

Senators Discuss Pros, Cons of NSA

By CATHY NEVILLE
Associate News Editor
This is the second of two articles on NSA.

Yesterday's article dealt with the structure of NSA. Today, stands taken at the last national congress and comments by ASUO Senators will be considered.

NSA's most recent decisions were made at the 15th National Student Congress, held last July

at Ohio State University. The congress, attended by 425 delegates, included both seminars and legislative sessions. Schools belonging to NSA may send delegates to the convention, the number of delegates being determined by the population of the individual school. The University could send six delegates.

CHANGES in the codification of laws for the organization were approved at the last con-

gress. Basic policies of NSA must be approved by a two-thirds vote of two consecutive congresses. When the congress is not in session, NSA stands are determined by an executive committee. Last summer's congress voted that the executive committee may only issue statements on matters which have been voted on by the previous congress.

An amendment was adopted

to clarify the relationship between the member schools and resolutions of the congress. The amendment states that NSA membership "should not necessarily imply agreement with policies of the National Student Congress, the National Executive Committee, or actions of its elected officers."

Another new constitutional amendment allows minority reports to be published after NSA conventions. The minority report will be mailed to schools along with the report of the congress.

IN POLING the opinions of ASUO senators concerning NSA, one fact seemed to be almost universally agreed upon: that the average student at the University does not know much about NSA. Most senators felt that students have not had an opportunity to look objectively at the subject. Most senators felt that students were interested in NSA, but that they were being unduly influenced by one side or the other, rather than being allowed to objectively make up their own minds.

Dick Rapp, upperclass men's dorm rep, said, "There were probably good reasons for turning it down in the past but these shouldn't be the only considerations influencing us. There's a lot of prejudice involved."

Phil Sherburne, junior class president, said that "information is only objective to those already in agreement with it. It has been stressed in the Senate as either a pro or con issue, and so the person is already decided when he hears information."

SEVERAL senators felt that the question of membership in NSA dealt with the general concept of student government. A vote for NSA indicated to them a vote for an internationally-oriented student government, while a vote against it would indicate a desire for government concerned primarily with the campus.

Dell Smith, senator-at-large, said "A lot of our new officers are looking around the world, although I don't like to extend the time and so forth to deal with international things. We have other organizations dealing with these things." ASUO President Neil Goldschmidt agreed that there are other ways of becoming involved in matters of international interest but felt that "the exchange of ideas we would get through NSA would be completely invaluable to Oregon."

SU Board Chairman Bill Vertrees had economic objections to NSA. "It would cost \$25,000 to join an organization which will give us nothing we can't do ourselves. The executive committee has sole budgetary powers," he said.

Dennis Lynch, senator-at-large, felt that the organization had merits but is, at the present time, too weak.

"The ideas and benefits are good but the structure is inadequate," he said. Lynch felt that the organization was too weak on the West coast and that the University does not have the "interests or facilities to use NSA at this time. If we joined now there would be so much dissatisfaction in one year that we would quit and not join again."

VERTREES said, "From the eleven schools in our Oregon there would only be one regional representative . . . It would be unfair to send one delegate to vote for us when many of our students would not agree politically. Joining NSA would force every student enrolled at Oregon to belong to the organization, whether he wants to or not."

Jack Joyce, junior class representative, said, "There is something to be gained . . . just what it is I'm not sure. Why not join and find out? There might be some ideas which we cannot know about now that we could learn through association."

Rick Palmer, off-campus rep., felt that NSA will not interfere with existing student government. "The NSA rep. would have a seat on the Senate. NSA could be built into the structure of our student government. It would handle things like the present migrant workers committee or the civil rights committees."

SHERBURNE said, "NSA is the only student vocal group throughout the nation. It is recognized that it has nationwide influence."

Several Senators feel that the final decision on NSA should come from the student body in a referendum ballot.

"It would be the first student referendum in a long time and would probably stimulate much student interest," said Jack Joyce.

The arguments for and against NSA will continue. Any decision made will be subject to criticism. The Senate will only decide tonight how the present phase of the discussion will end.

Free Speech Platform

\$500 'Symbol' Approved

By THORA WILLIAMS
Emerald Associate Editor

From squirted shaving cream to a \$500 brick and limestone structure—outward manifestations of freedom of speech at the University will reach a new level with construction of a permanent "Union Square" free speech platform.

Plans were approved by the Student Union Board Wednesday afternoon. "If things go according to schedule, everything except the limestone trim should be completed within three weeks," Jim Sheldrew, Senior Class president, estimated.

