

Speech Platform, Free

Still Not Gone But Forgotten

Free speech is something like the weather—everybody talks about it (sometimes) but nobody does anything about it.

Remember the free speech platform? It's that giant green orange crate-like thing in front of the Student Union. Well, three weeks ago a Senior Class Spokesman said the new one would be completed in three weeks. Just so you won't have to make a special trip to the SU, we'll tell you how much progress has been made: none.

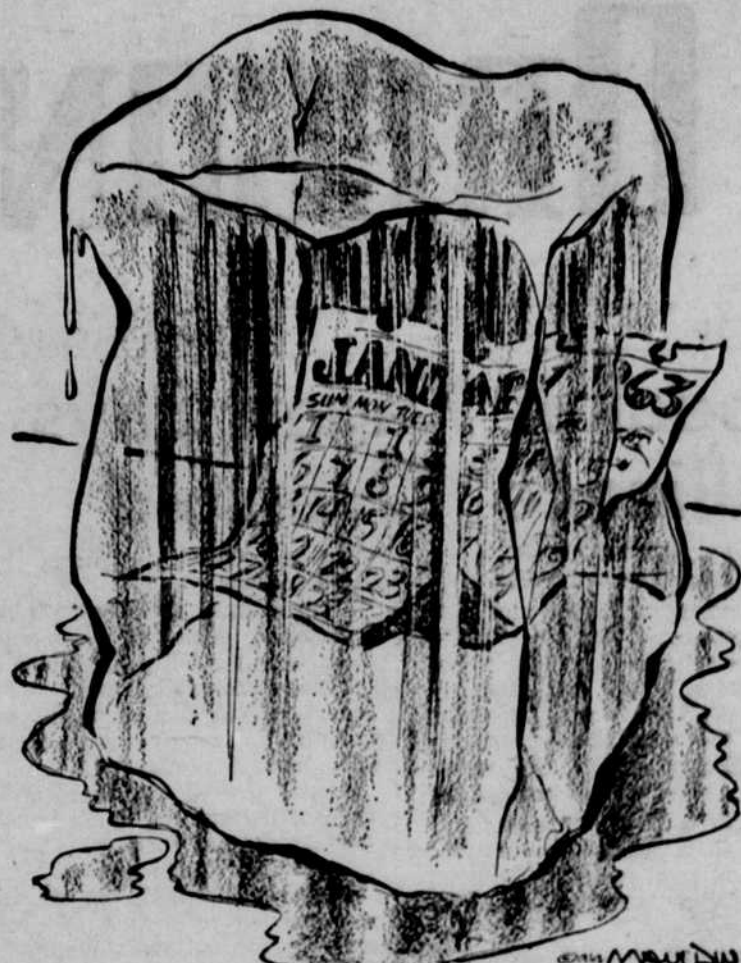
At this point many polemicists would take off on a tirade criticizing everyone from Chancellor Lieullen to the lowliest freshman. But not we. Frankly, it doesn't really matter if the newimproved-superdandy - concretepermanent - \$500 - freespeech-platform gets built on time. If there were a big long line of speakers waiting to expound their views we would be concerned. But if no one is going to use the thing for

another six months or years, then there really isn't any hurry, is there?

No, there isn't.

One other little point: so much rhetoric has been expended on the symbolic value of the platform that we're wondering what they will do with the old plywood model. To burn a symbol of free speech would be almost as bad as burning books. But to throw it in the garbage would be almost a sacrilege.

It should probably go into the Art Museum. They could put it in front of the lovely nude Indian girl. This would 1) cover the Indian girl (alas) and satisfy those cautious parents who want to shield their innocent offspring from the pollutions of reality and 2) provide a topic for potential free speech platform users, namely, cautious parents who want to shield their innocent offspring from reality.



R.I.P.

