

Back on the Job

Back to work, you say, Senators? You've survived the problems of early rush weeks, registration and a Portland game and you're ready to play the role of the University's student governing body — play the role as it's never been played before, we're sure.

But do you remember the role?

Last spring it seemed fine, sitting with that cup of SU coffee and accepting the applause of the "brothers" for the successful campaign, enjoying that free ASUO banquet, passing all that first meeting business (unanimously) — really out legislating in the best of student government tradition.

But it's been a long summer, Senators. And you know what the tendency will be: slide back into the job easily, attend the first meeting maybe and let the legislating fall where it may for the first term or so — after things have settled down you can take time to consider this whole business seriously.

But that, Senators, is the way it's been too many times. Why not, for this once, try it differently? Why not take a look at that ASUO constitution (if you can find one) — just see if you know as much as you think you remember about this whole student government business.

And why not drop by the ASUO office in advance to give that agenda the onceover before the meeting for a change? You

might even have time to ask around the house and get an opinion or two on some of the issues coming up—as if it were representative government after all, you know.

And maybe, while you're at it, you might think seriously about the type of legislation on that agenda—or better yet, NOT on that agenda. Just what do you think you, as Senators in a student body governing body, should pass upon? Will you be happy to read petitions for a year and let your job go with vacancy filling?

This "student leadership" business can be quite a job, Senators, so much so that your student body president thinks there's even room for a class on the subject. But even without a class it can be a hard job—but a good one if well done.

And frankly, Senators, it hasn't been really well done for too long a time, except, perhaps, for the jobs done by a few individuals. So you can sit there smiling for the yearbook photographer, passing nice little motions unanimously and arguing between peas and beans for the ASUO banquet—if you wish.

But it can be the year of a "good job" Senate; there are plenty of things to keep you busy—finishing up on that old discrimination business, weeding out the overgrown activity patch, putting some sense into the selection by petition. But all these are optional, of course; student government is just another activity. Or is it? The choice, Senators, is yours.

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A Small Tribute

This week has been set aside across the nation as National Newspaper Week, the 18th annual observance. Contributions of newspapers, large and small, however, hark back far beyond the beginning of this particular seven-day period.

Weeks commemorating everything from long underwear to contour chairs have been usual, but the setting aside of a week especially for newspapers is small tribute indeed for the job they have long performed.

A newspaper sometimes seems to have little more real purpose than just a moment's entertainment, to be quickly discarded. In a sense, this is true—though the informed person will want to take advantage of all a newspaper offers, over and above the comic strips.

The changing status of today's newspapers has tended to run toward various sorts of featurized entertainment. But the hard, practical job of a newspaper has remained constant—to inform, to explain and interpret, to record and to speak out against.

Newspapers' roles in society today are particularly important, as has been illustrated often in terms of editorial responsibility, reportorial crusades and publishers' politics. A newspaper is a big business—but a business with a particular duty to the public.

Criticism of newspapers is frequent, and not always undeserved. But defenders of the medium have been extreme in their praise. Thomas Jefferson's timely remark still has meaning—"I would rather have newspapers without government than government without newspapers."

In the rare instances when newspapers are not delivered on schedule, or forced temporarily to suspend publication—the public realizes its loss, whatever its interest in the newspaper. To its most bitter critics, a newspaper is a necessary evil.

Newspapermen, admittedly, are a curious breed. They are forced by circumstances to dwell on the relatively unhappy side of life,

as well as inhabiting the unusual and light areas. But above all, they feel a responsibility to report—to let the public know everything, within the bounds of good taste.

National Newspaper Week should serve to draw some long overdue attention to a profession usually met with criticism—in the form of second-guessing, personality attacks or politically-inspired sniping.

Speaking as small-scale newspapermen, The Emerald joins in saluting its big brothers throughout the country. We attempt to do our share as we know they do theirs. The week should bring forth from all in the field a renewed realization of the need for newspapers and the steps necessary to effectively meet that need.

Improvement?

Enrollment, says the registrar, is up eight per cent over last year's fall term figure. And immediately, we reason in our "the bigger the better" American way, we are improved. But, to hark back to the qualitative vs. quantitative summer argument of the Eugene and Corvallis editors, it's not the size that counts.

When we say "Greater Oregon," in the strictest sense of the student-run student recruiting program, we still mean greater by reason of what's here, not how much. And the fact that we're right near the bottom of the Pacific Coast Conference in number of buildings, size of stadium and number of acres of improved land disturbs us not in the least—not even in matching our "undermanned" grid eleven against the giants of the PCC.

We welcome, of course, the increase in enrollment. It's a natural result of the growth of our great western state. But we're still more concerned with the meaning behind that sheepskin when the end of those four years rolls around; the number of colleagues who pick up theirs at the same time is not so important.

Chain of Command



Little Rock Affair Has a Bright Side, Too

By ED CREAGH
AP News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Russians may not have gained as much as they hope from the Little Rock affair.

They made all the propaganda they could out of it, they used the photographs and the eyewitness accounts of violence in an obvious effort to hurt the United States. The point they tried to make—especially with the nonwhite majority of the human race—was that cruelty and intolerance are the rule of life in this country.

This isn't true, of course.

For all that we may be going through a revolution in race relations, and for all that Negro-white dealings have seldom been satisfactory to either side, the races have somehow got along. Those Little Rock pictures tell a true, sad story. But:

As everybody in this country knows a Negro can walk down the main street of any town or city without a thought of being molested. And, the Little Rock experience, notwithstanding, American children do normally go to school without protection from bayonets.

The lesson gradually emerging from Little Rock is not—as the Communists would have it—that this is a country torn by radical violence.

Rather, it is that in spite of occasional missteps this is a country governed by law and not by the whims or prejudices of men.

As for the missteps in this country:

There was the "mob of extremists," as President Eisenhower put it over the weekend, which stopped some Negro adolescents from going to school at Little Rock. The mob was dispersed, and in short order, by federal troops.

Not—and this is important—because the President necessarily favors mixing of white and Negro pupils. He has been careful to avoid a strong personal opinion one way or the other. He called out troops on the ground that a federal court order directing integration was being flouted. The troops restored order. The court's decree is being carried out.

Some, notably Arkansas Gov. Orval E. Faubus, thought the President's action unnecessary. But such counteraction as is now in prospect is all on the

legal level. Nobody is defending the mob, least of all Faubus, for all that Eisenhower practically accused him of fomenting the violence.

Even if Arkansas takes the step now under consideration by some officials—closing Little Rock's Central High School as a way of getting the federal troops out—it would be done by legal means. The State Legislature would be called on to take the action, and then presumably it would be fought out in the courts.

All this falling back on legal processes is far less dramatic, of course, than mob violence or military force. Will the point get across to the rest of the world that Americans are, after all, proving themselves a people who depend on courts and legislatures rather than fists and bayonets?

One hint that this may happen came yesterday from an Asian—India's Defense Minister V. K. Krishna Menon, who has often been pictured as anti-American, or at least as "neutral" with leanings toward the Communists. Menon said in a television interview that in the Little Rock affair: "I was impressed by the fact that no outstanding statesman of any party has come out in favor of mob rule."

It may surprise and dismay Americans that we have to prove we are not hooligans. But if we do have to prove it we seem, in spite of the Russians, to be making some headway.

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