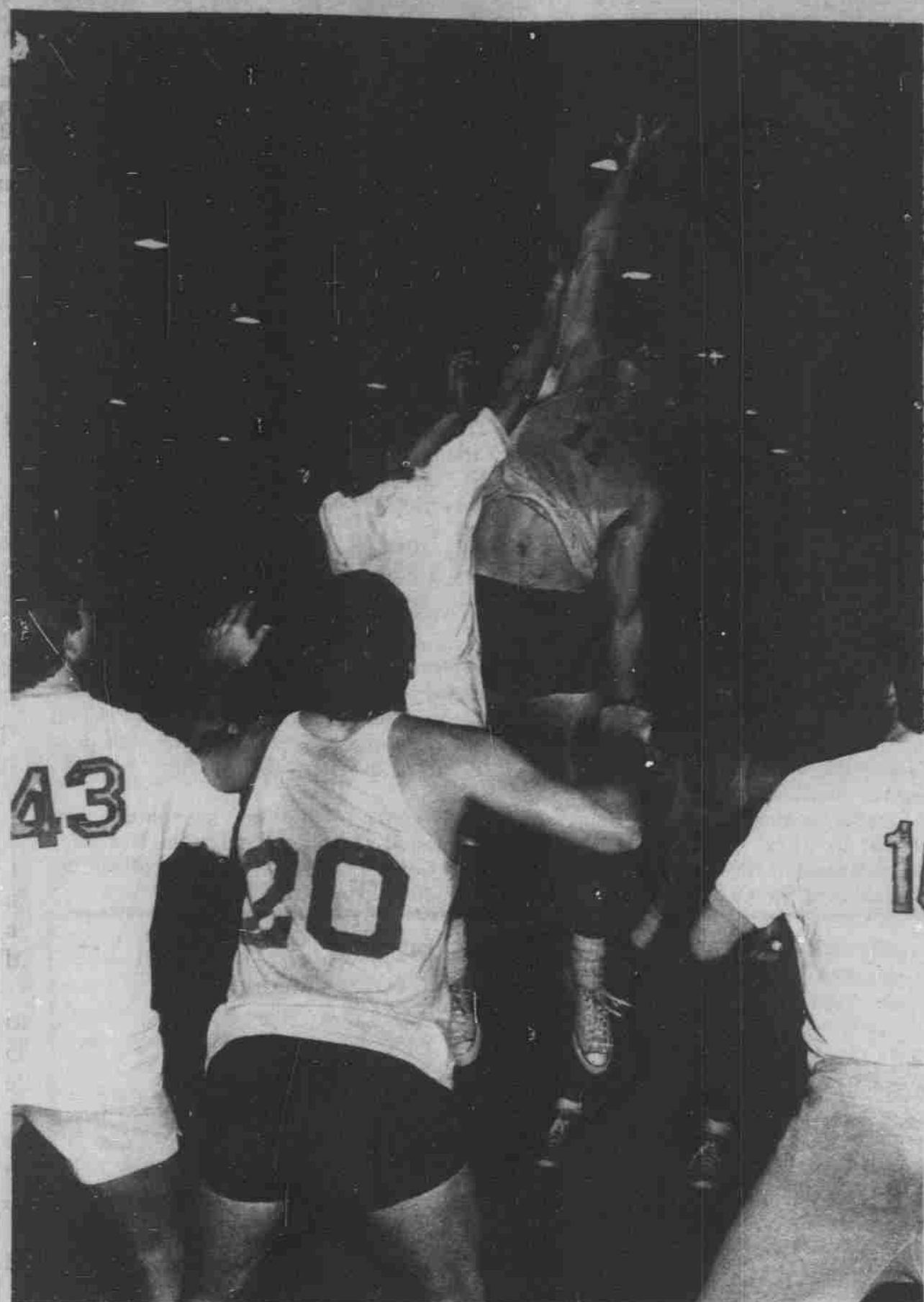


# Fraternities have their problems...



Intramural sports play a big part in a fraternity man's life. Keen competition and intense rivalries bring each brother closer together and develops great pride by the brothers in their fraternities.

"Most of the problems encountered in a fraternity are mainly because fraternity living is a life situation," according to Fred Hutchinson, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "No house is a utopia."

Leaders and administrators of UNC fraternities generally agree that problems of fraternities stem from the fact that they are composed of individuals with differing personalities, desires and activities.

"The programs of some fraternities are not meeting the needs of the individual students," commented Dick Baddour, assistant dean of men for fraternities. "Many more options are available in regards to life styles for students," he added, "the main one being apartment living."

"These boys that are living in apartments find maintaining membership in a fraternity can be a financial problem," said Chris Sawyer of Chi Psi. "This is the primary reason for inactive seniors."

"Basically, fraternities are still geared for freshmen, sophomores and juniors," commented Baddour. "Although we are seeing a change, there are reportedly 165 inactive brothers, mostly seniors."

