

Political Realities

Conservative Legislature, Fiscal Problems Should Not Water Down Our Principles

Political realities, unpleasant as they are, must at times be taken philosophically. It is such a political reality that tuition at state institutions of higher education in Oregon is due for another increase, by at least as much as the \$25 per term Governor Mark O. Hatfield has recommended.

The sorry aspect of the situation is that the State Board of Higher Education, and perhaps even the University's student lobby group, will support the tuition increase.

The Oregon State Legislature, because it includes representatives from those areas that are not aware of or don't particularly care about students at state schools, will undoubtedly not see fit to increase the tax burden of the people of this state just to take some of the load off the student. They claim there is not enough money to do so, even if they wanted to.

The stand that is being taken by such people as Arthur S. Flemming, members of the State Board, and the students on the lobbying committee, is that because the Board has requested an increase in the entire education budget, the student should be expected to pay his part of the increase. They add that loan and scholarship funds must be made available along with this tuition increase in order that capable students will not be refused a college education because of financial difficulties. Most important, they point out that if tuition is not increased, the State System of Higher Education will be out approximately \$4 million of operating funds.

To these people, we ask how long tuition

will continue to rise. The student appears to already be paying more than his own share. It is time for either the State Board of Higher Education or the Legislature to make a definitive study in the area of tuition to determine the present and future ability of students of this state to pay their own way, and to come to some definite conclusions on what is an equitable share of the financial load for the student to bear. Definite standards for setting tuition would end the patchwork inefficiency of the present practice of raising tuition whenever more money is needed.

We also believe that the student lobbying group, and those representing higher education at the legislature, should realize that just because tuition goes up, there is no guarantee that loans and scholarships will immediately become more abundant. There is also no guarantee that even if funds do become more abundant that they will be plentiful enough to enable all capable but poor students to attend state colleges.

We feel that because of political realities, the student lobbying committee should not take a strong and loud stand at the legislature against a tuition raise. If asked, however, we believe that students should speak out, on principle, against a raise in tuition at this time.

The political reality of a conservative legislature which faces fiscal problems should not water down the principle of providing a higher education on the basis of ability-to-learn, rather than on the basis of ability-to-pay.

Fireworks Due

This Thursday night the ASUO Senate meeting should see some real fireworks.

If a two-thirds majority is managed, the advocates of USNSA could bring membership in the organization before the Senate for discussion. The controversial student development fund drive will come up, and there may be discussion as to who should set priorities for funds in years to come. Dennis Lynch will present a motion to establish an ad hoc student-faculty committee to study the academic potential in the dormitory area and to evaluate the need to bring the dormitory system into line with the academic objectives of the University. And Phil Shelburne may present a proposal on the lobbying group's stand on tuition (see editorial above).

Although not earth-shaking, these issues may bring about some thoughtful debate, which would be the first such action by the Senate since the first meeting of the year.

Senators should, we believe, come to the Thursday meeting prepared to discuss the issues in an informed fashion. This, in most cases, would be an innovation, if one can infer from past quiet that this means a lack of information on the part of Senators.

We are not in favor of action for action's

sake, nor discussion for discussion's sake, but it is time that the ASUO Senate came to grips during its meetings with some of the problems that now face student government and this University.

Besides those issues that will come up Thursday night, the Senate should also consider soon, action on our out-dated ASUO constitution, and the archaic election system it perpetuates; the possibility of establishing a position in which an ASUO Senator would attend city-council meetings and keep the Senate informed on student-community relations and needs; the need for study in the areas of student assistance on curriculum; and student responsibilities in the area of University athletics including the upcoming stadium proposal.

We would also like to encourage the Senate to continue its study on fire insurance, student wages, a Senate procedures bill, teaching appraisal forms, and married student athletic tickets.

But more than anything else, we would like the Senate to overcome some of its inhibitions and take some thoughtful and informed stands on those issues which now confront it. It is on this basis that the efforts of the 1962-63 ASUO Senate should be judged.



