

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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Fraternities and Prejudice

The issue of fraternity exclusion of racial groups from membership which started the recent rash of "Letters to the Editor," goes much deeper than exclusion clauses.

It is a matter of the sociological tendency of a major portion of our population to harbor feelings of intolerance and semi-hypocritical "tolerance."

We would divide Americans into three groups regarding conditioned feelings toward real and supposed "other races":

1. Those who just don't like people with skin of a different shade.
2. Those who honestly feel no hatred toward such minority groups, but who deep-down wouldn't care to have them be an active part of their own intimate group.
3. Those who would personally never give the matter much thought, who are genuinely unprejudiced to the extent that they don't care one way or the other what color skin or slant of eye and acquaintance has.

Most of the latter group go their natural way; a few get mad about the prejudicial acts they see around them and try to do something about it.

The discrimination against racial groups in the factory, the schools, fraternities and sororities is caused by members of the second category, as well as the first. They would rather "choose their own friends" mostly because society has helped form such feelings. They feel that way of their own volition, but a lot of the tendency would be removed if it weren't for apprehension about what others would think.

Exclusion clauses, which about two-thirds of the fraternities on campus have in their charters, are a reflection of prejudicial tendencies in our society. To eliminate discrimination in public matters, laws can go a long way. In private matters, the prejudicial foundation must be the target. This is a combination of both, and must be so treated.

But this does not necessarily mean "educating" the person who discriminates on the surface. Many fraternity men would just as soon have Negro and Oriental friends as members of their groups, if it weren't for fear of harming the unity of their national chapters—for economic as well as loyalty reasons.

And we are pretty much convinced that if a lot of fraternity and sorority members found that at Oregon it was a natural thing to have other "races" represented in their membership, they would become used to the practice. Status quo is a big thing in human relations.

But the whole problem has no rigid correlation between one's fraternity or independent status. Exclusion clauses are an articulation of a characteristic of a large segment of our society.

Surprise



"I'd like to see the look on Mrs. Stokes' face when she hears about this."

Letters to the Editor

Not Enlightened

Emerald Editor:

For a brief moment, after first glancing at the Wednesday's Emerald, I was led to believe that at last I, as a "poor unfortunate," was about to be enlightened. "Greek views on life, etc." However, I was cruelly misled. Not only did neither letter accomplish anything constructive on this point, but both were filled with a remarkable string of feeble generalities which could be refuted by any seventh-grader of normal IQ.

The first letter, by the gentleman with the long and singularly unimpressive title, was absurd enough to claim that "argument does no good—only harm." If that is his opinion of the merits of argument, whether in a newspaper or not, it is evident that he has neglected several vital links in his education.

In the second letter, the claim is made that "most of the brilliant and successful men graduating from Oregon" have been fraternity members. The implication is that such men were successful because they were Greeks, which is clearly a ridiculous brand of logic.

The letter further states that "a fraternity broadens one more than any other college experience." Very interesting. In what portion of the anatomy does this broadening occur? Is it not true that, as so well depicted in a Bible cartoon in the Emerald last year, fraternities tend to produce a stereotyped representative of the system? And, granted that contact with other students produces better understanding of

people, isn't such contact to be found in greater quality and quantity within, say, the dormitories rather than within the stultifying confines of a fraternity? Or does the exclusiveness of fraternity membership guarantee such contact?

One the latter point, I was certainly happy to learn that as many as seven fraternities (out of 21 on campus) "practice tolerance." This fact in itself is sufficient to justify the existence of fraternities.

Martin Meadows

Issue Sidestepped

Emerald Editor:

The basis of "No Argument" as to whether or not fraternities discriminate upon any racial or religious group is ridiculously incongruous. It is merely a basis of avoiding the question, used by he who realizes the function and goal of his frat, thereby protecting it by overlooking any weaknesses in his society rather than making an effort to improve these prejudices.

The letters of Wednesday's Emerald are very contrasting—one completely sidestepping the issue as though he were living in blissful ignorance, while the other plainly presents the poor arguments of "embittered, disillusioned and ill-informed independents" with the concluding fact that at least seven fraternities ban racial discrimination, "but practice tolerance."

Some respect must be granted to these fraternities; however, what about the other two-thirds, and what about the definition of "Tolerance"???

Name withheld by request

A Day at the Zoo

Social Regression Safe As Fraternity Meets Again

by Bob Funk

It was evening in the fraternity house, and there was an oppressive sense of intolerance in the air. Members of the censorship committee were meeting in the dining room, blacking out intellectual articles in the newspaper. Several members, reeking of alcohol, lay passed out on the floor.

