

SORORITIES I

Alumnae Hold Majority Control

(Ed. Note: This is the first of a series of four editorial discussions of sorority-alumnae relations. The second in the series will appear Friday.)

"Let's abolish sororities!" urged Mrs. Glenn Frank, widow of a University of Wisconsin president in a national magazine a few years ago.

Mrs. Frank's article outlined the common criticisms of the sorority system. Sororities, she declared, cement class consciousness, foster racial and religious discrimination and support a set of outdated social standards that have repercussions far beyond campus life.

She said the rushing system was near-medieval in its cruelty.

Mrs. Frank, a Pi Beta Phi herself, said she was critical of sororities mainly because she felt they had not improved in the 30 years since she had been initiated. Since she saw no hope of change, she advocated doing away with the institutions entirely.

The validity of Mrs. Frank's argument was evidenced by irate responses to her article. Despite favorable reaction from ministers, educators, and sociologists she was ousted from Pi Beta Phi.

Dr. Frank Porterfield of the University of Southern California answered her in print.

Porterfield estimated that there was one Greek letter organization in existence for every 2,000 students, but thought the groups should be even more selective. He advocated reducing the number of sororities and fraternities, and suggested a six point credit in classical Greek with a grade of B-minus as a requirement for membership.

Most of Dr. Porterfield's suggestions were similarly ridiculous, but he had articles printed in three national magazines.

The Porterfield side of the question was taken by the universities. There are few who have taken the bold step of outlawing sororities.

They have avoided this because of pressure from prominent alumnae who mean money and support to the institutions. And it is these same alumnae who are busily working to keep the sorority behind the times.

"The most ardent exponents of the system as it is are the professional alumnae," wrote Mrs. Frank.

The Panhellenic creed calls for active interest in the life of undergraduate sisters, in chapter house and dormitory, and "loyal service to chapter, college, and community" (in that order).

We do not agree with Mrs. Frank that sororities are beyond redemption, although we realize that a half-century of militant traditionalism is hard to break.

Alumnae activity in campus organizations has its good side too. But if the groups are to remain in existence, and to grow with the times, then the alumnae should play a secondary rather than dominant role.

The majority power they now wield is seen on the Oregon campus.

Henn: An Outsider Looking In

On page seven of today's Emerald we have reprinted an article by Thomas Rice Henn which appeared Jan. 18 in The Oregonian. Mr. Henn has sketched his impressions of the University of Oregon with such skill and depth that we feel it is important for students and faculty to be aware of his views.

It is rare that a single individual is able to encompass the spirit of a university in print. Mr. Henn has done this. He has drawn the "big picture" which we so seldom see.

Nor is Mr. Henn's description the usual flattering or superficial approach. He probes gently at what he considers the University's faults, commends it upon its successes and points out a path for the future.

Mr. Henn is an outsider looking in; and what he sees comprises an intelligent and sober critique of the University of Oregon.



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BOB FUNK and 'A Day at the Zoo'

By Bob Funk

It was sort of a seminar or something in the Student Union. It had quite certainly been a seminar earlier in the evening, and it probably still was, although the conversation had veered rather radically away from the course under study.

The course was Madagascar Since; they had determined this without any doubt during the first half of their session. It was a history course, they thought, although Miss Lymph, the sole female member of the seminar, insisted that she had signed up for textiles.

Some Regrettable Bickering The seminar group was brought together through a happen chance of geography. They all sat in the fifth row of the Madagascar Since class. Other than this common bond, the group held little in the way of unity. In fact, from time to time there was some regrettable bickering.

For instance, during the second cup of coffee, George had presented the opinion that the professor who plotted the course in Madagascar Since was Mr. Ghutful, head of the department. Miss Lymph, who seemed to be a born dissenter, insisted that Ghutful was on Sabbatical leave, or fired, or something. It had been a rather nasty argument. Miss Lymph had procured a hot, fresh cup of coffee and flung it, steaming into George's face.

Close Vote They had finally brought the issue to a vote, George voting that it was Mr. Ghutful, Miss Lymph voting it was not I guess I know, and the other members abstaining.

Since then everyone was supposed to be looking in his notebook for relevant notes, and the conversation topic had changed to How Wet I Got Coming Over Here: Subtopic I: Remember That Time Two Years Ago When It Rained So Hard We Almost Couldn't Go Home For Lunch* (Footnote: I was in Friendly Hall and Pete he was with me and I said, see it was raining so hard outside, and I said to Pete he was with me, I think I'll call a taxi, we should be wearing swimming suits I said. Hahahahahaha.)

