

The Changing Life

The Greek system at the University faces the same problem outlined by a California sociologist whose study is presented in part today.

The problem is one of change—change on the college campuses across the nation, changes in the college student himself. Most collegiate members of the Greek system would agree that fraternities and sororities cannot and do not hold the same function they did 20 years ago, ten years ago or even five years ago.

The question is: are they fulfilling the needs of their members today, in 1965? Many would, without hesitating, respond yes. Others would simply avoid the question. A few would correctly, intelligently say, no, all needs are not being met.

It is the people who make the realistic, negative response that will be the saviors of the fraternity-sorority system, if it is to be saved.

The more mature college student of 1965 does not need the security and assurance of a devoted sister or brotherhood. In fact, many students despair of the rules and obligations that have necessarily been a part of Greek life.

The student of 1965 expects more from Greek life than a pin, a ritual, Monday night serenades, and house parties—or he should if he doesn't.

Four college years spent in an unchallenging atmosphere is unfair to today's college student. His life is full of changes, adjustments which occur at a faster pace than ever before. If the Greek system is to continue changes must occur equally as fast, the system must not only provide the proverbial "home away from home," it can no longer be only a medium for social activity, but it must challenge the 1965 student, make him aware of the fast-moving world in which he lives.

The Greek system must offer more than the romantic's view of the ivy-covered hall, and a life of fun, frolic, joy, fellowship and brotherhood. Life is just not that way in 1965 and the new student is not about to be fooled in believing the Greek fairy tale version.

Because of the nature of a fraternity or sorority the alums as well as the collegiate members must be aware of the new challenge. Those alumni members who still view the house as the institution they were a part of in 1928, 1939, 1955, or even 1960 must be convinced that many of their methods, solutions and views are no longer applicable in 1965.

Nebraska will be one of the last campuses strongly affected by a changing world, a changing university community and with it a changing student. But Nebraska will be affected—just as the campuses on the coasts. If the Greek system here will but feel the new atmosphere and adopt itself, it can be a strong and important part of University life.

Students' Message

The Rhodesian problem is of paramount importance to a small group of University students—the African students.

THEIR CONCERN is verbalized in a statement to be sent to governmental officials in Africa, and in their pledge to volunteer to go home and fight if necessary to insure Ian Smith's defeat.

Most of the students agree that the nations of Africa must have help from the outside to win the struggle. And all fear that Wilson, with a very slim majority in Parliament, may lose in his effort to provide British military help.

MANY FEAR that the African nations will turn to any hand—even a communist hand—if it holds a promise of helping to overcome Smith and others like him. The problem is complex, the Rhodesian situation unwieldy.

The African students have taken a positive means of expressing their concern, their point of view. May their timely statement stimulate their fellow countrymen to boldly defy and defeat Ian Smith's new regime.

Marilyn Hoegemeyer

Sociologist Says Sororities Face Extinction

Davis, Calif. (CPS) — A University of California sociologist says that sororities, long influential in manipulating the campus social order, now face extinction.

John F. Scott, professor of sociology at the University of California, Davis, says that factors that caused the growth of these social institutions during the first half of the century have changed and that rigidly structured sororities are finding it more and more difficult to mesh with today's highly competitive campus society.

Dr. Scott, who has studied sororities in detail, says he finds them an outgrowth of society's efforts to control marriage and the selection of the "right man."

"UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS are not as hospitable to Greeks as they once were," he says, citing regulation changes that tend to minimize the influence of Greek activities on campus. Extensive dormitory complexes are effectively competing with sorority housing, and off-campus activities are proving as popular and as varied as sorority activities.

