

An Apology

The University of Oregon—its students and faculty alike—owes A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State College, a humble and sincere apology. Strand, at the regular Tuesday lecture, gave an inspiring speech on a subject which should be very close to all education and all learning, the values in our public philosophy.

Strand's lecture was attended by 17 students and 48 interested faculty members and townspeople. The ballroom was set up with 800 seats. O. Meredith Wilson was understandably barely able to introduce Strand with a steady voice.

The empty chairs in the ballroom proved nearly everything Strand had to say about the "Public Philosophy as a Frame of Reference." The public philosophy about which he talked was simply the common, but all-important, beliefs which unite Americans and on which our cultural institutions are based.

He said that students—and they reflect the society which produced them—are too easy to please, that they fit too easily into a groove, that they are self-centered and self-satisfied, that their pursuit of plenty for themselves seems to be the main attraction of higher education. The empty chairs in the ballroom would seem to prove these charges.

The indictment against the University

community would be complete if it wasn't for the fact that the small audience to which Strand spoke is actually a symptom of a larger problem which faces us all.

We have become pre-occupied with our many material possessions. We have few basically conflicting ideologies close at hand to choose among. Any discussion or even thought on the basic values which form the frame of reference for our culture seems like just too much hard work.

Yet our culture, in its largest sense, is today in what may well be its death struggle with another philosophy of government and life which we condemn as unjust, alien and wrong. If there ever was a time when a free, thinking people should be assessing the values of its culture, that time is now.

University students are supposed to be the future thinking citizens and decision-makers. Their instructors are supposed to be guiding and assisting them in their struggles with the hard business of thinking.

There were about 20 faculty members in Strand's audience when he talked about the basics of our educational system and culture—a subject which deserves much attention and discussion.

We would like to apologize again to A. L. Strand for the University's attendance at his lecture.

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Checkmate?

Samuel Reshevsky is to chess what Bob Cousy is to basketball and Frank Sinatra is to entertainment. He's the best.

If Reshevsky were either of those gentlemen, his visit to our campus today would be hailed by throngs of cheering students—but it won't be. The only people who will know he's on campus are the 50-odd who will participate as he takes them all on at once in the intellectual game of chess.

And that's only natural. Who in his right mind would want to sit and watch an old man play an incomprehensible game when there's television to watch or a movie to see downtown?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Emerald Editor:

Should something be done about the Senate?

It was brought to my attention the other day, during the discussion of student government, that the ASUO Senate "holds no weight in the University." The fact was also brought forth that the Senate is only a "stamp" for the administration.

These statements concerning the faults of our school government are true. Is the Senate, a supposedly important governing body, only a title for so-called figureheads and personalities? Is this what you students want? The Senate is "glad" to serve, but it is up to the Student Body to give them things to do and to support their actions. Each student should back his Senator or Class Officer! Get on his back and give him your gripes about the organization of our institution of higher learning.

If the present Senators cannot work student government into their complex schedule, action should be taken by the Senate to remove and replace such irresponsible people. It should be proposed that if a Senator shows a lack of interest for more than a month without proper explanation, replacement should be imperative. The

Senate itself should work out a program for keeping interested members active.

Only with the complete support of the Student Body and EVERY member of the Senate can any improvement be made! There should be a dividing line between activities! If a Senator feels that he does not have sufficient time to devote to the school government, it is not fair in any way for that individual to hinder our government and students who place confidence in the representative of their respective class!

Ron Krupke
Freshman Class
Representative

Emerald Editor:

Mr. Knottenbelt, in his letter Monday, deplored the Thursday evening reception of Geza Anda, the well-known pianist. Mr. K's early arguments were quite sound. Anda shouldn't have had to open the piano himself, nor should the piano have been out of tune. The background was and has been a disgrace for who knows how long?

However, I am a great believer in democracy of the audience and when Mr. K starts setting down rules for what the well-dressed university audience should wear, it galls me.

But is it right? Russia, through a super-efficient propaganda system, has convinced her people that chess champions are to be as honored and venerated as sports champions. This ties in with a more general feeling there that intellectuals are to be admired instead if laughed at—a feeling which may have resulted in Sputnik and which has not caught on here.

