

Random action

A month ago the ASUO Senate recommended that the Associated Women Students investigate the desire of women to have a more liberal system of closing hours.

At that time the Emerald raised the question of whether AWS would carry out the Senate's request or simply continue to echo the conservative desires of the administration.

AWS DID CARRY out the Senate's request, but the manner in which they did seemed to exhibit either carelessness or reluctance in sampling University women's opinion. Apparently they are leery of opinion that is not originated in and run through the already established channels of AWS and perhaps the administration.

The questionnaire in its pro-status quo wording lacked any satisfactory concept of objectivity. And even the faculty questionnaire was administered in a slipshod way. Through Heads of Houses 1,000 questionnaires were distributed. And of that number only 430 were returned, far from an adequate number to insure the representative sample Senate requested.

THE RESULTS, therefore, could prove nothing more than that more study is still required. That is to say, the results indicated more than a casual interest in chang-

ing the system of closing hours. More than half of those answering expressed dissatisfaction with the present closing hours. Approximately three-fourths supported the idea of a quota system of closing hours. Approximately two-thirds supported the idea of the senior keys system.

Despite those returns, however, the AWS officers have said that they will not investigate further. They complain that the quota system cannot be legislated without imposing impossible hardships on those doing the legislating, and that senior women are not responsible enough to operate under a key system.

AND TO OUR surprise and dismay, the ASUO Senate, once again seeming to reverse a decision, decided to ignore the results of the questionnaire they requested.

We are disappointed that the AWS officers and senators refuse to acknowledge the wishes of their constituents by refusing to follow through on what so obviously calls for further study.

Because this question deals with a University ruling, and because the matter was dropped at such an inappropriate time, we cannot help but wonder if the administration does not have more influence on student government than appears on the surface.

Editorial Sovereignty

A responsible newspaper is always ready to accept suggestions. A good newspaper always wants to know how it can better serve its readers. If for no other reason than to preserve what's left of our sanity, we like to feel that we are a responsible newspaper. Despite our feeling of responsibility, however, we do not take all suggestions offered us.

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS with minority groups is that they are so minor. We get people from various clubs on the campus who ask us to be sure we get a bold-face box on page one about their little organization. We get publicity chairmen from various events and activities who ask us three days in advance to reserve so much space on page one for their big story. Quite frequently people in student government ask us to play down stories and de-emphasize certain news events. And well they might.

But that is beside the point.

One thing our student advisors fail to

realize is that there are more people on campus than them, more clubs on campus than theirs, and news events of importance to people they don't even know.

PEOPLE ALSO DISAGREE with our editorials from time to time. Many of them, however, rather than write a letter to the editor, will come into the office and try to argue with us for half an hour. They invariably fail to win our sympathy.

We are tempted to tell people that if they really feel so strongly about things they can ask to be on the editorial board. And if they're really seething with ideas, they can petition for editor. After all, someone's bound to make it.

And so, while we are always open to suggestions, we do not always accept every single one. You see, we've been at this job longer than other students on the campus, and we like to feel that experience has taught us more about campus newspapering than intuition has taught most everyone else.

Right to privacy

(The Emerald reprints here portions of an editorial recently run in the Michigan Daily. The problem discussed is specifically somewhat different than any we have here. But we feel it makes an excellent point—that everybody has a right to privacy—and it's sometimes hard to come by on a college campus.)

Perhaps some day we will hear an explanation of the unique mental infirmity which makes a freshman girl incapable of formulating and following a personal code of ethics. . . .

Or perhaps some day the administration will open its eyes and see that eighteen years of family life may provide almost as sound a guide to action as a year's exposure to the sterling code of values of the University community.

BUT PROBABLY NOT. Freshmen women have always been denied the right to cross the threshold of a boy's apartment and they seem about to be denied privileges of visiting rooms within the quads.

It is interesting to try to exact an answer from someone in authority as to just why freshmen, who have usually been quite unrestricted during high school, are suddenly herded into the harem on the hill and guarded jealousy lest they stray from the straight and diagonal into an apartment or quad.

"WELL, THE FRESHMEN need time to learn the way we do things on campus so that they don't get the wrong idea." This is as far as the polite discussion with the authority will go and the unspoken meaning is left vibrant in the air.

As one of the best professors likes to put it, "sex rears its lovely tousled head." The "local parents" do all they can to see that the wide-eyed fragile freshmen girls are not left alone for a moment in a situation that might allow

for any real physical intimacy with a boy!

