

In Our Island State

Hawaii Is Vast Mixing Pot Where All Are In Minority



MAN, IT HAD TO HAPPEN — Sooner or later, the miniskirt had to hit campus. London styles will be strong this year, both in men and women's clothing. The Daily Tar Heel hopes that this fad continues to grow, or shorten, that is. Speaking of fashion, notice the latest in footwear in the lower right-hand corner of the picture.—DTH Photo by Jock Lauterer

HONOLULU (UPI) — The Lees are a fine old family in Hawaii; there are 12 columns of them in the Honolulu phone directory, but only a half dozen of them ever saw Virginia. There is a whole column of Parks, too, but they are mostly the Paks of Korea who patriotically put an "R" in their name when they became Americans.

Of course, there are the Smiths, the Joneses, the Elliots and the Duncans just like in any other American phone directory, but they are a tiny minority compared to the Akanas, the Changs, the Dois, the Fujimotos, the Kobashigawas, the Sumidas and the Yamashitas.

The old saying in Hawaii is that it is the only place in the United States where the majority is in the minority, that is if you consider the majority of Americans to be white, blue-eyed and Anglo-Saxon.

How do you get along? Are there any racial problems, and discrimination, or is it all togetherness?

Certainly there are problems. Many of the Okinawans still feel the Japanese-Americans discriminate against them. The Filipinos still have a lower social and economic standing than the Chinese, and the Hawaiians are so class conscious that they have their own private school—one of the richest in Hawaii—that is limited to those who have mostly Hawaiian blood in their veins.

PRICES CHANGE Hawaii is a chain of islands, and like islanders the world over, the Hawaiians have a distrust of "mainlanders." And the discrimination here is not among the various races, but is the discrimination of the islanders against the mainlanders. They even have different rate structures in hotels—cheaper, naturally, for the Kamainas, or locals—regardless of whether he is black, white, brown or yellow. Love, or sex, if you prefer, was the catalytic agent that produced Hawaii's togetherness. Everybody is so mixed up with everybody else's blood that to discriminate against any one ethnic group would be to snub some of your relatives. A man named Vernon S. W. Hiu might have a Chinese father, a Hawaiian mother, and a Caucasian grandfather.

It was not always togetherness in Hawaii. Even in the pre-World War II days no Orientals were allowed to own homes in the exclusive Kahala area, and things were mostly run by the big factoring companies which were white owned, white managed and white dominated. Harry Bridges and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union changed all that. It took long and costly strikes in shipping and sugar to equalize things, but it proved to

wai—are bewildered by the racial chaos, the problems of segregation, the demonstrations, the riots and the hatred on "mainland U. S. A." (One Hawaiian, reading of the troubles in Chicago, turned to a haole (Caucasian) and in all seriousness said: "You know, Bruddah, I don't think those people are ready for us yet.")

"WHYFO YOU WORRY?" International politics has never particularly bothered the people of Hawaii because of their isolated position. Now, however, the improved communications have brought them closer in touch with the world, but they are still provincial and follow a "my country right or wrong" philosophy and let Washington worry about the international problems. Few people can get more excited about local issues or care less about foreign ones.

There are just as many different ideas on Vietnam as there are in any state in the union, but more people in Hawaii have been affected by the war than probably any other state. They are closer to it geographically. The wounded come home to Hawaii first; the rest and recuperation flights land here weekly, and the casualties suffered by Hawaiian servicemen are proportionately higher than any other state, primarily because so many Army and Marine units were based here before going to Vietnam.

The Military is also Hawaii's biggest industry, bigger than tourism, sugar and pineapple.

Even so, to most of the populace its a far-away war, and if you have to go there it's tough, but until that time arrives, the water's warm, the beach is wonderful, the trades are blowing and the livin' is good.

"Whyfo you worry, Bruddah, everything she be okay—someday."

AMERICANS FIRST But the biggest pride is in being an American. In Hawaii it is more of a sacred obligation than an accepted birthright, perhaps because of the peonage of the masses of people who came here first from the muddy rice paddies of Asia. Nowhere in America did the first settlers have a greater contrast than coming from the strict caste societies of Asia to the relaxed Polynesian society.

And today habit has become the most important part of Hawaii's togetherness. Everybody has been living together so long and without friction that it has become a way of life. No other way is known to the islanders. To the younger generation it has always been this way; they know of nothing different, and it sometimes comes as a great shock on their first visits to the Mainland to find that things are not the way they are at home. The Hawaiians—and in this case everyone living in Ha-

waia—are bewildered by the racial chaos, the problems of segregation, the demonstrations, the riots and the hatred on "mainland U. S. A." (One Hawaiian, reading of the troubles in Chicago, turned to a haole (Caucasian) and in all seriousness said: "You know, Bruddah, I don't think those people are ready for us yet.")

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CAROLINA NOW PLAYING suddenly a scream pierces the air... and you're shocked to discover it's yours! SIMONE SIGNORET - YVES MONTAND THE SLEEPING CAR MURDER

Tomorrow In The DTH For your Sunday reading, the Daily Tar Heel tomorrow will feature an in-depth story on nurses in North Carolina, with particular emphasis on the UNC School of Nursing. Written and edited by Kerry and Judith Sipe, the page will describe in detail how the current shortage of qualified nurses is affecting hospitals across the state. It will contain interviews with UNC Nursing students who reveal the things that prompted them to enter the field.

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