

The Oregon Daily

EMERALD

Discrimination and tradition

Discrimination has become traditional. In past generations, almost every national fraternity and sorority has at one time or another had a race clause in its charter. There are still fraternities and sororities, a number of them on this campus, that have never had a Negro or Oriental in their organization.

YET, IF IT WERE left up to the present generation to decide—the ones who are presently occupying the fraternity and sorority houses—many, if not all of the houses at Oregon, would by this time have some non-Caucasian membership.

Without the amorphous ties with the past and the prejudices that were born with the Greek system in the Southern United States, there would be decidedly less discrimination in the fraternities and sororities on this campus. But the tradition of discrimination lives on. And even as race clauses fall by the wayside, the practices they initiated continue.

IT ALMOST GOES without saying that the Emerald is strongly in favor of the total destruction of any such impositions currently being placed on the membership of local organizations by persons on the outside. For this reason, we were pleased by

the recent statement of the State Board of Higher Education that all fraternal organizations with race clauses will be eliminated from state university campuses by January 1963. And for the same reason we would like to see similar action taken against sororities with negative recommendation systems.

These recommendation systems, although not as obvious, nor as binding, can and are used to discriminate against an individual, on the basis of race, color or creed. An alum more likely to be prejudiced than an actice, can keep an individual out of many sororities on this campus. This is not true of fraternities. They do not have alumni recommendation systems. Unlike sororities they do not require an alumni recommendation for pledging. Unlike sororities, an alum can't and doesn't hold an individual out.

BECAUSE GREEK organizations are by nature selective, discrimination on the local level cannot be proven nor can it be fought outside of the minds of men. But something can be done to assure that sororities will be left unhindered by outside forces. The abolition of the sorority recommendation system would be a step in that direction.

Realistic approach

With such a strong current emphasis on education, articles about higher education and its problems have become more and more prevalent in the last few years. Articles on sex, of course, however prevalent, are almost always well read; moreover, in many publications they have become increasingly intelligent in their viewpoints. The latest Harper's magazine has included in its 12-article supplement on colleges in America an excellent piece concerning both colleges and sex and their relation to one another.

The article is titled "Sex: The Problem Colleges Evade," and was written by noted author Maya Pines and Milton I. Levine, M.D. The article, well worth reading in full, said in part:

"When college girls by the dozen come to their childhood pediatricians desperate and in tears because they are pregnant, it is time to question what is being done in the colleges to protect them.

"EVERY GENERATION, of course has had to deal with the problem of illegitimate pregnancies among young people, some on the college level. And as the Harvard Crimson put it in a recent article, 'in sheer wildness today's college students do not compare with their fabled predecessors.' Two factors, however, make the current crop different: (1) premarital sex in all its forms is much more widespread and openly discussed among students; and (2) in the midst of this apparent sophistication, at a time when highly reliable methods of birth control exist, the majority of students are near-

ly as ignorant of the facts as the poorest, illiterate Indian peasant.

"... colleges should face these facts realistically. Besides their primary purpose, education, they cannot escape responsibility for the emotional and physical life of young people on their campuses. Since they know that a certain number of students will have premarital sexual relations despite official disapproval, the colleges should try to make sure that all students know how to avoid the most serious consequences."

THE ARTICLE GOES on to outline a number of ways in which college administrators can and have successfully done much to remedy in part at least this extremely difficult problem.

It concludes: "Certainly the colleges could help students understand better the psychological, social and moral implications of their sexual maturity. To do this effectively, however, they should take into account the sexual activity that exists on campuses today and try to match their policies to deal with it as realistically as possible. As a practical matter, all the colleges in America are still a long way from this goal."

Of course we haven't any statistical data either to verify or discredit these statements as they may apply here. But we can be reasonably certain that this school is not an exception. The solution which the authors outline is by no means a complete one. But, realistically, it may very well be the only one.

