

Little Man on Campus



## Needed: A Revision

The failure of student body president Gary Gregory to achieve his eligibility requirements (so to speak; the outcome of his Fall term grades is still pending) has dramatized the most glaring flaw in the ASUO constitution; the failure to provide for a successor in case the president becomes ineligible.

**IT SEEMS** incredible that one of the more important provisions of any constitution should have been neglected. Yet on closer examination of the problem on the University level, this may be understandable.

It is doubtful if any University student body president has ever failed to make his grades while in office. It is a much more common occurrence to read about a president being elected to Phi Beta Kappa Senior Six. We only know of one prexy who failed to make a 2.0, but this happened Spring term prior to his taking over the office. The student merely went to summer school where he achieved well over the minimal requirements.

A lack of precedent to guide the framers of the most recent constitution could be another point. Then who would have believed that a student with a 3.79 GPA could fall so far so fast?

**NOW THE PROBLEM** exists, and the Senate must cope with it. This will probably take the form of a constitutional amendment to be voted on in a general election Spring term.

There are a number of courses which the Senate can take. One would be to stipulate that the vice-president immediately assume the duties of president should the top official become ineligible. This succession could be spelled out even further, including the senior class president, vice-president, and others so designated.

The Senate could also call for new elections as soon as possible in order to fill any void. The vice-president could act in an advisory capacity until a new official was elected. Petitions could be considered with the choice left up to the Senate; the power could be granted to the constitutional committee; the Senate could make a pro tem appointment from among their own members until a regular election could be held. There are any number of possibilities.

However, we feel that the first suggestion (the succession of the vice-president) would be the best course to follow.

● The succession of the vice-president would take place immediately, therefore assuring the continuance of student government without the void that now exists.

● **THE VICE-PRESIDENT** has the experience to assume the duties with the least possible effort. The transition would be a smooth one, requiring little, if any, training to equip him for the job.

● It would avoid a political wrangle on the part of presidential aspirants. The necessity to mount a quick campaign or button-holing support of a petition could produce some shoddy politics on the part of the candidates.

In short, an amendment stipulating that the vice-president take office with the understanding that he will assume the presidency should the occasion arise.

These are only some of the more prominent reasons in support of a logical succession. Support could probably be mustered for other methods of providing for a student body president in case of an emergency. However, we feel that the above is the most sensible, administratively logical choice. It should be provided for in the constitution as soon as possible.

## Footnotes

Monday's pitiful snowfall has proved a boon to at least one segment of the campus population—the Robins. Acres of them were observed on lower campus Tuesday, heads cocked. The reason being that the melting snow soaked the ground with water, forcing the bird's favorite fodder, worms, to struggle to the surface for air.

Or maybe you have a more valid scientific hypothesis for this startling phenomena?

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The following bit of rhyme was received in our office. Signed with the initials R. MacE., it dramatizes a recurring situation facing many a professor attempting to find a parking place on campus:

It's nearly nine, and in each parking lot  
Are several likely spaces that I spot;  
And as I play my daily musical chairs  
With others of my ilk—

Oh, the mayhem I could gladly render  
To somebody's unsuspecting fender!  
It's the guy who always parks off-center  
Who curdles Baby's milk!

## Loan Talks Resume Between U.S., Soviet

By **JAMES MARLOW**  
Associated Press News Analyst  
WASHINGTON (AP)—For the third time in 13 years the United States and the Soviet Union are trying to settle the Soviets' lend-lease debt for American help during the war. But don't read too much into an agreement, if there is one.

**THE TWO** sides talked about it in 1947-48 and again in 1951-52, without success. They started talking again Monday, but this time under different circumstances.

Premier Nikita Khrushchev, when he was here last September, made a pitch for trade as part of better relations in a number of fields between the USSR and the United States. He was told a lend-lease settlement might remove a major obstacle, and the new lend-lease talks are a result of his urging.

So there may be a settlement. If there is, trade between the two countries should increase a bit, but probably not on a large scale for a good while.

Agreement on trade doesn't necessarily mean agreement on other big issues such as disarmament or the Soviets' demand that the Western Allies get their troops out of Berlin. It has been past Soviet practice to haggle on each issue individually, as if none was related to any other.

