

Emerald Editorials

Jolt in the Pocketbook

University of Oregon students got another jolt in the pocketbook Thursday night when the ASUO Senate voted to charge a dollar a term for student parking stickers.

No one is sure yet whether persons can be charged for parking on state land, but the University has requested an opinion from the state attorney general on the matter. If he says that the University does have that power, drivers can plan on paying another dollar at spring term registration.

Actually this dollar won't entitle them to a parking spot, but only to a chance to face for a spot with every other driver who buys a sticker. The Fiji lot, the Emerald hall lot and the Villard lot across 11th St., will be open only to cars with University stickers.

This plan may bring some relief for overcrowded parking facilities by preventing non-students and non-faculty members from parking in these three lots. However, the whole plan will be a dismal flop, and those who buy stickers will have a legitimate gripe, if the regulations aren't well-enforced.

Hit-or-miss enforcement of the new regulations could very well destroy the desire of students to work for an eventual complete solution of the parking problem on campus. A "what's-the-use" attitude on the part of the students will cause a lot more problems for the student court and the physical plant in the long run than strict enforcement.

Sheepskin Armament

A college education, we have been told, is a valuable asset these days. Armed with a sheepskin that says "You have completed the requirements,—," a man or woman supposedly can go out into the world after four years at Oregon or Wisconsin or Texas with full confidence of being a success in life.

The rest of the world outside is supposedly hungrily awaiting June when some 400,000 college graduates walk off the campuses for the last time. Each man and woman is then a valuable commodity on the open market, with a chance of being sold to the highest bidder.

Each person has his own goals. One may want to be a business executive with a oak-paneled office. Another may have hopes of being a football coach. Many have their sights on the professions — law, medicine, journalism. Different fields pay a wide range in salaries, an important consideration despite "devotion" to the work.

How much are you going to be worth to a prospective employer after 16 years of school, at least the last two in concentrated professional training? The average starting pay for graduates is about \$350 a month, but this varies from nearly \$400 for engineers to only about \$250 for teachers and newspaper reporters.

Most business fields pay about the same to a trained college graduate just starting a career. The average is about \$330 a month, a pretty good living wage even in these times. Of course one can go about as high as he wants to work for after that, no matter what the field is.

Many people without a college education have been successes in this world. But that is pretty much passe and the chances are much better now for the specialists, those that have had higher educations.

To many, college is just a big four-year ball, a chance to have fun at the "Country Club" away from the nosy folks. But don't forget that a college education is basically an economic asset, whose value will be determined by the effort and skill shown in school.—(J.C.)



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 JOAN RAINVILLE, Business Manager

SALLY RYAN, Editorial Page Editor JIM CARTER, LAURA MORRIS,

SAM VAHEY, Managing Editor Co-Advertising Managers

JERRY CLAUSSEN, BOB ROBINSON, ANNE HILL, JOE RIGERT, Associate Editors

ANNE RITCHEY, News Editor NANCY SHAW, Office Manager

CHUCK MITCHELMORE, Sports Editor ARLENE KRAUSS, Nat'l. Adv. Mgr.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Gordon Rice, Jerry Claussen, Chuck Mitchelmore, Anne Ritchey, Bob Robinson, Sally Ryan, Sam Vahey, Anne Hill, Joe Rigert.

Ass't Managing Editor: Marcia Mauney
Ass't News Editors: Al Johnson, Bill Mainwaring, Loretta Meyer, Cornelia Fogle
Feature Editor: Carol Craig
Women's Editor: Cay Mundorff
Photo Editor: Brant Ducey
Ass't Sports Editor: Jack Wilson
Classified Adv. Mgr.: Pat Cushman
Ass't Office Mgr.: Becky Towler
Circulation Mgr.: Jim Larimore
Executive Secretary: Geri Goebel

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

The undersigned hereby propose the following change in the method of electing the officers of the A.S.U.O. and the classes:

1. Candidates for office in the final elections for student body and class offices shall not be chosen by primary election, nor shall they be required to run for office under the banners of either the Associated Greek Students or the Independent party.

2. A person shall announce his candidacy by filing a petition for the office desired in the A.S.U.O. office at a designated time prior to the date of the final election. Such person may file either as a non-partisan or as a member of a party.

3. If a person or group of persons wish to form a party, it shall be done in the following manner. Any person who files for any position may, if he chooses, state on his petition that he is also filing for a party name, as for example the "Peon" party. The person who first files for any party name shall thereafter control the persons who may run under that party name. To continue with the same example, if another candidate for the same or a different office chooses not to run on the same ticket with the person who filed for the "Peon" party name, he may file for a different name, such as the "Millrace" party. In this manner, any candidates who wish to run together may all become members of the same political party.

4. On the ballot, if a person is a member of a party, his party shall be designated after his name on the ballot, and if he is not a member of a party, he shall be listed as a non-partisan.

5. These parties will change from year to year, and the membership of the parties may be chosen from persons who are presently members of the U.S. and A.G.S. parties. The preferential system of voting shall be continued in its present form. However, it may be advisable to have a preliminary run-off for the presidential offices if there are too many candidates.

The foregoing is not intended to be an exhaustive treatment of the proposal herein advocated, and the undersigned are open to questions, or to any suggestions which would improve the working of the system as briefly outlined. However, this proposal is the result of many hours of consideration and discussion by the undersigned, who feel that there is need for a change from the present party alignment and method of election, for the reasons listed below.

