

Decision Time Again

Senate Should Stand for Its Ideals Whether On Campus or Not

The ASUO Senate will be considering two motions tonight. One is to request funds to send a student and a faculty member to Mexico to study the possibility of a student project being established there. The second will call for support of the right of student organizations at Stanford University to take public stands on issues affecting affairs beyond their campus without prior University approval.

Neither seems to us to be too controversial. The motion to allow student organizations to make public stands without University approval, is merely a matter of freedom of speech. Stanford University organizations, like organizations of individuals not attending a University, should have the right to say whatever they want about whatever they want. They will be held responsible under libel law for what they say publicly. This is really all that limits an "outside" adult's freedom of speech. A student's right should be similar.

The Mexico project stems from a committee established by ASUO President Neil Goldschmidt at the first of the year. It may eventually offer an opportunity for students who are interested in doing something of value, to contribute their time and efforts to assist needy Mexicans. It may also offer a chance for students to learn something about people in another land. It is our belief that projects which offer real aid, such as this one, should be more numerous in student government. If students should not be thus idealistic, who should?

But we are afraid the ASUO Senate will see these as controversial matters. They will not stand against freedom of speech or helping needy Mexicans. But,

if the past is any indication, they may very well stand against involvement of student government in matters beyond this campus.

We hope that if they decide to take such a stand, they realize that in doing so they must, in these cases, refrain from standing for freedom of speech and also refrain from offering students the opportunity to help other human beings in need.

Footnote

With the student lobbying program going strong in Oregon and the physical fitness program going strong in the Nation, one hardly has time to fully dedicate himself to these worthwhile causes without neglecting his studies. There is a solution, however. Why not hike the sixty or more miles to Salem and back up our lobbying effort? This would not only show our support for the President's physical fitness program but it would also help back up our lobbying committee. Those legislators would know we really mean business if 5,000 or more student would go all that way just to watch the Oregon legislature in action.

This idea has other advantages too. Such a hike would certainly indicate a need for President Kennedy's mental health bill besides graphically demonstrating the need for a medical care for the aged bill (notice that all of the hikers are young). It would also eliminate the need for a Domestic Peace Corps. All the unemployed kids could hike around, supporting various presidential—even governmental—measures.

Come to think of it, if we hiked to Washington, D.C., we might be able to swing federal aid to education and really get something done.



"IF I WERE A BIG SHOT IN THE ADMINISTRATION, I'D RIDE."

Tom Mongar

The Fifth Stage In 'Whitewash Hazing' Plan

With the release of the "Letter of Clarification" (letter of rationalization is a more descriptive term), the campaign to "whitewash" the hazing controversy has entered its fourth stage. The first stage, it will be recalled, was initiated by Dean Hawk's rather inopportune remark to *The Oregonian* that a "crusading editor" was responsible for exaggerating the scope of the hazing. The second was carried out when ASUO Vice President Art Erickson requested Ron Buel's resignation at the last Publications Board meeting. The third was executed when the Senate, under the skilled guidance of William Vertrees, voted to ask for Mr. Buel's resignation. The fifth, and probably the final stage will be moderate report from Student Affairs verifying what the fraternities usually say about themselves — that they are the most uprightly American (the best) of all American (good) institutions. At most, three houses will be closed. The others will be ex-

empted on grounds that their so-called hazing wasn't really severe enough to be considered hazing at all.

The "Letter of Clarification" absolutely drips with piety. We are supposed to believe, for example, that it was *The Emerald's* fault that IFC President O'Connell's statement was misunderstood. According to *The Emerald*, he said (and to this date he has not denied the statement): "It was agreed that the large majority of houses were guilty in various degrees of hazing." What other impression could the statement have given? A majority means, if my arithmetic is correct, some figure over fifty per cent. Adding the word "large" implies, even to the most unperceptive mind, well over fifty per cent. Dean DuShane, in a front page story in a recent *Oregonian*, verified Mr. O'Connell's statement — it was only two-thirds of the houses. If that isn't widespread, I don't know what to call it.

Apparently, then, the exclusive objection of the "Letter of Clarification" centers around the relative severity of the hazing and the existence of perversion. The administrative directive prohibiting hazing does not specify that guilt depends in any way upon the degree of severity. It simply says that hazing, within the accepted definition of that term, no matter what its degrees, is illegal.

Perversity is another matter. Even if it did occur, no one, especially the participants, is going to admit it. To do so would be to admit a criminal act. To admit knowledge of perversion would make one an accessory to a criminal act.