"Maybe fraternities aren't meeting the needs of some seniors," said Hutchinson. "Or maybe seniors are just tired of the social life and looking for something more."

"Maybe they got a false impression during rush or expected more and have become disillusioned," he added.

"Maybe they saw only the good things of fraternities," said Ron Berger, president of Zeta Beta Tau. "Being in a life situation, it's not always good."

"During rush, we stress an honest policy, showing rushees the honest good things but not creating a false impression," he added.

Many leaders of fraternities agree that false impressions sometimes obtained during rush can be a problem.

"Some problems are with the rushees themselves," said Berger. "They think they have found a perfect situation and hold a fantastic impression."

Pledge programs also come under

attack during discussions of problems of fraternities.

"Some fraternities have not reorganized and changed their pledge education programs enough," said Baddour. "Fewer and fewer boys will be willing to pledge where training programs require excessive physical activities."

"IFC (Inter Fraternity Court) is cracking down on hazing in pledge training," said Todd Llewellyn, IFC rush chairman. "There was a recent court case in which one fraternity was fined after investigations by IFC court."

The physical conditions of some houses coupled with zoning restrictions on repairs and additions plague fraternity leaders.

"Some of these houses have been around a long time," said Baddour. "They have deteriorated until they have reached terrible conditions and need to be renovated or rebuilt."

"Rebuilding presents not only a financial difficulty," he added, "but also a legal difficulty. Some can't rebuild in their present locations because of a town ordinance requiring a certain amount of parking space."

"The parking situation is bad as far as fires go," said Charlie Caldwell, president of Pi Lambda Phi. "If there were a fire at our house, they'd probably have to go through the Phi Gam house to get to us."

The University is planning to pave the parking lot to change the situation, according to Caldwell.

"It's costing more just to keep the houses up," said Sawyer. "There's almost no money left for improvements."

"It won't be long before something has got to be done," commented Baddour. "Some houses can't be lived in many more years."

Extreme rivalry among fraternities is thought by some to be a big problem.

"Rivalry, both during rush and in intramural sports, is a harm," said Hutchinson.

"It's a lingering over from years past," agreed Caldwell.

"Rivalry can be used toward good ends," disagreed Berger.

One area of competition that comes under attack is that of awards for pledge classes and houses.

"People have different ideas of what the 'best' fraternity is," declared Caldwell. "For example, what is the R.B. House award based on, just scholarship and athletics? Is it really important that a house be 'best' in these areas?"

"The awards shouldn't matter so much to the house or its rushees," said Llewellyn, member of Delta Upsilon. "Most people that made the awards or won the trophies are long gone when rush arrives."

"What's important is what comes out of winning," said Sawyer. "Members that 'live and die' for their fraternities are hurting more than helping."

Stereotypes formed by people outside of fraternities also tend to create problems for members.

"The freshman sitting in his dorm tends to form concepts of what each fraternity is," said Hutchinson. "Bad

images and incidents, which could happen to any dorm or other living unit, tend to stay with a fraternity."

"A dorm is more random," agreed Llewellyn. "So incidents are not compounded into the image of the dorm."

"Fraternities should get rid of the concept of 'fraternity' and change it to 'living unit,'" said Sawyer. "This idea of 'mystic rites' and 'bonds of brotherhood' are absurd and hypocritical."

A problem encountered by fraternity leaders is that "fraternities are structured so most of the leg work falls on a few people," according to Berger.

"Everyone has enough to keep themselves busy studying," said Llewellyn. "You don't need a hierarchy to get something done around the house. The others can do it too."

"The trouble is that if a house wants to do anything, it has to pay for it itself," said Sawyer. "Dorms get their money from student fees, which IFC and individual fraternities don't ever see."

Inter Fraternity Council has problems of its own related to those of individual fraternities.

"IFC becomes a scapegoat for fraternities as a whole," commented Sawyer. "It unifies and identifies fraternities as a total group, both for the bad and the good."

"IFC has constructive power," he added, "as shown by its Upward Bound and Campus Chest funds. It should continue to project beyond individual desires and go forward."

## ... but there is a positive side, too

The basis for the problems of fraternities—that of being a life situation—is also the basis for the "positive side of the Greek coin."

"The best reason to pledge any house is the people there," said Fred Hutchinson, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "You're forced to get to know people that are different from you, and you have to get along."

"This helps one develop certain facets of his personality, like tolerance," added Ron Berger, president of Zeta Beta Tau. "It's good to learn to live with other people because you're going to be doing it the rest of your life."

"People are the crux of it," agreed Todd Llewellyn, rush chairman of Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) and member of Delta Upsilon.

Most members of fraternities agree that living in a fraternity is superior to living in a dorm.

"Some of the friendships you make in a fraternity are really real," said Berger. "In some respects, friends are able to develop a friendship beyond the normal level. This development is not impossible outside a fraternity," he admitted, "but it is heightened and quickened in a fraternity."