Whether the Russians developed that attitude ethically or not is beside the point. What matters is that they are recognizing a fundamental truth: brains pay off, in the long run, better than brawn. We Americans haven't figured it out yet.

It's time we did some thinking about the merits of thinking.

The "good taste" that Mr. K is so concerned about consists of a bunch of stuffed shirts sitting around oohing and ahing over their opera glasses. Wouldn't such people be a trifle out of place sitting on the hard, uncomfortable grandstand seats?

The artists who are "obliging enough to perform for us" are obliged to accept a handsome salary which might make recompense for our slovenly dress.

Granted a suit and tie are apropos for a concert, but some students don't have the time to change into such dress. I am not one of them. I wear campus clothes because I feel more comfortable wearing them.

Let me voice my own suggestions for the advancement of good taste. Close and lock the doors after the concert has begun. This, above all, is good manners.

I don't know what kind of an impression Mr. Anda received from our bourgeois audience, but I think he should have been touched at the warmth and enthusiasm with which these people received his offering. I'm sure this memory will remain long after he has forgotten the woman in the front row who was wearing treader pants.

Bob Stokes
Jr. in Journalism

Charm Chairman



Jack Wilson

Many Important Chairmen Keep Sororities Functioning

Advantages of sorority living, as enumerated by a recent speaker for Junior Panhellenic, include "developing charm, loving one another, using energy constructively and developing creative ability."

All of which are perfectly true, but these basic truths should be expanded upon if the reader is not to receive a distorted picture of sorority life.

In the first place, these advantages do not just flow spontaneously from the well of Greek superiority. They must be nursed carefully along from the moment a girl pledges until she graduates, marries or flunks out.

The job of making sure that the advantages are realized falls to the lot of various chairmen, to-wit: the charm chairman, the togetherness chairman, the social chairman and the activities chairman. The effective work of each of these young ladies is indispensable to a good sorority.

To the charm chairman is entrusted, naturally enough, the development of charm in the sorority woman. Charm is construed to mean a thorough knowledge of Emily Post and an ability with the makeup kit.

The charm chairman carries out her duties with daily reminders to "keep that fork at four o'clock on the plate, dearie," and an occasional "Do something with your hair, will you?" A few years of this and our sorority girl is either charming or a female hermit, afraid to venture out of her room for fear of censure.

The togetherness chairman, on the other hand, works more subtly. So subtly, in fact, that few of the sisters are aware of her existence.

But her job is all-important. Who is it that reconciles roommates after one has made an unkind remark about the other's choice of sweaters? Who is it that convinces the new pledge that her obnoxious blind date for the house dance wasn't the fault of the social chairman? And who is it that keeps spirits bright when dates are few and grades are failing?

Who else but the togetherness

chairman?

We come now to the social chairman, whose job it is to ensure that the sisters are using their energy constructively. She must see to it that the girls have adequate dates at all times, so that none of them are wasting time and energy on ne-er-do-wells and non-conformists.

She must also make sure that desserts are spent in constructive entertainment such as "spoons," a game that develops cunning and guile, as well as a quick hand and eye—all indispensable attributes in the pursuit of... happiness.

The activities chairman does far more than she is usually given credit for. She does not stop at making sure that the house has a reasonable number of girls in every honorary and a controlling interest in as many pairings committees as possible.

She must also develop the creative ability of each and every girl and do it unobtrusively, so no one will object to becoming creative. Thus, when a girl who has petitioned for a publicity committee finds herself on the decorations committee, we know that the activities chairman is at work, ensuring creative opportunities for every girl.

Of course, these are just a few of the advantages and a few of the chairmen that abound in a sorority. Don't think for a minute that the standards chairman, the work chairman or the scholarship chairman are any less important than the above in bringing about the realization of the advantages of sorority living.

The Panhellenic speaker closed her remarks by urging all sorority women to "love their fellow man." Now, if it's a love-your-fellow-man chairman you need, I already have five volunteers and wouldn't have much trouble rounding up a few more.

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ALLEN JOHNSON, Editor