

An Unproductive Senate

Plenty of Room On An Index Card

When the student Senate meets tonight ASUO President Phil Sherburne will pass out three by five inch index cards to the four chairmen of Senate committees. Yes, three by five inch cards! We wondered at first whether Sherburne was being facetious or whether the activities of the Senate committees has been so limited that they can be described on little index cards. From all indication Sherburne's move realistically assesses what has been an unproductive Senate so far this year.

In the first meeting, only John Luvaas of the Academic and Cultural Committee was able to make a report. The other two meetings were dominated by constitution revisions left over from last spring and parliamentary procedure confusion.

It is true that the Senate and the president have been involved in the ballot measure campaign effort and the campus has been side-tracked by discrimination charges, the Republican Western Conferences and the student court debate. Still we have a right to expect more from our Senate than we are getting. Chancellor Roy E. Lieuallen has said he believes student lobbying could be beneficial in the forthcoming special legislative session; yet in the two Senate meetings since the ballot measure election, the Senate has made no plans to impress the legislature with student needs.

A blanket criticism of the Senate would not be fair. Merritt Fink, chairman of the Student Relations and Communications committee, has lost four members of his committee leaving only Dick Rapp. Fink and Rapp are investigating the usefulness of an inter-dormitory council as a parallel to IFC and Panhellenic and as a means of channelling opinions and complaints. They are also working on a white paper for freshmen and new students explaining student government organization.

Jim Thompson, University Administration Committee chairman, has a full committee, but he hasn't had a meeting yet. The committee plans to review compulsory student fees and advise the Senate as to their need in light of tuition increases. The student has a right to expect more from the member of this committee (Leahy, Goldschmidt, Cormier, McDonald, and St. John). An analysis of the new conduct code, a determination of fraternity and sorority pledging procedures—in theory and in practice—and a Senate priority proposal on admission requirements, marginal student counseling and tuition increases are in order.

Ron Cowin's Student Government Committee is also hampered by absences, leaving only Robertson, Soto-Seelig, and Munsen. They are working on proposals for Senate visitations (hardly a new idea), the new constitution committee and a Senate library. However, they do not hold regular meetings and have not had any formal meeting in the last month.

John Luvaas' Academic and Cultural Committee has made more progress than the others. The committee has initiated action for a dead period before finals, for faculty and administration acceptance of teacher evaluation forms and review of the Campus Chest Drive. We would like to see regular and open meetings of this committee. Here, too, is the channel through which NSA and Senate efforts should be coordinated.

In theory, the Senate ought to do the major part of its work in committee and bring to the Senate proposals and supporting arguments. This is not being done. Regular committee meetings are not being held. What is the Senate doing? Tonight's agenda: old business, constitution decision; new business, kangaroo court. If the Senate continues to dwell on these insignificant issues, they will have to dwell alone. The campus certainly is not interested.

Law Students Proposal A Good Contribution

Members of the Student Bar Association stepped forward last week with an offer of legal aid to students who appear before the student court system. This is an expression of confidence in the new student conduct system in the most positive manner possible. Student Bar Association President Walter Grebe, a former ASUO president, has made it clear that the role of the third year law students who are offering their services will be to help the defendant prepare and present evidence.

The Student Bar Association's offer is a generous one. It means a good deal more than a similar offer would from another campus group. The academic pressures of the Law School and the limited leisure time which law students have underscores the generosity of the offer. The law students will join a number of other students who are making extensive sacrifices on their personal time to make the new code and court system workable. We commend Walt Grebe and the Student Bar Association. Their offer is both timely and thoughtful.

Letters To the Editor

Everest Expedition

Emerald Editor:

Since last spring, when reports of the American Everest Expedition began to appear in the press, it has been rather amusing to note the studied avoidance on the part of the EMERALD of mentioning the fact that Dr. William F. Unsoeld is on leave from Oregon State University. The most recent instance was in Dick Richardson's article about Luther Jerstad in your issue of October 24. There it was stated that Unsoeld was "also from Oregon."

Don't you think your associate editor missed a newsworthy situation? An assistant professor of speech (Jerstad), on leave from the University of Oregon, and his climbing partner, were to meet an assistant professor of philosophy (Unsoeld), on leave from Oregon State, and his climbing partner, on the summit of Everest. All four got there, but Jerstad and his companion were first up by an hour and a half.

Now don't tell me Richardson didn't know who Unsoeld was. As a citizen of Oregon, I'm proud of both Jerstad and Unsoeld.

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* * *

Poll Clarification

Emerald Editor:

Having read in the Emerald of October 30 that "Prof. Galen Rarick of the School of Journalism maintains that the poll is biased . . .", I am of the opinion that some clarification is needed.

As you know, the statement refers to the Oregonian's mail-in poll concerning state taxes and expenditures. The statement is based on a story by Dave Sands in the Emerald of October 29. Reporter Sands solicited my opinion of the Oregonian poll, and his report is essentially correct. (At the same time, the re-

port is true to what our critics say is the tradition of American journalism in that it lacks the precision of qualification.) The headline on the story is an excellent brief summation of what I said. It read: "Room for Bias in Poll Results."

