

# Crossing the Bridges

With Freedom of Speech  
Go Certain Obvious Responsibilities

There is a possibility that Harry Bridges, controversial president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, might be invited by the Young Democrats to speak at the University this year. This would be likely to have serious repercussions, for Bridges' left wing views would be welcomed with the same eagerness with which Gus Hall was received.

Unfortunately, this is a legislative year, and public reaction to Bridges' appearance might have a detrimental influence on higher education appropriations. Obviously, from a public relations standpoint, it would be better for the University if he is not invited.

This does not mean, however, that the University would take action to bar Bridges' appearance if he is invited. The Gus Hall incident showed that the University

will uphold its policy that any speaker may appear if he is invited by a recognized student or faculty group.

With every freedom go certain responsibilities. With the freedom to invite any speaker on any subject goes the responsibility to give some consideration to the good of the University. Recklessly seeking speakers because they are notorious, or merely to gain publicity for a group, is not justified.

We hope the Young Democrats responsibly assess whether Bridges' appearance will benefit the students of this University. If it is their sincere and honest belief that it will, we would not discourage them in any way from extending an invitation, and hope that no other group offers such discouragement.



"CALORIES DON'T REALLY COUNT"

## A Questionable Idea

Governor Hatfield in his recent inaugural address suggested that the State Board of Higher Education and the Board of Education be combined.

Not presuming to be experts in the field, we would like to quote a few other opinions.

The Eugene Register-Guard:

"Both boards . . . have all they can do to keep up with the problems they now have. To double those problems, no matter how large the board were made, would be to add to the work loads of the members. Too few citizens now can afford the time it takes for this sort of service."

The Oregonian:

" . . . we are not convinced that . . . prospective benefits outweigh the prospective disadvantages . . ."

" . . . study should not necessarily be directed toward a merger. Current efforts toward improved coordination between the two appear to be working very well indeed."

Chancellor Roy Lieuallen of the State Board of Higher Education:

"There are practical reasons for not mak-

ing the move. The disadvantages of the plan outweigh any advantages that might accrue.

"It might very well deprive us of the services of some outstanding lay people."

President William Walsh of the State Board of Higher Education:

"I don't see how it could be possible to appoint board members and expect them to do a responsible job. Combining the boards would make the job even more complex and demanding. A member would need to neglect either the work of the Board or that of his full-time outside activities or occupation."

Statements such as these make one wonder exactly what was behind the Governor's suggestion to combine the two boards.

Was it an honest attempt to provide for a great deal of overlap?

Or was it, as one prominent Lane County Senator suggests, an attempt to take some of the punch out of the requests of the State Board of Higher Education's budget requests by putting the Board on the defensive?

## Letters to the Editor

Laud Loudly

Emerald Editor:

Some of our mass media have been doing an increasingly excellent job of news and educational coverage over the past few years. Yet the majority of us tend to accept and expect this to continue as if it is our right. Too often we criticize and too infrequently we praise when praise could do so much.

I suggest action—eight cents worth of action.

I propose a positive organization called LAUD (L-listen; A-adjudge; U-urge action; D-don't stop).

The membership rules are simple:

1. Buy two postcards (total—eight cents. This may be considered membership dues).

2. Whenever you see or hear an article or program of merit, send the publisher or broadcasting company a note of appreciation.

3. Give the second card to a friend and ask him to do the same.

Never before could so little do so much for so many.

Hurry! before membership dues go up again.

Jack R. Rollwagen,  
Grad. Student Anthropol.

Emerald Editor:

In Monday's editorial on hazing, the writer asks several questions concerning the character of students who participate in "hell week" activities. "What standards will they bring into business? Into society? Into government?" he writes.

Only one thing is wrong with this statement—it lacks sound reasoning.

Let's take one section of society—government—and name a few of the fraternity men who have gained state and national prominence in this field. Gov. Mark Hatfield and Chief Justice Earl Warren, Beta Theta Pi; Adlai Stevenson, Phi Delta Theta; Estes Kefauver, Kappa Sigma; Sig Unander, ATO, and Wayne Morse, Pi Kappa Alpha.

