

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS +

## Status As a Student

Extra-curricular activities sometimes make up an important part of the Oregon college student's career. Any student who participates in activities runs one risk, however. He may not make his grades.

Since a person supposedly attends college for academic reasons, certain precautions have been taken to ensure the above situation from happening.

In the catalog annually put out by the University, rules governing eligibility of the student who is an officer in activities are listed as follows (page 82):

"a. A student must be currently enrolled as a regular student in good standing, carrying at least 12 term hours of work.

"b. A student must have completed at least 12 term hours of work with at least a 2.0 GPA during his last previous term in the University.

"c. A student must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.0.

If a student who is an officer of an organization fails to make a 2.0 GPA for a term, the responsibility for checking his grades and electing someone to replace him is up to the individual student and the organization of which he is president. The office of Student Affairs does not check grades of officers in organizations.

Such cases do not necessarily come up before the office of student affairs; the student automatically steps aside. If such a case is brought to the attention of student affairs, as was done this week, student affairs will rule on the case.

Reasoning behind such rules is that if a student is sacrificing grades for activities, then he should give up his activities to concentrate on raising his grades to the required level.

Or as Donald DuShane, chairman of the committee on student affairs, a committee

composed of both faculty members and students and activities says, these rules "defend a student's status as a student."

—(A.H.)

## Liberals vs. Conservatives

Political rumors seldom merit more than a raised eyebrow or shrug of the shoulders. But the latest rumblings from inside the nation's capital may augur things to come, and soon.

We have in mind the recent talk of a split in the Democratic party. Inside sources (journalese for someone who talked, but not for print) indicate that the liberal wing of the party would like to cast off the yoke of the Southern conservatives and go it alone. Meanwhile, the Southerners appear just as anxious to shake loose from the Northern liberals.

A split within the party before the 1956 elections most likely would be disastrous to the Democratic candidate for president, be he Stevenson, Kefauver or the ghost of Thomas Jefferson. But such would not be the case in 1960. President Eisenhower will not be on the ticket then, and the Democrats should be in a most favorable position.

A divorce from the Southern wing certainly would give the Northerners more freedom in the formulation of a platform and choice of candidates. They could hit the civil rights issue hard and capitalize on the increasing number of Negro votes. They would not be bothered by the conservative monetary leanings of the Southerners.

It will be interesting to see what develops within the party before election time. Will the liberals sacrifice principle for a compromise and seek victory in 1956, or will they look ahead to 1960 and apparently concede to the Republicans this year? Or will the Southerners make the decision for them?

—(J.C.R.)

## Into the Vaults



"OK, YOU PLEDGES'—IT'S TIME FOR BED!"

## WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS AWAY

## Greeks to Determine Political Structure

By Bud Hinkson  
ASUO President

Today at 4 p.m. at Kappa Alpha Theta, the future structure of campus politics will be determined. The representatives of AGS are supposedly to decide on whether or not to maintain the two party system.

As it appears, an affirmative vote would lead to disbanding of the organization, but it is quite apparent that such a vote would also bring about the installation of the controversial multi-party system.

The real question at stake then, is whether to continue with the Greek and independent parties or to use a plan in which parties form around candidates, and in which the individual is elected on basis of merit rather than upon party affiliation.

Aside from the increased advantage to the candidates and fairness to the voter, from where I sit the multi-party system will also improve campus unity. With deferred living causing freshmen to become well acquainted with both independents and Greeks in their class, the artificial social lines which have been drawn between the two groups, has almost entirely disappeared. Today many thoughtful fraternity and sorority members are hesitant to vote for Greek candidates just because they are Greeks. More and more students appear to be in favor of selecting the person then adopt a system which could stimulate this and elimi-

nate the artificiality of the present program.

One of the criticisms which has been directed toward the multi-party system in the injury it might cause to Greek unity. The various Greek living organizations at Oregon have been competing against each other for years.

Would those who are concerned for the unity likewise propose the abolition intra-mural program? Should they eliminate fraternity rushing because the houses are going to compete with one another?

