

ARE FRATERNITIES BENEFICIAL?

TWO DIFFERENT ANSWERS, FROM TWO STUDENTS

YES— DEFINITELY

By Peter Power

It is not my purpose to justify fraternities. The fact that they have such a wide-spread and strong growth in American and Canadian universities shows that they have been a response to a basic need. My purpose is to consider in what ways fraternities may make a better contribution both to their own members and to the universities of which they are a part.

Fraternities as a whole are social institutions and for this reason are not perfect and have ample room for improvement. This criterion applies to all institutions because human beings themselves are not perfect.

A fraternity is an undergraduate organization whose main function is not strictly educational—it has nothing to do with teaching or curriculum. It is rather social in that it brings together a group of undergraduates into a close social relationship. This relationship aids in their character and personality through their most formative years.

One of the most tragic features of university life is the number of students who graduate from university without having received or realized the wealth of experience that was there but which they missed through lack of improper guidance and direction.

The fraternity is remarkably well placed to make exactly this contribution. It is a relatively small group organized for unusually close and sustained relationship. This is a group where influence can work quickly and effectively. It is also a permanent organization so that the influences once established in the form of traditions can work lastingly.

The fraternity contributes to the development of the whole individual. It receives its members at a period when they are at the peak of their power to grow, full of curiosity, ambition, incentive, which can be moulded for both good or bad.

Some of the actual concrete contributions made by fraternities on the campus recently:

1. Collection for the Red Feather Campaign.
 2. Parties for the children of the local orphans
 3. Parties for the cerebral palsy children
 4. Active participation in the Blood Donor Campaign
- (Two fraternities on the Dalhousie campus had 100% turnout of their members.)
5. Active support of all university functions throughout the year.

The group undertaking have a definite benefit for moulding the characters of our future leaders. The work entailed to keep the chapter houses operating smoothly and efficiently requires the co-operation of each of its members. The painting, cleaning and constructive projects accomplished give a sense of well being and a feeling of belonging to a group, which appreciates the individual contribution to the group.

A question often brought up against fraternities is the undemocratic method of choosing its members. It is a basic human right to be able to pick and choose one's friends. The group or individual sets up standards of choice—that is all the fraternities do in this regard.

A fraternity is not a substitute for the basic organizations of the university in undergraduate life. After graduation it is not a substitute for the basic organizations of the community. In its limited though important sphere it can play a most constructive role at a critical point in the individual's development of its members.

A very apropos old Danish saying which gives us a prescription for constructive actions: "In every man there is a King and a Pauper. If you speak to the King, the King will come out."

Blanko Works Wonders

By this time Alice's head was spinning round so fast that she felt quite dizzy. "Curioser and curioser," she thought, "those lights seem to be getting bigger and bigger."

Just then the King of Hearts come running by eating a tart. "Don't be silly, child," he said, "those are only advertisements. See —'Blanko is Better than Ever!'"

"I think I understand," said Alice screwing her forehead. "Advertising helps build a better Wonderland . . .!"

"DUZZ DOES IT, duzz does it, duzz does it," said a voice unexpectedly in her ear.

Alice was so startled, she screamed.

"It is forbidden to scream in front of the cat," said the King severely.

"But there's no cat here," said Alice.

"Oh, yes, there is," said the King, but by this time the noise was so loud that Alice barely heard him give a frenzied laugh and burst out: "Is-it-my-fault-if-I-didn't-get-a-high-school-education. I-feel-like - cheering - for-Wonderland-Savings-Bonds-which-made-this-possible . . ." as he dashed off to get another jam tart (he'd already had two).

Alice turned round to see the head of the Cheshire Cat had reappeared on the branch. "Oh, so you were there all the time," she said. "Tell me, are you an advertiser, too?"

"It must be distinctly understood," said the Cheshire Cat, leering at her, "that there must be no more initiation. We must be DIG-NIFIED, dignified, dignified." With each "dig" his head disappeared a little bit more, until finally all that was showing was his left eye.

