



greg wasson

## a quorum of one

It would have made Horatio Alger proud.

I half expected someone to pull a pair of stretched bootstraps from his pocket as evidence that, if you want a college education bad enough, you can get one.

The move was to ban students from unemployment benefits, and proponents testified how they worked their way through school without sponging off anyone else.

Not a very strong argument.

I financed my undergraduate career by logging. Working in the woods generated bucks each summer sufficient to allow me to get through the year.

But an automobile crash leaves my balance uncertain and rules out any occupation in which danger and big money abound. Law school will have to be financed with work at the same time. If

lay-offs come, the House's action leaves me nowhere to go.

Oh, and about the testimonial. At least we didn't have to hear about hours spent trudging through the snow.

The Oregon Senate's treatment of gays this session is like an unenlightened approach to a hitch hiker; not only express your disapproval by driving by, but throw or yell something at him or her, too. Instead of an empty beer bottle, the Senate hurled Parliamentary procedures.

On March 15 it looked like the show had ended when the least innocuous of six Senate gay rights bills, SB 599, was tabled 4-1 in the Committee on Aging and Minority Affairs.

But about a month later, April 12, the committee reactivated the measure after Chairer Sen. Jan Wyers, D-Portland, got

heat from Portland's gay community, which promised to use Wyers to prove that voting against gay rights legislation can be as much of a political liability as voting for it.

So gay rights forces appeared to be gaining ground. On May 7, Sen. Dale Isham, D-Lincoln City, joined Wyers and the lone aye vote the first time.

Sen. Bill McCoy, D-Portland, and the bill escaped to the floor with no recommendation. Quite possibly, there were sufficient votes to get the bill out of the full body, but there's one hitch.

The mayor had fallen victim to a Senate rule prescribing that, if a committee untables a bill but fails to act on it within two weeks, the legislation automatically reverts to the table.

No problem. Simply send the bill back to the committee and then table it. Wyers was confident that Isham would

still be there and the measure would easily be rerouted to the floor.

Three days later the committee met, Wyers moved to take the bill from the table, and Isham said, "No." The bill died a second time.

Why the change?

Wyers intimates it might be the work of Senate Pres. Jason Boe, D-Reedsport, but both Boe and Isham vehemently deny it.

"Nobody pressured me," says Isham.

The senator admits that he knew the bill was faulty when he voted to send it to the floor. He saw a chance to cast a meaningless vote for the bill, then oppose it later.

Doesn't that give proponents of gay rights false hopes?

A slight smile and nod.

Then why do that?

"I don't know. Just for the hell of it, I guess."

## yours

### Fashion farce

As I was reading the Emerald last Friday (5/4/79), lugubriously albeit humorously anticipating the Personals, where I would once again snicker away my blues on some moronic Greek-related poem concerning the upcoming weekend's degree of inebriation, or on some other obnoxious one laced with blatant sexual innuendos, I was pleasantly surprised to find that my need for daily humor would be satisfied before the last page. This satisfaction would come from the Emerald's Spring Fashion Issue.

After sufficiently perusing the "fashion" section and drying the tears created by my laughter at the mindless automatons who posed for those pictures, the words of the English author Robert South, written over 300 years ago, come to mind: "All dress and ornament supposes imperfection, as designed only to supply the body with something from without, which it wanted, but had not of its own."

"Gaudery is a pitiful and mean thing, not extending farther than the surface of the body; nor is the highest gallantry considerable to any, but to those, who would hardly be considered without it: for in that case indeed there may be great need of an outside, where there is little or nothing inside."

Gordon Sorensen  
junior, finance

### 'Chilling effect'

As a person interested in maintaining political freedom on this campus, I must respond with anger and concern at the way in which an ASUO bureaucrat recently deprived the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade of EMU table privileges.

On Friday April 27, Terry Vaughn, acting as a one-member Student Activities Board, decided on the spot to punish the RCYB because it

had been engaging in loud public debate with visiting high school students. The pretext was that the RCYB had been violating University rules on posting leaflets.

