

Anti-frat polemics streaming in night



A discreditation of award discreditors

FRAT MAN SAYS . . .

Why all the fuss about fraternities? It has been a peculiar year. These pages have been sprinkled with anti-frat material since the year began. This year, it appears, it has just been fashionable to knock frats, and all the fancy critics have been falling over themselves to join the fad.

A well-known playwright once referred to his critics as a bunch of eunuchs who sniped in frustration at the things they felt themselves incapable of creating.

Another, less Freudian comment could be made this way: that persons who participate in the actual operation of society seldom are the fanatical

critics of society. Not—notice—that they are not critical, but simply that they are not fanatically critical.

The bulk of the anti-fraternity material published in The Gateway this year gives the impression that someone actually writhed with glee as he wrote.

I regret the disturbed peace of mind which drives a person to lash out in criticism, and I regret even more particularly the conditions which drive him to lash out at fraternities. For it seems to me that if a person is disturbed by conditions in a particular part of society, he will assume a personal responsibility for effecting some change in it.

The most disturbing common denominator of the anti-frat writers is their apparent total lack of responsibility towards their subject.

In many cases, I know personally that the writers are simply writing for effect and not out of serious conviction. I know this simply because the statements of some of these individuals are inconsistent with their actions.

It is disturbing because the effect which these articles produce goes unchecked: too few people are motivated to write a devilishly effective article defending something: it is better by far, and the more emotionally satisfying, to knock.

The effect thus far has been the development on this campus of a noticeable hesitance in student attitude toward fraternities, largely because subtle and often twisted use of words has confused students who don't know enough at first hand about the fraternity system to have a strong opinion.

Why should the fraternities on this campus become the whipping boys for a multitude of sins which go ignored elsewhere?

What of the hypocrisy which prohibits liquor on campus, yet sweeps the empty beer bottles out of the men's residences in the morning? What of the residence snobbery which brands an individual an outsider and condemns him to sneering mockery for a year? What about the incompetence in the interest and faculty or department clubs, which is never branded as "empire building" nor held to critical inspection?

Fraternities play a more healthy and vital role on this campus than on some other campuses, but the fastest way to change this is to begin a public cry to brand the fraternities "sinful."

Our fraternities are both constructive and productive for the entire student body. When new residences are opened, aspects of the fraternity organization will be incorporated into building government—the major difference being that people on a floor won't have the reserved right to choose their floormates.

But it would be all too simple for a few irresponsible and un-

GLOVER SAYS

The Color Night ceremonies will be held today at the Macdonald Hotel. The students who will be honored at this occasion (their names appear elsewhere in this paper) have worked conscientiously and diligently in their varied fields of interest, and have made distinguished contributions to extra-curricular and athletic activity at this University.

It is therefore most unfortunate that through the Gateway's columns (Forum, March 9) an

rebuttal. However, so that no misconceptions may remain, let us examine his statements more carefully.

Under Students' Union by-laws, the awards committee is composed of two members of the Golden Key Society, two members of the student body at large and the co-ordinator of student activities, who acts as chairman. The Dean of Women and Adviser to Men Students sit on the committee, but do not vote.

Any member of the Students' Union may apply for a position on the committee, (an advertisement for applications was carried for several weeks by The Gateway with no results.), but preference was given to students in senior years who have shown some leadership in student affairs.

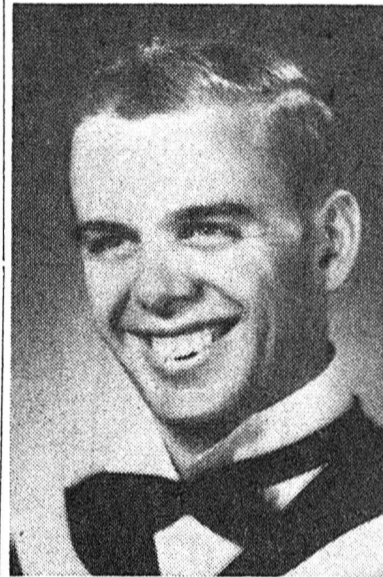
If a member of the committee was himself eligible for an award, he was excluded from that part of the meeting. Council followed a similar procedure with its members while scrutinizing the committee's recommendations. It was thus impossible to secure an award for oneself unfairly.

All candidates for awards were evaluated according to a schedule which scored the responsibility of the position held against the fulfillment of this responsibility. Quality as well as quantity was considered. The contributions of each candidate were carefully analysed by the committee and by the council, and points were awarded accordingly. The improved point schedule allowed personal considerations to be minimized much more than in previous years. Hence, prizes could not be given to undeserving friends.

The writer of "Lock Up Keys" states that after "the awards committee scrounged around the bottom of the barrel for people to take them" it awarded "the full quota of 12 golden keys." In fact, only eight students were elected to the Golden Key Society from twice as many nominees.

Similarly with other awards, less than half of those who might have received honors were finally selected. If there was the slightest doubt, the presentation was not made.

(Continued on page 9)



KEN GLOVER

attempt should be made to discredit those students receiving awards, the basis on which awards are given, and the awards themselves.

