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The Daily Collegian

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GUEST EDITORIAL

This is another in a series of guest editorials from other college newspapers. This editorial does not represent the editorial opinion of The Daily Collegian but was chosen as another example of thinking from other campuses. It appeared originally in the Washington Daily and was reprinted in the Ohio State Lantern.

One institution is often overlooked when we try to explain appalling lack of leadership on the part of college graduates. That institution is the fraternity and sorority system. These organizations which preach the doctrine of conformity to their members for four years are the major contributors to the production of students who can't stand on their own feet.

Fraternities and sororities are not merely corrupting their members but also everything else on campus. Their attitude of social superiority and their misplaced materialistic values contaminate everything with which they come into contact. On a campus such as the University (Ohio State) the prevailing student attitude emanates from the sterile confines of Greek Row.

Let these words be thought to be vengeful railings of one who "didn't make the grade." It should be stated that this writer has been a fraternity member for over three years and has worked in a sorority house for two years. These affiliations have provided a wide backlog of personal experience which serves to solidify the premise that conformity is king on Greek Row.

Freshmen who pledge houses soon learn to beware of independents, drama majors, art students, intellectuals, graduate students and professors. This fact is never stated but these groups are blackballed because they are different. The people in them have other interests besides social activity, cars, clothes and indescribably inane small talk.

A Utopian socialist could never have hoped for a better living arrangement. Not only do the large majority of fraternity and sorority members wear the same clothes, talk the same language, live together, play together and judge people they meet by the same phony standards, but fraternity people also thing together. And, what is worse, they think alike.

A person with original ideas soon learns to keep them out of the fraternity house. Critics of the system are not welcomed because they expose it for the dream world it is. Fraternity and sorority people do not like to be reminded of reality too often. It destroys the lovely never-never land where everyone says, "Whaddya say, Tiger," and has a buckle in the back of his pants. Ralph Waldo Emerson, in 1841, wrote his

famous essay, "Self Reliance." In it he suggested that every man reaches a time in his life when he must stand on his own two feet and be an individual. "I am ashamed to think how easily we capitulate to badges and names, to large societies and dead institutions."

He would be ashamed, in 1957, to walk through the Commons Shop (Ohio State's version of the Corner Room) on the University campus. There he could see hundreds of identical students drinking the same horrid coffee from identical cups (the large size is popular now.)

This situation, on the face, is merely funny and nothing to get alarmed over. The alarming aspect of the entire dreadful scene is that these people must leave school some day. They will be torn from their coffee cups, fraternities and sororities to become the leaders of a world desperately searching for the pathway to peace. What will these well-heeled men and women have to offer? Will an Ivy League suit, a sports car or an insincere smile help to solve any problems? Hardly.

What is the answer to this destructive force on our campuses? It is not to abolish fraternities and sororities. They perform several valuable functions for young college students. They do provide, somewhat imperfectly, a needed dimension—social life. Some have nice beds and good food and this is superficially important.

The answer to conformity on the campus would seem to be for the social and living groups to re-evaluate their goals on the campus. They should assist members to become valuable contributors to society. An emphasis could be put on knowledge and preparing to go out into the world with skill and confidence.

Let's take the emphasis from the insignificant little world of trophies and social standing and place it upon intellectual achievement. The member who stands out from the group deserves to be rewarded, not condemned.

The alternatives are open. Will the sororities and fraternities make the needed re-evaluation of themselves, or will they continue to be spawning grounds for dullness and mediocrity? The right choice would give higher education an invigorating shot in the arm. Education would become the prime goal rather than something which must be tolerated so that the benefits of fraternal life might be enjoyed.

Safety Valve

Antiquated Rules!

TO THE EDITOR: In the course of duties as graduate assistant during the past semester I had the occasion to become acquainted with a very pleasant and sincere young woman. She was blind. I soon realized that her every move about the campus and town called for a guiding companion. I had the chance to observe those inevitable times when the arranged-for companion was delayed or was unable to keep the appointment, and the feelings of helplessness and dependence this must have caused.

I began to wonder why she had never happened to purchase a seeing-eye dog which would make her virtually independent of others. I knew that cost could not be the reason for they are available under the most lenient terms. Thinking that the reason was perhaps a very personal one, I questioned a friend of hers

only to discover the most disgusting reason imaginable. Dogs are not allowed in the dorms!

Dogs indeed! I trust there has been a misunderstanding somewhere. I sincerely hope that one of the greatest universities in the country, mouthing the virtues of freedom, enlightenment and personal autonomy, is not responsible for such a rule.

The railroads, the theatres, the buses, and the best restaurants and hotels have long since climbed out of the darkness of stupidity. Please let's join them.

I feel so uncomfortable up there, having hotel and bus lines dragging the enlightened ones up into the daylight. And by the way, here's a hot tip for the person in control of such matters: witch-burning seems to be tapering off in the New England area. Let's condemn that, too, and steal a march on those bus lines.

—Roger Weir

Little Man on Campus

by Bibler



"This builds fraternity spirit?"

According to Moyle

by mike moyle

The Readers Write . . .

We have been besieged by a sudden rash of "letters to the editor" lately and it has surprised us. For weeks, nay months, we got a minimum of these written expressions of opinions, and it troubled us for we always welcome our reader's opinions.

Last week's torrent of letters caused us to reflect on some of the letters we get, both those which are printed and those which are not—for various reasons.

Letter writers use many forms of persuasion and sometimes the logic rivals that which we are accused of using.

Here are some fictitious letters which might turn up in our mailbox.

"Contrary to popular thought, the University actually has one of the finest, most efficiently-run Food Service departments of any institution in the entire country"—Mildred Baker.

"I think the game of tennis is not given its proper respect on campus. We should do something about making everyone "tennis-conscious" at Penn State—Dr. Eric A. Walker.

"Anyone who says that there

was any shady practices connected with the Liberal Arts elections is not only a rabble-rouser but is proceeding without fact and is talking through his hat."—Robert Nurock.

"All those people who having been criticizing the editorial page of The Daily Collegian all year (Continued on page five)

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
6:55	Sign On
7:00	News
7:05	Simmons Lecture Series
7:55	Sports
8:00	Face to Face
8:30	Sounds in the Night
9:00	News
9:15	Review of the European Press
9:30	Marquee Memories
10:00	This World of Music
11:30	News
11:55	Sign Off

STUDENT COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS



Shown above are Juri Nuiler and William Farrell holding scholarships from the Engineering and Architecture Student Council. Two awards of \$140 each were presented by the Council to two sophomores screened by the Scholarship Committee. This is the first time that the awards were given.

ROLLER SKATE



Every WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY and SUNDAY 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. E.S.T. Also Sun. afternoons 2-4 E.S.T.

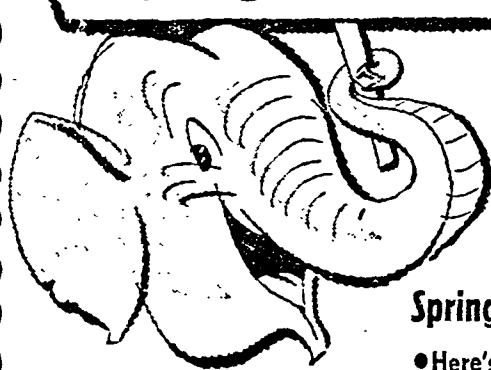
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Spring Week



Get ready . . . Get set . . . Go all out for Spring Week 1957

• Here's the week you've been waiting for all year.

Do it up right . . . Disney style

There's something for everyone! All 26 trophies will be given out at the All-Service Revue.

Big Spring Week Event • May 2