Letters to the Editor

On Election Drawbacks

Emerald Editor:

It is indeed comforting to know that someone outside the Elections Committee is aware of some of the problems of our present electoral system. I cannot, however, bring myself to believe in your admission of blindness or in your stated naivety in the February 4 lead editorial.

The Elections Committee has long recognized the various drawbacks mentioned in your editorial, and has already remedied some of them temporarily. For instance, Carson Hall was abandoned as a polling place last Spring term in favor of the heavily-trafficked walk leading from the Hamilton-Bean-Walton area. The library was initiated as our sixth polling station also last spring. We grant that registrants must wait a certain amount of time to vote due to the valid and necessary Poll book cross check system, but I hope, sir, that you shall be more careful of exaggerations in exercising your power. The Deady-University Theatre area is useless, from our point of view, as is the Commonwealth station. Carson Hall has proved to be two to three times more valid than that area ever will.

As to your precinct-type electoral suggestion, may I suggest that you simply forget it. The students will not respond in that manner, since they vote now only as the mood strikes them. Also, in respect to more polling stations, it is just too difficult and unweildy a job to procure over 120 women now required to handle six polls in an orderly, basically efficient manner. That they have volunteered in the past is something for which I am grateful and for which I thank them. The two suggestions concerning voting booths and residence indications on student body cards are valid and are now being studied.

Relative to the supposed thesis underlying this poorly researched campaign against the Elections Committee, I have but this to say: the Oregon Daily Emerald is now, has been for the last half century, and, perhaps, will be for the next, the only effective means by which the principles, philosophy, and proposals of any candidates for and office may be expounded to the student body, and explored by them for purposes of voting.

A three-minute interview, a fifteen-word statement of platform, and a ready-made ticket of winners is not the way to "promote the return of substantive issues in campus political

campaigns", just as the present electoral system is not the outstanding, or even minor, deterrent to their revival. If the Oregon Daily Emerald must initiate a campaign on campus politics, let it at least be honest enough to start with one of the most outstanding stumbling blocks—take an honest and sincere look at your own political activity, or inactivity, and then begin to relate.

David S. Pelton
President Alpha Phi
Omega
Alpha Phi Omega representative to Elections Committee

Married Student Housing

Emerald Editor:

Thank you for reporting the hearing held by the House of Representatives Committee on Taxation to consider self liquidating higher education bonds for dormitories and married student housing.

The three members of the committee from university communities have personal knowledge of the many questions that arise in Campus-City relations incident to married student housing. As you know they have to do with city services, exemption from property taxes, public investment vs. private investment, to name a few. Discussion at this point of the hearing was intended to help put these problems into perspective.

Apropos your quotation, what I intended to say and what I think I did say was that the families who occupy married student university housing are in the age group that have the highest birth rate and furnish pupils for the public schools but whose homes are not subject to property taxation, the source of major support of schools.

Certainly there was no intention to compare the size of families of those students occupying university owned housing and those occupying privately owned housing. I always have and expect to continue to support married student housing for the same reasons that I have supported dormitory construction.

C. R. Hoyt
State Representative
Benton County

Reply to Batson

Emerald Editor:

I should like the following printed as an open letter to: Mr. Jack Battson (Junior, U of O), 812 S.E. 14th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Batson,

I am writing in regard to your letter to the Editor which appeared in the February 4 edition of *The Oregonian*.

I am writing not to take issue with your views concerning the Oregonian's reporting of fraternity "hazing" activities, but to take issue with some of your statements regarding the Greeks' position on the campus.

As a transfer student, and a Greek, I feel that the opinions enclosed are worth your notice. As a transfer, I have lived four terms among independent students at the University; therefore, I have a perspective on both Greek and independent activities and attitudes.

The First Statement I wish to contest: "It is the only faction which is interested in managing the student's traditions, activities, and government." Before making such a blanket generalization, I suggest you compute the percentage of Independents active in such activities as student publications, drama, music, and student body committees in general. Also the percentage of Independents attending athletic events. I think you will be surprised by the amount of time, energy, and labor put into extra-curricular activities by Independents, even though more chairmanships and "splashes of publicity" seem to go to the Greeks involved.

