

Why I Like Sorority Life



by Marian Dawson

THE secret of sororities is friendship. Their real purpose is to form a group of women who find benefit in living together, sharing interests and experiences and striving toward a common goal. Greek names, symbols and grips are used only as a means to unify the group, not to form a gap of secrecy between members and non-members.

The mere existence and growth of Greek societies today serve as proof of their value. Often the critical eye of the non-member fails to view objectively the benefits as well as the faults of the system. There is no need for friction between Independents and Greeks, but there is a need for a clear understanding of the other's worth.

Each newcomer in the sorority is endowed with a sense of belonging. She has the feeling of security in knowing that she will find friends in the group who are sincerely interested in her and are always there to help her.

Individual Development

Because they are comparatively small groups, sororities provide opportunity to further individual development. Each member receives much encouragement to express her talents and abilities through work within the house and in campus activities. Without this encouragement many of the less aggressive students would have the tendency to concentrate entirely on studies and miss half of the fun and benefits of college.

High scholarship and cooperation with college authorities is stressed in every group. To each member the grade point of the sorority as a whole is just as important as her own. For this reason each person is always willing to help whoever is having difficulty. In this way the spirit of cooperation and unselfishness is felt strongly in the sorority as it is in any case when you must place a group's interest before your own.

All the members develop a sense of responsibility toward the house and can seldom be found slacking when there is work to be done, whether it is a Veishea float to be built or a varieties skit to be written. The sorority serves also as a laboratory for leadership training.

As justification for existence sororities not only claim credit for greater individual development, but also for contributions to the college and society at large. Certain civic and social services are included among the policies of all the groups. Some of their services include scholarships and merit awards, aid for the under-privileged and donations to various philanthropic organizations.

On the campus the affiliated women can always be depended upon for a major contribution in the field of activities. Greek societies are competitive in that they each want their chapter to rank high. In the attempt to make their name well-known, the members go out of their way to do things which will bring honor to the house.

Since the sororities are under constant scrutiny, it is vital that they maintain high social and moral standards. It is only logical that people use far more discretion when they realize that the reputation of an entire group can be altered by the actions of just one of the members.

A criticism of Greek societies today is the unhappiness and disappointment which the rushing system is claimed to possess. Panhellenic has recognized for some time that there are too few groups in proportion to the number of women interested in pledging. To remedy the situation invitations have been extended to other sororities to come on our campus. The housing shortage, however, has been the greatest drawback recently. It is hoped that when this condition is alleviated there will be enough sororities for all women who feel they can benefit from them.

Decision to Pledge

Little can be said to a freshman who is still undecided whether or not to pledge. The benefits one can gain from belonging to a sorority depend entirely upon what that individual contributes. For those who resent conforming to rules of a group and sacrificing individual privileges for the benefit of a sorority, the decision to pledge would be unwise. However, if the individual is one who desires companionship of the highest type, she will find happiness in a sorority.