There is more animosity caused between Greeks by the present system than would be under the more flexible multi-party program.

If for example a Beta defeats an ATO in the AGS primary, there is considerable resentment when the ATO's supporters must vote for a person they once opposed, rather than support their candidate to the finish.

Many Greeks claim that the fraternity system skims the cream off the freshman talent. If there is any truth in this assumption these same people should be willing to allow any Greek candidates to compete on the basis of merit, with any on basis of his merit. Why not, other candidates which appear.

It is a fairly well calculated estimate that the proposed change would improve the simplicity and interest in campus politics.

My opinion is to give the multi-party system a chance. If it doesn't prove itself, it would be easy enough to change back. However, I am convinced that no additional changes would be necessary.

## Letters to the Editor

**Emerald Editor:**

**Open Letter to Don Bonime:**

I was quite concerned when I had read your letter to the editor in Wednesday's Emerald; and I would like to correct one erroneous statement which you made, and then ask you some questions.

First, you stated, "They (independents) outnumber us; they live in structures similar to those of the Greeks..."

Both of these assertions are wrong. Independents do not outnumber Greeks. In the entire University, considering freshmen who live in the dorms, the Greek populace about equals the independent populace. On the campus, the number of Greeks far exceeds the number of independents. This information is from Don DuShane, director of student affairs.

Secondly, we don't live in the same kind of structures, with the exception of five co-ops and one independent sorority. Do you consider the Straub dorms as the same kind of structure as the fraternity house? In many cases, the residents of the same dorm don't even eat around the same table. And can our married student housing projects be called the same as Greek structures? And can the individual home of the off-campus student in Springfield be considered the same as the 40 to 50 member-capacity fraternities and sororities? The answer is no in every case. The fact is that the majority of independent students are not organized in any way, socially, or politically.

Now, may I ask you some pertinent questions?

No. 1. Who, of the signers of the proposal to do away with the existing political alignment, can you call an "opportunist"? Certainly not Hinkson, he's already student body president, and will graduate this year. Certainly not Whitty, he's almost ready to graduate from law school, and is already the graduate member on the senate. Certainly not Brandenfels. He's going into the Army after spring term, and is already senior class president. Certainly not me. I'm a senior, and already student body vice-president. Perhaps Brittsan or Basham. But you'll agree that both of them are pretty well figured to oppose each other for student body president, anyway.

2. And how can you call those same people "rebels"? Rebels from what? Certainly not student government. Among them you have the student body president and vice-president, senior and junior class president, graduate representative, and first senator at large. If anyone is close to the student government scene, they are, wouldn't you say?

And whether you realize it or not, these same rebels and opportunists are the same guys that have given the Greeks the "untarnished and impressive" record which you mentioned in your same letter. If such outstanding men are rebels and opportunists, God give us more of them.

3. You say, "if you are truly a GREEK, ... vote to keep AGS, as a unified bloc... Wednesday night, at your house, this issue will be decided—Face it squarely and live up to all that your pin and house signifies!"

Is it a part of the meaning behind your pin and your ritual that you vote for anything which is Greek, regardless of its individual merits? Do all Greek houses, fraternities and sororities have the same aim?

4. Will you agree that it is best for the University to have the most qualified and able student leaders? Will you agree that the quality and ability of a candidate depend upon his individual merits, and not upon which living organization he belongs to? Therefore, shouldn't the parties be built around the candidate and his merits, rather than his living organization?

5. In closing, I have one more question for you. Can you name one instance in the last two years on which the ASUO senate has voted straight party line, Greek vs. independent? You can't, because there hasn't been such an instance.

The alignment of political parties around Greek and independent living organizations is as superficial and silly as an alignment around blondes and red-heads. The parties should be flexible: able to change with the different situations and candidates which arise each year.

Members on the ASUO senate should be designated before anything else, as students of the University of Oregon, not designated as Greeks or as independents. This is why our political parties should not be organized around such a meaningless distinction as Greek or independent living organizations.

**Sam Vahey**  
ASUO Vice-President and Senior in Business Administration.



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