These leaders became fraternity members when initiations and hazing were more severe than today. Can we judge them now merely as products of the fraternity system? If so, it seems the system hasn't done too much damage.

We cannot defend hazing, but we can defend logical reasoning.

Stan Darling,  
Soph., Journalism.

Effecting Policy

Emerald Editor:

IFC Tribunal Chairman Ken Wilson resigned in the middle of a Tribunal meeting held Jan. 17 in the midst of a dispute over policy determination con-

cerning flagrant violations of hazing rules.

Three days later University President Arthur S. Flemming made the latest announcement of administration policy toward such violations: "There is no place on the University of Oregon campus for any group that engages in hazing practices and thereby demonstrates its utter lack of concern for the dignity, worth, and well being of individuals."

It might be inferred from this portion of the President's statement that positive action on the part of the administration will be taken to effect this policy.

There is, however, a disturbing note to be found further on in the President's statement. Does he really wish to imply that there could be "extenuating circumstances" which would justify hazing? If so, what constitutes an "extenuating circumstance" in this situation?

Since the administration takes the responsibility of framing policy, it must, of necessity, take the responsibility of effecting policy. If the administration is not prepared to form a coherent policy and to match it with consistent enforcement, then the only viable alternative is to abdicate this responsibility.

Simeon J. Crowther,  
Jr. in History;

Gary H. Newton,  
Jr. in Math.

William F. Koons,  
Jr. in History.

Catherine E. Taylor,  
Jr. in English;

Catherine Sinnard,  
Jr. in English.

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## Letters to the Editor

NSA

Emerald Editor:

It is more than obvious that during the last few months, there has been considerable discussion and debate on the relationship of our student government to national and international affairs and the joining of the USNSA. I must admit that I agree with the goals of NSA, but at the present, even after the structural changes at the last congress, I am still not satisfied with its present structure and operation. Consequently, since we have many of the same programs that NSA offers on our campus already, I sincerely feel that at the present time student government on this campus should continue to involve itself with the problems of this campus. However, I think it would be wise to continue to observe and evaluate the operations of NSA.

Dell Smith,  
ASUO Senator-at-large.

Cultural Center?

Emerald Editor:

President Arthur S. Flemming and those who brought to his attention the need for strong action in the problems of the fraternities are to be highly commended and should be thanked by the fraternity system itself. I say this for two

major reasons.

First, although the fraternity system is necessary to the full growth of this University and to the development of many individual students, its full good is obstructed by problems which need not exist. These problems exist with regard to hazing, financial solvency and mutual aid, and IFC control. The problems exist and will continue to exist until directed actions are taken to correct them. These actions should originate from within the fraternity system.

Unfortunately, strong internal control and corrections were not possible. Hazing continued and the IFC again proved its ineffectiveness. The action taken by President Flemming now allows the fraternity system to reorganize and derive some type of strong internal control for the future. To do nothing this coming year would waste a good opportunity to strengthen the system.

Second, the external control coming from our own campus indicates to others that we can handle these problems here. This alleviates most of the argument by outsiders that control through the state legislature is a necessity. And conceivably the legislature could take action, for the ire of some legislators was raised last week. In fact, the legislature could place disastrous restrictions up-

on the entire Greek system.

Perhaps with a movement to wipe out some evils of the fraternity system the people of the State of Oregon will begin achieving a higher opinion of the University of Oregon. Perhaps then opinions can be swayed to recognize the University of Oregon as an influential academic, cultural and research center.

Howard Liebreich,  
Junior in Economics.

Warm Spot

Emerald Editor:

I am very glad I read Joyce L. Emrich's letter concerning "fallout shelter" signs. I had thought that those responsible for the signs were following the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared." However, after reading Miss Emrich's letter, I am certain that they are up to "condition us to accept a military way of life . . ." Even in case of nuclear war, God forbid, I must enter my plea with Miss Emrich's, that the "members of this university . . . refuse to participate in a program which is useless, at best . . ." Just remember this: You will not go down without a cause. There will be a warm spot for you always in Miss Emrich's heart and in mine.

Robert A. Butler  
Freshman in History