

A Chance for Real Service

At this point in the University's political scheme of things, tradition binds us to editorially ask newly-named freshman class officers: "So you've been elected! Now what?"

If the Wednesday vote reflected the winners' true ability, and not the ever-present danger of a short-lived popularity contest, a special kind of responsibility began today for the quartet in question.

Freshmen must wonder just how effective their leadership contribution can be, in view of their inexperience on campus, their opening academic struggles and even their "lowest" of class status.

While the only tangible result of freshman administration is the annual Frosh Sno-Ball dance, the four class representatives can serve themselves, their class and the University best by active and regular participation on the ASUO Senate.

In addition to official functions, the frosh leaders can assume a responsibility of example also. If these examples are good ones, a unified frosh class may continue for four years (normal losses aside).

Without going into such abstractions as the bonding of a class spirit, we can only assure the freshman officers that they occupy as significant a place as their political peers.

Several potential careers in campus politics may have been launched, but important to remember is the real service involved here. Politics means much more than a picture in the Oregana or an honorary selection.

So to answer your own question: you've been elected and now you start to work. Your place is a special one. Your responsibility will continue and probably increase. Don't treat your job lightly!

+ + +

Fight on Our Hands

The Eugene City Council Tuesday put the University on the spot. In approving liquor license applications by four grocery stores inside the campus "dry zone," the council served notice that it would no longer play the silent partner role in whatever agreement set up the zone.

The zone itself had been primarily a matter between the University and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which set up the beer sale boundary in 1950 at the University's request. The council had aided the dry zone enforcement by refusing applications for liquor licenses from stores inside the zone.

This agreement has not kept grocers from protesting that the zone is an unfair restriction of business. Until Tuesday, however, the protests had been received and noted, but the dry zone boundaries stood. The biggest previous step toward action was by the council's public safety committee, which recently recommended decreasing the size of the zone.

Tuesday the council suddenly forgot all this and, in effect, did just about all it could do to torpedo the dry zone by approving beer licenses inside it. One of the groceries approved is inside the area which would have been left in the decreased dry zone.

The council, however, does not have the final word in the granting of applications; that is up to the OLCC. Council recommendations for licences usually are accepted by the OLCC, but this may be an exception—especially if the University raises an official protest.

The existence of the dry zone does not necessarily limit the drinking; it certainly does not eliminate it. Students who want to drink will even drive outside the city limits to get their beer—the well-worn path between the Oregon State College campus and Philomath several years back bears this out.

But beer virtually on campus—or a half block from the classroom, as was once the case at Oregon—is not desirable either. That "one to help the lecture" between the nine and eleven o'clock class can get out of hand. A certain distance between the campus and the beer source can help eliminate this.

The real problem comes in the associa-

tion of beer with the Oregon "country club" idea which columnist William Cook discusses elsewhere on this page. If the University gives in and the dry zone sags or disappears, Oregon will have a tremendous public relations problem; the previous fuss over the dry zone has provided much fuel for the "country club" idea fires.

That, in brief, is the problem that the University, in President Wilson, faces. And it is against this background that the University's decision—to fight, to give ground or to surrender—must be made. We hope the University will fight.

Polygamy Praised

A few months ago an article appeared in "Harper's" entitled "American Youth Goes Monogamous." The story dealt with the unusually early age at which Americans are pairing off these days. Recently a column by Francis Plimpton in the New York Herald Tribune commented on that trend. Here are some of the meatier portions of that column.

"The article portrays, gentlemen, the state of your mores, and, if I may say so, a most lamentable state it is. It appears that each of you fasten upon one unfortunate female, and forsaking all others, bring her and her alone to each game, each cocktail party, each dance.

"This drab process is, I understand, known as 'going steady'—a clear violation not only of English grammar, but also of the most elementary principles of biology.

"It is punctuated, according to your president, by a gruesome ceremony known as 'pinning,' in which the female bosom is decorated with miscellaneous jewelry to the accompaniment of solemn tribal chants. This of course leads, with the inevitability of Greek tragedy, to matrimony.

