fun and the education were obviously present. What wasn't so obvious was the great amount of hard work that had gone into the convention. This is the reason the students will have to show an enthusiastic interest in the project this year.

The convention will be held if enough students make their enthusiasm known.

Mechanized Thank You

The machine age is really upon us. Now the Post Office department has come up with a gadget that not only sells stamps, but also says, "Thank You."

We've heard of machines that solved mathematical problems, pitched baseballs, and served hot meals, but never one that expressed gratitude. In this case, the thanks is rather expensive, however. The machine costs \$4,000.

When you think about it, though, you must admit that man is really kind of an ingenious sort of human. Give him a few scraps of metal and other odds and ends and before long he has built himself a reciprocating engine or an automatic toaster. In fact, man is almost to the stage where he has machines building his machines.

Right now, however, we'll settle for one that says, "You're Welcome." —(J.C.R.)

Footnotes

First presidents rank first, evidently, at least with the post office. Mail was delivered on Lincoln's birthday, but not on Washington's.

* * *

Credit assembly speaker John Mason Brown with coining an apt new word: McCarthywasm.

* * *

Bye-bye bang bang... what better way to herald the end of the mechanized noise parade? Back to spirit and lung power!

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde



Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

An Open Letter to Veteran-Students:

My being actively engaged in the promotion of the veteran-student organization (which will be formed this week), immediately after promoting the veterans-pay-increase petition, has given many people the mistaken impression that the two projects are related. Actually, the only similarity lies in the fact that both concern veteran-students. However, just as some of the veterans who favored the petition program are opposed to a veteran student organization, the reverse is also true. In fact at least one veteran who was openly opposed to the petition is (and has been) actively supporting the organizational plans.

It has been charged that organizational efforts have been hampered by a lack of specific reasons and purposes for a veteran-student organization. This is not true. The simple truth is that specific aims of the group will not be announced until the group has been formally organized. Actually, each and every veteran will have his own individual reasons for being a member of the organization. I have various reasons myself... some of which are shared by others and others which are not. But the ultimate aims, activities, and accomplishments of the group will be determined by a democratic majority of the membership. It's also true that as an organized group we can help ourselves, our school and our community much more effectively than as un-organized individuals. So, whether you're an introvert or

extrovert, pessimist or optimist, political aspirant or socialite, or just a plain "old soldier", I urge you to attend the "charter meeting" which will be held in the Student Union Tuesday at 1 p.m.

In conclusion, please understand that the above views are strictly my own and do not necessarily represent those of any other persons.

Jerry Smith
Student

P.S. Also for the purpose of clarity: the question of whether or not veteran-students should or should not organize will not be debated at the charter meeting. That has already been decided.

From the Files

Feb. 27, 1951

The ASUO Executive committee discussed the existence of bad taste in student entertainment at its meeting last night. One student was banned from public appearances for off-color entertainment.

Feb. 27, 1946

150 World War II veterans met yesterday to disapprove possible plans to establish a non-co-educational institution in Klamath Falls barracks for returning veterans. They said the money could be better spent at existing institutions.

Feb. 27, 1936

Dr. Fred N. Miller, head of the University health service, has urged all students to come to the infirmary for a health check, in light of five cases of German measles which have been reported on the campus.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

U. S. Wealth, Strength Thrust It Into Leadership Position

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

There can be a great difference between being a leader and merely being in a position of leadership.

The United States, because of its wealth and strength, has been thrust into the not-wholly-welcome position of leadership of the free world.

That leadership has come to a relatively young nation, not yet fully disciplined even to its own concepts of the character is should display. This causes confusion among peoples with whom she is trying to cooperate.

In addition to trying to mediate the colonial concepts of nations which already are her allies, the United States is also going to have to heal some of her own weaknesses. Otherwise she cannot gain the trust of the underdeveloped peoples whom she wishes for allies.

The continued display of deep racial prejudices in the United

States has an important effect on peoples the West are trying to influence, most of whom are not white. Any conversation with a member of any Eastern race is likely to be switched to that topic at any moment. Perhaps no Communist talking point has received a better hearing among those peoples.

When an Indian ambassador is subjected to the segregation law of an American state even by mistake, a hard-to-erase doubt is established among the world's colored peoples as to the sincerity of American protestations of working in their behalf.

They will not take steps which could possibly lead them into a hegemony where they might be subjected to more of the prejudice and condescension which they have suffered from Europeans in the past.

This has led, and can lead again, to a preference for the Russian unknown, which makes

such a success of keeping its racial skeletons in the closet while proffering brotherhood to the inexperienced.

The white man has paraded his idea of superiority throughout the earth. His missionaries have sought to win people from religions, some of them very good religions, far older than his. His doctors have increased populations through sanitary measures without providing enough additional bread. He has offered new political goals without providing the basis of attainment. He has created unrest without consistently thinking out the measures for satisfying it.

For such good as the white man has done he has taken full pay through commerce which frequently has amounted to outright exploitation. To most orientals the white man's name is oppression, and he is now required to do something about living it down.

oregon daily EMERALD

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published five days a week during the school year, except Feb. 13, Feb. 23 and during examination and vacation periods, by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year; \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or the University. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor; initialed editorials by members of the editorial board.

GORDON RICE, Editor
SALLY RYAN, Editorial Page Editor
SAM VAHEY, Managing Editor
JERRY CLAUSSEN, BOB ROBINSON, ANNE HILL, JOE RIGERT, Associate Editors
JOAN RAINVILLE, Business Manager
JIM CARTER, LAURA MORRIS, Co-Advertising Managers
ANNE RITCHEY, News Editor
CHUCK MITCHELMORE, Sports Editor
EDITORIAL BOARD: Gordon Rice, Jerry Claussen, Chuck Mitchelemore, Anne Ritchey, Bob Robinson, Sally Ryan, Sam Vahey, Anne Hill, Joe Rigert.
Ass't Managing Editor: Marcia Matney
Ass't News Editors: Al Johnson, Bill Mainwaring, Loreta Meyer, Cornelia Fogle
Feature Editor: Carol Craig
Women's Editor: Cay Mundorff
Photo Editor: Brant Ducey
NANCY SHAW, Office Manager
ARLENE KRAUSS, Nat'l Adv. Mgr.
Ass't Sports Editor: Jack Wilson
Classified Adv. Mgr. Pat Cushnie
Ass't Office Mgr.: Becky Towler
Circulation Mgr. Jim Larimore
Executive Secretary: Geri Goebel