

THE GRASS IN THE OTHER PASTURES

Springfield, O.—(I. P.)—Last Spring Interfraternity Council on the campus of Wittenberg University was asked by Dean of Students Robert O. Long on behalf of the faculty committee studying Wittenberg's academic climate, to formulate a report stating the effect of fraternities on the intellectual appetite of campus fraternities.

A committee set to work with questionnaires, interviews, and meetings which confirmed the validity of the premises used in the report. In the course of making its points the IFC report was broadened in its significance to stand as a rather pointed statement of fraternity purpose.

As Wittenberg University strives "to develop persons who have the skills, knowledge and understanding essential for effective and ameliorative participation in their culture," they employ what is known as a liberal arts education. For decades, Wittenberg graduates have been so well prepared for post-graduate life, that this educational technique has won widespread acclaim.

The solid success of this particular liberal arts education has generally been attributed to the University's small size or its distinguished faculty, both factors which contribute to academic excellence. But the question arises: Is unsupplemented academic excellence, now a characteristic of scores of universities and small colleges, the whole story behind Wittenberg's outstanding record?

There is today, as there has been for years, a sizable portion of the student body which feels that the institution's academic program, taken alone, does not constitute an excellent liberal education. Individuals may, and often do, limit their college experience to four years of scholastic routine, and according to grade point averages, leave Wittenberg perfectly prepared for their post-graduate years.

Yet, by not probing beyond the academic Utopia of ivy-covered classroom, glass Union, and aluminum dormitory, these individuals have succeeded in escaping the very life situations they've supposedly been preparing themselves for. Attempts to rectify this shortcoming resulted in the formation of fraternities, the continued prosperity of which speaks for their worth.

For years, Wittenberg's outstanding students have joined fraternities to gain deeper and more meaningful personal relationships, to learn social grace, and to participate in the wide range of fraternity activities. Fraternity men are convinced that a balanced social experience complements, and therefore benefits the college's academic program.

Moreover, knowledge obtained in the classroom loses its abstractness and acquires a satisfying significance through repeated application in everyday fraternity life. Finally, the maintenance of a smooth-functioning fraternity requires its members to assume responsibility, work in close cooperation, accept authority, and weather both triumphs and defeats rarely encountered at the individual level. In short, fraternity membership offers the individual opportunity for personal expression and close fellowship, social training through a refreshing social pro-

gram, and extensive experience of life situations, all of which are unobtainable elsewhere at Wittenberg. By providing these benefits, fraternities enable Wittenberg to grant a truly liberal education, and in so doing, fulfill their intended and most vital function.

The relationship between fraternities and the University has traditionally been one based on the distinct and unmistakable nature of their respective functions. Wittenberg students pay tuition to the University for academic instruction and intellectual inspiration, and dues to fraternities for the other aspects of their education. In this simple relationship, one phase of the college experience complements the other to a most beneficial degree, as any study of Wittenberg alumni will readily reveal.

Well aware of the worth of the fraternity system, Wittenberg has been most generous in granting it autonomy to pursue its program. In grateful response, the fraternities have taken it upon themselves to assist the University in its push for "academic excellence" by instituting scholarship programs of their own.

Wittenberg's fraternities set goals and provide additional incentives for outstanding academic performance; high achievers are honored and often rewarded, while low achievers frequently face penalties. The results of such concern are rapidly becoming apparent; for in addition to campus social leadership, the fraternity system now enjoys a position of undisputed campus academic leadership — a position it doesn't intend to lose.

However, it is on this very issue of scholarship that the fraternity position is least understood, and quite often, unfairly condemned. There is a growing trend toward blaming instances of campus unproductivity on, of all things, the University's fraternities. It is charged that these centers of academic leadership have failed to intellectually stimulate the student mass.

Amazingly, this charge is leveled while informal fraternity discussions, which bring together men of all interests, are inspiring more intellectual enthusiasm than the most glorious "capstone course" ever could. It is obvious that critics of the fraternity idea expect even more. Typical of their demands is that the groups work toward the organization of contrived intellectual and cultural programs. But the fact that this is not the function, much less the duty of the fraternities, seems to have been overlooked.

Fraternities cannot possibly assume the entire responsibility of student inspiration, something traditionally the duty of the University's faculty; fraternities have their own obligations to their members — obligations which must be fulfilled first of all.

