

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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University of Oregon, Eugene, Thursday, January 13, 1966

## Computers Aren't All Bad

Mention computer scheduling of classes on this campus and there are immediately cries of "They're trying to dehumanize scheduling!" and "Students will lose all their chance of getting the professor they want!" Ever since Berkeley made the IBM card a symbol of the reduction of students to mere automatons in the multiversity, anything that puts students "at the mercy" of a computer is bad, bad, bad.

But a closer examination of the question will show that computer scheduling may be much fairer to the student than the present system.

Last year the Registrar's Office experimented with a computer-read sheet that would be used to eliminate almost all cards from students' registration packets. It worked. With some revisions it will probably be used to register students here starting in the fall of 1967.

But that's not computer scheduling. Students would still sign up for classes the same way. They would still stand in long lines. They would still find that getting in right at the first of their priority hour won't assure them of a place in the class they want because many departments don't observe the alphabetical priority hours.

The Registrar's Office is talking about extending the use of that computer to schedule students' classes. This would mean that students would fill out a list of the courses and sections they want. (They could also mark in work time.) These lists would be run through a computer and it would schedule classes. The computer would be programmed to give as many students as possible their first-choice section. Of course, not everybody will be able to get their first choice. And that's the rub.

It has been claimed that computer scheduling would take away a student's "fighting chance" to get the classes of his choice. But is this "survival of the fittest" system the best way to schedule classes? Sure, some students manage to get all the sections they

want. But others don't get any. And most get only some. This applies mainly to lower division classes. Most upper division classes are offered in only one section.

And most freshman and sophomores find that the best lower division sections go only to the swift and the strong. And even the swift may lose out unless they make an advance study on how many of their sections observe priority hours.

Some say that computers will reduce students' efforts to get the sections they want to a "one-sided battle with a computer." But computers, being emotionless, are fairer and more impartial than people. The people here who know about computers say the computer should be able to give more students more of their first choices. To make sure they'll test it either this spring or next fall, checking students' first choices against the courses they get by computer and by the present system.

The avowed goal of the people trying to solve the registration mess is to give the most students their first choice of sections. If that test shows that computers will meet this goal better than the present system, then students shouldn't let idealistic opposition to anything computerized stand in the way of their best interests.

## Federal Mosser?

Those nasty old politicians are at it again.

According to Collegiate Press Service a House subcommittee is looking into the academic reward system that gives big grants for research and mediocre salaries for teaching in the nation's colleges. One of the solutions they propose is to recognize undergraduate teaching excellence by Presidential award.

We can give them a tip, garnered from this University's unfortunate experience with the State Legislature's Mosser plan to reward good teaching: don't ask college professors for approval.

## Letters to the Editor

### Ski Difference

Emerald Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to clear up an often misunderstood relationship between the University Ski team and the Ski Quacks. These are two separate programs. The Ski Quacks is the ski club on campus, catering mostly to the recreational skier. The club offers meetings with ski films, transportation to ski areas, overnight ski trips at reduced rates, help and advice to the novice skier, and perhaps most important, an opportunity to get together with fellow skiers for mutual enjoyment on the slopes.

The ski team is for the competitive skier or the advanced skier who would like a chance to become a competitor in the sport.

It gives its members an opportunity to compete against other college teams on the west coast. It offers a program of workouts and training off the slopes as well as on the slopes.

Any person with an interest in skiing would feel right at home with the Ski Quacks Ski Club. Any person, men or women, with a competitive spirit for skiing is welcome to try out for the University Ski team.

Tore Steen  
Coach, Ski Team  
Faculty Advisor,  
Ski Quacks

### Beach Boys

Emerald Editor:

A small item on the back page of Monday's Emerald noted that the Beach Boys would be appearing in concert at McArthur Court in March. Students may have passed quickly over this item without realizing its significance in view of the past policies of the Student Union Board. The appearance of the Beach Boys will mark the first appearance of an outstanding rock and roll attraction at the University in at least four years and perhaps longer.

Those of us who have strongly encouraged concerts or dances with nationally known rock and roll or rhythm and blues

artists are greatly heartened by the expansion of the SU Board's entertainment program. In past discussions, the SU Board has turned down requests by various individuals and rock and roll groups because "such entertainment was not in line with the University attitudes." It is certainly time that backward opinions were changed and the Beach Boys concert can only be considered a step in the right direction.

It should be pointed out here that I offer no criticism of the talent that has been brought to the University in the past three years. The SU Board has brought in Henry Mancini; the late Nat King Cole; Peter, Paul, and Mary; Louis Armstrong; the Smothers Brothers, and the Ford Caravan of Stars among others. This is an outstanding group of performers and students and faculty should be appreciative of this caliber of talent. The SU Board has, however, failed to realize that a majority of the students enjoy rock and roll and rhythm and blues music.

Those in favor of rock concerts have never advocated substitution of rock and roll concerts for the forementioned pro-

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## Cameron's Comment



HE SEZ HE'S AN EXPERT ON FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE HE WORKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

Chuck Beggs

## Situation Reassuring At Tongue Point

Officials involved in President Johnson's War on Poverty are preparing themselves for a barrage of criticism that is expected to emanate from Congress this year.

The President's economic demands to support the war in Viet Nam appear certain to influence appropriations for domestic expenditures, especially those expenditures designed to contribute to Mr. Johnson's Great Society.

The Job Corps will not be spared by the critics, especially those Republicans who have been gathering incriminating evidence against the poverty program almost since its inception. While the Job Corps has been considered one of the most successful of the poverty fights, recent items in the national press reflect the skepticism that is mounting over this program.

I found, however, in a visit last week to the University's Job Corps Center at Tongue Point, some reassuring developments in the program. Some remarkable changes have been made since the center opened up a year ago.

### NO TRAINEES UNHAPPY

I could find no trainees that were really unhappy with the place. They enjoy deeply the opportunity that has been given them.

Many skeptics predicted that large numbers of youths wouldn't return to the Centers following their Christmas vacations at home. But this proved untrue, at least at Tongue Point. Of 320 boys who went home, only five failed to return, and one of the five got himself a job.

The blame for the confusion, the charges of waste and the various "incidents" at centers around the country must be laid, I feel, at the feet of the program's administrators, the bureaucrats at the federal level.

For political reasons, the Job Corps took on too much of a "crash program" atmosphere.

### 300 IN TWO WEEKS

The Tongue Point Center last summer received over 300 new trainees in less than two weeks—far more than the staff was equipped to handle. As a result, chaos reigned. The same was true of other centers across the country.

As a result of the tensions, plus poor screening of candidates for the Corps, violence broke out at some of the centers which drew heavy attention in the press.

Since the influx of trainees was slowed down last summer things at Tongue Point seemed to have improved greatly.

The vocational program is being well-run; Ernest Lareau, vocational training director, says that employers are demanding skilled trainees as fast as the center can produce them.

### RECREATION IMPROVED

Recreation facilities have been improved. The boys live in group units and are allowed to make many of their own rules and try their own peers for discipline cases.

My greatest impression after visiting Tongue Point was that most of these young people don't want to go back home—back to poverty, divorced parents and, in the case of Negro boys, racial mistreatment.

The trainees have found an opportunity to avoid a lifetime of strife and dependence on government welfare. They have been given a chance to compete for gainful, decent employment in their society, a chance which could very well be their last.

Many of the trainees are very bright and want to learn, but they have never had much of a chance.

### CRASH PROGRAM

Many critics of the program have attacked the Job Corps for waste, overstaffing and excess expenditures. Of course, any crash program is going to involve some waste through sheer confusion. And staff levels are high now—Tongue Point has 460 staff

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