Wolfgang Finkbeiner

ASUO Foreign Student Rep. On Student Travel in Europe

The following column was written by Wolfgang Finkbeiner, ASUO Senate foreign student representative, and we print it thinking it may be of interest to those interested in traveling in Europe. The author is from Stuttgart, Germany, and has spent much of the last seven years traveling in Europe.

Having talked to many students on this campus about the possibilities of cheap travel in Europe, I realize that very few have enough information and many give up the idea because of the expected high costs. Traveling with one of the many group trips may indeed cost as much as \$1200 for two months, but there are facilities for individual or small group travel.

Europe has more than 3500 youth hostels, where an overnight stay is between 25 and 50 cents, depending on the country. Most hostels have kitchen facilities or provide meals. In England, Holland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries you will find a hostel in every small market town. In Italy and France there are hostels in the medium and large size cities. Some have up to 1200 beds. I have traveled during all my summer vacations for seven years in these countries, and only twice have I not been able to get a place. Arriving in the afternoon and having your own sleeping bag in case you arrive late at night will almost always secure you a place.

Entrance fees to museums and other places of interest have reduced prices for students, very seldom more than 25 cents. Even if you eat a meal a day in a restaurant, and this should be done to become acquainted with the special dishes, the costs for a day will never be more than \$2.50. If you reserve \$25 a month for gifts and special occasions, \$100 a month is really enough

for a pleasant trip. In Southern Italy and Austria I often did it for \$40 and never starved.

There are various possibilities for transportation. People with more money may buy a Volkswagen or a Renault for \$1000-\$1250, or if they have less money, a scooter. But in my opinion, hitchhiking is the best way to meet different kinds of people, and have a little adventure every day. About 60% of the boys who stay in the youth hostels hitchhike, many of them together with their girl-friends. You will always find people who reject this way of traveling, but I have done it for years and I don't want to forget all the reminiscences of funny and adventurous events that occurred to me. You will always find a couple of students at every town exit during the summer.

There is a last possibility, a first-class train ticket for all countries, valid two months, is only \$150.

I could write a long story about all the little tricks of youth-hostel traveling, but everybody will find it out after a week, and the communications at the hostels are excellent. Sitting together in the evening, everybody tells about some special experiences. People in the hostels will mostly speak English, but everybody should have a small language guide to ask for streets or to help them in restaurants.

One last warning. Don't try to see all of the countries. Stop along the road, look at a small monastery or castle. There is a place of interest to look at every 20 miles, almost. Don't plan more than an average of 100-120 miles a day, whether with your own car or hitchhiking. European roads and traffic are not very fast. You will have more fun that way, and a reason to return sooner or later.

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Letters to the Editor

The Only Shelter

Emerald Editor:

It is somewhat encouraging to see after the almost instantaneous appearance within the past few weeks of so-called civil defense all around the town and the university that someone has finally acknowledged their existence. For this the Emerald editor deserves praise. Yet his mildly dissenting editorial, as

the only published opinion from both town and gown newspapers, is the only expression of protest so far manifest. The silence of the community on this issue, as with its silence on Kennedy's aggressive posture towards Cuba, seems symptomatic of a total, uncritical, unchallengeable, perhaps even undiscussible acceptance of the war-tempting policies of our "lead-

ers". If nothing else this letter hopes to encourage some form of critical thinking about issues which must be discussed by citizens of a relatively open society if it is so to remain.

There are numerous telling arguments against the government's program on fall-out shelters. Interested individuals can get a fairly accurate appraisal of these from the literature of any

peace group. Here, however, I wish only to emphasize that argument which seems to me most cogent. To wit: the shelter program encourages the illusion that we really can survive a devastating nuclear attack, that a nuclear war will leave us not too badly off, that the consequences of such warfare are not as horrifying as we immediately

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