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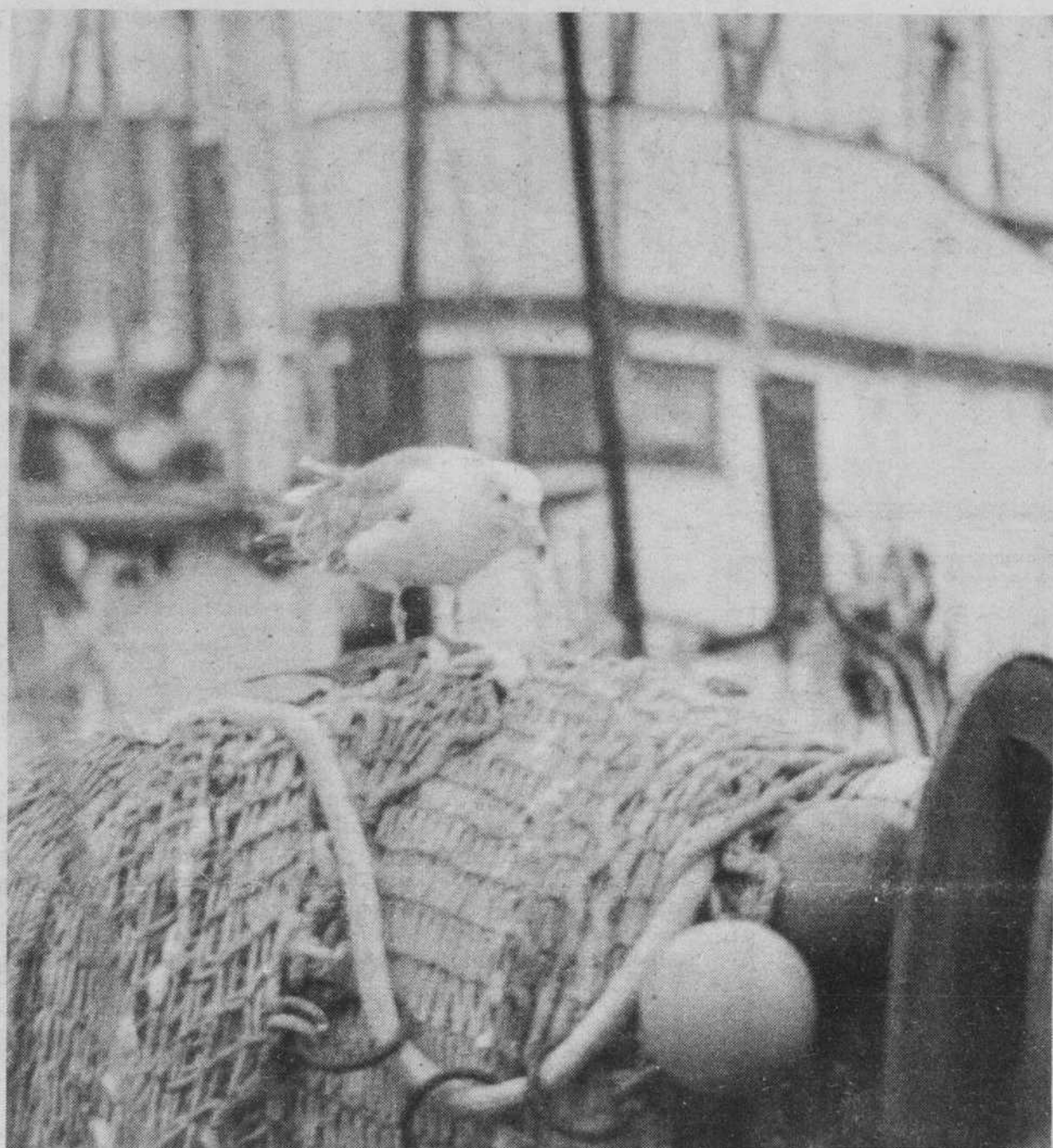


Photo by Bruce Berg

'Fowl' or fair, gulls don't care

Rain may have dampened some Memorial Day picnics this weekend, but the forecast calls for some sunshine today and fair weather for Wednesday. Highs should be in the 70s both days.

Activists favor peaceful protest

By KATHERINE MERRILL
Of the Emerald

Only civil disobedience will right the wrongs in the American military, a Creswell dentist told a University audience Friday.

John Burkhardt, a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, told about his experiences protesting nuclear weapons during the year-long nuclear protest at the Pentagon last year.

