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The Guru offers advice about the infamous movie-night hookup. See p. 5

OPINION

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Jonathan Chapman tries his pen at a new, light-hearted column. See p. 6

Going Greek: You never really know until you try

Elyse Rodriguez
Columnist

Stereotypes. Sororities. The two seem to go hand-in-hand. How many stereotypes have you heard about sororities? Or perhaps you've even heard a few for each different one? Well, I would like to let you know that things aren't always what they seem.



Elyse Rodriguez

I was never into the whole "sisterhood" scene. To be honest, I kind of laughed whenever I heard the word.

However, I contemplated rushing because I wanted to meet more people and just see what it was like going through the whole ordeal. I mean, really, we've all watched an episode of MTV's "Sorority Life" and laughed at the petty fights and bickering. I suppose I just wanted to see first-hand if that was a true representation of what goes on.

I thought about partaking in rush week for a little bit and finally decided against it. I came to the conclusion that girls in big groups chanting songs was simply not for me. I booked my flight back to New York for our "fake break" and was all set to go.

Then, due to my amazing talent of not having any luck whatsoever, a snowstorm hit right where I live on the day I was supposed to leave. Needless to say, my flight was canceled and it didn't look like it would be easy to get another one. Knowing that I needed something to do for the week instead of sitting around in my room and watching "Saved by the Bell" reruns, I decided at the last possible moment to rush.

Let me tell you, I am glad I did.

At the first meeting, I was pleasantly surprised with the PowerPoint presentation and thought, "Hey, I might as well give it a chance." I went home that night actually excited for the next day to come.

The day came and went and, oh boy, I loved it. Seriously, I'm not kidding. The entire week was such a great experience and I came to see that all the things I had heard about sororities being all the same were completely wiped away. Each sorority has a different personality and it was quite interesting to see how I personally felt in each of the houses.

From the first day, I felt completely comfortable in one and would always be the girl biting my nails in the corner the following morning hoping that they would keep bidding on me.

Now, if you read the sentence I just wrote, I had completely contradicted my original thoughts. "Sisterhood," a term I once found so amusing, was now a special thing I wanted to be a part of. Funny how the world works, right?

By the end of rush week, I had been accepted into the house I was so greatly wishing for and I actually started chanting the sorority letters. Yes, you read that right, I chanted with the best of them. I am pledging now as you read.

I would like everyone to try something new: something you never thought you would try and something you could never see yourself seriously doing. Perhaps it will change you, perhaps it won't. The sheer fact of the matter is that you tried it. No harm in that, right?

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KRT Campus

Halftime show threatens free speech

Jessica Kemp
Opinions Editor

By now, everyone has seen the infamous Super Bowl incident: halftime footage of Justin Timberlake ripping off part of Janet Jackson's costume, revealing her naked breast. So what's the big deal?

This incident has led to a number of questions being raised about censorship and freedom of expression. Because of the exposure of Jackson, the Grammys were presented on CBS with a five-minute taped delay. Just in case Timberlake decided he wanted to expose Christina Aguilera's breast.

Wait, she almost did that herself.

Because of the halftime show fiasco, Timberlake's fellow 'NSYNcer J.C. Chasez was pulled from his performance Saturday at the Pro Bowl. He wasn't even part of the halftime show.

Will other performers be hurt by this one-time alleged wardrobe malfunction? Has Jackson's lame attempt at self-promotion ruined freedom of expression for all artists in the years to come?

I certainly hope not. Part of the image of a pop star, like Jackson and Timberlake, is in the clothes. If pop stars begin to have public school-like regulations about their wardrobe, the entire industry will suffer. Next thing you know, female

pop singers will be forced to see if their skirts go down past their fingertips and if the straps on their shirt measure at least an inch across before they are even allowed on stage.

That would be ridiculous.

I think performers have the right to express themselves through their choice of clothing. Jackson's error in judgment, even though it was a huge one, shouldn't have a lasting affect on everyone else. The FCC needs to just let it go and realize that accidents – or in this case, publicity stunts – even if they are pulled in poor taste, happen.

If anyone should be fined because of this incident, it is Jackson herself. Not CBS, not MTV, and not Timberlake, who maintains his innocence.

I think if the FCC keeps investigating this incident, the halftime show next year will become a 15 minute opera show, with the participants fully covered, from head to toe. MTV will not be allowed to participate in the halftime show again, which will only hurt the Super Bowl ratings in the end.

And let's face it, the cameras could probably pan the crowd and catch someone half naked in the stands. Or you could change the channel during a commercial to Showtime and see a whole lot more than a naked breast.

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