"Now, gentlemen, since I am a lawyer you will not want me to neglect the legal aspects of your situation, and I am bound to say that they are serious. Suppose that one of you imports a young lady to these precincts, and let us further suppose that she is, in the fine old legal phrase, 'clothed with the public interest.' What happens? The public interest, whether due to clothes or lack of clothes, is intense, but what do you do? Flouting that public interest you suppress all competition and tend to create a monopoly.

"Needless to say, gentlemen, this is an unlawful restraint of trade and a flagrant and willful violation of the Sherman Act and perhaps of the Mann Act, subjecting you to servitude that is penal as well as matrimonial and to triple damage suits at the hands of aggrieved competitors."



"PROF SNARE MUST HAVE A TERRIFIC MEMORY—75 IN MY CLASS IN HISTORY AN' HE NOTICES EVERY TIME I SKIP."

William Cook

UO's 'Country Club' Myth Scares off Potential Students

Is the University of Oregon a "country club" as many have charged? This question is crossing the minds of many high school seniors (and their parents) who are now trying to decide where to continue their education.

O. Meredith Wilson, University president, related in an interview that he has received "a number of letters (particularly from parents of prospective students) expressing dissatisfaction with Oregon's atmosphere." He also said that the University's reputation creates problems in dealing with the Legislature.

Interviews with high school principals revealed that high school students often feel that Oregon is "a place to play." The principals "couldn't say" how this reputation got started. One, however, mentioned senior weekend "beer parties" that his students had told him of as a possible cause.

On the other hand, the University student consensus—from numerous informal interviews and discussions—holds that Oregon is not a "party school," that it is not easy academically and that the country club reputation is undeserved, particularly when Oregon is compared to Oregon State College and other west coast institutions.

Wilson said that as far as he could see, there is "not much difference between Oregon and other state universities with which I have been connected" as far as atmosphere is concerned.

The University is developing into an outstanding academic institution. It's no longer possible, with academic standards going up all the time, for a mediocre or play-boy student to slide through school.

The University's reputation apparently stems from the days when the school was a country club in fact.

Ray Hawk, dean of men, said in an informal discussion that it once was possible for University students to stay in school as long as they kept their fees paid. The people in school at that time, he said, still believe

that Oregon is an easy school to graduate from and have a good time in the process.

"If Oregon is still a country club," Hawk said, "the professors don't know it."

With the wide-spread belief in the country club myth, it doesn't take much to reassure its believers. One publicized "beer party" involving University students, and the myth-believers all nod their heads and say, "that's what it's like all the time at Oregon... just one party after another."

The Duck Preview weekend has been cancelled for just this reason. Hawk said that instead of having promotional value for the University, Duck Preview actually back-fired, for it—with the emphasis on social life—helped to convince high school students that Oregon is in fact a country club.

Oregon students also do their part—although perhaps unknowingly—when they go home and tell their high school friends of gay Oregon social life. This is natural, for it's not much fun to brag of a "fabulous course in differential integral calculus."

Definite steps should be taken to discourage the harmful country club myth, for it damages the University's academic prestige and standing necessary to secure good faculty and students.

Wilson said the "greatest contribution" that University social groups could make to help eliminate the country club reputation would be to enforce liquor regulations and—noting that the all-fraternity scholastic average is below the all-university average—try to raise their group's scholastic standing.

In other ways, too, the myth can be destroyed. Promotional organizations such as Greater Oregon (if they ever get started) can show that the University is not a country club. The University mothers' club can help. University students, when they realize the problem, can boost Oregon as a first-rate university rather than as "a place to play."

And if, when high school students come to look over the University, they are not immediately given a bottle of beer, the myth will die a natural death.

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published four times in September and five days a week during the school year, except 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 year, \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of The Emerald and do not pretend to represent the opinion of the ASUO or the University.

CHARLES MITCHELMORE, Editor
GARY CAPPS, Business Manager