"I think you're most rude disappearing like this. Show yourself at once," said Alice crossly.

"Off with his head," said the Duchess absentmindedly, as she entered with a croquet mallet.

"Why," said Alice, startled.

"Because it's an un-American activity, of course," snapped the Duchess.

"How can it be when there's no body?" said Alice, but the Duchess wasn't listening.

At that moment the White Rabbit ran by, muttering: "It must be time, it must be time . . ."

"What time is it?" asked Alice, interested.

"I should have THOUGHT," said the Duchess, hitting the Cheshire Cat on the head with the mallet until he disappeared, all except the bruise, "I should have THOUGHT that ANYONE with a grain of SENSE in their heads would have known that. It's election time."

"How interesting," said Alice. "Is that what all the advertisements are for?"

Just then there was a tremendous noise of shouting, and the King came running fussily in. "Now then, now then," he said running round and round them, and getting more fussy every time he passed Alice, "all get together and shout. SHOUT."

"What IS all this about?" asked Alice, as they all got into groups and shouted at the tops of their voices.

"It's a game," said the King. "The ones that shout the loudest are the winners."

"That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," said Alice. "Ridiculous! This is a democracy isn't it?" snapped the King. "Off with her head," said the Duchess, shouting at the top of her voice.

—M. N. S.

NO— WHY BE A FRAT-HEAD?

By A Pine Hill Student

In introduction, let me say that I am neither a disgruntled fraternity member, nor a smugly complacent non-member. I am just an innocent bystander, asked to contribute a comment on this question. Let's examine it together:

To begin with, what benefits can you expect to derive from being a frater or a soror? Well, you get friendship, fellowship, social activities, and, of course, the bar on Saturday night.

But Dal gives you all these, with one exception, not wishing to infringe on Lady Hamilton's hospitality.

Do you want friends? There are a thousand others like you on the campus, and you meet them at coffee, in classes or clubs.

Do you want a place to relax? There are common rooms—and the student would find a way to make them more adequate if he could contribute one-half as much towards them as he does towards his frat, with its \$20 to \$50 initiation fee, and its monthly dues.

In fact, if he would contribute time alone, it is very probable that the University would feel it worthwhile to make even more improvements than it has recently.

Social activities? What are your interests? There are over a score of student organizations, all pleading for better participation: your faculty's society, dramatics, the armed forces, music (both active and passive), writing and editing, sports, various committees, and even international affairs (WUS, and until they learned better, NFCUS).

Or do you like to dance? The

only Fridays between now and Munroe Day (when all student activities stop, except in the Medical Society) on which there are not Dal-sponsored dances are two on which there are major productions of the DGDS, and two in December.

And let's elaborate a little on the friendship theme: if you join in with your fellow Dalhousians in University activities, rather than splitting up in schismatic little cliques like the fraternities, then you will find out what has happened to the elusive Dalhousie Spirit that so many mourn—but that so many have found.

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Imagine That!

The Drunken Brides

Our word "bride" comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to Brew." At an Anglo-Saxon wedding feast the young maiden would always brew a pot of ale so that the "bridal" guests could know what a fine wife the groom was getting. Hence, "bride."

Companion

The ancient custom of "hospitality" in the Far East was carried over into Roman times when a man was obliged to give food and shelter to any destitute traveller who desired it. Having broken bread together, it was considered that the two persons, host and traveller, were to be friends. Thus our word "companion" comes from the Latin "com" (together) and "panis" (bread), meaning persons who have eaten bread together!

Witnesses are obliged to raise their right hands and swear in a modern court. This is because our ancestors used to bar felons from testifying in court, and these characters were branded with an "F" on their right hand. Anyone displaying an unbranded hand, therefore, proved that he was a qualified witness.

