

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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University of Oregon, Eugene, Monday, January 10, 1966

The St. John's Strike

Academic Freedom Not Enhanced by Union Involvement

It is not unusual for the faculty of an American college or university to disagree with the administration of same institution, and vice versa. However, when this disagreement fosters impediments to discussions of mutual problems and long-range goals, the quality of education in the institution can suffer seriously.

A dramatic example of such a conflict was portrayed last week at St. John's University in New York, one of the largest Catholic schools in the world, with 13,000 students. A strike, the first in American history, was called at St. John's by the United Federation of College Teachers, an AFL-CIO affiliate. The union said the action was taken to protest the dismissal of 31 faculty last month over issues of academic freedom.

Father Joseph Cahill, the president of St. John's, claims that the teachers were fired because they misused their positions for propaganda purposes, publicly shamed their school by participating in "unauthorized" demonstrations, and challenged the administrators and trustees. The faculty, on the other hand, has been openly critical of administration policies for nearly a year, which they claimed interfered with their rights to participate in activities of their own choosing, without threat of job security.

Private Catholic schools are understandably tight-knit, internally secure organizations. Thus, it is not surprising that a few professors found the strict regulations inhibiting their activities both inside the classroom and out.

But the question is broader than that. Administrators of educational institutions often try to protect their public image, taking the necessary steps to quell any controversy in its early stages, or to impose rules

upon faculty which attempt to prevent any controversy at all. Fortunately, many administrators, including University President Arthur Flemming, have long ago recognized that a faculty member's job should not hinder him from participation in political or other activities outside the campus borders. This is a difficult ideal to attain in a public institution, supported by public monies; private schools have fewer taxpayers to which they must answer. But only through an exercise of this right of participation can the faculty members become more than simply an inbred "community of scholars" who lose their contact with the world outside the campus.

However, while they should permit reasonable freedom to their faculties, college administrators should stubbornly refuse to allow the brute power of labor unionism to dictate the terms of their institution's operations. In doing just this, Father Cahill of St. John's has not impeded but has protected the cause of academic freedom at his school. We seriously doubt that interference by union officials would bring any intelligent solution to the problems at St. John's.

Most of the St. John's faculty appear somewhat satisfied with the liberalization of policy that has taken place, since only between 40 and 50 teachers are honoring the picket line out of a total faculty of 651. The teachers who stayed on the job are attempting to keep on with the business of educating students while attempting rational compromise of a number of problems facing them. In any dispute such as this it is the student who will suffer most, and this is a consideration having little influence with those teachers who yielded to the call of the strikers.

Letters to the Editor

All letters to the editor must be typewritten and double spaced. Letters not over 300 words in length and those dealing with one subject will be given preference for publication. All letters must be signed in ink and must give the class and major of the writer. Letters not meeting these criteria will be returned to the letter writer. The Emerald reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar, punctuation, and potentially libelous content.

Lot Needed

Emerald Editor:

The proposed and now unproposed parking lot at the northeast corner of the campus illustrates the folly, perhaps the idiocy, of campus planners and administrators. This university has been given \$4 million dollars for a computer center. But it will only provide three parking spaces to service it. Too bad the NSF grant didn't require some matching funds for parking facilities.

Actually, the need for a parking facility at the corner of 13th and Kincaid is a current one. The closest parking lots for students going to Commonwealth, Chapman, Condon, Prince Campbell, Fenton, Friendly, Allen, Deady, and Villard halls are the ones in front of the Music School and the one east of Emerald Hall. That's

a long walk.

There really is no parking lot servicing these main campus buildings, except the staff-only lot behind Taylor's. The University should waste no time in turning the corner in question into a huge parking lot, be it gravel, asphalt or some other surfacing.

Instead, this facility has been over-planned right out of existence. One day, the Planning Committee says, 13th Avenue will be closed to traffic. So, there will not be any way to get cars to the unproposed parking lot. Of course, the Planning Committee has overlooked two things. First, the city does not want to close 13th (not to mention the students), at least as far as Kincaid. The most likely change will be that all traffic on 13th will be routed north on Kincaid: toward the now unproposed parking lot. Second, regardless of any "eventual" plans, the need for a parking lot at that particular place is a present one; in fact, it has been needed for several years already.

It would be most difficult to believe that the University could not find enough money to put a gravel or other suitable surface down on that area to provide a much needed, immediately needed, parking lot.

James L. Hutter
Graduate, Pol. Science

Award to Worst

Emerald Editor:

Many novel and intricate methods for implementing the Mosser Plan had been suggested prior to the faculty action Wednesday. The source of the following idea is uncertain, but it has been gaining increasing popularity. The key to this particular scheme is that rather than granting \$1,000 awards, the entire \$72,000 should be awarded to one faculty member. Further, it should be given to the worst undergraduate instructor. With this windfall, the recipient would surely retire immediately, thus improving the quality of undergraduate instruction.

Ken Ostrom
Graduate, Mathematics

Wallace Apologizes

Emerald Editor:

I have been asked by Bob Carl, in connection with a joke question which I used on an examination, to exonerate him and Chuck Beggs from any implied association with a Communist conspiracy. I can state that I have no reason to believe that such an association exists or has ever existed. I would also apologize for any damage which such an implication might have done to their reputations.

Dwight T. Wallace
Asst. Prof., Anthropology



Rod Roth

Council to Aid Graduate Students

Editor's Note: Rod Roth is the graduate representative to the ASUO Senate. In this column he discusses recently formed graduate advisory council.

A new Graduate Student Advisory Council, composed of and for graduate students, was established fall term to end the isolation of advanced degree candidates by airing their gripes, difficulties and suggestions.

Even though one of every five students is a graduate, these

graduates, as a class, have been the least articulate in expressing their problems. Until now, graduates have been isolated. There has been no interdepartmental communication or co-operation.

The University, recognizing this, has created in the Office of Student Affairs the position of associate dean of students for graduate students. J. F. Rummel from the Education Department has filled this position, and he immediately attacked the isolation problem by helping organize the Graduate Student Advisory Council.

The Graduate Council is composed of two student representatives from each department, to be chosen by the department's graduate students. The Council will formally organize and choose a chairman from its members at its first winter term meeting on Thursday, Jan. 13. The council will meet once a month thereafter, and meetings will open to all graduates, who may present problems orally or in writing.

Specific long-range problems will be referred to ad hoc committees appointed by the chairman of the Council. Each committee will recommend a solution which then will be conveyed to the Administration by Rummel.

Major problem areas discussed at the first two meetings and on which stands will be taken include:

- (1) The need for graduate student orientation;
- (2) Re-examination of language requirements and lack of standard procedures on language examinations;
- (3) Inequities in stipends for comparable times and responsibilities;
- (4) Lack of warm, interpersonal relationships with faculty;
- (5) And assorted difficulties with the library.

Isolation need no longer be a barrier to the solution of problems facing graduate students. A common forum exists, but the Council must yet prove itself by providing reasonable solutions to the multitude of minor and major issues raised.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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