1. Under the present system, in which U.S. and A.G.S. dominate the political scene, two persons whose choice of living organizations has placed them in the same party are prevented from running in the same office in the final election, unless the person who loses in the primary runs as an "independent," thus incurring the wrath of the other members of his party. Also, except in rare cases, it is unlikely that he will be elected because of the inclination of many students on the campus to "vote the straight party ticket."

2. We feel that the combination of the two-party system and the primary election are in some degree responsible for the existing apathy of the students toward campus activities generally. We base this conclusion on two grounds. First, the lack of interest on the part of students toward campus activities became noticeable shortly after the advent of the primary elec-

tions on this campus. Secondly, under the present system, there is nothing to excite the students generally in the elections. Under the present system, political activity on the part of the students is confined to marking an X on his ballot twice each year, at the primary and the general elections. There are no speeches (or very few), no real campaigns, and no agreements between candidates to get votes for each other.

In recent years, the general elections have been virtually "no contest," with the A.G.S. so certain of victory that there was no need for its candidates to campaign, and consequently no appreciable interest on the part of the students in the outcome of the elections. We feel that student interest in elections is one of the first steps on the road to return of student interest in campus activities.

3. The present division of parties along Greek v. independent lines is fictional, and not truly representative of the actual basis upon which candidates for political office should be elected. The same factors motivate the candidates for office from each of the two parties, namely a desire to serve the University and to participate in campus activities, and a desire for personal recognition. The parties should be aligned and the votes cast in a manner that reflects this. A student should be allowed to support a particular candidate because he believes that he is the best man for the job, not because the candidate is running on the A.G.S. or the U.S. ticket.

Actually, even the present parties have no other aims or purposes than to get the candidates elected. Why then should not the parties be organized on the basis that the party-members want its candidates to win, rather than on the basis that the members of one party live in fraternal organizations, while those of the other party do not.

Other than choice of living organizations, there is no basis for distinguishing between the two present parties. This becomes obvious when the parties seek to form their platforms.

Anyone who is familiar with campus politics will remember the struggles for issues in which the parties engage each year. The formation of a party platform under the present system is not a statement of the principles and beliefs of the members of the parties. Rather, it is a search for some idea, any idea, which the other party has not already advocated. The feeble attempts of the parties to find issues in recent years reminds one of little boys playing cowboy, who like to pretend that their cap pistols are "real guns."

4. We do not believe that the present division of parties is healthful for the university, or for inter-personal relations between those who live in Greek houses and those who do not.

We realize that arguments can be made in opposition to the plan set out above, and there are some who feel that the change proposed herein is not a cure-all. However, we have so far been left unconvinced by the arguments advanced by these persons.

One such argument is that the proposed system would lead to "smoke-filled rooms" and to "deals" between the candidates. We admit this. However, agreements between candidates are not harmful in and of themselves. They are only bad when one of the parties to the agreement seeks to impose his will

upon the others and to force their co-operation. Such methods are ineffective under a voting system where each individual is free to cast his ballot as he sees fit. We can see no reason why candidates should not be allowed to join forces for mutual support, or even encouraged to do so. In fact, we feel that if coalition parties did arise, they would tend to promote student interest in the elections, and thus have a beneficial effect.

It is also argued that under the system advocated above, one of the existing parties could band together and sweep the elections while the other was split up. If such a situation were to arise, there would be nothing to prevent the other candidates also banding together so as to present an organized front. In order to prevent a last-minute switch back to the present party lines, a meeting could be held on the last day of petitioning at which the student-body president could require each candidate to declare his party. If it became apparent at such time that certain candidates were attempting to follow the present party lines, and that they would thereby gain excessive power, the other candidates could unite against them. After the meeting closed, no changes would be permitted.

We do not claim that the plan herein proposed is a cure-all. However, we do believe that it is fairer to the individual candidates than the present system, and that its adoption would benefit the University and the students as a whole.

John Whitty,
Graduate student
representative
3rd year law
Martin Brandenfels,
Senior Class Pres.,
1st year law
Sam Vahey
ASUO Vice-Pres.,
Senior in business
Darrel Brittsan
Senator-at-large,
Jr. in pre-law
Bud Hinkson
ASUO Pres.,
Senior in history
Doug Basham
Junior Class Pres.,
Jr. in pre-med.

From the Files

Feb. 28, 1951

Phi Kappa Sigma yesterday petitioned to rejoin AGS, leaving a United Students association coalition party which it helped organize three years ago. President of the fraternity said that "all Greek houses should be united on the campus in as many ways as possible."

Feb. 28, 1946

Dean Ellis Lawrence, dean of the school of architecture and allied arts, died late last night. He designed the following campus buildings: Susan Campbell hall, Hendricks hall, John Straub hall, Gerlinger hall, the main library, the museum of Oriental art, Condon hall, Chapman hall, the school of music building, the infirmary, the men's gymnasium, McArthur court, and the east side bleachers at Hayward field.

Feb. 28, 1936

Eric W. Allen, dean of the journalism school, has announced that the printing press upon which the first paper west of the Rockies was published, has been restored in the school of journalism press room. The press was brought around Cape Horn in 1846. (This press is now in display in the main hall of Allen hall.)