

An Editorial

What Would Abe Think of Our Fine, Bigoted Campus?

Abe Lincoln has a birthday anniversary today, and it is being observed by a national holiday, a tribute paid to only one other American president.

It is not strange that both of the Commanders-in-Chief so revered by a peace-loving nation were, in one sense, war presidents. It is understandable because America is primarily a freedom-loving nation, and freedom sometimes must be fought for, as it was by both of these leaders.

Other avenues than slaughter should be available to twentieth-century civilization. But at least we can hope that World War II broadened our faith in democracy. We learned that a man can be judged only by what he does—by the character he reveals. Abe Lincoln would have been proud of the record made, in this most terrible war, by the race which he once did so much to help free. High standards of valor were set, too, by the Nisei and other minority groups in the fight against the self-styled "Elite" and "Chosen" peoples.

Now, however, only a short time after V-day, Lincoln might be saddened by the evidence that historical truths and high principles are often brushed aside within our own land. Continuing intolerance and outright discrimination blotch every state in this union—in the north as well as the south. The crime of bigotry occurs in Oregon, in Eugene, on this very campus. Many of us overlook the incidents, deliberately or through sheer indifference. Others attempt to justify the stains, or at least forestall corrective measures, by specious arguments which sound a clanking, discordant accompaniment to our sweet theme song about democracy. Our lingering racial and religious egotism is suitable, indeed, not to the Star Spangled Banner, but rather to a cruel, if now muted, barbarian hymn.

Senator Neuberger's Fair Employment Practices bill in the Oregon senate—like the civil rights program in congress—seems to be suffering the strangulation usually administered to such proposals, often in the kid-gloves guise of "technicalities." Even closer to home, we see student social organizations,

operating with the blessing of the University administration, which limit their membership to "white Christians"—surely an ironic and tragic perversion of the Christian doctrine of brotherhood. And perhaps the most discouraging thing about these local Clans of the Elite (by their own complacent standards) is that many of their individual members do not realize that they are supporting group discrimination.

As individuals and as groups, in such manner do we disavow the victories won in the name of enlightenment—and the opportunities which could lie before America. The defeat of a national FEPC bill, Harold Stassen said, "... defeats the effective functioning of democratic government. It gives comfort to those of the extreme right and of the extreme left ... It contributes to the establishment of fertile ground for the flourishing of subversive activities."

And Colliers Magazine, about the same time, quoted a university president to the effect that communism has never been a serious problem among America's undergraduates; that the real danger is the growth of racial intolerance. Surely if any attitude or practice should be so characterized, then such group bigotry is viciously Un-American.

Yet many who call themselves Christians find it easy to overlook the commandment which bars intolerance. And others, denying religion, also deny the science which has demolished the myths of group superiority. Numerous Oregon students have joined the popular howl for suppression of "Red" subversives; but how many have shown determination in acting against this other, truly "clear and present" danger?

Whether or not God hates a coward is currently being debated in our daily press. But it seems indisputable that God must hate a hypocrite. A comprehension of America's significance, in the slow struggle toward freedom and justice, must lead to the practice of democracy in our daily lives, and through our organizations—not merely to verbal professions of patriotism and piety.—John Valleau.

Porchlight Parade

By Ed Cauduro

Let it snow orchids for Theta Joan Larue, alias Miss Vogue ... the Theta Sigs and their judges did right well in selecting this dark eyed charmer for the title. ...

Obviously Alpha Xi's blonde Jo Staples is "twitterpated" with SAM Marv Horenstein and his blue convert ... hardly a moment passes when she's not with the lad since their Wednesday night exchange ... love at first sight???

A few other couple are getting into the swing of the Valentine season with the Shack's Virg Tucker, Phi Psi, heading the list with his pinning to Zeta Hall's vivacious Beth Miller ... another victim of Cupid's arrow was Eb Gliesecke, a Sig Pi transfer from Cornvalley, who hung his brass on cute Kay Johnson of Hen hall.

At the Alpha Gam house Pat Williams told of her engagement to Yeoman Bob Brooks while everyone munched marshmallows ... Chi O Alicia Orcutt is riding a pink cloud over her weekend dates ... it was Beta boy Bud Smith who kept her "heart hopping" Friday night by Alicia's being coy about the identity of her Sig Nu house dance date.

Hank Kane, the varmint who wrote that "nasty" column about Oregon coeds, evidently changed his tone and opinion of the fair sex since his dinner invitation from the Susie Campbell girls.

Wonder if Sig Hartley Seeger thought he was in his PE 190 course when he bopped DG Pat McGinty in the schnozzle during their social science class ... really, is that the social thing to do? ... round two coming up! ...

A combo that has everyone bewildered as to whether its running hot or cold is the Pi K Sam Plunkett and Hyland's Jessie Keffeler twosome ... Theta Leslie Tooze and Chi Psi Tom McLaughlin have iced on very friendly terms.

