

OREGON EMERALD

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Give Them a Fair Break

In the name of Christ, advocate of humanity and equal opportunity for all God's children, the Fair Employment Practices committee bases its plea for fair employment for all minority citizens of Oregon. Their skill, not their color or religion, should determine their opportunities.

—Bishop Benjamin D. Dagwell, Honorary Chairman, Oregon F. E. P. C.

In grade and high school we were taught that America was a democracy. In a democracy everyone gets an even break; everyone gets to vote, to go to school, to work, to live and pursue happiness. That's what the textbooks said. Slowly, most of us have learned that the textbooks were too optimistic. We have learned that America isn't a democracy yet—that everyone doesn't get an even break.

We've learned that most Negroes, Jews, Chinese, Japanese—even Poles and Germans and Italians and Czechs who speak with an accent—start on that pursuit of happiness with two strikes against them. And we've learned that there are Americans who are against giving these minorities that even break—men and women who are blocking our progress to democracy.

And it appears that Oregon is not going to go on record to outlaw racial discrimination in employment. It looks as though Oregon is going to block democracy, too.

Last week members of the state and federal affairs committee of the Oregon legislature said they "believed the bill was not necessary."

The bill not-necessary, according to the committee, is the proposed Oregon F. E. P. C. law, which would forbid any employer (except those employing less than six persons), employment agency, labor union, political and civil subdivisions of the state, to discriminate on the grounds of race, color, creed or national origin.

In addition, it would set up a five-man commission to eliminate discrimination by conciliation, persuasion, and education; to create local (unpaid) advisory agencies to study the problem of discrimination and to foster good-will through community efforts; to hold hearings or subpoena or issue "cease and desist" orders, in case conciliation fails. (This would be subject to court review and sentence.)

But it is not necessary, said the committee. True, Oregonians don't indulge in lynching parties—yet. True, many restaurants still serve colored people. True, Negroes can find rooms in some hotels—still. True, intolerance is not yet rampant in this state, and Oregon seems like heaven compared to Texas or Mississippi. But the disease is spreading.

What about the Hood River incident? Didn't American Legion members wipe out the names of 16 Nisei soldiers from the honor roll while a Nisei regiment was fighting in France to save the Lost Battalion of the 36th? Didn't Hood River stores have signs in windows saying, "No Jap Trade"? And what about the sign in Salem bragging about the percentage of white American-born residents? Does that sort of thing encourage racial, national, and religious tolerance?

Prejudice, like other attitudes, cannot be regulated by law. The F. E. P. C. wouldn't wipe out the anti-democratic attitudes, but it would prevent those attitudes from being inflicted upon the economic life of American citizens. Economic tolerance is one of the foundation stones of democracy.

Not necessary? The adoption of the F. E. P. C. law is vitally necessary! Legislation itself is a most effective form of education. Educating the public for democracy is a slow evolutionary process. Legislation will greatly aid and hasten that process.

Students favorable toward the idea of equality among men are urged by the Emerald to write to their representatives at the Statehouse in Salem. Senators from Lane county are Truman Chase and Angus Gibson. Representatives are J. R. Snellstrom, Herman Hendershott, and Earl Hill.

Just Accord All Music Makes

A picked group of 180 students (from all schools and departments) will sing tonight for the first Igloo concert since the tenors and baritone went to war.

We think Eugene a particularly fortunate city; few such towns can boast even one chorus as well trained and rehearsed as the Gleemen and the University's own Choral Union. Tonight it's the Choral Union's turn.

Donald Allton and his 180 mixed voices will give us an evening of inspiring choral music ranging from Bach to Deems Taylor.

In these days of international self-consciousness it is good to be able to hear songs from Eastern and Western Europe and our own great American folk music sung for the pure joy of singing . . . and listening.



Side Patter

By BOB WHITELY

March came in like a lion to deny many a picnic plan . . . How about that Stan Kenton deal March 19th? Hallock is so excited he nearly fell off his stool. The jolly Sigma Chis have gone hog-wild with amoor, and the stocks have taken a frightful toll in front of the Side. First, Chi Oh Phyll Perkins had to get Jack Koines out of hock, then Degee Joannie Williams finally found the right key to liberate Jim Curley. Tall smooth Kappa Harriet Vannatta struggled to free Ken Moran. Cute Degee Sally Grege sweated out John Jones . . . Hen Hall's Jean Moe finally hit the right combination getting Pug Thayer out of jail. Gamma Phi Marilyn Rowling and Bob Curtiss had a session and Pink Palacer Joan Edwards spent quite some time with Augie Johnson. Low man on the totem pole was Jack Titus as Gammaphi Nancy Carlisle fished him out intact. Eight straight days! The price of lipstick is goin' up! Alpha Gam Marie Perry and Delt Jerry Sherwood are all two . . . so's Yeoman Clay Myers and Alpha Gam Beryl Howard. Noo too. . . Theta Sally Jeffcott and Fiji Warren Davis. Bea Vincent thanks the powers that be that basketball season is over . . . No. 15 can stick around the campus for a while. The Spees held a fireside last week. . . and no fawncy invites were sent out. Those who assisted about the rooms were members of the fire department, as some freshman dropped a butt in a can with disas-

trous results. Don't forget to give to the Red Cross . . . your buck will go a long way. If you want to win a cup . . . pro-rate the house and go down to Skeies and buy one. Food lovers. Try Beaver Wright's beef roast with sauce la Kahananui . . . it's the nearest thing to Atomic nectar . . . the sauce . . . that is.

Pd. Adv.

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