The charges made are founded upon erroneous information, are developed with fallacious reasoning, and are presented in singularly poor taste. The writer is apparently aware that his commentary is inept; he would otherwise have supported it with his signature.

This failure to stand behind his position is in itself sufficient

caring writers to start the ball rolling towards sterilization of the system.

All this because a few individuals have to get their kicks from writing crank articles? There's too much to be gained from a healthy fraternity system, well integrated into the campus community. I don't think the screams are worth it.

Iain Macdonald

A few last varsity spasms

Was he trying to say something? If so, was it worth saying?

Offended,
John Strydhorst
Education 2

P.S.

I contend that Mr. Whyte's column heading shows paucity of vocabulary, lack of originality and frustration of soul.

BYE BYE PETER

The outgoing Students' Council, especially the executive, must be congratulated for making no major mistakes (although many non-major ones were made) during their term of office.

However, I would like to point out one thing to Council, and especially to the executive, before breast beating begins: you can't make mistakes if you don't do anything.

Yours sincerely,
R.N.

SOME CORRECTIONS

I notice that in your last issue the impression is given that I favour streaming in schools. To some extent this is correct. I certainly favor the differentiation of curricula in the senior high school.

However, I regard the division of elementary school children into ability groups as both absurd and pernicious. I regard it as absurd, because no method of selection exists which would enable us to predict the future performance of a six or seven-year-old child with any degree of accuracy. I regard it as pernicious because of the social selection involved.

The major factor to determine the ability group in which a child is placed will almost certainly be the socio-economic level of his parents. Clearly I have failed to appreciate the strength of the growing cult of 'educational realism.' I had always understood that one of the functions of the school was to compensate for

social differences, not institutionalize them.

Yours faithfully,
J. Macdonald
Assistant Professor
Div. of Educational Psychology

ESSENTIALLY CORRECT

To The Editor:

I wish to comment on last week's forum, written by one P.O., and attacking the awards system and those who are receiving awards.

No doubt some officials on the awards committee will try to repudiate the forum by P.O. with a letter or another forum, praising the awards system and people getting awards; on the other hand, there will probably be an attack on P.O. for being inaccurate, not objective, etc. How childish!

Personally, (and there are a great number of students that agree with me), I think that P.O. was essentially correct. His forum was not as well written as it could have been, but essentially he is correct.

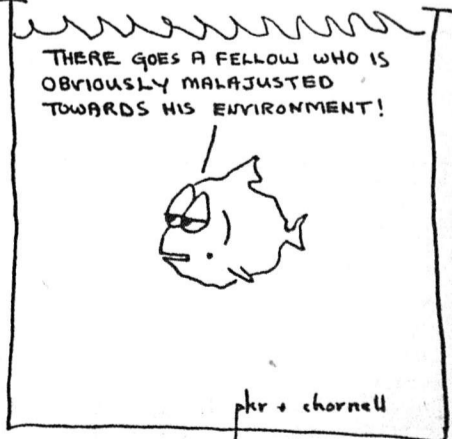
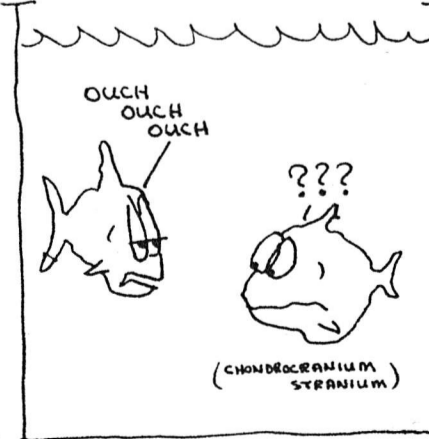
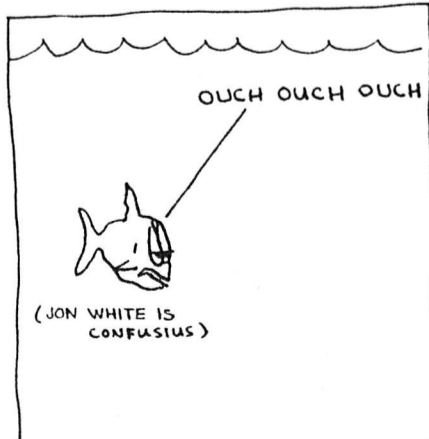
There is one thing I didn't agree with, and that is that P.O. didn't sign his whole name. I talked to some other students, however, and we agreed that if P.O. had been slated for an award, this would certainly ruin his chances.

What P.O. says about "joe boys" is quite true. To anyone who has been to SUB at least three or four times, it is quite obvious who these "joe boys" are. They go about SUB, flitting like elves, from one office to the next, with a pseudo-executive air about them. I am thinking of especially one person, but I am sure there are others.

There are a number of persons this year deserving of awards. It is unfortunate that those other, undeserving people who receive awards will lower the status of the deserving recipients in the eyes of the student body.

For Awards Revision.

RAUNCHY



phr + chornell