

Pandora's Box

The Higher Education Sub-committee Almost Opened Something It Shouldn't Have

The higher education sub-committee of the joint ways and means committee of the Oregon State Legislature almost opened Pandora's box last week.

In the process of making decisions on the higher education budget for capital construction, the legislators on that sub-committee decided that they should make up their own priority list regarding buildings to be constructed during the next biennium.

This priority list is important. The legislature only has so much money to spend on buildings and land purchase. The priority list gives the order in which this money should be spent on the different projects.

In other words, the legislators on the higher education sub-committee were planning to substitute their own educational judgments on building priorities for those of the State Board of Higher Education. The State Board originally spent a great deal of time and effort in working out the priority list. Each institution has indicated that it is pleased with the list. The people who work out the list for the State Board, college presidents and State Board members, are very experienced in the field of education, unlike the members of the legislative sub-committee. Nevertheless, the sub-committee was going to substitute their own judgments for the State Board's.

They have finally reconsidered, asking the State Board to hold a special meeting

Monday to decide if their priorities will remain the same if not enough funds are available to provide for all buildings requested.

It was wise of the sub-committee not to go ahead with their own priorities instead of the State Board's. By doing so, they would have been bringing about a split in the state system, forcing each college to lobby for its own needs instead of the State Board of Higher Education needs. They would have been opening themselves up to the manifold pressures each individual institution could bring to bear on them.

For instance, although the University's administration building is 27th on the State Board's priority list, it is quite likely that, in a competitive situation, the University could get it raised to the top of the list, simply by mobilizing the lumber industry to support it because it is the only wood-based building on the list.

Perhaps the University would prosper for awhile under such a situation, but in the long run everyone would suffer, primarily because of the lack of co-operation in such a competitive state system of higher education, but also because educational needs would be decided on a political and regional basis rather than on an educational basis.

The sub-committee should stick to the State Board of Higher Education's priority list.

Tragedies

It has been a tragic spring.

The trees under which some of us used to recline and read and sleep, particularly the trees outside of Allen Hall, are gone—blown down in the storm. Now, they have been replaced with piney little shrubs and anybody who tries to sleep or study under them is likely to get needles in his face.

The rain, even for Oregon rain, has outdone itself this year. Spring is just beginning, and it will probably be interrupted soon by rain. After that, we will have summer for a few days and then winter.

There aren't enough tennis courts and what there are seem to be taken up all day with classes. How can we pursue our physical fitness (and our tennis balls) when somebody's always on the courts before us?

It just might be the last spring ever for the College Side Inn, that veritable haven for refugees from the rain and for those aimless people who can't find a tennis court.

In the animal world, a popular dog by the name of Tiger Baum got hit by a car much to the dismay of his master, but is reported doing nicely. In an unrelated ac-

cident, a cat by the name of Roger Ellen Mosky gave birth to four kittens—after all it's spring—much to the dismay of her masters.

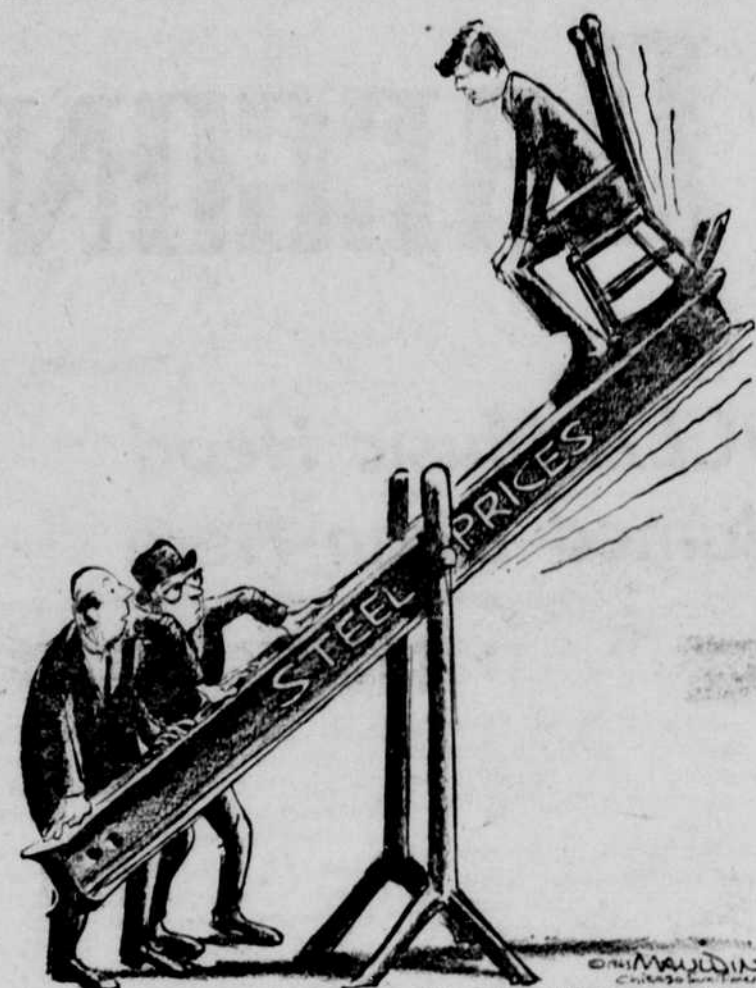
The New York Mets got off to their usual flashy and newsworthy start this year, losing their first eight games, of course, one short of the record they set last spring.

