

COMMENTARY

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Friday, May 24, 2002

Yesteryear's Editorial

Student Council Finds Way To Kill Time

Editor's note: This editorial ran in the Oregon Daily Emerald the day after the University Student Body Council announced that freshmen would be expected to continue the tradition of wearing green caps as part of initiation, and those who violated the rule would be punished every Thursday at 10:50 a.m. on the Library steps, "under the auspices of the Order of the 'O.'"

It is the strange and somewhat pathetic duty of the Emerald to inform the students of the University, after years in which they might have found out for themselves by walking across the campus, that Oregon is to have traditions.

The student council says so. And, by golly, what the student council says goes — sometimes.

As the discerning reader will perceive elsewhere in the columns of this morning's Emerald, the student council yesterday made up its mind — or perhaps the word "decided" is more appropriate for the operation which it underwent — to re-establish freshman paddling on the library steps. Traditions

which are so useless that they can't live from their own strength will be tenderly nourished by use of the oaken barrel stave.

Now, of course, we admit that the student council must have something to do. The first official meeting of the newly elected group was held yesterday — and should the organization find nothing whatever to occupy its

time, nothing even for one meeting, someone might criticize. Someone might even be tempted to suggest the abolition of the student council. And then what would campus politics and campus politicians do? Oh, horrors!

The Emerald does not frown on traditions merely because they are traditions. What the Emerald dislikes is to see college students who are old enough to know better try to enforce silly customs which would die a most gentlemanly death were they allowed to do so in peace.

The "hello" tradition has not perished. It will subsist without hothouse nursing. The chances are that there always will be a sufficient number of socialized students on the campus to maintain the "hello" tradition. But if anyone does not want to say "hello," it's his own business; and the Emerald fears, despite the good intentions of the student council, that a paddle more or less won't make much difference.

The public humiliation of freshmen, a nice bit of barbarism, was abolished in recent years by some partially civilized student council, but presto! a rub of Aladdin's lamp and the evil genie is back again.

And the sad fact of it all is this writer, a member of the worthy body — long may it live — could not be present at the meeting wherein these students, whom the freshmen helped to elect, evolved, by reversion to type, this scheme for the spiritual welfare of the ignorant frosh. But let it be known, if he had been there, he should have raised his lust voice — not to say musical — in a howl, loud and long, that should have been heard from Spencer's Butte to Hendricks Park.

This editorial was taken from the May 24, 1928, edition of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Letters to the Editor and Guest Commentaries Policy

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

Peter Utsey Emerald

THE TERRORISTS ARE COMING!
 THE TERRORISTS ARE COMING!



Letters to the editor

Drinking ban may spread issues to neighborhoods

President Frohnmayer bans drinking in the greek system — and the greeks aren't the only ones less than happy. While Frohnmayer may be trying to avoid an "In Loco Parentis" lawsuit related to drinking, he has instead made the neighborhoods outside the University the new parents.

Almost all young people drink during college years, many quite responsibly. The few who party too much and too publicly are the problems. Neighborhoods have always had problems with "party houses." These can burn out the patience of neighbors as behavior becomes obnoxious or threatening and police are called. Then, there is the under-18 crowd and drugs, if it becomes a known "house."

I fear banning alcohol in greek houses will force drinking out into the community. Instead of being drunk and obnoxious among peers, they will be so in front of small children and older residents — a bad situation aggravated by drunken driving to and from designated party houses.

Should the University be held responsible for the actions of these students and the damage — real and deadly — they may cause in neighborhoods? Will fewer students become toxically drunk or drugged because of the ban?

Perhaps President Frohnmayer and the administration should truly act like cautious parents and keep their "problem" kids closer to home. House parents, resident assistants, campus police

and Sacred Heart's emergency room are close by if trouble occurs.

Dumping problem situations into the larger community only makes for bad public relations with angry and frustrated neighbors.

C.M. Berglund
 University Health Services

Campus events should not contain corporate influence

I am writing to express an opinion I feel is shared by many people on campus. I was saddened to see the display of consumerism that marked our campus Tuesday.

Romania's gas-guzzling cars and SUVs have no place being sold on our campus. The circus-like atmosphere the promotional event created was not only a distracting nuisance; it represented our school unjustly. Do we really want our campus to become a hot spot for consumerism and corporate profit? How do we expect to uphold the highly valued integrity of this institution when we are selling out to not only the automobile industry but also to the fundraising agenda of a select minority on campus?

I personally feel that this school stands for something better, and that must be represented by the quality of events we sponsor on campus.

As I watched the disheartening parade of corporate marketing schemes at work this week, I felt that little respect was being shown to the representation of the whole of the student, faculty and staff of our University.

We must continue to express in our daily activities on campus the wish that the integrity of this institution

not be undermined or misrepresented by corporate influence.

Lorie Miller
 freshman
 undeclared

Campus is not a pit stop

Get off our campus and stay off. It disgusts me to see our campus being used as a marketing tool for greedy corporations such as Chevrolet. Who do they think we are? Well, they seem to think that they can lure us in with "high-tech" video games, loud and "wild" music, and, oh boy, even prizes!

The local car dealerships were sure to get in on this marketing extravaganza. Joe Romania Chevrolet so kindly placed yellow flyers in the residence hall system's food source, the Grab 'N Go, which flaunted the event by using key words such as "tans," "escape," "beach," "freckles," "sandals," "speed" — you get the idea.

When I think of the beach, I think of fresh and even zesty air. Car manufacturers such as Chevy have been doing everything in their power to prevent our air from being clean and fresh.

So say I really was trying to escape from my school workload in search of a tan, freckles and wildness. What in the world does that have to do with supporting car manufacturers, which are severely influencing political matters and promoting environmental degradation? Not a darn thing.

For future reference, let it be known that this is a respectable campus, not a convenient stop for a corporate freak show.

Ashlee Harrison
 freshman
 environmental science