However, the way in which Vaughn inflicted his penalty makes clear not only that he is an arrogant, high-handed bureaucrat, but also that the RCYB was really penalized for exercising their right to free speech.

The fact that the Brigade is a small and rather unpopular group in no way justifies this attack. On the contrary, it should make us all even more wary — attacks on democratic rights usually begin on small groups with little support.

Vaughn's action is especially questionable because, as a student body official at a state university, he acts in effect as an agent of the state. He is therefore violating the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution by depriving the RCYB of some of its right to free speech without due process of law.

Vaughn's action clearly exerts what the Supreme Court calls a "chilling effect" on free expression in the EMU. By swooping down as he did, he clearly implies that if anyone raises their voice, old Constable Vaughn may dig up some previously existing infraction, hitherto ignored, to kick them out and shut them up.

Vaughn's comment of "Shove it" to the ODE reporter who asked to see the campus poster rules clearly exposes his thoughtless arrogance and disregard for those rules he claims to be upholding.

I think Terry Vaughn should be relieved of his duties, his action reversed, and the whole situation be investigated by the new ASUO administration. Basic rights should not be trifled with.

Bob Guldin  
clerk, library



### 'Infinte dismay'

After witnessing the structured antics of the fraternities and sororities the last few nights, I have come to the conclusion that their ridiculous behavior is due, at least in part, to the hatred and condemnation of the rest of the University.

They seem to feed on our disgust, toss it back in our faces, by exaggerating their naturally silly conduct to a consciously ludicrous level. How else to explain the bands of howling idiots parading around the edges of the campus in a magnificent display of mindless conceit?

There is something to be admired in this brash disregard of public opinion (public meaning university), and something to be pitied as well. It is a sort of circling of the wagons, a retreat behind castle walls, drawbridge raised above the moat. The universal reprobation of those outside the Greek community compels this xenophobic exhibitionism.

Having said this, I must admit at certain times, as when a particularly noxious band of cheering morons marches past my window at one or two in the morning, I find myself indulging

in various fantasies that entail their complete annihilation. I think my favorite is the one where, due to a freak of history, the first world war still rages in some obscure corner of the university. It seems to me our atavistic Attic cousins are uniquely suited to be slaughtered in the kind of senseless sorties that characterized trench warfare. A brave hurrah and over the top they go, to be mowed down in a gloriously stupid attempt to gain a few more yards of muddy turf.

The violence of this fantasy embarrasses me, and the next day, by way of apology, I make a point of smiling at every student who even remotely resembles a member of the Greek confederation. That most do not return my smile is a source of infinite dismay.

Richard Kaminski  
senior, history

### Likes clean walls

The oppressed masses have been freed — from the inane posters of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. Yes, the EMU's major source of amusement will no longer entertain us with their antics; the weeks will seem empty without the rhetoric and polemic of the

RCYB.

Let's not hear this idiocy about the ASUO Student Affairs Committee being afraid of RCYB ideals. I find it difficult to believe that anyone is afraid of the RCYB except for the University janitorial staff who must worry about removing paste-on posters.

One could trace the frantic history of the myriad RCYB causes (every week a different cause) by observing the fading pasted-on posters defacing campus walls. Obviously the RCYB feels that, as enlightened citizens, they don't have to observe the same rules as the ignorant masses.

Sure the United States has plethora of problems dealing with economics, justice, equality, etc., but RCYB self-righteousness and smugness simply alienates the majority of us, poor, downtrodden proletarians (pardon my redundancy). Please beatify yourselves in peace and privacy and allow the rest of us to muddle on with our wretched lives. Leave us to savor April 27, 1979 as a victory for the people. Remember, it's right to fight... for clean walls!

Dave Surdam  
senior, mathematics  
Tuesday, May 15, 1979

## theirs