

Letters to the Editor

SGE

Emerald Editor:

Let it be known that the Student Government in Exile (SGE) stands firmly opposed to the present policy of a campus government which takes stands on off-campus issues. We challenge the authority of a campus administration to make national policy stands.

The SGE draws its support from the lack of same demonstrated toward the ASUO administration. (As evidenced in the recent election returns.) Our position is that the ASUO has not been delegated the authority to take any stand involving issues that delve into national, state, or municipal affairs. The proper place for student political stands is through partisan campus political organizations.

We ask you to confirm the SGE as the official governing body of the students or the University by refusing to participate in ASUO-sponsored elections. Your refusal to vote will serve as a mandate to replace the ASUO, NSA affiliated, organization with the SGE.

The Founding Council of the Student Government in Exile

Bruce Gerhardt Junior, Political Science
Maurie Denner Freshman, Business
(17 other names on file in the Emerald office)

Correction

Emerald Editor:

I would like to correct statements attributed to me in the Feb. 8 Emerald in its coverage of the ASUO Senate hearings on Viet Nam. The reporter indicated that I said the National Liberation Front was recognized as representative of both North and South areas. I did not say that, and it is not true. Some points which I did make were:

1. The NLF was formed in December, 1960 as a political coalition among a variety of indigenous South Vietnamese groups—Communists, members of non-Christian sects, peasants and intellectuals included—who were already fighting Diem. Its officials represent South Vietnamese groups only, and its program of reforms would apply only to the South. (See Devillers' "Ngo Diem & the Struggle for Reunification in Viet Nam"—reprinted in Gettleman's Viet Nam.)

2. The Viet Minh, led by Ho Chi Minh, was formed prior to and during World War II. With U.S. help it led the resistance to Japanese invaders as well as the drive for independence throughout all of Viet Nam. Following the war, the Viet Minh (not the NLF) established independence and founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, headed by Ho and having capitols in Hanoi and Saigon.

Following Bao Dai's abdication (August 1945) and Ho's reading of the Vietnamese Declaration of Independence (September 1945), France—in an agreement signed by Jean Sauteney (for France) and Ho Chi Minh—granted recognition and independence to the Democratic Republic (March, 1946). Subsequently France reversed her po-

sition, re-instated Bao Dai, and thus began the new Vietnamese resistance to France.

The resistance was again led by Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh, and again was led in both North and South Viet Nam, with the popular support of both areas. (See Issac: No Peace for Asia, and documents reprinted in Gettleman: Viet Nam.)

3. With regard to those persons who organized the fight against Diem and who now fight U.S. and Saigon troops in South Viet Nam—it is likely that many were once aligned with the Viet Minh, for most of the Vietnamese people were aligned with the Viet Minh during the resistance to Japan and then to France. However, the ICC reports (reprinted in Gettleman: Viet Nam) since 1955 would clearly indicate that at least until 1962, those fighting in the South were indeed indigenous South Vietnamese.

Mary R. Hamilton Faculty-Student Committee to Stop the War in Viet Nam, Grad. Psychology (4077-6411)

Losing Tradition

Emerald Editor:

Hear, hear, Tom Page! Never has a blow been so foully leveled at Creston Creek College by a Poly Cal student as you swung last Wednesday in your letter to the Editor.

You snickered that by adding Triple-C and several other innocent schools to Oregon's basketball schedule, Steve Belko could possibly have another winning season! Well, C. C. C. is too busy being bushwacked left 'n' right by members of its own conference to want to add to Oregon's prestige. I admit a losing season is fast becoming a tradition with Creston Creek basketball, but the spirited support their student body gives their team would awe the hard-nosed "win-or-haul-your-freight, Belko" attitude at Oregon. Their spirit is impulsive, cheering sections form on the spot. Rally squad members don't have to fight the students into cheering, the further behind the Condors get the louder the cheering!

And at Oregon, where's the individual initiative? . . . We'll find out at the Stanford game!

Michael Dale Glover Junior, Art Education

Inexcusable Incompetence

Emerald Editor:

In your candidates endorsements for the recent ASUO election, you emphasized that "most of the ideas on (Chuck Stout's) platform are . . . already being taken care of by the present Senate. . . ." The examples you cited were from the paper "Chuck Stout on the Issues"; I would like to point out that, when I was interviewed by the Emerald, I informed the editors that the paper above expressed my views on current issues under consideration in the Senate; I then explained some of my proposals, none of which were "already being taken care of by the present Senate."

Your misrepresentation of my platform is inexcusable incompetence. It is also interesting that you criticized me as being

"afraid to challenge the faculty" because I proposed a "criticism committee" which would enable an instructor to receive continual feedback from his students and proposed that it should be instituted preceding the student faculty evaluation forms; yet, in Thursday's Emerald your editorial's subtitle was "Students Should Try to Work with the Faculty Before They Take More Drastic Action." That editorial recommended co-operation, if possible, before "more overt action." My proposal suggests a concrete means for such co-operation.