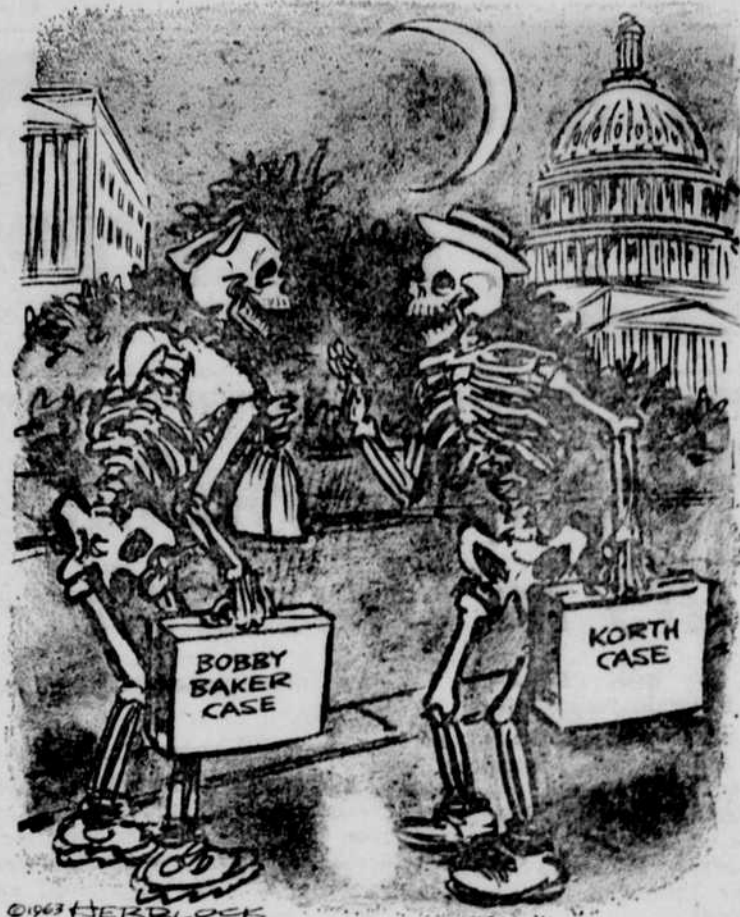
Now, obviously, there is quite a difference between saying there is "room for bias" and saying a poll "is biased." Frankly—and I may be betraying the professorial profession in admitting this—I am not omniscient. Consequently, I do not know exactly what the people of Oregon think about state taxes and expenditures, so I cannot say with certainty that the Oregonian's poll is biased.

What I can say (and did) is that as a technique of opinion measurement, a mail-in newspaper or magazine ballot is highly susceptible to bias. This is true for several reasons, one of them being the self-selection of respondents.

Furthermore, any time a re-

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Herblock



"Man, It Looks Like A Real Old-Fashioned Hallowe'en"

Janet Goetze

Dorm Malcontent Likes New Life

As a droopy-lidded senior with the stooped shoulders and cynical stare of my caste, I am often asked, "How's apartment life?" "Great!" I always say. And compared with my three years in the University dormitories it's the best kind of living around here.

Considering the current hassle over rules, regulations, discipline, and jurisdiction, I am happy to be in a position to divorce myself entirely from organized living and the special chronic problems that afflict women's dormitories.

Unfortunately, I don't feel that I can stay completely apart from the melee since I was one of the revolution-inspired residents who started it last spring. My efforts have earned me so far the title of "Dormitory Malcontent," (bestowed by an administrator who apparently thought I should have endured one more year of The Life) as well as a feeling that enough griping up the right channels can cause quite a stir. Now that I have been emancipated from the dormitories and all the rules that were supposed to develop my moral character, I can only hope that this transition period will become stabilized by the end of the year and that women students will never again be regarded as a pack of potential unwed mothers who must be protected from themselves and the real world of the big city that is Eugene.

Distaste Developed

My distaste for communal living developed, naturally, in my freshman year when I had four roommates in a three-room suite and 16 hours of courses to study for.

We were all given the big pep-talk about group living being a wonderful way to meet people and adjust to other temperaments and how wonderful it was to have a housemother who was to be our "Mother away from home." (No kidding! She really said that!) Since there was no way out, I gritted my teeth, took my turn at phone duty, ate my dinner with 400 other people, and avoided the Wednesday night deserts that were supposed to "rest" my mind.

My sophomore year was some relief. I had just one roommate to complicate my living hours, and the housemother didn't live in my unit. The two counsellors that did seemed to think I could take care of myself, and they re-

quested only that I keep closing hours, avoid noise in the halls, and attend compulsory dorm meetings.

"Something Else"

My junior year was something else. I had spent the summer working on a local newspaper and living in an apartment all by myself. I suspected that moving back into regimentation would not be pleasant, but since I was not old enough to stay off campus once I had registered for school, I prepared my mind for the Old Commune. However, the Old Commune seemed to have taken on new ideas in subtle ways.

The eager, bright-eyed counsellors explained that they were responsible for all of us and they hoped that we would never be so unladylike as to wear curlers in the wash rooms or come barefoot to breakfast. We should also refrain from entering the dormitory with liquor upon our breaths, they explained, and they hoped that we would never entertain strangers in our rooms. No exceptions were made to closing rules within the commune, for such exceptions only would have disrupted the general tone of the inspiring experience of group living. (In my freshman and sophomore years students who worked late or had some other legitimate excuse simply called the housemother, explained the

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