

LIFT YOUR STEIN AND . . .

FRATERNAL FERMENTINGS

At first, the main purpose of this survey was to help me meet more frat men. But as it progressed, the frat men ignored or rather tolerated me, and I was forced to actually attempt an enlightening study on the so-called promotion of drinking by fraternities.

Do men's fraternities influence drinking? "I think so but it is a good influence," said one frat member who was sober enough to observe fraternal drinking habits. Continuing, he explains, "If a guy lives in residence or at home he buys a bottle and drinks it down before he goes home. When going to a frat he drinks when he wishes, stops when he wishes and is not compelled to finish the bottle. There is a social pressure not to overdrink. Frat brothers look after each other. When



I CAN'T AFFORD IT!

a person goes to a bar he may drink himself stupid and get kicked out. At a frat, the frat brothersglom onto you, stop you drinking if you appear too drunk."

From another reliable source, "Frats make it more accessible but it doesn't turn them into alcoholics, as many people assume. Frats perform a useful function—a place where one can get a drink in a more home-like environment—rather than going to the bar." In opposition to the 'homey' view, another casually mentioned that frats teach a more mature, sophisticated attitude towards drinking. Another tolerantly pointed out, "You can't blame the frats—they don't pour it down their throats."

It is easier for a fratty minor to obtain liquor than another mere minor? One former fratty member said it was easier for an underage frat boy to obtain liquor, and therefore an influence on his drinking habits, but felt that if a person was over 21, the fraternity wouldn't influence his drinking habits one way or the other.

As one older, disillusioned frat member said, "though it may be sad it's none the less true that some frat houses maintain beer machines and a supply of liquor that is readily accessible." Others felt it is just as easy for a mere minor to obtain liquor than a fratty minor because it is as easy for an underage drinker to get liquor from his aged friends as

a fratty drinker to get it from a frat.

There are two conflicting opinions on the solution to the problem of serving liquor to minors. "Frats should abide by the liquor regulations and make it an offence to serve liquor to those under 21." Another (under 21) felt the drinking age should be lowered to 18 for university students. "This would eliminate the problem of serving minors at functions and encourage interest in attaining University education among high school students." (Good-bye VGW?)

Do fraternity members who live in drink more than the out-house members? A person that lives in drinks more, said one out-house member, because "they're there when the party begins and when it ends" (unless they sleep out). Other reasons mentioned were the before dinner beer habit and a stronger tendency to drink because of constantly available liquor. One in-house member, disagreeing with this stated these statistics derived from the beer machine, "Three-quarters of the

"GOODBYE VGW"

members of this particular frat are out-house members but consume 90 per cent of the beer." Another in-house member said "No more drinking done by those who live in the frat than those who live elsewhere." Another held there was no more drinking, after the first week or so when the novelty wears off."

Some separate the problem of drinking from fraternities at all. "When you leave home you experiment with alcohol, whether you go to work or to university, and you're involved directly or indirectly for the rest of your life. Any experience with alcohol in its varied forms is going to help a person make his personal decision with respect to the use of it." And one playboy pointed out that "getting into bars when you're underage is a campus game."

The idiosyncrasy of the whole so-called survey was pointed out by one who said, "I don't think it's fair to speak of fraternities and drinking collectively—different frats have different standards. Besides, within the fraternities there are those who don't drink at all, those who drink moderately and (alas and alack) the alcoholics."

Another felt that it wasn't even an issue, "Drinking is becoming an established part of our social life."

"IT'S HERE TO STAY"

It is here to stay. As long as it is not indulged to in excess there can be no common sense arguments opposing it."

Asked why they drank some stated that they drank in moderation as part of the social process. But almost all admitted drinking is a method of escape, as one put it "It beats yelling Stop the world, I'm getting off."

In summarizing his attitude on liquor, one natty fratty succeeded in summarizing the opinions I obtained: "I don't drink very much—only a couple every Saturday night. I drink mainly because of social pressure. If I didn't belong to a fraternity I wouldn't drink as much, but would drink more at one sitting."

This agreement of opinion, that fraternities are a good influence on the drinking habits of frat men, proves either: (1) the truth is self-evident or (2) frat men are brain-washed.

TO DRINK OR NOT TO DRINK (THE SOCIALITES' DILEMMA)

What do frat men think of girls who drink? "I like 'em!" the majority lecherously lauded. "I accept them," claimed a tolerant teetotaler. But "there is nothing as disgusting as a woman who is drunk" was the universal reply.

But there is no cause to stew, socialities. As one said "Girls on campus very, very rarely overdrink. Most girls don't even drink enough to get 'happy'—the intermediate stage between sober and drunk." And as another stated, "If a girl likes to drink it's fine—most girls on campus can hold their liquor, behave, and not become luses."

The reason for this meritorious maturity in imbibing habits is as one frat man feels "Girls drink because it is socially acceptable—not because they want to, in many cases."

If the modern socialite is still in a quandry she could heed the advice of one who feels he "would be more at home socially with a girl who does drink." But, one said, "A girl doesn't have to drink to prove her maturity." On the other side of the fence, "A girl that doesn't drink because she doesn't want to (not because she is forbidden to or has no opportunity) shows indications of having strong character."

But when in doubt—drink, you'll probably be driven to it anyway.

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