

Life and liquor have been often equated by odd numbers on campus. This feature is meant to be a serious attempt by a staffer to examine university drinking. To limit her complex question, our writer dotes on the core of the issue, fraternity drinking, and on the beginnings, minor indulgence (does one corrupt the other?). Opinions from abstainers and imbibers, fraternity members and non-frat types, prove strikingly consistent.

(For the interest of the scientifically minded, this is not a sociological researched survey.) B.W.



YOU DIDN'T THINK THE FEES COVERED ALL OUR EXPENSES?

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Profits from one particular frat's beer machine are used to buy (no, not more liquor but) furnishings for the house?

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ELOQUENT EVANS (C.D.D.)

The generally held opinion is that you can't have a good party without liquor. At a main gathering liquor is the universal language—this is not a unique or particular characteristic of frats. All men are equal when intoxicated. There is no more drinking on or about frats per capita than on or about other groups—Gateway, Radsoc, Students' Council, Faculty Clubs and the odd religious club. It is perfectly natural for a group of people with some common interest—be it frat, faculty or merely sex, to get together when they're blue and subsequently hoist a few.

The view that frats influence drinking in an undesirable manner is a false assumption. They get together more often and drinking goes hand and hand with parties. But man has no need of a Greek letter after his name or upon his bosom to encourage him to go to the bar.

"THEY SUPPLY LIQUOR"

Contrary to what is commonly thought, if anything frats control the underage drinker—depending on the particular frat, for it is very important for all frats to maintain good public relations with the community. Universities and executives of all frats are very much aware of the bad light thrown on the fraternity system by rowdiness or drunkenness on the part of junior or senior members of that ethnic group. Therefore, senior members are willing to accept a certain amount of responsibility to brothers and are usually desirous of keeping an eye on those of their brethren who are going to put their frat in the aforementioned light.

The argument would arise that frats are not accepting any responsibility because they supply liquor in the first place. This is very hard to rebut but frats are becoming more and more aware of the fact that their very existence depends upon maintaining some form of control over social activities. This attitude of restricting their shenanigans is not

"FRATS AS SIN BINS"

always apparent to other students. And it should be noted that other students are more than willing to take advantage of frats' collective liquor spigot.

Because frats are social organizations they therefore become the center and or meeting hall for the socially oriented. But although frat men in early or conditioning stages are quick to boast that they have the wildest parties, do the most drinking, and are Ruff and Tuff 100 per cent alcohol blooded HE-MEN, they are talking through their proverbial fratty hats.

What I mean is this: You ain't seen nothing until you have had the dubious honor of attending an informal though organized gathering of several of the more gregarious groups on or about campus. Frat parties are kindergarten compared to the odious but marvelous orgies of the other worldly. I do not care to specify any group that it has been my pleasure to be associated with in this respect, simply that there are many of them and they certainly swing it, sling it and swig it.

Furthermore, there is nothing wrong with this. If the average

parent had any comprehension of what specifically and generally went on at some of the lesser advertised student gatherings they wouldn't be so quick to condemn frats as sin-bins.

To paraphrase a certain famous cigarette ad: Frats are milder. Other groups are wilder.

To summarize, if possible:

1. It is not disputed in my mind that frats are a recognized universal outlet for alcoholic beverages—no doubt leading to imbibing in many cases.

2. But the undergraduate, naive and round-eyed is going to drink anyhow—somehow or somewhere. If he is going to do so it is better done at a place where there is at least a chance that some responsible person is going to keep him from making a complete fool of himself.

3. If a survey, if possible, were successfully run pertaining to the problem (if it is a problem) frat men would come out as "Little Lord Fauntleroy's."

4. For some strange reason, no doubt having to do with the methods of adulating of puberty, young fools are apt to make a great hullabuloo regarding their liquor consumption and the circumstances under which they allegedly consumed the liquor. Young fools, who have yet to reach the age where they can scrape the peach fuzz off their

"BEWARE THE DEMON RUM"

inadequate chins, think that drinking is a BIG DEAL. This is but another example of undergraduate stupidity. We've all gone through that stage. Therefore, because they may imbibe at frat functions more than other functions public opinion condemn frats.

5. Much of the problem for the braggartly and uncalled for boasting on such a trivial matter as having one over the eight is a direct result of a particular individual's upbringing.

If his or her parents exercised strict and idiotic Presbyterian Puritanism (i.e. the type that kept the liquor cabinet locked, preached liquor is a sin, and beware the demon rum), chances are their odious offspring when confronted with the great mysteries of booze (so they think) are not going to be able to handle or appreciate it for its true worth. Those who have been brought up to accept the fact that: (1) it exists and (2) people drink liquor more likely as a social habit, are not particularly impressed because they can get a drink. It's a shame to use the old escape clause of blaming the parent, but it may apply in many cases.

Personally I enjoy a drink. I enjoy several drinks, I enjoy all kinds of

"I WAS WEANED . . ."

drinks. I am not impressed by the fact that I do take a drink, not suggesting I was weaned on liqueurs. Nevertheless, I find a social drink or two or three et al an uplifting pastime. There is nothing more vital to a man (except women) than to enjoy the privilege of gathering with a surfit of cronies and imbibing a surfit of spiraties fermenté. It does the soul no end of good, opens up the heart, wakes up tired blood, starts the tongue moving freely and invokes a general usually shouted process of thesis and antithesis leading to an enlightened though garbled glorious synthesis.

I rest my case, and now if you will excuse me I am due at the bar.