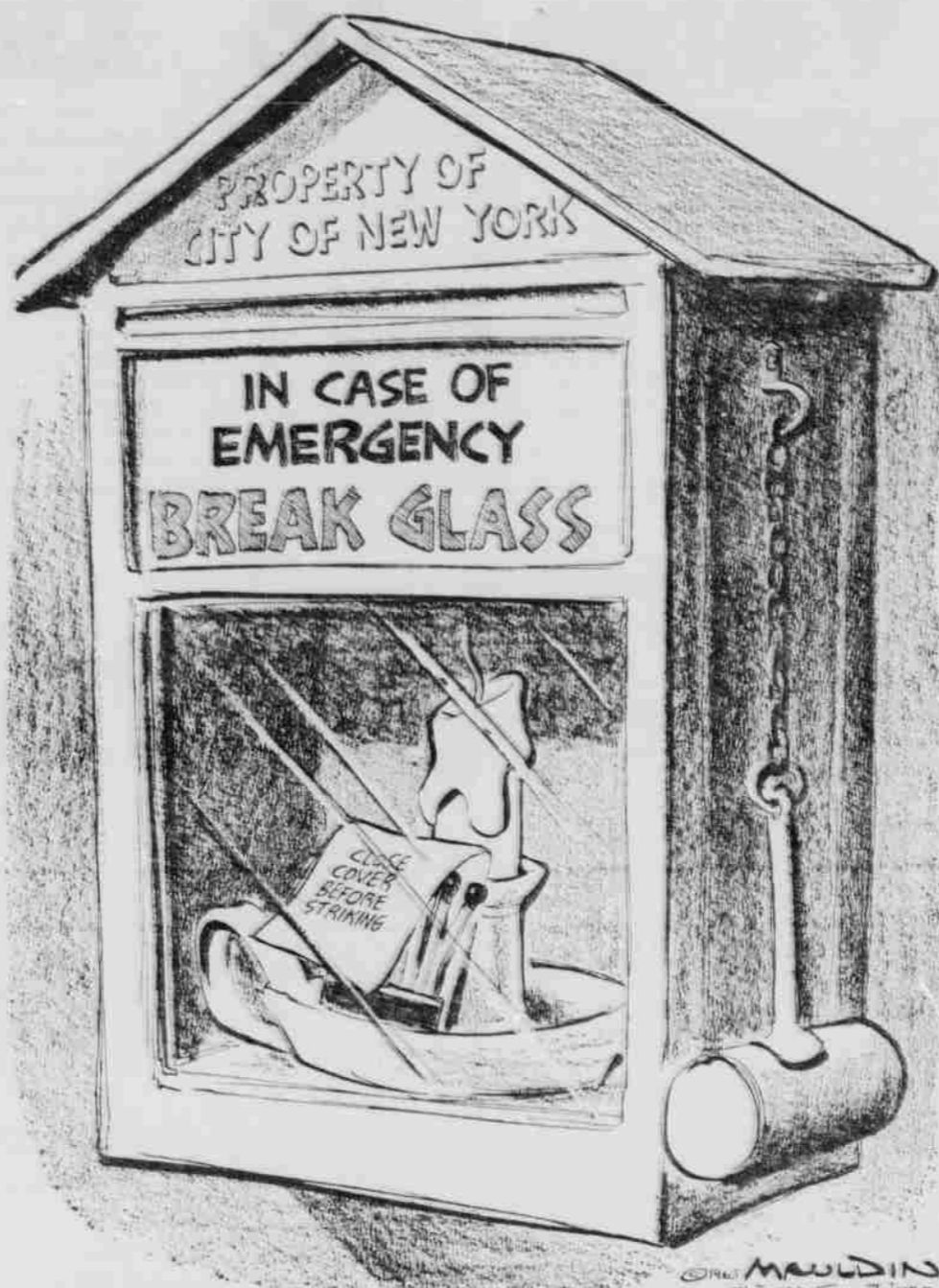
"But the worst blow of all to the sorority system comes from the effect of increased academic pressure on the dating habits of college men," Scott says. Academic competition on most campuses is keen and college men no longer have time for the form of courtship that made sororities so exciting, he says.

SCOTT CONCLUDES that the sorority system, "not likely to yield to change," will no longer be able to sustain itself. "When parents find that sorority membership does their daughter little good, the system as we know it will go into history," he says.

On the University of California's 27,500-student Berkeley campus, the predictions made by Dr. Scott are already beginning to come true.

SORORITY RUSH PARTICIPATION was down this fall to 240 coeds as compared with 437 just a year ago. The dean of women's office could not explain the drop.

The sorority representative to the campus student government said, however, she felt the drop reflected a "steady trend."



African Students Protest Ian Smith's Take-Over

African students at the University have volunteered to return home to fight "Smith's gang" as a part of a two-step protest of Ian Smith's attempt for Rhodesian independence.

The University African Student Association decided in a meeting Saturday night to take positive action in demonstrating their disapproval of Smith's actions. Two telegrams will be sent, one to the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity headquartered in Addisababa, Ethiopia, the other to Pan African Students of America, PASOA, headquartered in New York.

The telegrams will be followed by 36 letters to be sent to all the heads of government and state in Africa.

In the letters the member states will be urged to declare a state of emergency, to mobilize all armed forces, and to call for volunteers and a draft.

In addition the University students have asked that the African states encourage the Rhodesian Africans to aid the exiled Rhodesian government "which seeks recognition from within and without Africa."

The statement further urges that all necessary and effective material, food and medicine be sent to the Rhodesian Africans.

"Arms intervention is the only solution," Sylvester Amanquah, president of the African Student Association said. Thus he explained the Association members' pledge to be ready on call to return home to fight to overcome Smith's new regime.

BASE-r

By Bob Wetherell

The University medical school is testing a "model ambulance" to see how effective it is. We wonder what happens to prospective patients if it is not effective enough.

And speaking of this, it seems a possibility that the residents of Abel will probably find out if they continue their escapades with fires and elevators.

Campus Opinion— Union Problem Is Room Space

Dear Editor:

Due to the increased number of students and expanded organizational activities on campus this fall, the Nebraska Union has found itself approaching capacity during the more popular hours of the week for organizational meetings. Room reservations, therefore, are becoming increasingly difficult and resulting in problems and misunderstandings. It has been necessary to change room designations in order to satisfy the greatest number of groups and individuals on given days at given hours. This has caused some concern among various organizations.