We admit that in most respects this spring is as good as can be expected. But since it is the duty of a newspaper to keep things in proper proportion we have an obligation to tell what's wrong as well as what's right.

Footnote

Sometimes in the heat of an election and the reporting of its results small items of significance go overlooked. Such was the institution of IBM cards for the ASUO general elections, instituted by ASUO vice-president Art Erickson.

Erickson and his aides deserve commendation for their improvement of ASUO election procedures, in this way and in other ways.



"GENTLY, NOW, OR HE'LL BE ON OUR NECKS AGAIN."

Letters to the Editor

A Suggestion

Emerald Editor:

Permit me to defend my letter concerning the establishment of a branch of the U. S. National Bank in the new Co-Op building. I am not questioning the validity or dependability of the U. S. National Bank as an institution. What I questioned was its establishment in a student co-operative building; it appeared that an unfair advantage had been given to one bank. I have been informed that U. S. National was permitted to establish itself in the Co-Op because First National has recently built a branch close to the east side of the campus. However, it still does not appear that this is an equitable situation. One bank lies close to campus, another is located in a building which is a center of buying and selling on campus.

But ignoring this negative aspect of my letter, please reconsider the positive suggestion I made. An irate student phoned me yesterday asking me if I wanted the University to go into the banking business. Actually a Student Bank would not be a radical departure from the present university situation.

Three reasons may be offered to defend a Co-operative Student Bank:

1. The University exists now as a semi-contained community, with many institutions devoted to the student interest i.e. dorms, the SU, the Co-op and various recreational facilities. The University already offers loans and other limited banking functions. Why not centralize and expand these functions in an institution that returns profits to the student and operates on a level of the greatest economy and lowest costs.

2. An economic need exists for an institution of this type. Particularly in view of the new tuition increase, steps must be taken to ease the financial burden on the student. This institution could not only provide low interest loans and cheap checking accounts, but could provide jobs for needy students.

3. Experts are available on campus to operate a Student

Bank. We have a fine Business Administration department with specialists in Finance and Banking. Why not utilize this talent in the students' interest? Contemporary education is concerned with the application of theory; here is an opportunity for such an application.

I do not know if such an institution is feasible. If it would have to operate at a loss perhaps the banks could show their benevolence by backing it. Probably NSA which operates as a clearing house for university programs could tell us if this has been done anywhere else. And if not, why shouldn't Oregon be the first to try?

Jacqueline A. Taylor
Graduate, History

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.

There is no maximum length for letters but those under 300 words will be given preferential treatment. Letters should be typewritten and double spaced.

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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Letters to the Editor

Some Factual Mistakes

Emerald Editor:

Wiley Wright's rhetorical statements answer themselves but I would like to comment on several of his factual mistakes in his letter in the April 24th Emerald.

1. He refers to our present China Policy as serving for 13 years. The purpose of the policy was to "contain" China by "isolation." I submit that China has not been contained in these years and certainly not "isolat-

ed" when you consider that almost all the nations of the world have both diplomatic and trade relations with her.

2. He says I won't face up to the fact that the Chinese won't trade with us if they can't make an "enormous gain" out of it. I am perfectly willing to leave the bargaining to our businessmen under the control of governmental authority who make sure that only non-strategic items are included. Certainly West Germany, Great Britain

and Australia, to name three countries, find trade with China economically most advantageous.

Of course my chief interest, and that of most of the members of the Committee for a Review of Our China Policy, is to increase communication in the interest of helping prevent disastrous war.

3. Mr. Wright's partisanship shows when he makes a ridiculous statement such as "his (i.e. my) platform again, as in the past, consists primarily of rec-