

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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University of Oregon, Eugene, Tuesday, January 18, 1966

To Find a Seat

Students Get the Worst Seats at Basketball Games

At basketball games the athletic department crams students into precious few seats on either side of the floor and on the ends of McArthur Court. Students have to be there by 7:30 to claim those seats. After that general admission patrons are let in to grab up the unclaimed seats. And what's worse, students can't sit up in the balconies—except on the ends—because those seats are reserved and can be claimed at any time, right up until the game's end.

So students sit on the end or behind the band or stand in the doorways.

The reason students suffer is because the athletic department wants to squeeze as much money out of each game as possible. They have to provide a seat for every student who wants one. But it doesn't have to be the best in the house. They already have the students' money—\$19.50 per year in student fees. There's no profit in giving students good seats. So the athletic department sells the good seats and students sit where they can. Of course, faculty members pay \$20 a year and get reserved seats.

There are several things the athletic department could do to change this injustice.

One is to provide more student seating. That might cut into the athletic department's fat bank account but it would certainly be fairer to the students who support it. McArthur Court is seldom filled for a basketball game. There are usually plenty of upper balcony seats open. All the athletic department needs to do is move its over-

protected paid patrons back a few rows and give some of those choice, comfortable seats to the students.

That's a nice idea and the obvious solution. But the athletic department probably won't do it. Those seats are already sold this year for a few games like Oregon State. Besides, there's no profit in it.

What else could they do?

They could make the people that have reserved seats abide by the same rule as the students: get there by 7:30 or risk finding someone in your seat. Or better yet move the deadline up to game time (8 p.m.) for both groups. Or at least keep the present student section shut off from others for the whole game.

The athletic department could also stop doing favors for the lettermen, the Drakes, the Decoys, the Frosh 200, and so on. Let them sit where they can find a place, like everybody else. Or if they must have a reserved section put 'em on the end. Student seats are bad enough without giving half of them over to special interest groups.

There's another alternative, of course. Eliminate the student athletic fee, put all seats on a reserve basis, and let students compete for them with everybody else. But that's a drastic step not yet called for by the present situation. It might be needed some day.

Right now we'll settle for a new attitude from the athletic department: one based on a service motive instead of the profit motive.

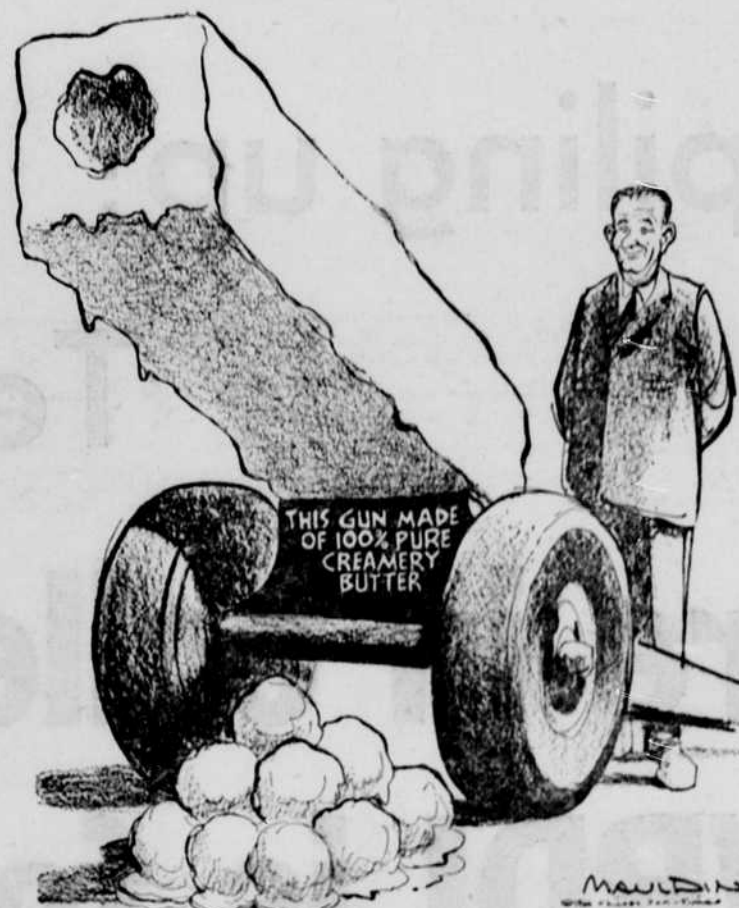
Peace Corps Fighting War, Too

Throughout this week representatives of the Peace Corps are at the University to talk with students and, primarily, to sign up volunteers. We urge everyone to stop by the tent in front of the Student Union and to avail themselves of this opportunity to get some first-hand information about work in the program.

