

Registration improved

"You don't seem to understand. I've got to have this class. I graduate this term and this class isn't offered again until next winter."

"Let me into this class or I'll have to shoot you."

"That class is closed, this class is closed, every bloody class in the department is closed. I'm tired of geography classes. My major is psychology."

Everybody gets the registration blues, but the most desperate cases have always been seniors who are closed out of a course they need for graduation. This term seniors and graduate students were allowed to register first, and all reports indicate that the experiment was a success.

In fact, it has worked so well our only complaint is that the system wasn't instituted earlier.

Some people object to the seniors-first system on the grounds that it gives seniors an unfair advantage over other students. This is only half right: it gives seniors an advantage, but not an unfair one.

By the time a student becomes a senior, time is running out. Seniors have at the most three terms to take the courses they need and, just as important, the courses they want. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors have more time to work with and can afford a few disappointments. And of course they can look forward to the glorious day when they will attain the privileged status of senior.

A couple of other points need to be considered in relation to the merits of the seniors-first system. First, the amount of competition for classes between seniors and other students should not be overestimated. The classes seniors and graduate students need most are often ones that only seniors and graduate students take. Then there's the fact that dogged persistence will usually get anyone, no matter what their class standing, into a class they really need.

In a perfect world everyone would get all the classes they want without undue violence or bribery. The seniors-first system makes the world a little less imperfect for those who most desperately need a break — seniors and graduate students.

Letter

Hold-ups common

So they could do a better job of registering if they had more money? I have a great plan (though I think they may be already doing it): put a hold on every student's cards and charge a reasonable sum (can't everyone afford 10 bucks, say) to get it off.

They held me up (pun intended) for a lot more than that, and when I asked, simply, to have the "overdue charges" explained, I met 1. shock and anger at my audacity, 2. ignorance of what it was all about (what did I owe for?) 3. insistence that I would pay — whether I understood or not — or I could not register.

I was stubborn. I went from clerk to her supervisor Mike Hoffman; he approached me with

a smirk and left in the middle of a sentence (mine). I went to his supervisor. Mr. Tergeson heard me out. The misunderstanding involved error on my part, and even more error on their part.

All I wanted was an explanation. I told Mr. Tergeson he and the University are just like J.C. Penney's to me: they sell, I buy. He did explain to me that "students don't understand money very well; they hardly ever keep track of it." Maybe he should ask how many students are working to stay in school: my guess is they know very well the value of a dollar. I do.

Sandra Scofield
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I USED TO BELIEVE I WAS A GOOD GIRL.



UNTIL I LOST MY DOLL AND FOUND OUT IT WASN'T LOST, MY BIG SISTER STOLE IT.



AND MY MOTHER TOLD ME SHE WAS TAKING ME TO THE ZOO. ONLY IT WASN'T THE ZOO, IT WAS SCHOOL.



AND MY FATHER TOLD ME HE WAS TAKING ME TO THE CIRCUS, ONLY IT WASN'T THE CIRCUS, IT WAS THE DENTIST.



SO THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT I WASN'T GOOD.



BECAUSE IF I WAS GOOD WHY WOULD ALL THESE GOOD PEOPLE WANT TO PUNISH ME?



"...AND IVAN THE TERRIBLE GREW BIGGER AND UGLIER AND NASTIER, BUT THE POOR PENTAGON HAD NO MONEY TO STOP HIM..."

opinion

Bornson-Davis bail denial an outrage

On December 14, the Oregon State Appeals Court denied a motion to release Tom Bornson on bail while his appeal is being heard. No hearings were held. No reasons were given.

Next Monday, Jan. 10, working people and others from around the state will be demonstrating at the State Appeals Court building in Salem against this outrage. We'll be there to let the rich and their courts know that this case is not closed. Here at the University, we'll be holding a rally at 11:30 a.m. on the EMU Terrace, and then going by car caravan to Salem to join in the demonstration. Cars will be leaving the Terrace at noon.

Tom Bornson and Lonnie Davis are two of the 10 million unemployed workers in this country. They are now in jail for nine years and seven years for taking over a Portland food stamp office last February. Tom and Lonnie were convicted on assorted counts of kidnapping, robbery and assault.

Thrown out of work in Texas and Missouri, Bornson and Davis followed the crops to Oregon, where they met looking for jobs pruning trees. But due to warm weather, they couldn't find such work. Bornson and Davis went to the unemployment office two or three times a week looking for jobs, too poor to live in anything but the Bornson's old school bus in a state park. They received emergency welfare assistance in December and January, and to raise money for gas and rent they sold their blood.

But in January they were told they had exhausted their emergency funds and were not eligible for any more assistance because they lacked a "permanent address," the kind of disgusting excuse the unemployment and welfare offices use time and time again to deny thousands the benefits they need to feed their families.

Pushed up against the wall by this system, the Bornson family (Tom, Mary and their six kids) and Lonnie rebelled against the conditions they faced. "I don't want to rob banks or steal," Tom said. "What I want the world to know is that I'll do what I have to do to feed my family." Armed with knives, they took over the food stamp office for several hours, holding a supervisor and some office workers hostage.

They demanded food stamps, medical care for their sick baby, press coverage to get their story out to other working people, and that only Tom and Lonnie be charged. When their demands were met, they surrendered.

Since then the rich class has worked overtime trying to put out the spark of rebellion this act represented. With millions facing similar conditions or on the brink of it because of this profit system which throws people out of work when there's no money to be made off of them, the capitalists couldn't tolerate this fighting example against them. So they tried to make a negative example of Tom and Lonnie — one that says that you can't fight back, that workers and others have no choice but to go without jobs, to be pushed down, that if we try to stop this we'll be crushed.

The rich man's press, from the Oregonian to the TV networks, launched a campaign of lies and distortions against Bornson and Davis, trying to isolate them from the support of other working people. The rich man's courts railroaded them through, convicting them, locking them up, denying parole until 1978 and even refusing them bail pending appeal.

But working people and others have not been sitting back for all this. We can make this case into a different example — an example that says we can fight back for the things we need, that people don't have to go on living this way, without jobs and without the very means to live.

Led by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) nationwide, and the Committee to Free Bornson and Davis in Portland, this struggle has already forced the rich to back down on Tommy. He got off on a year's probation, as 125 people demonstrated in downtown Portland a few days before his trial — a sign of things to come. But the rich are going to the wall on Tom and Lonnie. The latest outrage is the denial of bail. The rich are afraid to have Tom and Lonnie outside speaking the truth about the conditions faced by them and millions more. But we don't accept this latest decision, any more than we accept the fact that Tom and Lonnie are in jail in the first place. Bail was denied because the government is afraid of the real strength and power of the working class and others kept down by this system. Like Tom said — "We can no longer go it alone one-on-one against the system. Our strength lies in our unity, our ability to mass in numbers."

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for the Revolutionary Student Brigade

The prison inmates listed below have asked the Emerald to publish their addresses and invite correspondence from students.

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