

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

'Foolish Business'

Adlai Stevenson's comments about the direct primary Tuesday night to the Emerald were somewhat surprising. He declared that it was "foolish business" in light of the fact that most candidates simply do not have the time it takes to go out and get votes so early in the year. And he added that under the present system the primary has little real significance because only about 25 per cent of the people vote.

In saying this, Stevenson reflected the beliefs of many politicians. Former President Truman has called primaries "eyewash." Others view it just as dimly. We think that the Democratic presidential candidate was being realistic, but was he showing political wisdom? It's true that the present disjointed system of primaries in the United States can hardly give an accurate indication of the popular will in regard to one candidate or another. Some states have them and some do not. The candidates therefore pick out key states and use them as prestige builders in hopes that they will thereby gain additional support in the national convention. Kefauver and Stevenson chose Minnesota, Oregon, Florida and California, among others to accomplish this purpose.

Was Stevenson wise in debunking the primary? The people like to think that they are responsible for the selection of the winning candidate. They distrust anything too far removed from their control. And to them, the national convention is in this category. Stevenson may not like the primary in its ineffective present status, but he realizes that the prestige factor is important enough to warrant considerable effort on his part to attract votes.

We note that he was much milder Wednesday morning when he was asked the same question. Then he said that he approved of the opportunity primaries provide for the candidate to listen as well as talk. This is hardly a sound endorsement of the present system. Neither is it critical of it.

Stevenson could hardly be blamed for his attitude Tuesday night. He had just spent 30 minutes shaking hands. He had been barnstorming about the country for weeks in pursuit of favorable public opinion. And when it's all over he still won't know where he stands. The real test will be in the national convention.

We agree with the former governor of Illinois. Until a national direct primary is installed in every state, the system is little more than "foolish business."—(J.C.R.)

Letter to the Gods

(Editor's Note: Laugh if you will at the editorial which follows, but occasionally it has been answered. Not wanting to offend the Gods this year, the Emerald offers the following prayer for good Junior Weekend weather. It was originally composed May 6, 1941, and has worked (sometimes) ever since. The author is Aaron (Buck) Buchwach.)

When the occasion demands, and in truth it has on numerous occasions, the Portland Oregonian and the Oregon Journal have resorted to their editorial columns in an attempt to influence weather conditions.

Now, there is no exact procedure for a journalist to follow when he is begging for rain for poor farmers gazing at the sky with parched throats, for verily, it takes a combination of subtle demanding, varied pleading and good-natured hoping to achieve the desired results.

The Emerald, although it adolescently blushes when compared to such time-honored organs as the Oregonian and Journal, is driven to adopt such tactics, however, by

Jupe Pluvius, that old gentleman who loves the Oregon country so well and so much that he delights in spraying it often and thoroughly — especially when asked by the Portland papers.

But now, Mr. Pluvius, the Emerald asks you politely, but firmly, to shift your schedule in such a manner so as not to spoil our Junior Weekend. The farmers have had their misty blessings, and the Oregonian and the Journal have received their just due, and the city pavements, too, are washed clean by the sweet Oregon mist. What the University asks now is for you, Mr. Pluvius, to rest on your laurels awhile, and visit someone else.

There is reason to believe that you intend to scare us a bit. In fact, you have. The rain clouds have washed our baseball teams hither and yon, our track meets have been held in semi-wintery weather, and our golf and tennis teams have been forced to completely abandon their frolicking.

But please, Mr. Pluvius, (or Jupe, for we know you but too well) don't come around with your clouds and your tricks. Our Moms will be down for the Weekend festivities, and forsooth — they will be attired in their springiest of spring outfits and their hats will be of the kind to bring male smiles. But we want to take them to the campus luncheon to see the queen and her court of beautiful princesses crowned, and my goodness, how the raindrops do raise havoc with even a proud mother's finest apparel.

The Portland papers have more important advertisers, and have more influence, perchance, Mr. Jupiter Pluvius, but not even they will praise you with much more enthusiasm and open-mouthed admiration if you will but take your vacation.

And if you have to take that storm, which is declared by some pessimistic meteorologists to be coming from out Newport way somewhere, perchance you could deposit it at Stanford, California, or even USC.

Just for the weekend, you understand. We want you as a permanent resident up here in Oregon, Jupe, to freshen our flowers, to clean our streets, and to keep our soil rich and red.

But not Junior Weekend, please.

A Hearing for Morse

Without hesitation, the Emerald will support Wayne Morse for the Democratic nomination for United States senator.

His opponent, Woody Smith of Hood River, has consistently refused to conduct a rational campaign for the nomination. Instead he persists in using the courts in an attempt to win by default. His strategy has been to try to prove in court that Morse is not a Democrat, and therefore can not run in the Democratic primary.

This is not the proper way to conduct a political campaign. Smith has failed to show what, if anything, he has to offer the voters of Oregon.

We have disagreed with Wayne Morse many times. He has done many things we dislike, such as opposing President Eisenhower's partnership plan for Northwest power development. He has also some things on which we supported him heartily, such as fighting the appointment of Senator Eastland as chairman of the Senate judiciary committee.

He deserves a hearing on his record in November.

Footnotes

Friday night's chaotic mock Democratic convention produced one laugh at least. We refer to the member of the Massachusetts delegation who is really a former Republican precinct committeeman from Washington.

Outfield Practice



"I've been practicin' catchin' flies like you said, Kirsch, but I think I caught some bees, too."

College Capers...

From Coast to Coast

By Bobby Harris
Emerald Columnist

While grading papers recently, a Baylor university professor in business administration encountered one that was impossible to read.

He finally gave up trying to decipher the scribbling and wrote a note on the paper asking the student to see him after class.

The papers were returned, but the student left without seeing the instructor.

Days later, the prof stopped him and asked:

"Why didn't you come by to see me about your tests? Didn't you see my note?"

"I'm sorry, sir," the student replied. "I saw something written on my paper, but I couldn't read it."

THOSE PROFESSORS!

In a freshman English literature class at Indiana university, the Kansas State Collegian reports in its exchange column, the instructor handed out a mimeographed sheet of test instructions which said in part:

"Answer the questions in the order in which they appear on this paper. Errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation will be penalized."

The writer of the exchange column pointed out, "In case you had to look it up as I did, the word is spelled 'penalized'."

FROM O.S.C.:

Males at Oregon state have been wondering why a man answers the phone when they try

to call some little freshman in Sackett A, one of the women's dorms. Well, Bernard G. Busic has the answer.

It seems that when this year's copy of the Fusser's Guide came out there was a slight misprint, and Sackett A's phone number was misprinted to read the same as Busic's.

When Busic's wife answers the phone, whoever it is that is calling will usually hang on long enough to get an explanation and the right number. But when Busic's sleepy voice answers the male calling will hang up in panic.

There is then a pause during which Busic goes back to bed, and the caller looks the number up again and calls back.

To add to his woes still further, the telephone company can't do anything about this mix-up and so, hoping to get a good night's sleep yet this year, Busic called on the Barometer to help him out.

For the information of interested Oregon males the correct number of Sackett A is 2-9134.

From the Files

May 17, 1948

Eugene voters favor Thomas E. Dewey by a slight margin over Harold Staasen in the current race for the Republican presidential nomination. This was the conclusion shown in a random telephone survey conducted early this week in the Eugene city area.



The Oregon Daily Emerald is published five days a week during the school year 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.

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