A claxon sounded, and there was a clatter of uncut toenails on the floor. The bondsmen, wearing identical cashmere sweaters, uniform haircuts, and low foreheads, ran in a muttering pack into the chapter room.

The chapter room was simply decorated. There was a banner declaring "WHITE IS MIGHT—WHITE IS RIGHT" dominating one wall. On the opposite wall was an array of whips and old Ku Klux Klan uniforms. The members sat down on various assorted beer kegs.

"The meetin' ull now come ta order," snarled the Grand Dragon. The Grand Dragon announced the agenda. It was as follows:

1. Report of the committee for corruption of public morals.
 2. Report of the committee on the 1953 Christmas Project—Racial Discrimination for the children of Eugene.
 3. Hallowe'en vandalism Committee report.
 4. Report on the committee for rephrasing the ritual in obscene language.
 5. Proposals for pledging.
- As usual, committee chairmen

for most of the committees were either too intoxicated to report, or were doing time. The meeting grated discordantly until it was time for the fifth item on the agenda.

"There's this ull, real nugget," slobbered the Grand Dragon, "and he don't eat much, so maybe we oughta nail a pledge pin on 'im."

The standards chairman arose. "Whut culler is he?"

"Sort of a dirty tan," replied the Grand Dragon.

"A NON-COUCASIAN?" asked the standards chairman incredulously.

"Naw," sneered the Grand Dragon, "he just doesn't wash."

Everyone snarled with relief, and the proposed pledge was promptly voted in.

"An now," the Grand Dragon said, almost in a normal speaking voice, "we'll sing the Closing Song." The bondsmen stood, and peering at each other malignantly through the smoke, they shrieked—

"Dear old frat club, we hereby pledge

To never leave this narrow ledge

Of intellectual degradation To which we cling in fond stagnation.

To never read a classic book; To never ever hear or brook The slightest racial deviation From pure Caucasian pigmentation;

To never know no English Lit.,

Or when infinitives are split."

As this ended, there was a tear (maybe from the smoke) in every eye. The members flied out, gulp for fresh air. Social regression was safe for another day.

Accents by Alex...



Kaufman Bros. Bring You Tips on Attire About "The Campus Look" the coed's desire

A stitch in line makes an outfit fine

Certainly the best in stitching, styling and fabrics are Kaufman Bros. jersey co-ordinates. An ideal date dress is found in an Ivan-Fredericks jersey dress which comes in both Chinese red and royal blue. With dolman sleeves and angora trim on the neck and sleeves. This original will give you that "fluffy as cake frosting" appearance . . . \$17.95.

Koret of California features as its fashionable jersey an all washable, 100% wool jersey fabric priced at only \$25. This original comes in brown heather that would make any lassy "happy to be a wearin' it." It has white stripes on the neck and the outstanding push-up sleeve.

A lovely for the Lady . . .

A Deeds Junior original featured in a patterned wool with notched collar comes in brown and grey and is trimmed in matching velveteen. A flare skirt and slash pockets highlight this double breasted coat-dress . . . and the price is \$29.75.

An apple a day may really pay . . . But a rainy day should keep no one away



... that is if your attire fulfills its responsibility . . . and how could it miss if you are one who makes Kaufman Bros. your shop-

stop for rain togs. Now that the rain has begun once again (not that it ever stopped), several new lines in pleasing styles and various colors have lifted that "rainy-day cloud" from Kaufman Bros. When browsing through their freshest in raincoats, you'll find originals from trench coats to the latest in rain-wear, the leopard skin coat with a chinese collar. Roomy pockets and printed corduroy seem to take the lead this season . . . and Kaufman Bros. have them all . . . Debutogs' plain and plaid corduroys . . . striped and velveteen trimmed . . . ranging in prices from \$22.75 to \$30 . . . with A Main Street exclusive, the iridescent topper at \$29.75.

NORTH END Drive in theatre

SUNDAY THRU TUESDAY

Fredric March

in

"THE MAN ON THE TIGHTROPE"

plus

"THE ROSEBOWL STORY" in color

HEILIG

NOW PLAYING

"Man from the Alamo" Glenn Ford - Julie Adams also

"Abbott and Costello Meet Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde"

MAYFLOWER

NOW PLAYING

"The Eternal Return" Jean Marals and Madeleine Solongne also

Selected Shorts