

# The Gateway

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## Fraternities For Fun And Profit

The following editorial is a reprint of an editorial appearing November 2, 1962. Since we are traditionally bound to editorially deal with fraternities perhaps it's also fitting we standardize our efforts, for after all, what is there new to say about fraternities.

One of the more irksome Gateway practices in the eyes of those who wear the Greek Badge of Status is the annual editorial concerning RUSHING . . . its care and feeding. The reason for the friction between the former non-group and the latter ethnic groups is that what purports to be an objective discussion invariably ends up on the editorial page as a cesspool of subjective slashing. And not without just cause in the not-so-long past.

"Oh, to be in Russia," quoth Will Pepys, "Now that Rushyng's here!" and at once the reader envisaged a host of faceless frosh in three-button seer-sucker suits being sucked into the void of vacuum-packed brotherhood. But there is danger in taking a random sample from that propounding and sweeping generalization. It is no one's business to condemn a society or a system just because some (and very few) of its adherents are less mild than the average man accepted by nine out of ten doctors.

Clinical tests have not yet shown that fraternities are 1. normally, spiritually, and non-intellectually detrimental to their mothers, and/or 2. a serious threat to the Security of the nation. Nobody knows about sororities. That's another editorial.

So why all the criticism? It is easy to slap on the familiar label "exclusive and discriminatory," but to suggest that a society whose admitted objects are primarily social and residential should open its doors to all who knock, regardless of whether or not they know how to eat asparagus, is as insane as saying that all men are equal.

## Conflict Of Interests?

The following is an editorial written by a fraternity member for fraternity members. Perhaps it raises more questions than it answers. Read on.

The Interfraternity Council seems to realize that fraternities could contribute more to the campus than they are at present. This does not, however, seem to be recognized by all of its individual members.

Could there be a conflict developing between the old social organization and the progressive school which realizes a fraternity has a more significant purpose than a good party every Saturday night?

The problem which faces IFC is one of changing the status quo. At present fraternities are held together by very loose bonds. If IFC wishes to formulate and carry out any sort of program, it must first gain some measure of control over its members. This means individual fraternities

to condemn fraternities as sinbins and hell-fire clubs is characteristically infantile on the part of those who inflict such verbal censorship. Compared to the average Gateway party, a fraternity function is kids' day at the zoo . . . on this campus. Finally, it is a fact that practically anybody on the U of A campus can join a fraternity if he wishes. If not, he can start his own without impediment from either the Administration, other fraternities, or anyone else.

Since the Interfraternity Council has instituted a strong, central group policy—sadly lacking in the past—and the mockery that was dry rushing has become a rigidly enforced reality today, the rushee has a far better chance to see fraternities in their truer light than he did two years ago. And the fraternity member has a far better chance to evaluate his guest. The result is that future friendships and—pardon the expression—brotherhoods, are rooted in dry-mouthed but honest appraisals as distinguished from liquid and volatile insincerity. "Who goes there? Friend or fraternity brother?" may yet become a cry of the past. Nowadays, most fraternities try to combine both.

Therefore, although the rushee is hereby given his annual and oft-true warning about the lurking insincerity and hypocrisy behind the gilded curtains of the Rushing Theatre, at the same time he must realize that those who cry "conformist", or "status seeker", "fink", et al, are doing so with a big mouth full of sour grapes.

A fraternity is the sum of the individuals in it, and if the man who elects frattie, selects his companions with care and foresight, he is making a wise choice in joining the society, and we wish him all the best. If the criteria of his choice are the size of the house, the sparkle of the pin, the aggregate wealth of the members, and the number of cars, then damn him for the spawn of Babbitt. A way of life should be based on the acquisition of values, not valuables.

must replace independence with interdependence. Individual identity will not be sacrificed, but rather mutual respect gained.

With the interdependence will come a realization of each others problems and more strength to solve them. Common goals could be established from which would come increased cooperation and understanding, amongst not only themselves, but between the fraternities and the campus at large.

The question will be raised as to whether fraternities are ready to unite. The maturation process from a number of segregated, isolated, fraternities to a single unified Interfraternity Council will not be easy. Some fraternities are bound to think only of themselves and will not wish to integrate with other fraternities or the campus.

Could it be that some are just too short-sighted to realize that their very existence will depend on unification?



"COMMEMORATION OF CONFEDERATION - QUEBEC 1964"



by Bruce Ferrier

The coming of fall brings to a close yet another season, and the thoughts of all men turn once again to the eternal question: who will win the World Series?

Across the land, housewives, businessmen, school children and sponsors set down their mundane burdens and watch the great Saga of Sport unfold. Seven times during a fortnight the progress of civilization respectfully pauses for the re-enactment of a ritual as old as commercialized sport.

Certainly, there be more razors sold the week after than at any other time; and all those who watch, benefit greatly from the total wastage of a weekday afternoon; certainly the world would be worse off by far if there were no such thing as the World Series.

Think of the poor baseball players: forced into the cruel world of useful labor. And consider how much one benefits, socially, culturally, and esthetically, from an afternoon of baseball. After all, there is no greater good than to be entertained.

Indeed, all organized sports have their place in society: football, teaching good sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct; soccer, giving one the

thrill of rooting on one's team. Think of all the violence and frustration so harmlessly released by football and soccer fans. And let us not forget that study in grace and self-control, wrestling.

Organized sports are even of benefit to the intellectual: what is there to talk about besides the probable outcome of next week's game, or the batting record of Mickey Mantle?

Indeed, there is no point in discussing the matter further. Those misfits who declare organized sports to be wasteful, unnecessary, and culturally depraving have simply fallen into bad company. If they were but to sense the true worth and value of things like stock-car demolition races and ice hockey, they would be much happier in this enlightened society of ours.

## Letters

Letters should be addressed to The Editor, The Gateway, University of Alberta. The Gateway will publish letters under a pseudonym, but in all cases writers must sign their own names and include an address or telephone number.

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