THE IDEA of the free speech platform originated last school year. Self-styled "King of the World" Homer A. Tomlinson tried to crown himself on the SU steps Oct. 26, 1961 but received, as one student commented at the time, an "animalistic" reception by a crowd of about 1,000 students. He was pelted with tomatoes, sprayed with shaving cream, laughed and jeered at—and student leaders decided the University needed a symbol of the University's tradition of free speech.

In a flood of "letters to the editor," students called the incident "horrifying," "disgraceful," and one writer stated, "For the first time I am ashamed to be a member of this University."

The establishment of a free speech platform, suggested to the Student Union Board by Bob Forsyth, was approved Nov. 15, 1961. "Regardless of the sort of action that resulted from former appearances of Tomlinson (he had caused near riots at other "crowns"), we should have opened the University door and respected his right to publicly proclaim his beliefs," Forsyth said.

COLLEEN Nelson cast the only dissenting vote on the platform, protesting that "All the radicals will get up there and the students will take it as a mockery."

Before the platform was dedicated the University experienced another dramatic incident involving freedom of speech. The lead story in the Emerald Feb. 13 began: "Gus Hall spoke here Monday . . . The entire operation was conducted without incident."

Gus Hall, terming himself "an authoritative Communist spokesman" (former general secretary of the United States Communist party), had been allowed to speak on campus despite criticism, condemnation and controversy—to an

orderly crowd of about 11,000 in Hayward Field.

SHORTLY before, President James H. Jensen of Oregon State University had vetoed a student-backed proposal which would have allowed Hall to speak at Corvallis. " . . . we are dealing with a man who is operating illegally in a subversive organization," he had stated.

Hall was not allowed to speak at Washington schools—the University of Washington, Western Washington College, Central Washington. But University President Arthur Flemming determined, "It has been the policy of the University to permit any faculty group or recognized student organization to arrange for the appearance of any speaker they would like to hear."

Flemming was backed by a unanimous vote of the faculty meeting and approval of the ASUO Cabinet. He has since been praised nationally for his stand for freedom of speech, though the decision has also met with criticism. Oregon Governor Mark O. Hatfield has protested, "College time is too valuable to waste on a man of his (Gus Hall's) ilk."

PRESIDENT Flemming dedicated the free speech platform, "Union Square," Feb. 23, 1962. The temporary structure, provided by the Speech Department, was set up by a joint ASUO Senate and SU Board committee chaired by Nobou Kawasaki.

"It is hoped that the creation of Union Square will serve as an affirmation by the students of the University as expressed by President Flemming during the Gus Hall incident," Kawasaki said. "It must be emphasized that nothing new is being accomplished by the erection of Union Square, but that it is a recognition that the free communication of ideas is a right that should not be stifled."

The inscription on the platform was suggested by A. L. (Si) Ellingson, SU director: "Every new opinion at its stating is precisely in a minority of one" (author unknown).

ROGER Fischler, graduate student in mathematics, was the first to use the new Union Square, speaking immediately after the dedication against over-emphasis of football and neglect of other sports.

Since that time Union Square has been the scene of a debate by Tom Mongar and John Bergsen on

the use of student funds to finance an athletic stadium, a speech by student body president Neil Goldschmidt on student government, a support of peaceful disarmament by a touring spokesman. And Wednesday Jim Teasdale spoke in favor of the University joining the United States National Student Association.

Editorial comment has appeared in the Emerald—first supporting the idea, then criticizing the platform's infrequent use, shabbiness, and the inactivity of the Senior Class in providing plans for a permanent structure. The class requested the project early fall term and did repair work on the platform later in the term.

"THE IMPORTANCE of Union Square is not that it is used all the time," Bill Vertrees, SU Board chairman said, "but that such a facility is available for people who desire to use it."

Sheldrew called Union Square "a perfect place for communicating with the students"—for campaign talks between classes, student debates, for anyone with an idea he wishes to communicate.

He said that through Union Square direct contact between student government and the student body can be increased. "Many leaders are known only by name—and this is a road to apathy," he suggested.

"WITH THE permanent structure Union Square won't look like a half-hearted attempt; it will represent the true spirit of the University; and it will become an integral part of the University ideal."

Correction Made In Housing Rates

A story in Wednesday's Emerald stated incorrectly that the rental for three-bedroom apartments in Agate and Columbia housing areas is \$55 per month. This was in error, in that the rental for single-bedroom apartments in Columbia is \$55 per month. The rental quoted for Agate is correct.

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