

USNSA

ASUO Senate Has the Opportunity To Take a Progressive Step Tonight

The members of the ASUO Senate have a rare opportunity tonight to take a significant step forward, not only for student government here, but for the entire University. The step forward would be to join the United States National Student Association.

Faculty and students who sometimes stand a few paces away, figuratively speaking, and take a long slow look at the atmosphere which pervades this campus, invariably find themselves labeling the University of Oregon, "an essentially provincial school." Even those who praise our fine faculty will admit that the average University student is really not too concerned with much else than his own little world of the Student Union, the dormitory or fraternity, and the grades he will receive next term.

And the representatives of these students, ASUO Senators, have consistently reflected this attitude in student government. Their theory has been, "If it doesn't concern this University directly, let's keep out of it. If it can't directly benefit or improve upon what we already have here, we don't want it." We do not blame the Senators for this attitude. They have correctly interpreted the past attitude of their constituents.

It is with this background that membership in NSA, once again comes up for consideration of the Senate tonight.

We believe it is time for each Senator to re-evaluate his position on NSA. For NSA could do a great deal for this University. And the students of this University have a responsibility to do all they can to make NSA as good as they can possibly make it.

The main value of NSA as we see it, is that it is a meeting ground where students can exchange ideas, information, and opinion. The National Student Congress is the heart of this exchange. A two-week assembly of student members from throughout the nation, this congress consists primarily of seminars and legislation on bills presented by its members.

Legislation which the congress passed last year concerned such issues as federal aid to higher education, the House Un-American Activities Committee, nuclear testing, the role of the federal government in civil rights, and many other subjects of interest and importance to students who value their role as student citizens.

By sending capable delegates, selected by the entire student body because of their stands on national, international and student affairs, to this Congress, the significance of student government on this campus would increase greatly. And when these students returned, the exchange of ideas, and issues which are important to students all over the nation, could be called to the attention of the students of this campus. No longer would the University of Oregon stand aside, out of the mainstream of American student life.

But more than this, a "no" vote by the ASUO Senate would be a renunciation by students of their responsibility in national and international affairs. For what NSA does in these areas is of great value.

NSA has held the only non-Communist international union of students together for many years. And student politics around the world are given much more importance than in the U.S. NSA holds a Southern Student Human Relations Seminar in the South each year, and also conducts such programs as a recent drive to register Negro voters in Raleigh, N.C. NSA is the only group that represents students in the area of higher education on the national level. NSA is the only student group on such bodies as the American Council of Education and the American Association of Deans of Women. In this area, NSA has not wavered in its attempts to maintain academic freedom and student rights and to stimulate democratic student government.

Travel study tours, its student government information service, and its college press service should not go unmentioned as direct benefits to the University of membership in NSA.

With opponents of NSA, we agree that the organization is not perfect. But it is an organization that could bring stimulation and real excitement to our student body. It is an organization that can best be improved from within. It is an organization that offers the students of this University an opportunity to meet responsibilities they have long neglected on the national and international levels.

The choice tonight for the ASUO Senate is one of either taking a long step forward into the mainstream of student activism in the 1960's, or leaving our student body entrenched in its stagnant ditch of provincialism.



"WHEN I SAY ATTACK, DON'T JUST LEAN FORWARD."

What People Are Saying On Membership In USNSA

"The United States National Student Association has a 15-year record of outstanding service to the American student, his campus and his nation. Its contributions to international understanding and cooperation and to improving the welfare of individual students are vast."

—The Michigan Daily, University of Michigan.

"The NSA congress was not only a legislative meeting, but an intensive educational process as well."

—The Daily Texan, University of Texas.

"USNSA would be a very fine thing for the student government of this University to join."

—University President Arthur S. Flemming.

"The National Student Association has splendidly articulated our national ideas and reflected the vigor of our college and university young people. The NSA has behind it years of useful activity and experience. It has made generous and effective contributions in many areas of public policy—foreign affairs, civil rights, academic freedom and international student exchange."

—President John F. Kennedy.

"I welcome this opportunity to congratulate each of your members on the splendid work you are doing to advance student aims and to contribute to our American way of life."

—Richard M. Nixon, former Vice President of the United States.

"The Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors welcomes the developing program of the National Student Association for making an informed student opinion effective in American higher education and for extending the influence of free education to other parts of the world."

—American Association of University Professors.

Letters to the Editor

Lethargic Us

Emerald Editor:

Tradition, once indicative of pride and esprit de corps, seems to be a thing of the past. It now appears that to uphold any tradition simply takes too much time and energy.

Recently a large "O"-shaped object, which is symbolic of something—I forgot what, was removed from Skinner's Butte.

Will we take this insult lying on our back? No, of course not!

Suppressing a lethargic yawn we will merely roll over on our side and look the other way.

Jerald Tucker
Sophomore in Business

Amendment

Emerald Editor:

Dear Mr. Pearson: I have, of late, heard a rumor concerning the conservative political movement in this country which disturbs me, and concerning which I hope you can enlighten me. Is it really true that the conservatives in this country want to

make certain changes to the Constitution of the U.S. in the following vein?

Article I

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion (read: "conservatism") or prohibiting the free (read: "conservative") exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech (add: "for conservatives") or of the (add: "conservative") press; or the right of the people (read: "conservatives") peaceably to assemble and to petition the (add: "conservative") Government for a redress of grievances (add: "concerning liberals.")"

L. D. Scott
Grad. Student
Psychology

Theft Charge

Emerald Editor:

In announcing the recent rash of thefts on campus, H. P. Barnhart observed that the thefts coincided with fraternity initiation week. The thefts also coincided with Religious Forum

Week, and followed the tuition raise. If any of you hate fraternities, religions, or tuition-raising legislatures, now is the time to draw brave and ingenious implications.

But keep this in mind: the charge of theft, whether by sneaky innuendo or by direct accusation, is not a funny business.

W. J. Holly
Sophomore in
Philosophy

Misleading Signs

Emerald Editor:

I am dismayed at the appearance of "Fallout Shelter" signs on campus. The entire civil defense program is misleading. It implies that we may be safe in the event of nuclear war. It may condition us to accept nuclear war as tolerable and even desirable. It may condition us to accept a military way of life, which is inconsistent with our country's tradition. For these reasons it may increase the likelihood of the very war it poses

to protect us from. I urge the members of this university to refuse to participate in a program which is useless, at best, and very probably dangerous.

Joyce L. Emrich
Institute of Molecular
Biology

About Letters

Letters to the editor must be signed and should include, if from a student, the writer's year and major. If not from a student they should contain the writer's position at the University or his address.

The Emerald will also publish intelligently-written columns of campus or more general interest either by students or faculty members. Columns submitted should also be double spaced. Preferred length is between two and three typewritten pages.

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