THE DEFENDERS of the faith must realize that their efforts would be unjustified even if they were not in vain. They must realize that mortality is a private issue and that they, by their narrow suspicions and militant vigilance, are offending the laws of decency far more than any of the moral culprits they seek to restrain.

But the basic issue is more than a right to moral self-determination. There is such a thing as an inalienable human right to privacy which is systematically denied by the very nature of the University.

Everyone needs privacy—and not just when he is planning to subvert the University's glowing moral code. People need to know that there is some place where they can be absolutely alone—not alone on a bench on the diag with people milling past, not alone wandering in and out checking to make sure all feet are on the floor and all hands on deck, not alone in the Arb with other students straying by—but alone in a place where they can close a door and be certain that no one will enter uninvited. It means that no one has a right to ask any questions about what you are doing or even to care.

YOU DO NOT have to be doing anything immoral behind the door to want it closed. A closed door can provide a comfort and relief from tension that all students need, and freshmen most of all.

Everything in the University is enmasse. Eating or studying, going to class or buying books, the student never forgets for a moment that he is a bit player in a mob scene which runs on ad infinitum without a break. Wherever you turn you are surrounded; from vacation to vacation there is no escape.



Letters to the editor

Skipped history

Emerald Editor:

Your witty editorial on the "symbols" in Commonwealth Hall failed to mention the History Department. Numerous sources, *Journal of University Antiquities*, XVI (1934), pp. 211-213; and *Red Brick Encyclopedia* (n.p., n.d.) prove that the History Department does occupy space in Commonwealth Hall. Now it may be that your symbolism did subtly convey its presence a) by hinting that the unseen and the unmentioned is the most real; or b) for want of an ideology to classify history. Points a) and b) are logically complementary. Less logic attends the supposition that the phrase "an empty passage through which the wind blows" really refers to the History Department. Textual criticism proves that the association is inconsistent with the author's keen intelligence and ruthless logic.

William O. Shanahan,
Chairman, Dept. of
History.

Offers help

Emerald Editor:

Ah, alas, Mr. Starr, alas! You have been rebuked and scorned by mankind. Everyone has disdained your request, and now you lie there, crumpled in the dust, trampled by the very masses whom you sought to save with a simple equation for life. What future is there for a meek man in the onslaught of cruel Mankind?

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the kingdom of heaven."—Christ

What philosophy may I grasp with which to guide my life?

"... **NOT TO RUN** after this school or that, but to love, and seek, and pursue, and clasp, and never let go Wisdom herself wherever I found her . . ."—Cicero

"Then let thine aim be to exalt the Lord, in all thy work! Yet ev'ry man is free to make the most of what is best in him, if he but does what is ordained by—Love."—Petrus

"... the real normal man . . . I envy such a man till I am green in the face. He is stupid. I am not disputing that, but perhaps the normal man should be stupid, how do you know? Perhaps it is very beautiful, in fact."—F. Dostoevsky.

"IF YOU have food in your jaws and you have solved all questions for the time being."—F. Kafka.

But, is there a God? you say.

"Who asks the twitt'ring bird

of what it sings,

If it but charms us with its tender song?"—I. Madach.

"I have always strenuously supported the right of every man to his own opinion, however different that opinion might be to mine. He who denies another this right makes a slave of himself to his present opinion, because he precludes himself the right of changing it."—T. Paine.

AND WHEREIN lies the salvation of Mankind?

"How wondrously in woman we find

The base and noble mingled—gall and honey!" (Adam)

"I am a mother, Adam!" (Eve)

". . . Woman, th'ideal human poem . . ." (Adam)

(The above three quotations, not in sequence, from Imre Madach's "The Tragedy of Man")

AND FOR MYSELF: What good, existence, devoid of love and strife?

I hesitate to add a base note to this otherwise noble premise, but I'm somewhat perplexed by that peculiar rationale of Mr. Starr. If you are really this lost child, this "voice in the wilderness," you would do better to ask the policeman for a philosophy of life and the philosopher to show you the way home. For I would suppose there are many contented policemen and few contented philosophers.

And if you still find yourself in a quandry, I refer to an ad which appears daily in the *Portland Oregonian*: "Why worry? Consult Shelly. Gifted Psychic—tells, names-dates-true facts without question—advice-help on all problems—satisfaction or no charge. CA 3-9711." And yet another: "Anyone in need of a friend, contact the Salvation Army . . ."

Keith Jellum,
History Junior.

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published seven 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.

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