Little man on campus



Janet Goetze

What everybody should know about Friday the 13th

For all who are vitally interested, there is a dearth of information on Friday the 13th.

I FOUND that out one night at the library when I decided to investigate the topic for a bit of personal enlightenment. About all I found out was that certain savage tribes considered Fridays religious or holy days, and anybody who worked on Fridays was tempting fate, the gods, and other wrath-filled powers. The peoples of Europe apparently developed some apprehension about the day, too, and when Good Friday came along their fears were not alleviated. Just how the number 13 works into the whole scheme of things is a little hazy, but the number has had significance of some sort for quite a while.

Thirteen was considered a lucky number at one time, and some people who were born on the 13th day of the month in years ending in 13 still think it's pretty lucky. I suppose it's better than not being born at all.

HOTEL BUILDERS have found that there are enough people around who are sufficiently squeamish about 13 to warrant eliminating it from the numbering systems for rooms and floors. Other hotel men use the 13th floor for business offices, apparently showing that they have no fear of the number jinxing their financial condition.

And the French, true to form, have a word, or words, for it, that solves the problem pretty well for them. In fact, they have a whole plot that disguises the thing so well that you're never really sure which floor you're on. In the first place, they call the floor that comes after 12 "douzieme bis," or 12 twice. But the clever French start their numbering with the second floor by calling it "premier etage," which translates something like "first story," so that by the time you get to the 13th floor you find that the French have labeled it the 12th story, and when you go to the 14th floor the French are all sitting around pretending that they are still on 12. But it doesn't seem to bother anyone.

SO MUCH for the French. After them come the redheads. I'm not quite sure how they fit into Friday the 13th, but apparently the two of

them have always been with us. I guess it's all connected with luck one way or another, and if you are a redhead now you are very lucky, because if you had been a redhead in the Middle Ages life would have been tortuous. Redheads of the Middle Ages were always being tortured because they were suspected of being witches, a profession frowned-upon at that time. In Italy redheads were held in ill repute because legend had it that Judas Iscariot had red hair, and Judas has never been regarded as a national saint.

ANYWAY, after they were tortured and tormented for a few years, the redheads of the Middle Ages were burned at the stake, which gave rise to another superstition: that all redheads are fiery tempered.

But back to 13.

Some people won't sit at a table with 12 other people because it is supposed to be an omen that one of them will die within the year. A few local proponents of the scientific method have suggested that somebody make a point of going to large dinner parties, with 10 to 15 people in attendance, and taking note of the guests. Then the number of deaths occurring among guests who attended dinner parties of 13 could be compared with deaths among guests at parties of other sizes. The theory is that one

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Letters to the editor

Millrace perspective

Emerald Editor:

It has been rumored that many of Oregon's revered traditions have been dying out. However, we would like to assure you that one of the oldest traditions is still firmly entrenched in the University's way of life. We refer to "The Movement to Restore and Beautify the Historic Scenic Millrace."

As timid matriculating freshmen in the fall of '57 (currently members of the 5-year program) we were lead like lambs to the traditional "Frosh Pic-

nic" new student week. There the "Oregon Spirit" was instilled in us by the Yell King and the various student body officers. How well we remember some service-minded individual with a Jolly Roger on his chest pointing to the miasmic body of water referred to as "the race" and saying, "Did you know only two universities in the world have a millrace on their campus? Oregon and Cambridge!" Well, no! We didn't realize (naive freshmen that we were) that we held such a distinction. (Neither did any of the sopho-

mores, juniors, or seniors we later ascertained.)

He went on then to outline the numerous improvements "The Movement to Restore and Beautify the Historic-Scenic Millrace Committee" had planned, "Dredge the millrace" (cheers) "acquire more land adjacent to the millrace for recreational purposes," (more cheers) "open the locks for fresh flowing water" (lour cheers) "landscaping and beautifying," (more cheers) "a firm bottom laid on the race floor to facilitate swim-

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