

Restore The Side

Co-op Board Should Represent Constituents And Restore a Sound, Worthwhile Tradition

It took the signatures of 2400 members of the Co-op Bookstore before the University Co-op Board agreed to grant Vic Sabin a hearing. Tonight the Board will listen to the plea of the bearded crusader who seeks restoration of the Wilcox building, which houses College Side Inn, a traditional student gathering place. Unless the Board takes action to reconsider, the student-owned building is doomed to destruction in order to make way for a new sterile concrete bookcase. Vic Sabin's campaign to save the historic neo-Elizabethian structure, an integral part of student life at the University since 1923, has served to point up two important facts.

Sabin's crusade has brought forth a serious question. Namely, does the Co-op Board really represent its constituents? We fully recognize that the Board is the students' technical expert who makes decisions on the basis of full research and study. Yet in regard to the College Side Inn question, the Board has shown utter contempt for the views of 2400 members. Sabin's petitions represent a sizeable number of Co-op Store members, yet the Board has refused to offer Co-op members a ballot for students to indicate their position on the issue. Co-op Board member Pam Pashkowski introduced a motion at the last meeting to allow students to express their views on the issue. She asked that alternatives be given on a ballot, but the motion died for lack of a second. This is evidence that the board is not even willing to debate the issue of present evidence, which would prove the 'Save the Side' proposal not feasible.

The Co-op constitution has no provision for referendum. The Board believes it has no obligations to act on petitions. Some members of the Board question the validity of the petitions since Sabin is not registered as a student at the University this term, yet they would disregard the fact that Sabin has the signatures of 2400 Co-op members in his possession. Members of the Board have expressed the opinion that students are not competent to make this decision, but these same students were competent to elect the board. It is very clear that the Co-op Board members have not fully investigated the case of the person they would ignore.

Student members of the Co-op Board seem to be little more than rubber stamps for the proposals of faculty and staff mem-

bers. The Board voted to destroy the Wilcox building earlier this year without ever considering the possibility of restoring the building for partial use as a bookstore.

There have been rumors that the building is infested with termites and dry rot and this has added fuel to the argument that the building must go. We do not know who started these rumors, but their validity is in question. An architect and a contractor who have thoroughly looked over the Side structure are convinced that the building is sound. The Side building is constructed of old growth fir, a better material than can be obtained at a feasible cost today. The building, if properly restored, could stand indefinitely. No one questions the need for repairs. There are leaks and a few isolated spots of dry rot, but these could easily be repaired. The contractor and the architect who we mentioned have estimated that would cost only \$150,000 to completely restore the building. This would include adding a full basement, upstairs offices and air conditioning.

We believe that the Wilcox building is a worthwhile campus tradition. We believe also that if this building were renovated and restored it would constitute a superior contribution to the townscape. The present restaurant could be maintained while the other business areas, a basement and second floor would serve as a beautiful bookstore with character. Particularly in the west where our architectural heritage is so limited, we should work to preserve a beautiful building like the Side which, if restored, would be serviceable indefinitely.

The ASUO Senate will also consider the matter tonight. We urge them to recommend that action to destroy the Wilcox building be reconsidered and that they instruct the Co-op Board members to do their homework. The Side issue will appear on the ASUO ballot as an opinion poll only. The issue belongs on a special Co-op Board ballot, not on the ballot of a body which has no authority in this area. Progress need not mean the destruction of a significant architectural tradition. The building in question is a sound structure. It has many years of future use if properly restored now. We urge the Co-op Board to reconsider their hasty action. Student members of the Co-op Board have an obligation to be informed. We hope the new board meets its obligations better than its predecessors.

Development Fund Drive

Unrestricted Funds Merit Consideration

At tonight's ASUO Senate meeting, Student Union Director A. L. 'Si' Ellingston will tell the Senate that the campsite drive has failed to meet its goal of \$20,000. Nine hundred students signed over breakage fees amounting to \$8,000, and 100 students signed over their breakage fees to the Oregon Development Fund. Because of numerous reasons involving the timing of the drive, organization, and promotion, the campsite drive has failed. There is no advantage in complaining about the failure. The camp—a worthy and desirable project—will have to be given up at least for the time being.

The question is "what are the remaining alternatives?" A look at the action from the narrow and short-range reasoning of the state legislature provides us with our alternative. The legislature has attempted and is attempting to cut everything out of the higher education budget from high priority additions to our own library to faculty sal-

ary increases. At the same time, they have raised student tuition and failed to allocate additional scholarships for the growing student population.

With the collection of private donations, the Oregon Development Fund attempts to maintain and improve the standards of the University. Its money is used to attract faculty, allow for faculty travel, and provide scholarships for talented and needy students. We should be extremely grateful that such a fund exists, especially during a legislative session like the present one.

The 900 students who gave their breakage fees for the campsite will be given an opportunity to assign their money for an alternative purpose. We strongly urge these 900 to join the 100 students who gave their breakage fees to the Oregon Development Fund and to join the many alumni and friends of the University throughout the state by signing over their breakage fees to the Development Fund.



Letters to the Editor

Vote on Side

Emerald Editor:

In the belief that each one voice raised, however quietly and with whatever odd inflections, will be heard, we would like to urge all Co-op members to take the time and make the effort to VOTE in next week's election on the Side issue. A greater injustice than tearing down the Wilcox Building itself, would be for the efforts of one man, Vic Sabin, to go completely unrewarded.

We're not Angry Young Men crying "Apathy!" at the student body; we simply believe that the principle demonstrated by this series of events must be upheld, namely: that the students can make their voice heard.

All Co-op members, whether for or against or neutral about saving the Side, should make it a special point to vote next week, to voice their views on the ballot. How else will the Co-op board know in which direction we want them to move? The idea, if not the particular project in question, is vitally important.

Peter Gonigam
Junior in English
Bill Craig
Junior in Biology
* * *

Show Concern

Emerald Editor:

On June 22, Jeannace Freeman will be 22 years of age. It is a cruel, but very real, irony of fate that this year may also mark the day of her death. This is to invite each student of the University to express genuine humanitarian concern for her fate by sending her a birthday card sometime during the next month.

It should be stressed that there is no assurance Jeannace will be allowed to receive such birthday greetings. However, the expression of student sentiment along these lines would be a commendable act in line with University tradition of heartfelt concern for the unfortunate of our society.

It is suggested that birthday cards be addressed to Jeannace in care of Warden Clarence T. Gladden of the Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem, Oregon.

To those students who participate as suggested above, thank you—on behalf of Jeannace.

George F. Neavoll
Junior in Political
Science
* * *

Synanon Worthwhile

Emerald Editor:

In view of the inadequate publicity that has been afforded the Synanon jazz group, who are performing a special-attraction

concert this Friday evening at 8 p.m. in the SU Ballroom, we would like to offer what we feel to be interesting and pertinent information about the group to the students and readers of the Emerald.

The Synanon jazz group is a group of professional jazz musicians who have all been, at one time or another, addicted to narcotics, and who have since been cured at the Synanon Foundation, a hospital in Southern California geared to cure dope addiction. All profits from the concert will be donated to the Foundation. The members of the group are also lecturing on the subject of narcotics in the health education classes.

We believe that this program is, without a doubt, one of the most worthwhile projects put on by the university. In addition to the enjoyment of a fine jazz concert, we can all have something to think about in the moral example these men are setting.

Barbara Zeller
SU Board Representative
for Architecture and
Allied Arts
Rich McAdams
SU Jazz Committee
Chairman

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