**DURING THE** war this country provided the Soviet Union with \$10,800,000,000 worth of military and civilian equipment. After the war the United States wrote off the military equipment and concentrated on getting paid for the civilian goods still in Soviet hands.

The value of the civilian goods was pegged at \$2,600,000,000 by this country. After the two previous talks the United States had scaled down its claim to 800 million dollars. The Soviets offered 300 million.

There are various legal restrictions on trade with the USSR. Some go back to before World War I, because the Communists have never paid on loans made to the Russian government before the Soviets took over.

The result is trade between the two countries is in tiny terms, compared with their economies. Last year the United States exported 3½ million dollars worth of goods to the Soviet Union and imported about 17½ million dollars worth.

**WHEN KHRUSHCHEV** met President Eisenhower last fall at Camp David he was reportedly very upset over American restrictions on trading with the USSR. He was said to feel the Soviet Union was being treated like an outcast.

Undersecretary of State Douglas Dillon said last September Khrushchev was told at Camp David that if the Soviet Union is reasonable about paying off on its lend-lease debt it may pave the way to easing American restrictions.

He said the Eisenhower administration may ask Congress—provided there is a settlement—to remove some legal prohibitions against dealing with the Soviet Union and to extend more favored tariff treatment.

But one of the main roadblocks to any big increase in trade with the USSR soon—even if there's a settlement—is that goods that American purchasers want from abroad in substantial quantities, and which the Soviets have available, are already being supplied by free world countries.

## Editor Gives Reasons Behind News Item

By **LARRY KURTZ**  
Emerald Editor  
Several unfavorable comments have reached our ears concerning the Emerald's handling of Gary Gregory's failure to make his grades last term.

**WE THINK** it only fair that we clarify our reasons for "playing" the story as we did.

Most of the criticism centered around the idea that, by running a front page article (January 6, with the headline: "ASUO President falls below 2.0") The Emerald was deliberately "slamming" Gregory as a person, and attempting to somehow put him in an unfavorable light.

To use the trite, but appropriate, expression: Nothing could be farther from the truth.

In actuality, Gregory himself gave the Emerald all details which were printed about his scholastic troubles, and took the initiative to call the office with a statement. This would indicate that he realized a story would be forthcoming, did not object to its being printed, and wanted to make sure we got the correct information.

**BUT THIS** is not the impor-

tant issue. The reasons the Emerald published the story and placed it in so prominent a position are apparently unknown to a portion of the student body and require an explanation.

In the first place, Gregory's problem was the most important news story of the day by far, and thus was the only one which could justifiably warrant the top position on page one.

Secondly, the Emerald was careful to say nothing whatsoever about his competence as a student body president or his personality. It was as factual a report as could be expected.

Thirdly, it was obvious that the eventual outcome of this dilemma would create a "succession problem," and the Emerald felt it necessary to make the student body aware of the situation at hand.

**SOME MAY FEEL** (and undoubtedly do) that merely printing the article caused the University, in general, some embarrassment, but the news value of a story is not judged in terms of how much it will raise or lower University status.

It is not up to the Emerald to make the University look

good—the paper's duty is to report what goes on, and not merely to praise good actions and pass over those which are unpleasant.

The Emerald editorial board, in commenting on the situation, again made no reference to Gregory's personality on his ability to conduct student government. The board suggested only that his responsibilities as a student should seem more important than being student body president for a few months.

We're very glad that students have commented to us on this matter as well as others, and we encourage them to continue this practice in the future, through letters or personal approach. We hope, however, that they will stop to realize that a newspaper is just what the title states, and prints the items that will be of interest to the student body even if they aren't always happy ones.

We sincerely hope that the student body president will find a solution to this dilemma soon, and that the problem of what's going to happen with student government will be cleared up.

## Emerald deadlines

Persons wishing to place news items or announcements in the Oregon Daily Emerald will be required to meet deadlines. Letters to the Editor are due by 3 p.m., material for the Campus Briefs column is due at 4 p.m., and general news stories are due by 7 p.m. on the day before publication. All material submitted must be typed double space.

## OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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