To insist that fraternities justify their existence at Wittenberg by carrying an obligation not rightfully theirs is, to say the least, unfair. Perhaps if the fraternities were the recipients of each student's fat tuition check they could begin to inspire the campus intellectual appetite; then the responsibility to do so would be theirs.

But such is not the case. Fraternities still collect only dues.

What Is The Circle K Club ?

Believe it or not! There is an organization on campus which is known as the Circle K Club. Too many individuals on campus think we are insignificant but quite the contrary—we are workers.

Circle K is a service organization for college men which is similar to and sponsored by Kiwanis. We are sponsored by the West Asheville Kiwanis Club and they come to our aid many times and we often go to help them. We are probably the oldest organization of men on this campus as we did precede both fraternities as they are presently recognized on campus. We are not to be classified as a fraternity, but a service club which serves the campus and community. We are of American and Canadian origin and one of our objectives is to make our members conscious of the responsibility of preserving the ideals of the two countries.

This year several of our activities, I, in behalf of my fellow members will try to enumerate. In case you haven't noticed the huge and very attractive "Bulldogs" insigniated placard in the west end of our gym, I suggest you go and look. We felt our gym needed a touch of spirit so we contrived this. We hope you like it. Circle K put it there. Recently we sold candy (Katydid) to raise money, and the drive has been completed and once more our books show the proud black figures of prosperity. Thanksgiving was a blessing for one family in Asheville because Circle K put a large pile of food on their table. Thus another oriented and completely executed project of service, was fulfilled by Circle K. Future—Presently we are planning for Convention Time the first of next year of which we are the sponsors for the whole Carolinas District. This edition of the paper or next will probably have the Circle K "Playmate of the Month"!!!! We thought we would add a little spice, sugar, and cream to the newspaper. So long for now.

John Franklin
Secretary of Circle K

For 1/18 the cost of tuition the fraternities still provide Wittenberg students with the non-academic aspects of an excellent liberal education—a rare bargain indeed. Moreover, the standards of the fraternity system's "human" education" are being conscientiously upgraded to meet the demands of the changing times.

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A-B HIKING CLUB KEEPS ACTIVE

The smell of a balsam grove in the crisp air, the glimpse of a red tail hawk lifting into the sky, the view of distant ridges by moonlight, meteorites blazing through the sky, or the thrill of the crossing a narrow cliff are but Southern Appalachian Mountains that lure those with a yen for the out-of-doors. The Asheville-Biltmore Hiking Club was organized in the fall when about forty students indicated interest by signing posted petitions, and the club sought official recognition October 4, 1965 from the Student Government Association, proposing to "enrich student life through recreation in the open air, through enhancing knowledge of plant and animal life (emphasizing natural history and ecology) and through developing skills appropriate to good woods-manship." Dr. W. S. Thurman, department of Classical Languages, and Mr. John Bernhart, department of Biology, are the club's advisors.

The hiking club meets each Thursday at 11:50 A.M. in the Student Center Lobby to plan the week's activities. Hikes may be planned for any day of the week and may range from one to ten miles in an afternoon, often including a cook-out. These activities are open to any interested persons, and announcements of the club's activities are posted on the Student Center Lounge bulletin board each Thursday. At the December 2 meeting officers will be elected for the year, and also members are encouraged to submit designs for an insignia to be adopted by the club. Projected plans for the future, in addition to weekly hikes, are an over-night campout and a venture through Linville Gorge, one of the few wilderness areas remaining in the United States.

The students and faculty of the Asheville-Biltmore Hiking Club have formed one of the college's most active organizations, and are doing more than lifting their eyes to the hills amidst which their campus is nestled. The secluded joys of those hills are being found by those who seek them.

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Secretaries are hard at work in New Registrar's quarters located in the recently completed Social Science Annex.

. . . New Fraternity

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hope to send everything in before Christmas which could result in A. B.'s Chapter being the first one Nationally recognized in 1966", says Roy. The formal installation will be followed by a banquet which will feature Dr. Tom Galt, the National A.P.O. President.

The chapter has just completed a Campus Ugly Man Contest which was won by Kappa Delta Tau Sorority. The proceeds went to the United Appeal.

Any person interested in the Fraternity should contact Roy Shipman. The other temporary officers are; Jim Garren, Vice-President and David Williams, Secretary.

The Faculty Advisors are; Coach Daughton, Dr. Parkins and Dr. Thurman. The Professional Scouting Advisor is H. Frank Gay, Jr.

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