

Spirit of the Law

Kidnaping by any other name is still abduction, we are told by Saturday's Homecoming edition of the Oregon State Barometer—evidently written in the heat of the Friday episode involving Order of O men and three members of the OSC Homecoming Court.

The spirit and the letter of any law are popular subjects for debate and interpretation, in or out of news and editorial columns. This kidnaping incident offers an instance in which the spirit of the law clearly took precedence over the letter.

An inter-school agreement on Homecoming by-play forbids outright physical abduction and/or transporting a student of the other institution against his (her) will. This rule was reiterated at last week's meeting of student leaders and deans from both schools.

The Queen's kidnap, however, was not conducted in the traditionally active manner of past years—involving shaved heads, painted faces and removal to the other campus. This case developed from circum-

stances begun when an OSC raiding party discreetly removed the Skinner's Butte 'O'.

But apart from the bargaining undertaken unofficially for the O's return, it is notable that the kidnap was carried out and planned originally with the idea of returning Pearl, et al, Friday evening.

We'd be hypocritical to hide our admiration for the plot's ingenuity; but lest we forget, the O remains somewhere in the unknown North. To that extent, the Oregon Staters cannot complain.

Frankly, we fail to see that any real damage was done, except in terms of nervous tension in Corvallis. The University gained a measure of retribution for the 'O' theft, the Queen and her princesses were treated as such, and probably more attention was focused on OSC's Homecoming than before.

As for suspensions, supposedly required by the rules, we can only see a cleverly-conceived stunt—well within the spirit of the "law" and the highlight of a Homecoming that few OSC alums will forget.

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Think Before Filing

Tonight is the deadline for freshmen to petition for class offices, and we hope that those who are about to be pressured into tossing their hats into the ring at the last minute will give the matter a little serious thought.

For the Oregon Ducklings enjoy quite a bit more freedom in the election of their leaders than do their Rook cousins at Oregon State College. Freshmen at OSC must be screened by a committee of upperclassmen before they are allowed to place their names on the ballot; here, the race is open to all who care to enter.

And this freedom, as do the freedoms of people everywhere, entails certain responsibilities. Becoming a campus "big wheel" implies more than the simple act of dropping a petition in the box. It means hours of hard work, countless responsibilities, and a willingness to sacrifice a night of studying for a night of coordinating and directing.

So don't let visions of honorary sweaters and adulation from your companions make up your mind for you. If you really think you will be able to contribute something valuable to your class and your school, without flunking out or suffering a nervous breakdown (it has happened, you know), then by all means exercise your right to take your ideas before the voters.

But if you've got doubts about your ability to handle the job, don't abuse that freedom to run by asking your friends to waste their votes on you.

Brave New Sport

A logical successor to the social renovations undertaken by the fabled Pogo has come charging roughshod out of Aldous Huxley's noted novel, "Brave New World," after some alarms and excursions at a mystic Connecticut town known as Storrs.

Actually the home of the University of Connecticut, Storrs has spawned an organization to be known as the Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy League. The sport is reportedly spreading through New England like Asian flu, with possibilities (dare we hope?) of a Yankee conference championship.

League czar Louis Iritsky described the game this way: players from both teams station themselves around the Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy machine. The Doppler Data

Digitizer from the home team throws the ball into the air and blows his whistle.

The ball will fall, if thrown correctly, into the top of the machine and slide down a chute onto the spinning centrifugal disk. Whirled by the disk, the ball will shoot out one of the holes in the side of the base, whereupon the nearest must try to catch it.

The team whose player catches the ball shall be declared the winner of that point (a feather). If the ball is not caught, it shall be declared dead (a leather) and the point shall be played over again.

Other members of the team include the manager, the left and right bumble, the left and right puppy, the center centrifugal and alternate center centrifugal, the stinger, the Doppler Data Digitizer and the all-important beer-bearer.

Iritsky and his co-conspirator, Uconn Daily Campus managing editor, Mark Hawthorne, have something big on their hands (namely nine feet of Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy machine). As this is written, organizational efforts are well under way.

The Emerald has confidence in the success of its New England colleagues—to the extent of entering a team in the league, travel expenses be hanged (or rather centrifuged). We hope to duplicate the success of our football team in this newest and greatest sport of social significance.

Good Investment

Wherever else stage drama has been out-advertised by movie and television producers, on the University campus the theater has stood as a chief contributor to first-class entertainment.

The University Theater's current production, "Teahouse of the August Moon," is a prime example of student-acted, live drama at its finest—if we can believe the enthusiastic audiences.

Impressions on the current play have indicated a liking for the production not found in the recent movie, hinting strongly that "the play's the thing."

Unfortunately, few of the students have ever been in the UT area, except for an occasional speech class. This facility, available at four periods of the academic year in four types of productions, is well within walking distance.

So before heading for the Oregon-Washington game this weekend, invest a dollar (or two) in an evening's entertainment. But we'd advise quick action, if you're to get seats ahead of townspeople and the faculty.

Secret to Our Success?



Wynn Dahlgren

Implications of Amend ment Unclear to Many Students

A very important amendment to the ASUO Constitution is to be voted on November 13. Probably not one student in 500 understands the full implications of that amendment. The five finalists for Sam Whitney's Senate position evinced no such understanding last Thursday evening though a similar amendment had been on the ballot last year.

Sections II, III, and V of Article VI of the Constitution are to be amended.

According to the amendment, which is printed elsewhere in the paper, the names of the presidential candidates would appear on both the presidential and senator at large ballots. In order to assure a candidate's election to the Senate, a voter would have to vote for the same candidate on both ballots.

In other words, vote twice for the same person. This double voting, with the presidential candidates listed in alphabetical order at the top of the senator at large ballot, is certain to confuse a voter.

The obvious question is—why have two ballots? Last spring over one hundred voters lost their franchise because they did not understand the intricacies of the preferential system. This amendment retains all these intricacies with these further complications.

The amendment provides for a majority rather than a plurality to elect an ASUO President. Under this system it is possible, even likely, that the third or fourth choice of student body would be elected President. Let us take five Presidential candidates and provide them with a hypothetical vote.

Candidate A gets 700 first place votes, B gets 650, C gets 600, D gets 570 and E gets 500. Under the present plurality system, A is elected. Under the majority system provided for in this amendment, with the ballots counted preferentially, candidate E is eliminated and the second place votes on those 500 ballots are redistributed. This redistribution process is continued until one candidate has the majority.

Thus, very possibly, C or D would win, or if there were more than five Presidential candi-

dates, F or G or Q would win. It is almost certain there would be, because if you want to be elected to the senate, the smart thing to do would be to run for ASUO President and receive the obvious benefit of preferred listing.

The amendment rather effectively precludes the election of senators of students who do not have 100 hours or otherwise cannot qualify to run for president. Since preferred alphabetical listing will go a long way to ensuring election of nine seniors, it will effectively restrict junior, sophomore and women's representatives on the Senate.

Most fraternities, sororities, cooperatives, and dorms will have a candidate or two or three for President because of the excellent chance for election of anyone whose sole qualifications is name familiarity.

I can picture little piles of ballots all the way from the ping pong tables to the movie projection room of the Student Union as baffled election officials race up and downstairs transferring ballots along the way.

The reader who has followed along this far can readily see the possibilities of election of a President or Vice-President of a candidate the student body doesn't like or want.

This possibility, plus the campus-wide confusion entailed in voting and the counting of ballots under the preferential system, brings the present method of election of student body officers under serious question. If an effort is to be made to change the campus electoral system, it should aim to simplify rather than complicate it.

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