

Oregon Daily



EMERALD

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A Team to be Proud of

It was a very satisfactory Thanksgiving. Stomachs were filled, books were forgotten, and Oregon held the favored Oregon State Beavers to a 14-14 tie. Rose Bowl hopes for OSC weren't dimmed, while at the same time the Ducks kept their "Civil War" record clean for the third consecutive year.

The Oregon State card section was slightly disorganized, and the highly-publicized Rah-Rah Ballerinas looked to us like just plain old rally girls, but the game was as full of thrills as anybody could have wished

for. Fingernails were chewed to the quick as the Webfoots waited until the last two minutes to strike back for the tying score.

So Len Casanova's boys put a satisfactory topper on an up-and-down season, finishing with a 4-4-2 record. Through the whole season, they led the conference in defense and were right up there in rushing. And, even when the fumble jinx was at its worst, they never gave up. That makes them a team to be proud of. (J.W.)

Among Our Own Prominent Professors

If Gordon Wright, who will speak at the 1 p.m. assembly Tuesday, were a visiting lecturer from Harvard The Emerald would spare no effort welcoming him to the campus. We would add that we were flattered to be included on his schedule and advise students not to miss what he had to say about modern France.

But Gordon Wright needs no introduction here. Since 1939 he has been a distinguished member of the faculty and has been head of the history department since 1951. Many have been enrolled in his courses; others have heard of him through his students.

Few men in the United States are considered better authorities on modern France. Wright served there with the U.S. State Department for three years during and following World War II. Since then he has returned to France twice for further study.

His views are so respected by the gov-

ernment that he has been a lecturer at the National War College. This is a small super-school for key officers who have been identified as future general material.

Wright is the second in a series of prominent men on our own campus to be featured at University assemblies. The Emerald strongly approves this plan, since there are a number of faculty men with important messages of general interest.

Probably none, however, has one of more significance than Gordon Wright.

Footnotes

The Emerald TV Oscar for "Best College Band Performance of the Year" goes to our own University band and OSC's for their outstanding halftime show at Corvallis. Several million TV viewers must have been favorably impressed with the "Oregon is thankful for..." theme.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

Tuesday's Emerald erroneously reported that Charles Koburger had contested the illegal graduate student election. Tuesday afternoon Vishnu Wassiamal wrote you a letter correcting your mistake and today's (Wednesday) Emerald again erroneously reports that Koburger had contested the election.

Why do you insist on giving Koburger all the credit? Koburger is not the only graduate student interested in securing our right of free elections here.

Bill Alexander
 Graduate in
 Political Science

Emerald Editor:

Tuesday's Emerald made two serious errors:

1. It says on the front page that Charles Koburger, ... filed a petition Monday contesting the graduate school election for ASUO senator. I and five other graduate students contested the election, not Koburger. It is true that Koburger would make an excellent representative, but we are concerned here only with whether we can have free representative government or not.

2. The lead editorial asks whether write-in votes are necessary and states that if the election of a particular candidate were of great importance then someone should have checked on the filing requirement. So far as we are concerned, the election of a particular candidate is not "of great importance." And it was the fact that there was only one candidate offered on the ballot which caused the write-in effort. We believe that every candidate for office ought to have opposition even if it is only write-in opposition.

It is surely a sad commentary on our so-called democratic institutions when we are faced with a ballot with only one name on it and told that we must vote for that candidate only. I am told that they have that kind of democracy in the Soviet Union.

Vishnu Wassiamal
 Graduate in
 Political Science

Editor's Note: We regret that the story said Koburger filed the petition. It should have said a petition was filed in behalf of Koburger.

NYU Faces Question Of Co-education

(ACP)—New York University is faced with the question of whether co-education is desirable. There seems to be at least a chance that the school ... long a citadel for males ... will start admitting female students.

Experts who conducted a \$250,000 study of the University's operations have urged co-education at the earliest possible date. In support of that action, faculty members have presented the following arguments: "Co-education would make our students gentlemen ... Our students as a whole have not had social experience ... It would improve the social atmosphere."

On the other hand, opponents of the co-education move contend that it would destroy what they call "the desired separation of the students from his own environment." They contend that the University's chief advantage is that it is not co-educational and that to change that situation would be to rule out this advantage. They also say that male students might lose detachment if the girls moved in.

Any Free Samples?



"NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT—I'VE HAD VERY POOR ATTENDANCE IN MY CLASSES, TOO!"

The Skeptic Tank

Legend of UO's System Of Preferential Voting

By **BRIAN BOOTH**
 Emerald Columnist

Another chapter in the dizzy history of student elections at the University was recorded last week when Gordon McLeod was announced as winner of the Senate graduate representative election even though two write-in candidates each polled more votes. Reason given was that the ASUO constitution doesn't provide for write-in candidates.



Well the graduate election has been contested and eventually some equitable action like flipping a coin will probably decide the whole thing to everyone's satisfaction. But the affair brings to light again other popular mysteries of the Oregon election system. Before the present squabble over write-ins began, the most baffling part of student elections had always been the preferential voting system used.

Under Oregon's preferential system, voters number candidates in order of preference. (Logical enough.) Then in the counting process a quota is set for election and by an undecipherable method of vote distribution all the offices are filled. The avowed purpose is "to assure representation for every party or group in proportion to their votes."

According to legend, an Oregon undergraduate named Ambrose Preferential devised the present method in the early 1930's after studying Kant's Critique of Pure Reason and Einstein's early work on relativity. Ambrose could prove by a set of equations that his system was infallible so he presented it to the Senate for acceptance. The Senate was still rattled over prohibition in those days and was in a mood to adopt any change in the status quo. So after Ambrose flashed a few equations, it was adopted unanimously.

Ambrose was pleased because his name was now immortalized. And he quit school and went on a lecture tour with the Technocrats.

Well the system went into effect, but with Ambrose gone the student senators were hard pressed to explain its workings to the voters. And there was quite a bit of grumbling when a candidate for sophomore representative wound up as student body president after the spring elections.

But as the years went by, Oregon students became accustomed to the strange workings of their unpredictable voting system. The ASUO even sponsored an annual essay contest for several years with awards going to the paper which could best explain the Oregon preferential system in less than 5,000 words. Needless to say there were few entries. The subject has remained a popular one for graduate theses in the mathematical department however.

Probably the most famous election irregularity traceable to Ambrose's brain-storm occurred in the campus general elections in 1937. That year every candidate who ran was defeated. There were no winners. Some candidates even wound up with a negative number of votes.

The explanation offered by the election board for this strange state of affairs placed the blame on an unusual preponderance of third and seventh place votes, and a hasty special election was held which alleviated things.

Ambrose's system has survived down through the years although his desire that it would spread like wildfire to other schools still hasn't materialized. Cottage Grove Junior High tried it out for awhile but soon junked it. So now the preferential system is as much a part of the university as drunken serenades and phony infirmaries. And only seldom anymore does someone raise the cry "take the elections away from the mathematicians and give them back to the students."

What happened to Ambrose Preferential whose fertile brain provided Oregon with its colorful voting system? Well Ambrose's keen objective mind and his knack of making something hard appear simple is being put to a good use these days. He's back at the Pentagon writing ROTC text books for universities.