

Kip Morgan

Students Should Form Union, Strike

Editor's note: Kip Morgan, former ASUO Senator, former President of the University Young Democrats, and former University student, here urges students to follow the example of labor unions.

The student government, headed by Dick Jones, is an illegitimate, powerless organ of the administration. It is powerless to enact its simplest mandates. Last spring the Student Senate passed a bill to lower the flag in front of the Student Union to half mast until the end of the Vietnamese War as a symbol of mourning. But there still flies the flag at full mast.

Their powerlessness is the basis of their illegitimacy. They do not represent the wishes of the students. Their only purposes are to legitimize the authoritarian mandates of the administration and to destroy meaningful dissent. Students are not interested in student government because it is a powerless, yellow prune. There is no reason to be interested unless you are one of those young career politicians on the make.

But students do have grievances and students do have power. We are the majority on this campus. We are the product of the university. If we refuse to cooperate, there will be no university. If we refuse to be graded, there will be no grading. If we refuse to accept irrelevant curriculum requirements, there will be no requirements. Students have the power of collective bargaining.

Students are being confronted by the issue of "taxation

without representation" that our forefathers fought and won in the Revolutionary War. We are forced to do things which we do not want to do and then graded for them — our future relying upon those grades which have proven to be so meaningless.

We have no voice in the decisions that shape our lives. We must create that force. We must take control of our fate. We must form a student supported, student run, Student Union to collectively bargain with those administrators and faculty members who oppress and exploit our creative drives.

The basis of power for a Student Union in this multiversity

Opinion

lies in the fact that we students are the majority and purpose of the multiversity. We are the multiversity. There are think tanks for professors who do not teach. Administrators would find jobs elsewhere. But a community of students who are seeking knowledge together is a university. The university is supposed to be helping us learn to think, to understand our environment. In reality, we know that it is not. We know that we are being oppressed and conditioned. We know that we are not learning what we want. We know that we are merely memorizing facts and concepts without learning to interrelate them or ourselves. We are dissatisfied and frustrated. The university

has become our oppressor. We can and must change it if we are to maintain our humanity. Grades are the first link in our oppression. From the first grade we have been taught that what we wanted to do was not important — that our values were not important. It was what the authorities, the experts, the teacher wanted that is important.

What is good is to get an A from the authority, the expert, the teacher. We were taught to rely upon other people's values rather than our own. Our future is to work from 9 to 5 designing tail fins for Cadillacs with built-in obsolescence while millions starve or to make napalm without ever questioning the values of the expert. We have been mechanized by grades. What can be done to regain our humanity—our reliance upon intrinsic values?

We can strike! We can boycott our classes! When we refuse en masse to be graded,

Donations Made By Co-op Board

The Co-op Board pledged money to needy foreign students, the United Appeal, and the University Development Fund at a Thursday evening meeting.

The board annually donates \$75 each to the six most needy University foreign students. Kenneth Ghent, foreign student advisor, commended the board its action.

"The money continues to be of significant help to worthy needy students from abroad, some of whom are cut off by war from funds from home," he said.

The Development Fund and United Appeal received \$200 each.

Gerald Hanson, Co-op representative, said used books will not be repurchased if they become outdated for University courses.

The board also discussed the Student Conduct Committee ruling Spring term which placed students under the Student Conduct Code for shoplifting charges at the Co-op.

Under the code, students are subject to academic probation, or possible suspension for repeated shoplifting.

Previously Co-op shoplifters were referred to local authorities, which treat shoplifting as a felony under state law.

they cannot grade us. When there are no students, there is no university. If there is no university, there is no need for teachers or administrators. The realization that they are about to lose their jobs and status will force the faculty and administration to concede to the students' demands. They will do anything to keep their jobs — anything. During the strike,

they will use violence, threats of expulsion and failure. But if the students persist, the authorities will fail. The students will have helped create a freer, better society.

The first Student Union meeting will be on Thursday at 12:00 p.m. on the Student Union Terrace. The rules will be that whoever comes will be a voting member.

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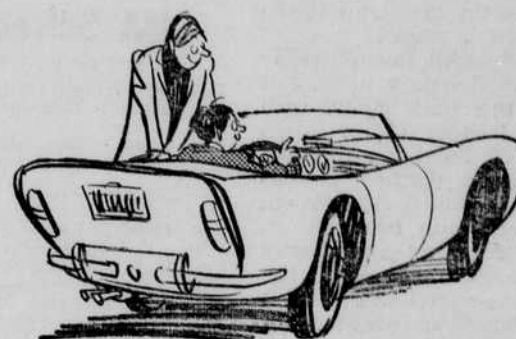
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