

Maybe they pass . . . and maybe

By NAN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

This is reality:

— All student rights legislation such as bills placing students on the State Board of Higher Education, calling for more student input into all levels of higher education decision-making and directing the State Board to establish affirmative action guidelines for admission and hiring policies are currently in a state of limbo in the Legislature — somewhere between introduction and passage.

— All youth rights legislation such as lowering the age of majority to 18 and lowering the age requirement for legislators from 21 to 18 are currently in limbo also — caught somewhere in the complexities of the legislative machine.

— More equitable tenant-landlord legislation, womens' rights bills, a measure decriminalizing marijuana, numerous environmental bills are all somewhere in the legislative maze of a committee or a consideration calendar or between houses...

Representative Stephan Kafoury (D-Portland) last week said that legislators

are receiving a steady flow of letters urging defeat of bills to lower the age of majority. He had not received any in favor of the bills.

Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-Portland) last week attributed the tabling of a bill requiring all tax exempt (religious affiliated) hospitals to perform abortions and sterilizations largely to the avalanche of mail legislators received urging defeat of the bill. Few letters appeared in favor of it.

Representative Mary Burrows (R-Eugene) said last Saturday on the House floor that a major reason she voted in favor of the bill prohibiting Oregon servicemen from serving in undeclared wars was that she knows her constituency (largely the University area) strongly favored the bill — they had told her so.

The reality of the legislative system is that constituency contact can and does make a difference in the way legislators vote — and special interests or fanatical organizations produce that contact. Unions, corporations, and big businesses organize and pressure through every available channel including the U.S. mail. So do religious organizations and the John Birch Society.

But who speaks for the People...if they won't speak for themselves? No one.

And so People legislation like the student and youth rights bills may pass or may fail.

But picture:

— a 50-year old legislator, long removed from college and chronological youth, caught up in the political system, sheltered from the extremes of society, walks into the brightly painted, softly carpeted, fluorescently lighted legislative office one day and a hundred letters sit on his desk urging that the landlord-tenant bill be passed.

And those letters are from students . . . students who now vote . . . students who often vote (in his mind) in a block . . . He was going to vote no on the bill but A HUNDRED LETTERS.

The legislator will at least think twice about that vote.

Obviously correspondence can't completely pass or doom a bill. But it is one channel of persuasion...a channel not too many people use...a channel most legislators watch closely.

Writing letters sure isn't as much fun as

a sit-in on the Capitol steps would be. And it is not nearly as easy as screaming about the bastards in Salem who are screwing students over.

But in reality it is a potentially effective method of applying a little more pressure for People's rights. And without the money or time or knowledge of special interest lobbyists and long-time organized religious and political groups the people need to utilize all of the methods the current system provides.

Students are very understandably disillusioned with the current system. So most of them — that vast majority — won't write any letters. And maybe student rights or youth rights or tenants rights or womens' rights or dope smokers' rights bills will pass. But maybe they won't.

Trying to talk anyone into writing letters to legislators is like trying to wring a gallon of water out of a dry washcloth.

But a few drops sure would help lubricate the legislative machine for all of those bills to pass through.

Names of legislators and copies of all bills introduced in the session are available in the ASUO legislative coordinator's office in room 309 EMU.

Letters

There will be no limit on the number of letters accepted by the Emerald during the upcoming general election.

Letters intended for publication must be typed, triple spaced, and no more than 250 words in length. All letters must be signed in ink with accompanying address and class status at the University.

No more than one letter from any one person will be accepted.

All letters must be submitted to the Emerald office, 301 Allen Hall, no later than 5 p.m. Friday, April 20.

The early deadline is necessary so that all letters may be published before the election.

Clarifications

With regard to the story in the April 10 Emerald concerning OSEA and collective bargaining, I would like to clarify several points.

The Medical and Dental Schools are unlikely to be included in the proposed OSEA contract; it is logical to assume that the OSEA "state-wide" contract would permit state level issues to be dealt with at that level, i.e. with the State Board of Higher Education or its representatives, and would provide for local level issues to be negotiated separately at the institutional level.

There are 1400 faculty who are currently dues-paying members of OSEA. Although the story quotes me as speaking for the state, I have no authority to speak for the State of Oregon; my opinion was that it seemed unlikely that the State Board of Higher Education would desire to deal with seven or more separate bargaining units, each representing a different institution and possibly representing several different organizations.

It is significant that the history-making collective bargaining agreement made this year between OSEA and the Governor's Office for classified state employees appears to be regarded by legislators as a relatively firm commitment. There are reasons to believe that what was successfully negotiated with the Governor will be fully funded.

With a similar plan of bargaining for academic employees at the state level, it is conceivable that the result would be a united effort for better funding, with faculty, administrators, the State Board, Oregon Daily Emerald

and OSEA standing together in unanimity before the legislature.