What is most disappointing about the entire affair is its viciousness. In attempting to save face, the fraternity system has allowed certain of its members to carry on a "scapegoating" campaign designed to destroy the credibility of a newspaper and the personal character of its editor. And a budget

(Continued on page 3)

Letters to the Editor

On House Mothers

Emerald Editor:

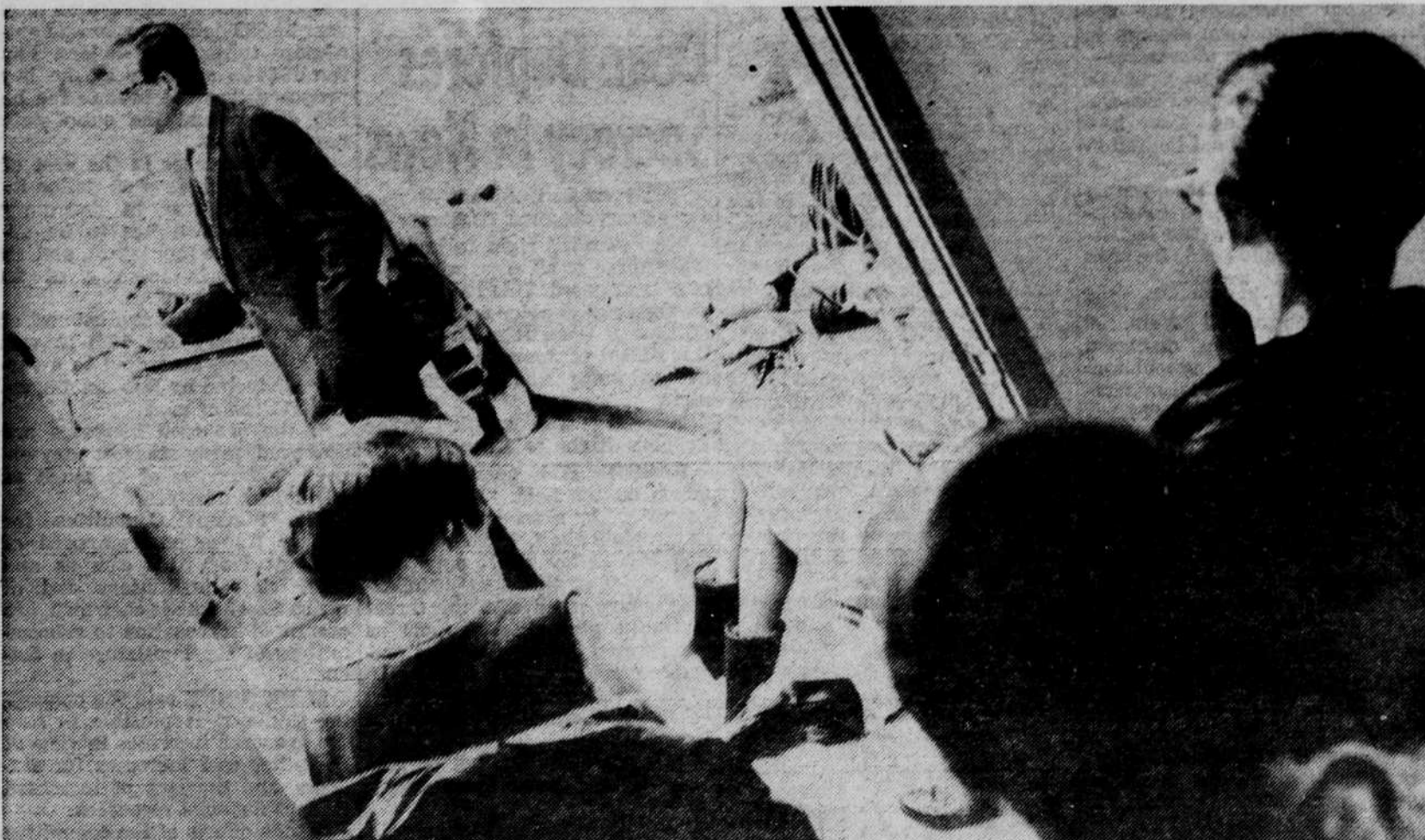
One line in the article, "Sigma Chi Fraternity—House Mothers Useless," in the Feb. 14 *Emerald* intrigued me. This line is, "In addition, the house purchased tickets to all University func-

tions for her, took her to dinner every Friday night, and provided a place for her to stay during initiation week."

Could you enlighten me on why it was necessary to provide a place for her to stay during initiation week? I would assume

that the behavior was such that the House Mother would either be embarrassed or would be in the way of the activities carried on. Am I right?

J. O. Lindstrom
Business Manager
U of O



THIS CLASS, Abnormal Psychology 450, meets three times a week in Rm. 313 Allen Hall, and is taught by Fred Fosmire, associate professor of psychology. Seventy-one students are registered for the class although 313 Allen was designed for 48 people. Fosmire, when interviewed, said that an average of twelve to fifteen students have to sit behind him or out in the hall.

Less than two hours after the *Emerald* called Emerald Hall to check on the number of students taking the class, Fosmire received a note indicating that his class could have the use of 133 Commonwealth beginning Monday, Feb. 25. The departmental secretary had earlier in the term spent two days trying (unsuccessfully) to find Fosmire another classroom. Photo by Bigham

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published seven times in September and five days a week during the school year, except during examination and vacation periods by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per year; \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of *The Emerald* and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or the University.

RON BUEL, Editor
MARTY KETELS, Business Manager