The Second Statement I wish to Contest: "It is the only agency which assists the community in a number of projects." It should be noted that University dormitories and other organizations also undertake community service projects. Take, as one example, the giving of food and other essential household items to needy Lane county families during the annual holidays. Perhaps you should state that Greeks do more in the way of service projects, but certainly not that they are the only faction aiding the Eugene community.

The Third Statement I wish to Contest: "It is the only living institution which teaches responsibility for property and, if I may say, even actions, which encourages scholastic achievement, and which offers its members security, friends, and a generally colorful college experience." I regard the above as a slam against the entire University dormitory system. Dormitory counselors do an excellent job of teaching respect for others' property, and setting examples of good personal conduct. A review of the Discipline Code, AWS Rules for Women, and curfew system will also demonstrate that Greeks are not the only ones who follow "house rules," governing actions and the securing of academic excellence.

It is also my personal opinion
(Continued on page 3)

Jim Cloutier

Summer Trip To Ethiopia Experience of a Lifetime

Editor's Note: In the following column Jim Cloutier, former ASUO vice-president, discusses impressions he received during a summer spent in Ethiopia.

"Expect the unexpected!" These were words which we had heard more than once during our five day orientation in Washington, D.C., and which were finally beginning to assume real significance. After one week in Ethiopia unexpected things were beginning to happen and only then could I begin to appreciate the remark made to someone preparing to leave for a similar project: "You'll be doing things you've never done before."

Certainly, I had never ridden in a Wollo bus which bounced along a narrow, windy gravel road, traveling 700 miles in three days. Nor, had I ever seen women walking along the road carrying large jugs of water or heavy loads of firewood on their backs. Another new and unforgettable sight was the throng of blind and crippled beggars that met our bus each time it stopped in a village or town along the way. I never thought that I would spend the Fourth of July in a small Ethiopian town, singing "When the Saints Go Marching In" to an audience of curious and amazed Ethiopian townspeople, many of whom had never seen an American before. These were all unexpected sights and occurrences and they were all just the beginning... the beginning of many new and unforgettable experiences during my two months in Ethiopia with a private student work project-seminar, Operation Crossroads Africa.

I FIRST learned about Crossroads when I was in New York two years ago attending a seminar sponsored by the Methodist Student Movement. After listening to the director of Crossroads, Dr. James Robinson, describe this program, which is popular in the East but relatively unknown here in the Northwest, I couldn't help but feel that this was an experience well worth trying for. So, the following fall, I applied and was fortunate to be accepted as one of the 250 participants for the 1962 summer project. The only other problem facing me was that of saving, borrowing and raising \$900 which each participant was expected to pay for taking part in the program. Somehow, I managed to obtain the money required and within two months, I was one of 250

Crossroads at Idlewild Airport boarding an Air France 707 jet for Africa.

Although Africa was our general destination, most of my summer would be spent in Ethiopia with ten other American college students. Together, with our leader, a junior high school teacher, we comprised Ethiopia Group I, which was assigned to Maymishiam village in Northern Ethiopia where we would live and work in the construction of three additional classrooms to the village school. It was en route to this village from Addis Ababa, the capitol of Ethiopia that many of our unexpected occurrences and sights began to take place.

MAYMISHIAM village is not really a village. It is a four classroom schoolbuilding built of rock with dirt floors, a church surrounded by a grove of sacred trees and a few "tukles" or huts scattered here and there. The nearest town is about 15 miles, six rivers and eight hours by mule away. It was in Maymishiam that I became extremely aware of doing things I had never done before.

Most of us in the group lived in the classrooms of the school, sleeping in sleeping bags on the hard mud floor. A week after our arrival, 14 Ethiopian college students joined us. They all spoke English fluently, so very
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