So Is Coffee George was trying to find his note in his notebook. He had been to class only once so far this term, not being one to glut himself with good things. The only note he could find was one saying "Lectures are stimulating; so is coffee. Have you ever considered cold showers?" It was not the sort of note that you proudly flung out into a seminar. Maybe it was for the wrong course, he thought. Although this seemed to be the wrong course.

"The trouble with this seminar," Miss Lymph was saying, "is that nobody knows nothing. The last seminar I was at we had this Phi Beta Kappa and he had this outline in this little blue book from this outline series—"

Advance Copies "Yeah, I heard about those Phi Beta Kappas," someone broke in. "They got all those little outlines and test files in their house, and all they have to do is go to the file and get the test, and besides that they have alums in every department and you can't tell me they don't send advance copies of the tests over to the house."

"Phi Beta Kappa," Miss Lymph said coldly, "is this national group for being smart."

No Rebuttal "Yeah, I could be smart too if I had a big test file and a member in every department and two graders in the history department." Miss Lymph offered no rebuttal. She was continuing her

narrative of the Phi Beta Kappa and how he had almost asked her for a date only hadn't, because there was this other awful girl there, see.

As hour followed hour and cup of coffee followed cup of coffee down the assembled gullets, the seminar members wilted in their chairs, and half-closed eyes peered dimly through the thickening cloud of smoke. Periodically everyone would shuffle, with some show of interest, through their notebooks.

On and On "What do you think about it?" one would ask.

"The way he lectures, you know that day I mean he talked so fast, the way he lectures you can't possibly get it down and he

never makes anything clear anyway." They would stumble on to the next point, blissfully ignorant of what the last one had been.

Finally George went to sleep, and awakened by Miss Lymph, and decided to go home, his note tucked under his arm. Miss Lymph left with the next contingent, her voice fading in a last "this last seminar I was at, see, this other girl—"

The two remaining members arose slowly and walked toward the door. It was raining with the constant and unconscionable quality of Oregon rain.

"I remember one noon last year, or maybe it was two years ago," said one as they went out the door. "I was in Friendly Hall and Pete he was with me, and I said—"

Radio Review

Lone Ranger Has Lost His Aim

by Don Collin

After last week's non-conference try (what a rationale for the SFU game) Oregon can get hopped up about coming back to conference games with closest rival from up north. For those that have lost athletic cards or won't be going (Max's will be a quiet place Friday during game) KERG will carry the OSC contest both nights... An appetizer for sports Friday night will be the Martinez-Fiore bout on KASH at 7 p.m.

A few of the popular artists will be making the rounds this week. Kay Starr joins Crosby tonight at 6:30 over KERG... Roberta Lee guests with Vaughn Monroe Saturday at 7 p.m. on G... Frankie Laine visits Bergen-McCarthy Sunday at 5 and 9 p.m. also on G... Treasury Bandstand (KERG, daily at 1:30) will feature Teddy Powell and Tony Pastor the rest of the week.

In Passing: Erwin Canham (KASH-ABC) begins eight year of reporting. Canham along with Elmer Peterson (5:45 p.m. daily on KUGN), Ed Murrow (8 p.m. daily on KERG), Elmer Davis (6:45 p.m. daily on KASH) and Martin Agronsky (9 a.m. daily on KASH) are all credits to radio news reporting. Unfortunately, listener ratings indicate they can't begin to compete with the "shoot 'em, chase 'em, kill 'em" programs.

This Saturday will mark twenty years of coming out of the West for the Lone Ranger, the oldest continuous half-

hour program in radio history. The program has been aimed at more than mere entertainment. It tries to emphasize triumph of law and a better way of living to its younger listeners of an impressionable age.

This latter aim has been lost somewhat with sponsorship. Prior to that time the "Ranger" would have a short talk with the kiddies at the 15-minute break to point up the aims of good living. Now they hear about "tiny kernels shaped like the little letter 'o'." If nothing else, part four of the William Tell overture is now more widely known.

SU will soon re-instate the nickel doughnut... Pi Phi's were playing the part of the mythical Greek sirens during rush week by blaring songs like "Come On To My House" at the Phi Delt rushees... Campus rushing problem might be solved if it followed the Law School method—"light refreshment" and no holds barred.

Met presents the grand dad of opera—"Carmen"... Philharmonic has Brahms, Mozart and Winthrop Aldrich, banker turned diplomat. The latter is during intermission.

Dwight Cooke (10:15 nightly, KERG) winds up the Philippines and heads to Japan next week... William Douglas has chosen to discuss "Travels of Marco Polo" on KERG, 7 p.m. Monday.

A Study in Human Behavior

