

Centennial reflections

Oct. 16, Saturday, is the University's centennial as far as students are concerned. Ninety years and three-hundred-sixty-four days ago, the first students entered what was to become the University of Oregon.

Everybody likes a good round number, so it is customary to celebrate and reflect when a calendrical circumstance provides us with one. For students today, there is much to reflect upon and little to celebrate.

The ostensible purpose of education is to prepare students for the world and enable them to enjoy it. Education blends learning and training, and the place to learn the most and train the best is supposed to be the universities.

But the learning and the training functions of the universities are somehow out of balance. Those who receive a good liberal education are often considered useless to society, and those who receive good training are often uneducated. What was once complimentary is now in conflict.

Part of the responsibility for the sad state of education lies with the students. Students are frightened by the condition of the economy, especially the scarcity of jobs. Students are scrambling to qualify themselves for a niche in the middle class. And they are demanding more relevant, not better, education.

Curriculum planners perceive this fear, which manifests itself in the burgeoning enrollment in professional colleges and schools. Rather than confront students' insecurities by structuring the curriculum to teach ways to overcome fears and eradicate their source, courses are designed to yield a short term benefit and education is considered an investment measurable in dollars and cents.

The world may be rushing headlong toward the apocalypse and students are not at all prepared to deal with it. Contradictions are deeper and problems are larger than anything their training has equipped them to handle. Students have wagered their futures on the continuation of things as they are, and the universities have covered their bet.

A centennial is the proper time for reflection on the timeless qualities of education and the advantages an educated person has in times of great change. It is time to realize that training alone qualifies a person to perform a task, while combined with education it enables one to learn all tasks.

On the centennial of the day the first students entered the University, students, faculty and administration alike should dedicate themselves to the idea that a university education should qualify people to take control of events rather than simply adapt to them.

Nobody: the perfect President

At a time when the vast majority of the American electorate seems to be Fording the rivers of doubt or Cartering to wishful thinking on its way to the voting booths, some of us out here in the Wasteland are watching the election with some of the same feelings Rosemary must have had toward the progress of her pregnancy. We may not be all that sure of the eventual outcome, but we do know that whatever comes out will not be good.

As one of those who has been wondering whether to cast a vote at all (and if so, whom to cast it against), I feel that it is my prerogative to present the public with an alternative to Tweedledee or Tweedledee with buck teeth. I have found a candidate who really does stand out from the rest of the field, who actually takes definite stands on the major issues of the day, and who is fully committed to implementing some of the programs which so many of us have been wishing for all these years. Who is this person?

Nobody.

I support Nobody for President. There are several logical reasons for doing so. Of all the Presidential candidates, who takes definite positions on important concerns? Nobody. Who shows signs of being a truly humanitarian President, one who could carry the spirit of our Founding Fathers onward into this nation's Third Century? Nobody. Who among the candidates clearly has the interests of the people at heart? Nobody, obviously. Finally, consider the following bit of logic, one which should appeal to those carefully socialized competitive instincts we cherish so highly in this nation of ours. Who really stands to win in this election? Nobody. So we might as well back a winner.

Having dispensed with logic, I shall now turn to the more time-honored conventions of political rhetoric. Consider the stands which Nobody takes, and compare them against any of the Presidential hopefuls. Nobody is committed to establishing a truly equitable system of taxation. Nobody has a workable plan to stop inflation and reduce chronic unemployment.

Who is willing to commit large-scale funding to the development of renewable energy sources to meet the needs of the American consumer industries and their economic purchasing units? Nobody. Nobody is firmly behind a policy of a cleaner environment, whatever the economic costs. In the field of crime and justice, Nobody intends to humanize the institutions of law enforcement and corrections in this nation. Of all the current Presidential candidates, Nobody is working steadily against those who wish to reinstate Capital Punishment.

So much for the domestic scene. On the international front, Nobody will take the real initiatives toward world disarmament and peace. Nobody will make the long-overdue cuts in Defense Spending. Nobody intends to halt the B-1 Bomber Program for the sham it is. Who is committed to helping Americans adjust to their new world-wide image as a second-rate overdeveloped banana republic? Nobody, that's who.

Are you worried about corruption in Federal Government? Or perhaps you just don't want to hear about it anymore? Have no fear. Out of all Presidential front-runners, Nobody will never lie to the American public. Nobody is above suspicion, believe me. Secrecy? Nobody will tell all to the American public. Angry over wasteful government spending? Nobody will cut back on bureaucracy. Do you wonder if the next president will put the foot down on CIA under-the-table maneuvers? Rest assured that what the CIA does domestically or abroad is Nobody's business.

It should be obvious by now that Nobody is the People's Choice for the Presidency. As a fellow member of the Great Unwatched, I ask you to celebrate the Bicentennial by voting Nobody for the President of the United States. And let's invite Max Frankel to be the running-mate.

Michael Smithson
Graduate, Sociology

Letters

No smoking

This letter concerns the daily smokers in the no-smoking area to the left of the EMU cafeteria cashiers.

Every day the same group of men occupy a table between 9 and 10, smoking several pipes and cigarettes apiece. When I pointed out to them that this is a designated no-smoking area they looked at me like I was out of my

mind — and went right on smoking!

I inquired of someone in the kitchen offices why the men were allowed to continue smoking in that area and was told that EMU does not have the staff to enforce the no-smoking policy and that the patrons have to enforce it themselves.

Well, I could see how far I've got with these men and I wondered if they would have responded the same way to one of the cashiers or administrative personnel if they had requested that the men either move to one of the smoking areas or put out their cigarettes.

When policies depend on voluntary co-operation they only will work as long as there is some basic respect for the rights of others on both sides. And when smokers think that their rights take precedent over my rights when compliance with policies is left to their discretion then I begin feeling very strongly about supporting laws with which they will be forced to comply.

I hope the men at that table realize that this is the kind of situation that changes moderates to militants when it comes to passing no-smoking laws.

Deane Watkins
Senior-Japanese

Story misleading

Jock Hatfield's article concerning Tuesday's meeting of the board of directors of the University Bookstore (ODE, 10-12-76) was somewhat misleading. The board was not considering doing away with the 10 per cent discount on

texts. The discount is an integral part of the Bookstore's policy of service to the University community. As long as the Bookstore continues to be a healthy and stable business, the board sees no reason for eliminating the discount.

Prices, however, will inevitably go up. Retail book prices are set by the publishers, not by the Bookstore. When the publishers raise their prices, and they surely will, all the Bookstore can do is to soften the impact on the student through the policy of discounting texts.

Blaine G. Gibson
3rd year Law
For the Board of Directors of
the University of Oregon
Bookstore, Inc.

Retain Burrows

Lane County C.O.P.E., composed of representatives from 46 Lane County unions and two district trade councils, makes political endorsements, in races involving incumbents, primarily on the incumbent's past voting record vis a vis issues affecting our membership.

Rep. Mary Burrows has received our endorsement in the coming election for her excellent voting record in support of working people's issues (91 per cent 'right' in the last session of the legislature.)

I commend her candidacy to the working people of Lane County, and others concerned about issues that affect working people.

Irvin H. Fletcher
Executive Secretary
Lane County COPE
Friday, October 15, 1976

Duck Soup
Oregon Daily Emerald

TROJAN
DANGER RADIATION



Any benefits besides a burial site at Hanford, Washington?