

Oregon Daily



EMERALD

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The Drones of Democracy

Editorial By Hal Boyle
Associated Press Writer

Tuesday was a day of shame for America. An election day always is. For it is then the United States looks its worst to a freedom-hungry world.

In Hungary last week hundreds of men flung themselves barehanded against invading Soviet tanks and died valiantly in a hopeless fight for the right to set up a government of their own choice.

But in democracy's mightiest citadel only about six of every ten persons eligible will take the trouble Tuesday to vote for the government that will rule their lives for the next four years. Some 40 to 50 million other men and women who could vote won't bother to, for one reason or another.

These are the drones of democracy, who accept their political liberty as casually as if it were merely another free sandwich at a banquet.

This apathy amazes thoughtful people in dictator-ridden lands who dream of a free vote but know that to achieve it they must first wade a river of their own blood. This apathy puzzles thoughtful people here, too.

For it can't be written off as the temporary apathy of a people suddenly grown lazy with prosperity. In good times or bad times, in peace or war, millions of Americans avoid

the ballot as if it might infect them with some loathsome disease.

In the depression year of 1932 only 52.6 percent of the eligible population voted. The figure for wartime 1944 was only 55.8. It dropped to 51.4 in 1948. It rose to 62.7 in the 1952 "crusade," a percentage not likely to be equaled this year.

No issue in the most eventful quarter century the earth has known has stirred even seven out of ten American potential voters enough to go to the polls.

This seems doubly odd when it is recalled that universal suffrage did not come to the United States as a gift from Heaven, but was won after generations of struggle that cost hundreds of thousands of lives. The barriers of property, age, color and sex fell slowly.

Why then do so many millions refrain from the act of voting, which is both the political sacrament of a democracy and the only insurance of its survival?

It is often blamed on inertia. The remark is often made, "The guy who doesn't bother to vote would be the first to fight if someone threatened to take away his right to vote."

But that is nonsense. The only men who can be counted on to defend a right are those who exercise that right. The man who has nothing to say doesn't fight for free speech.

Let's Keep 'No Pigging' the Rule

Men and women will no longer watch football games from separate sections, the ASUO Senate decided last week.

The Emerald regrets this decision, largely because we fear that pigging will be the natural result. With hundreds of married students walking through the unsegregated section we're afraid the old no-pigging tradition may break down. "No pigging without a marriage license" is a clever phrase, but its enforcement may prove a joke.

The new system does have advantages, however. Most important, it gives several hundred married students and their wives their chance to be "first class citizens," as far as football viewing goes. Some kind of arrangement for married students was long overdue, but we think horizontal sections (running length of stands instead of end zone) would be a better solution.

The Rally Board's reasoning was that breaking down the men-women dividing line would be likely to restore enthusiasm to an apathetic student body. We predict great improvement in school spirit Saturday, but as a result of events in Pittsburgh and Berkeley, rather than in Eugene.

The Rally Board also feels that this decision will reduce drinking in the stands. We agree, but doubt that the disease is any worse than the cure.

Our opposition to the proposal is based upon the opinion that non-segregated seating will detract from student enthusiasm, in proportion to the amount of pigging that

results.

When men and women sit side by side they're less likely to make noise for the team. Women will be ladylike and men will be suave and casual, to a certain extent.

But the decision has been made, temporarily at least, and it's now up to all of us to help the team successfully conclude its season. We hope everyone will cooperate in squelching pigging if and when it becomes a threat.

Footnotes

Election night notes: that big tearing sound you heard this morning was the removal of bumper strips from cars everywhere. Losing candidates probably will go first though; imagine the winners will stick around awhile to show their supporters' pride . . . Absence of bumper stickers will make things confusing until election fever wears off. You'll never know whether to honk your horn at that car that pulled out in front of you now that his political preference is no longer shown.

* * *

Television provided a laugh or two in gigantic coverage by big nets. NBC's five-way screen split with the man in the middle swiveling from section of country to section of country was quite the trick—until somebody hit the wrong switch and the five commentators fell all over each other.

'To Sleep. Perchance . . .'



"IN CONTRAST—DURING 600 A.D. THE DURING 600.....THE...."

From the Squirrel Cage

Homecoming: A Time To Thank Our Alumni

By DARRELL BRITTSAN
ASUO President

Homecoming is just around the corner and the campus activity circles are exceptionally busy at present.

To many of us this may mean no more than another all-campus weekend with its particular work on signs, floats, etc. It is unfortunate that we don't carry our thinking further than this and consider what Homecoming is.

Homecoming is a time for alumni. As we engage in the weekend's activities, we are doing so with them in mind. We might ask ourselves, why?

Primarily, it is to entertain the most valuable group we as a university have. Certainly our alumni have done many things in the past for which we should be grateful, and they will undoubtedly do more in the future. The latter will be particularly true if we endeavor to express our appreciation for their past efforts and show evidence of our continued interest in them.

Let us never forget that it is this group which worked faith-



fully for many years and donated many dollars so that we could enjoy the Student Union building. It is only with the support and enthusiasm of our alumni that Millrace restoration will become a reality. I could fill a book with other areas in which our alumni are invaluable.

Thus, as we glance back at Oregon's past, it is natural that we don our traditions. The alumni will vividly recall these same traditions, and it is with the pleasant memories that they smile at our green topped freshman.

With these things in mind, let us, as a student body, make a special effort to give a well deserved, hearty welcome to our alumni.

Campus Capers

(ACP)—The male students at Berkeley, California, will probably think twice before staging any more panty raids. There was a really big raid last spring and it wound up costing students \$5,100. That's the sum paid to girls who filed loss claims with the dean of students office. After the raid on May 16, the men of the organized living groups around the campus contributed approximately \$3.50 per man to a philanthropic fund to pay for restitution of damages.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

During the crisis of the Civil War, a member of President Lincoln's party is said to have asked the President, "Sir, don't you have a positive, constructive policy?" Mr. Lincoln replied, "No, I am afraid that I have to admit that I don't. I seem to be like a camper in a strong wind. I just keep going from one part of the tent to the next, replacing the tent posts that have been forced loose."

It would seem that there is a parallel in the foreign policy of the present national administration.

D. G. CROMWELL
Graduate in Political Science

From the Files

Four Years Ago

Nov. 5, 1952—"Restraint" was the word used by Emerald Associate Editor Bill Gurney to describe campus activity when Dwight D. Eisenhower swept into the Presidency. The Beta Theta Pi's were repainting their living room when loser Adlai Stevenson conceded. In Carson hall excitement "ran high" when Ike's victory was assured and somebody blew a trumpet and shouted on the Carson front lawn. In Sigma Phi Epsilon, members talked of throwing out their brother Larry Hobart, Emerald editor who had supported Stevenson.