Physicians for Social Responsibility favors non-violent civil disobedience as a way to end the arms race. The group protests nuclear weapons because there is no way the world's medical facilities could deal with the casualties of a nuclear holocaust, Burkhardt told the group.

A one-megaton nuclear explosion would contaminate 1,000 square miles, Burkhardt said.

"Anyone supposing you can crawl into a fallout shelter and avoid it (contamination) is full of it. And even if you could, once you got out you would go crazy. Who the hell would want to survive something like that?"

Burkhardt made two trips to the war department during 1980, one in August and the second in December. Although he never was jailed, some of Burkhardt's companions were not as lucky.

Civil disobedience involves

doing something wrong, going to jail for it, and then doing it again, Burkhardt explained. He estimated that two Eugeneans who took part in the protest have spent 10 of the past 20 years in jail for civil disobedience.

"Police who have duty at the Pentagon are wise. They have a lot of experience in this kind of thing," he said.

One protest tactic included sneaking off during guided tours of the Pentagon to pour blood on the desks of high-ranking officials. As a result, Pentagon officials canceled all tours of the building, Burkhardt said.

Other protestors went naked or shaved their heads. One nun even performed the rites of exorcism in front of Secretary of State Alexander Haig's office and threw blood and ashes on his door before being arrested, Burkhardt told the audience.

Although Burkhardt wasn't arrested, police in Washington told him he was a "security threat" and asked him to leave a Pentagon lunchroom where he was dining with a friend, Burkhardt said. Uniformed officers constantly were taking his picture, he added, and he responded by taking theirs.

"I want to stay in America. I believe in it and support it, but I want to see its direction change just a little bit. Do I sound like a dissident?" he asked.

University, students blamed for bad grades

By GABRIEL BOEHMER
Of the Emerald

Bad grades may be a symptom of the University's performance as well as learning problems on the part of students, say University administrators.

More than 2,000 University students are on academic probation this term, according to registrar's statistics. Most of these students — 579 — are new to probationary status, but many others may face academic disqualification after this term.

Academic Adviser George Wasson's guess is that many students who experience grade trouble have too many irons in the fire.

Those who flunk out "possibly have too many interests and abilities," Wasson says. "Their priorities are very high in other areas."

The University's liberal environment also can throw students off course, Wasson says. A new academic and social atmosphere for high school graduates and transfer students "demands so much they almost run wild," he adds.

Poor grades also can be an indication

of the poor performance of the University, Wasson says. If classes fail to meet their needs, students will look for other areas to put energy into, he says.

Poor grades often are misinterpreted by educators and students alike, Wasson says.

Giving grades is like taking "a screen and shaking it, and saying those who fell through are bad or wrong."

Attention and direction can remedy students who are performing poorly in the classroom, Wasson says.

"A teacher who shows interest can make a student blossom. Giving responsibility can make a student feel worthwhile."

Students who have academic majors also are more likely to be successful in school, Wasson says.

But Wasson cautions that many students have unreasonable expectations about completing the requirements for a bachelor's degree in a traditional four-year calendar.

"Those who seem to make it have a major, go right through and get a degree — but maybe they are too naive in life to do otherwise."

Business students experience the

highest incidence of academic disqualification, according to University registrar Wanda Johnson.

Johnson says the business school's mathematics requirement gets many students into academic trouble.

Johnson also attributes poor academic performance to inadequate high school preparation.

If students enter the University without communication and critical thinking skills, "it's hard for them to play catch-up," Johnson says. "The bottom line is communication skills."

And some students find it difficult to move from lower- to upper-division University courses, Johnson says. Students often haven't developed the analytical abilities crucial for studying upper-division material.

Another determinant of academic performance can be a student's ability to plan an academic schedule and daily course work, Johnson says.

"I sense a lack of self-management. Students must care enough about their academic programs to be responsible for them." The University Scholastic Review Committee, made up of faculty and students, will meet at the end of this

term to consider students who are subject to disqualification.

This term 132 students were added to a list of more than 100 students already on deferred disqualification.

Other statistics from the registrar's office show almost 900 students have a cumulative grade index below a 2.0 or C average. The majority of students' GPIs register above the 2.0 mark.

The Scholastic Review Committee places on probation a student who has failed about 20 percent of his or her cumulative course work. A student who fails six or more course hours or passes less than 65 percent of course work is placed on probation.

Also, juniors or seniors who pass less than 80 percent of their course work will come under the committee's fire.

Disqualified students can re-establish their academic credibility at a community college or, if they can gain admission, at another college or university, and then petition for reinstatement here, Johnson says.

But as a general rule, other state system colleges and universities will not accept academically disqualified students.