The Nebraska Union is mindful of this concern, and in attempting to meet the problem is asking organizations booking space for activities in the Union to publicize only the day, hour and building; and to request all concerned to check the Daily Calendar for final room designation upon entry to the building.

Such a measure is predicated on the fact that our special-use room space is limited. For example, the Pan American is primarily a food service area; and must be used as such. Any group booking a special-use room for other than its primary use must be advised that such a booking is in jeopardy, if another group has need for that special-use space—even if such a need arises at a later date than the original reservation.

The Nebraska Union feels compelled to continue this policy of retaining space assignment privileges to meet the rapidly increasing service demands of its campus clientele, to whom we feel a strong commitment. The only alternative to this policy is to begin denying student organizations in their room reservation requests, because of the insistence of prior rights by other organizations. Such a measure is, however, not in keeping with the philosophical disposition of this management or the campus at large.

The Nebraska Union feels the full cooperation and understanding among the various student organizations and their officers can assist us in serving the campus at large in the most efficient manner. Any organization or group desiring information on what constitutes a special-use area or any further information regarding room reservations may obtain such information from the Reservations Secretary in the main office of the Nebraska Union.

A. H. Bennett, Director Nebraska Union Bill Harding, President Nebraska Union Board

Poet Must Speak

Dear Editor:

In response to a letter by Jean Reynolds, "Scrip Follows Barbaric Line." The idea that contemporary literature is degenerate (your word is "rot") is open to speculation. The condemnation however of New work (in becoming) is a stranglehold.

The infancy of all things is difficult, and new writing has always been stimulating to detractors and friends, the stimulus elicits different reactions.

Jean Reynolds may disagree with what she personally finds worthless (the entire issue of Scrip apparent-

ly), but maybe her liberal "paraphrasing" or corrupting of Miss Hodges poem consists of substituting "word" for "dream." The poem originally ended:

Today

The kindest Dream of all Is Dreamless

And Miss Reynolds is stepping on that dream and making it dreamless. The writer-poet must speak, must use the only medium available, words, but perhaps his best speech is when he, "Speaks like silence." Got it Jean?

D. M. Crook

On Higher Education— The Mystery: No Students In Class, Many Excuses

The following article, written by a student at the University of Oregon emphasizes our concern about the system of higher education in America. Though not every observation made is pertinent to the University, the article shows the general frustration which haunts a student desiring learning for learning's sake. The Editor—

By Bob Carl

A professor from England, teaching in the U.S. for the first time last year, was astounded when he faced his first class of American students and found that several were missing. A pretty coed finally solved the mystery by telling him, "It's Friday and a lot of kids like to go home, so they skip class."

THE FOLLOWING MONDAY, again facing his abbreviated class, the professor expressed surprise. However, when someone told him, "A lot of kids aren't back from their long weekend yet," he accepted this.

On his way to the Wednesday class, the professor thought to himself, "At last I'll get to see all my students."

However, when he stared out at the empty seats, he asked, "Where's everyone today; where is everybody?" and a cooperative student in a back seat happily answered, "Today's Wednesday, the middle of the week. You don't expect us to study all the time, do you?"

SO, THE PROFESSOR still wonders what is wrong with higher education in America.

And this, the 864 question, remains unanswered—despite obvious signs of student dissatisfaction with their education.

Students come to the campuses of America's colleges and universities seeking excitement and stimulation in their new-found academic environment. And, almost without fail, and even in the outstanding centers of learning in the country, they find disappointment and disillusionment.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY that all students, or even most of them, are interested in learning for its own sake; however, those students who are find themselves frustrated by the system which dominates American higher education.

As one Berkeley student has written,

... there is a deep and bitter resentment among many students about their life at the university. It is a resentment that starts from the contradiction between the public image and reputation of the university and their actual day-to-day experiences there as students." (From the book "Revolution at Berkeley").

In other words, as freshmen and sophomores—and even during their last two years of high school—students are forced to attend classes that often are devoid of intellectual stimulation, and taught by dull professors with out-moded ideas and techniques.

A MORE EXTREME FRUSTRATION occurs when a naive student signs up for an introductory course in almost any field. For almost certainly that course will be taught in a large lecture hall, seating somewhere between 100 and 400 students, by the poorest teacher in the department. This is true because the better, more experienced professors don't want to waste their time with undergraduates.

Today's students have no say in their course offerings or curricula in general. They are introduced to their future alma mater with an out-dated orientation program, and thereafter, they are told what courses to take, regardless of their likes or dislikes, and are forced to accept what the institution deems advisable.

STUDENTS LEARN to get through their education by mastering a four-year system of lectures, reading lists and examinations but they have little to do with genuine learning.

However, the outlook is not all black for higher education in America, because some students manage to beat the system and get a reasonable education in spite of their institutions of learning.

And as the professor from England said, "American students may someday seek an education for its own sake. Students in Great Britain have tried it and found it to their liking. And they go to classes too."

(Carl is a student at the University of Oregon and a member of the editorial board of the Oregon Daily Emerald.) The Collegiate Press Service



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