In summary, may I quote the one accurate representation of my views in your editorial comments: "He feels University committees should be able to close their meetings as they wish, though they should provide complete minutes to be made public."

Chuck Stout Sophomore, Economics

Defends Speakers

Emerald Editor:

In your editorial of Jan. 31, you commented favorably on the Conference on Poverty, which was a good idea. Then you went on to comment on the University Assemblies, unfortunately without benefit of many of the facts. As you were too busy to look into those, may I try to be of help? The problem is important; unfortunately the facts make it more complex, rather than simpler.

About the University assemblies of a general cultural character, Mr. Weatherhead, this year's chairman of the Assemblies and Lectures Committee, wrote you (Feb. 4). There should be room, even in a University, for such intellectual activities as the literary, artistic, scientific, and touristic lectures we have had. But that is a matter of taste.

As last year's Committee chairman, I can help with a few facts on assemblies dealing with political issues of the day. I shall not list all we had last year, but mention only four. Please note the subjects, the qualities of the speakers—and the attendance. Four examples: the Congo, De Gaulle's foreign policy, Communism in Southeast Asia, union democracy in America. ("Dogs in Luxembourg," did you say?)

In Jules Gerard-Libois on the Congo, Alfred Grosser on De Gaulle's foreign policy, Harry Benda on Communism in Southeast Asia, and Joel Seidman on trade union democracy, we had speakers who were both first-rate authorities and good speakers. Every one is an authority known nationally and internationally in his field—though not a TV-type big name. Every one is a clear, well-organized, critical, and forthright speaker. The Assembly Committee avoided authorities who could not speak well, as it avoided "popular" speakers who are authorities on everything and therefore nothing.

On several of these topics, there are very few qualified speakers; on union democracy, there are many qualified speakers. But in any case, we were not suffering from lack of funds. We paid each of these speakers only a modest honorarium. But in each case, you could not get a better person on the topic whatever the price you paid.

Now to the audiences. Each of these speakers attracted about 70 or 75 people. Their appearances were worth the speakers' trouble and the modest cost to the University for the sake of the 70 or 75 who came to each assembly. And the speakers also talked at department seminars, political science and history graduate clubs, and to individual students and faculty members. But we should have made much better use of such superb human resources.

The right to apathy is a fundamental right of students. It is a shame that they exercise the right so much, however. The only speaker who brought

out a mass audience last year was J. B. Rhine, on extra-sensory perception.

When the Emerald and the ASUO work at it, as they did for the Conference on Poverty, they can get people out; that is heartening. But in general, we might as well recognize this problem of apathy, if we wish to talk about University Assemblies.

Then it is irrelevant to announce such easy solutions as: get more money, and get students "to upgrade speaker quality." We have students on the University Assembly Committee. The problem is to get students (and faculty) to come to excellent Assemblies.

Val R. Lorwin Professor, History



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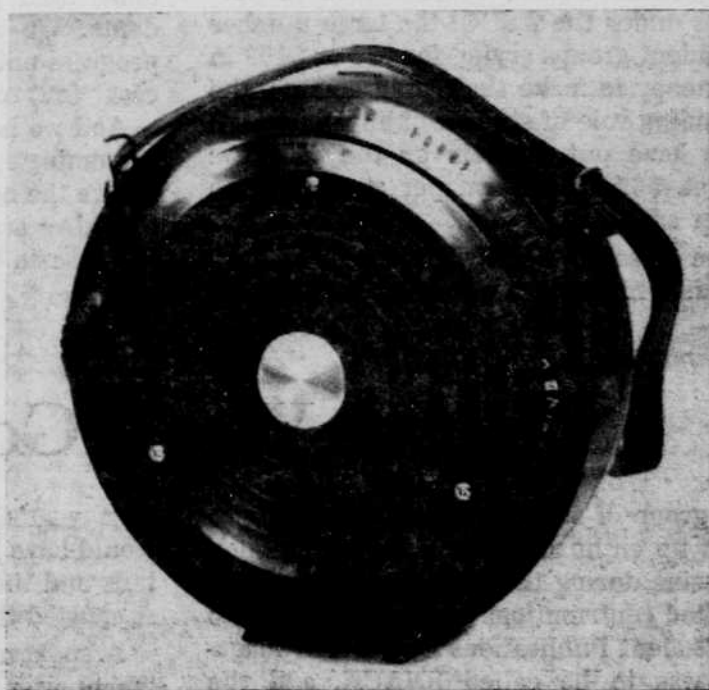
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