Here's Looking At You

The old-fashioned ale tankards were made with glass bottoms which could be seen through after the last gulp of liquid. Hence the modern toast, "Here's looking at you!" i.e. through the glass bottom of the tankard.

Us Engineers

To the Housewife:

This chain letter is started in Halifax in hope of bringing relief and happiness to tired housewives. Unlike most chain letters, this does not cost any money. Simply send a copy to five of your housewife friends who are equally bored.

Then bundle up your husband and send him to the woman whose name appears at the top of the list and add your name to the bottom of it. When your name comes to the top of the list, you will receive 1,755 men, and some of them will be dandies.

Have faith. Do not break the chain. One woman did and got her husband back.

(Signed) The Wife of a Law Student

HYSTERICAL HISTORICS:—

Last week Cleopatra had just met Marc Anthony and invited him to her palace.

Scene two: (2) (deux) (zwei)

"But what will we do with all that time on our hands" asks Marc.

"Don't worry, we'll think of something," said Cleo. "Let me give you a little kiss! I don't like to brag, but they say my kisses are fire!"

"Then shoot the flame to me, Dame!" cries Marc. "But remember I'm not going back with you!"

Well, after Marc had been in Egypt about ten years he begins to get restless, even though he has practically been king, but now he is squirming in ermine.

Marc is boiling for a fight and feels pretty rotten.

It happened that Marc had signed some papers without giving it a second thought. That is he put his X for his signature. That is where we get the expression, "an early marc." This caused him to be all tied up, a sort of

an ancient Harry Houdini.

Now you will recall, if I remind you, that there was another half to the Roman army back in Rome, the general of which, decides he would be very happy to lick Anthony. As he told his friends, it would mean the world to him.

This is Marc's chance. He tells Cleo not to worry as the other fellow was so yellow that every-one thought he had yellow jaundice.

"But we are so comfortable here," coos Cleo. "If he wants to fight, make him come here and fight!" "Nope, I'm going there" said Marc.

And by this time it must be clear how Cleopatra started out resisting Marc's advances and ended up by blocking his retreat.

There wasn't anything that Marc Anthony wouldn't do for Cleo, and there wasn't anything that Cleo wouldn't do for Marc. And that's the way it went on for years . . . they just went through life doing nothing for each other.

Anyhow the two forces met off the coast of Greece which is neither here nor there. Cleo had come along with some of her own ships but when she thought Marc was getting pasted she took a powder.

Well, believe it or not, right in the middle of the brawl Marc slips off quicker than a class when the Professor is six minutes late and follows her, leaving behind his army, his navy and his chances.

Thus ended one of the greatest dates in history, namely the one Marc Anthony had with Cleopatra.

(Curtain)

Features Writers

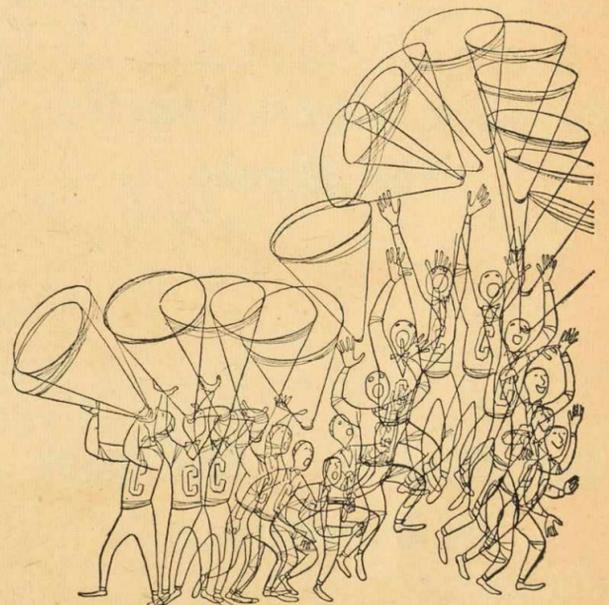
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