Robert Nye
Music

A shame

Once upon a time, in a lovely villa near Rome, a group of 12 people decided that they wanted some power. They realized that the best way to get the people's support was to prey on their superstitions, so they started a religion. First they hired a quite talented actor-magician and sent him around the countryside talking to people about the word of "god" (he had a real impressive voice) and performing "miracles."

Soon everybody who was anybody was convinced that this man was really something holy. Then the 12 power-mongers, to make sure everything went well, arranged for the actor to be crucified (after all, nothing gets as much support as a martyr), then wrote a book for all the people to believe in.

This book ensured that the 12 and their fellow conspirators would be the undisputed rulers of this religion.

But something went wrong — the common people took over. The "religion" spread like a hideous, uncontrollable plague. Now no one remembers the roots of this disease, and the people's minds are being destroyed by this terrible blight. It's all such a shame!

Mark Faber
Member-Heathens for the
Eradication of Stupidity
1515 Hilyard Apt. 31

Against Bonner

Tom Bonner is running for IUS delegate. This seems very strange when I recall Tom's voters' guide statement from Fall Term when he was running for ASUO senate. That statement said he favored no incidental fee support for IUS. I think Tom must explain how IUS can operate with no funds.

Don Brookhyser
senior, Journalism

For Ludwig

In the three years I have known him, David Ludwig has proven to me time and again that he is an unquestionably mature and capable individual. He is able, beyond a doubt, to bear down and really give

everything to a cause he believes in. This year he has decided to run for IUS Delegate. Think about it.

Douglas Pollock
Junior, Economics.

Too much control

There is no more conflict of interest in Randy Shilts and Gloria Gonzalez serving on the fee committee and running for the ASUO Executive than a U.S. Senator running for U.S. President.

Except, of course, Bill Wyatt doesn't like it. He would love to be able to pack the committee with his political yes-men (or yes-women) and screw the students over for one final time before he is out of office.

If Wyatt gets his way and he forces Shilts and Gonzalez to resign and his hand-picked bureaucrat candidates get elected he will have 7-9ths of the say over next year's budget (he would have 100 percent say if you consider the fact that his political puppets would have total control of the fee committee). I say this is too much control for any one person to have!

Franz J. Berg
653 E. 13th
French Major

For Ludwig

If you've ever seen Dave Ludwig smile, you know why I am endorsing him for the IUS Board. What legislator could possibly resist his great set of teeth?

Dave's great teeth and his complete detachment from the petty politics of the ASUO make him a natural for success. Vote Ludwig for IUS, vote Ludwig for IUS, vote Ludwig for IUS,...

Phil Nyegaard
Economics

Cancel

On the basis of having asked us one (1) question (which had nothing to do with student government) as a so-called endorsement interview, this kiss-ass newspaper decided that we knew nothing about student government. This is just another example of the inept and irresponsible journalism that has characterized the Emerald this year.

As for the candidates (and we use the term loosely) the Emerald endorsed,

Travis is bullshit, and Jackson wouldn't say bullshit if she stepped in it. Mediocrity is alive and well on the U. of O. campus.

Robert Scholl
David Scholl

P.S. Please cancel our subscription.

Experiencing Christ

I have been following the recent series of editorials and rebuttals on the subject of Christianity with extreme interest. Each has saddened me in its own way.

It seems that the real point of the matter has been completely missed. As usual, in the midst of wordy battle, Christ, what He stands for, what He has said and most importantly how He lives in those who have chosen to trust Him, has gotten lost.

Many editorials have ended up a blind and bitter attack against those who witness without love, seem to cheapen Christ by selling Him, or dwell on the awful ending of those who don't believe. A discussion of Christ cannot simply be an analysis of His people, we are just that; people, subject to all of the mistakes people commonly make.

If only Christians make. If only Christians are dwelled upon, and Christ is ignored, there is no substance to Christianity and the whole thing will end up a confusing and depressing mess, just as it has in these articles.

Many of us have succeeded in making Christ a dreary, hang-dog figure, but Christ died for us to give us LIFE, and this life more abundantly. This is definitely a positive approach as opposed to the negative, "you are going to hell."

So the emphasis need not be on the terrors of a heathen after-life as much as on the question of whether the life you are living right now is as great as it could be, whether your happiness is as complete, your love as rich and selfless. When united with Christ you have at your disposal perfect love, perfect joy. He offers wholeness.

There is no room in the discussion of Christ for arguments and dissension. He holds no animosity toward anyone, why should we fling so much back at Him? We all owe it to ourselves to get rid of this bickering, and get to the real crux of the matter, Christ Himself. Make a decision based on more than just thrown taunts. It is your choice to either accept or reject, go directly to Christ for your answer.

I personally hope that everyone will find, through their individual search, the fullness of life that I am now experiencing through Jesus Christ, my Lord and friend.

Susie Luckey
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