The Corps has been the target of some heavy verbal attacks recently. Returning volunteers have criticized the government for aiming the program in the wrong direction, for simply providing handouts without technical assistance. This may be true, in some instances. To say that no mistakes have been made would be foolish.

But the statements by some of the returning workers indicate that they joined the Corps thinking that they could become miracle workers overnight. This is not the way such a project will operate. The Corps volunteers face a long, slow battle in their efforts to further human understanding and to better the lot of the great masses of the world's people who are quite "underprivileged" by American standards.

Today's Peace Corps worker is likely to be tomorrow's leader, and if he gains nothing more than the experience of working with peoples of other nations, America will have profited immeasurably. If this nation can afford to spend \$16 million per day to fight a war in Southeast Asia, it can certainly spend \$100 million a year to fight the quiet, tedious war against poverty and ignorance being waged by the Peace Corps.



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.

Telegram Misconstrued Emerald Editor:

It is disgusting that the attitudes and opinions behind the Faculty Student Committee's telegram to Johnson should have been so misinterpreted by the press and people at large. Yet that is the fault only of the Committee and of the persons at the meeting who voted for the telegram. The misinterpretation by the public is a natural one.

I attended the meeting where Johnson's "peace offensive" was discussed for over two hours. Many persons spoke their opinions. Only one or two out of these many indicated any belief whatsoever that Johnson's "peace efforts" were sincere. Most said that they were a clever means to obtain consensus for a further escalation in Viet Nam.

The most obvious evidence for this skepticism is the administration's consistent refusal to recognize the National Liberation Front as the opposing force; the insistence that the admiration is awaiting response from Hanoi. In addition, besides the diplomatic circus which worries many, there is the further introduction of troops into Viet Nam, the further building of large permanent-type military bases there, and the recent request for an additional \$13 billion to conduct the war.

These measures hardly indicate to the foe a sincere desire for peace, since they are being taken and publicized at the precise moment we are apparently seeking peace.

Also, Goldberg's vague remarks to U Thant do not indicate that this government is willing to concede the right of Vietnamese people to choose whatever government they want, Communist, coalition, or otherwise. So far, the attitude has been that only a noncommunist government would be allowed by the U.S. and there is no reason to believe that this attitude has changed in the slightest.

The main motive behind the telegram, especially by those chosen by the assembly to pen it, was that it "could do no harm" and that any peace overture, sincere or not, should be encouraged.

Unfortunately, I believe that great harm has been done — just that harm warned of by several individuals at the meeting. Johnson is getting his consensus.

The congratulations of the peace groups for his "offensive" not only helps to silence his critics, but confuses those who have been undecided about the war, and misleads those supporting the war.

If the public believes that the administration's critics believe that Johnson is sincere, then they will feel that is final proof that the administration has done all it could to secure peace and will more confidently support the future escalation of the war.

Natalie Fisher
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Band

Emerald Editor:

Three hail and hearty cheers for the Oregon pep band! The Lemon and Green have finally gone the spirited way of the California, Creston Creek, and Oregon State pep bands: phooey on cumbersome music stands, stagnant looking band platforms, and sophisticated looking blazers. Root beer on the house for the vests, bowlers, garters, and new music — I like it and hope it's here to stay!

Michael Dale Glover
Junior, Art Education

Not Poverty

Emerald Editor:

A journalist should have his facts straight. Re: Phil Semas' article on the Job Corps center at Tongue Point, in Thursday, Jan. 13 issue: Harold V. McAbee did not "run a community poverty program called the Lane County Youth Project."

In the first place, the project isn't a "poverty program." It is basically a government and community financed study of juvenile problems. It has four major program areas, each headed by a chief of operations. McAbee was Chief of Educational Programs. Edgar Brewer is and has been head of the Lane County Youth Project since it was first begun.

Patricia Koval
Senior, Journalism

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