Watziz about SPE Kelley Ferris claiming that at the end of this term he's severing his relations with USA and retiring from politics ... shades of Dewey!

One of the worry birds on the quad these days is pert DG Sally Beach ... her steady, Theta Chi Wes Nickolson, is in the pill palace with mumps ... Sally's afraid her sorority sisters will quarantine her.

Understand all the Alpha Xis have named their pillows after their boy friends ... my ... my ... anything to keep warm these frigid nights. ...

Sneek Snaps: Pi Phi Lou Ann Chase and Theta Chi Dean Erhart playing footy-footy in the Side. ... Sig Borchert and Barbara Patterson on the Theta porch after dark ... Miss Vogue being a vague Miss when the subject of her latest conquest is discussed. ... Thetas frequenting the lower 13th street athletic club ... Norm Van Brocklin enrolled in folk dancing along with Brad Eklund ... Tri Delta Laura Olson sporting a brand new sprained ankle. ...

Alpha Chi Marily Mitchell is keeping everyone guessing as to the identity of her latest flame ... some say that ATO Don Eastman has about aced out the Theta Chi competition from OSC.

Thought of the Week: When a fellow breaks a date he usually has to; when a woman breaks a date she usually has two. ...

Raising Kane

Our Hero Brushes up His Grammar

By Hank Kane

Students audit Corrective English to learn the grammar supposedly mastered in grade and high school.

One reason a student's paper resembles one written as if by a person who has studied English for one year as a foreign language is that our scholar observed too well the unwritten rule that small boys should resist knowledge at all costs.

Another reason is that grammar can't be absorbed by reading edifying literature despite theories to the contrary.

"The Charge of the Light Brigade" proved utilitarian cannon superior to romantic cavalry sabers, but this isn't of much aid in writing a grammatically correct college paper ten years later.

Grammar is as dry in college as in grade school. The difference is that the desire to write decent

English overcomes the natural inclination to act as one did when boys wore knickers.

In those carefree days a potential juvenile delinquent sitting behind a girl whose hair was in pig-tails might relieve the tedium by dipping the young lady's pig-tails into his desk inkwell.

But time flies and our hero enrolls in a Rhetoric K class to dispell the years of ignorance in matters grammatical.

No matter how little or how much material is covered, our erstwhile scholar is amazed. The more he learns for the first time the more he is aware of his ignorance.

With concealed wonder at its now revealed simplicity, he learns that "the" is an adjective.

Too well he recalls standing before his grade school class unable to parse a sentence beginning with this part of speech.

In desperation he had finally blurted out that "the" was the beginning of the sentence.

The teacher didn't call upon him to recite again for the remainder of the term.

This was all right with him.

He was able to read a comic book hidden from the teacher's gaze by his open grammar without fear of interruption.

By the middle of the Rhetoric K course our hero knows why his friends sometimes smile while he told a joke or took part in conversation.

At the time he thought they were laughing with him.

Now he knows they were laughing at him.

Like the advertisements of a national soap company, "His best friends wouldn't tell him."

With the ambition to be able to tell a noun from a pronoun by the end of the term our novice scholar applies himself to his studies at a terrific pace compared to any previous exertions.

This state of affairs continues until the day before final examination.

He decides there is no reason why he should come to class when the test is given and thereby make a perfect attendance record of a subject.

It might set a bad precedent.

Besides, it doesn't look good to flunk even a non-credit course.

With the Legislators

Salem

Paul C. Smith, editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, challenged a joint session of the Oregon state legislature yesterday to seek the "middle road" out of the present world conflict.

In a speech prepared for delivery before the legislature, Smith declared that this country should stand firm against communism—while seeking to improve itself.

"We cannot play our part in producing a brave, new free world unless we each produce within ourselves a brave new individual; within our city a brave new city; within our state a brave new state; and within our nation a strong, hard-working, productive people," he said.

Speaking on the capitol grounds where twenty years ago, as a hitch-hiking youngster, he spent the night under a rhododendron bush, the San Francisco editor declared that communists "are not revolutionaries."

"We are the real revolutionaries," he said. "The struggle in which the world is still locked is simply the struggle between the reactionary thesis that man is but the tool of the state as opposed to our own revolutionary thesis that man is the end and not merely the means; that man erects the state as an instrument to serve him."

"The doctrinaire communists and the irrational fascists have told us that the great middle road is closed to mankind," he added. "This is one of the blackest and bleakest lies of the totalitarians ... The challenge of today is to combine our resources, material and spiritual, and direct them forever down the high middle road to that community of freedom

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UO Alumnus Visits

Dr. Marcus D. O'Day, chief of the navigation laboratory for the Air Materiel command, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, visited the University Wednesday and Thursday, and is expected to return February 14.

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Hank Kane

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