"This development is a lot easier in a fraternity," agreed Charlie Caldwell, president of Pi Lambda Phi, "and you get so much out of it. You don't get much out of dorm life."

Llewellyn compared dorm and fraternity life by noting that "classes in a dorm are geared to a particular year, with no other point of reference. But in a fraternity, a freshman meets and gets to know seniors. Therefore, he knows more people in more situations."

Caldwell pointed out that "a lot of guys that go through rush are looking for something, for security. Fraternities offer something to relate to and be a part of. You can always go to the house, see some friends and always feel welcome," he added. "This is not so in a dorm."

"You don't lose your individuality by any means in a fraternity," stressed Chris Sawyer, member of Chi Psi. "In fact, it sometimes brings it out and broadens it quickly."

"Fraternities are a means of identification, a smaller group in a large university structure," said Dick Baddour, assistant dean of men for fraternities.

"What people are looking for," said Berger, "is a deep, close personal relationship with other people. This coincides with a large wave of individualism at present."

"A fraternity is not an institution but people," he added.

Rush is the means by which fraternities try to meet new people and incorporate some into their friendships. IFC initiated an extended rush program this fall, a program by which freshmen and other students were allowed to visit fraternities on non-rush basis throughout the semester.

"The new rush system is good," said Baddour. "Fraternities contact rushees on an individual and personal basis."

"This system is as normal as possible," added Llewellyn. "It is relaxed, applying no pressure at all. It stimulates the informal."

"Last fall's rush was the best yet," added Hutchinson. "Both fraternities and rushees could

concentrate on knowing themselves rather than showing themselves."

"We also had good luck with the idea," said Caldwell. "Being friendly puts them at ease and we can decide if we want that person and he can decide if he wants us."

Rush is not the only way fraternities are changing and trying to improve.

"Fraternities appear to be taking a very close look at themselves and changing in ways to meet

### Stories by

### Jessica Hanchar

the needs of the individual students," said Baddour. He noted a change in attitudes from the time he was a student and fraternity member in the early 60's and the present. "There is, in general, a change in emphasis from completely social to social-awareness," he said.

"The needs of the people have changed," said Berger. "A beer drinking group is not necessary." "Most fraternities are changing," said Caldwell, "and those are changing from within and applying pressure to those that are still behind."

"They're getting away from the secrecy and the

Mickey Mouse aspect," said Llewellyn. "For example, DU held its non-secret initiation Saturday night in Gerard Hall."

"Of course, there will always be an element that still likes the old way, the beer and the socials," commented Sawyer. "And some people will always fit the stereotypes."

"The de-emphasis of the social aspect is not correct," said Baddour. "There is, rather, more emphasis on community and university related projects. Fraternities are the major contributors of time and energy to many fund-raising activities. And I think it's a sincere desire to be of service."

"When the going gets rough, the charities look to fraternities," said Ron Hyatt, director of intramural sports.

IFC, for example, contributed almost \$10,000 to Campus Chest last spring, another \$2,000 to Upward Bound this fall and smaller amounts to the Heart Fund and the Fine Arts Festival.

From an economic standpoint, most fraternity members agree it is cheaper to live in a house than in a dorm.

"A fraternity house is, in a sense, a small business," said Baddour. "Members manage their own houses and, in a sense, possess built-in self government."

"Some of these houses have \$50,000 to \$100,000 budgets," said Sawyer.

Most members also agree that fraternities contribute positively to scholastics.

"The fraternity scholarship is outstanding, as exemplified by numerous awards," said Baddour. "The all-fraternity average is higher than non-fraternity and it is increasing each semester."

"Of course, you have to have a 2.0 to begin with to pledge," he pointed out.

Fraternities, as a group, also offer scholarships to more needy members and to people in the community as well.

Many fraternity members have raised the idea of holding classes in houses.

"Fraternities have the structure for good things such as classes and other activities," said Sawyer. "Let each house be there as a tool, such as Project Hinton. If the teachers are willing, a lot can be taken advantage of."

"Fraternities can and should be a learning experience within the house," added Berger.

"Fraternities are starting to use themselves to service and academics," said Sawyer. "Some houses are holding lecture series, showing movies and having other such programs."

The intramural sports program is another activity contributing to fraternity living.

"Competition is keen, rivalry is excellent and sportsmanship is on a high level," said Hyatt. "The fraternity teams have been strong in their support of the intramural program since the 1920's, when it initially formed."

Most members of fraternities realistically assert that fraternity living is not the answer for all students. "It's just an alternative," said Berger. "It's better for some and not for others. But it's not right to say it's better or worse."

"Some people judge fraternities with closed minds," expressed Sawyer. "You can't judge fraternity living from the outside."

"It's not going to hurt anyone to rush, get the correct impressions and make his own decision," he said.

## Fraternities were founded in 1851

Both the Delta Kappa Epsilon and Phi Gamma Delta claim the distinction of being the first fraternities organized at UNC—both were founded in 1851.

When the University of North Carolina was chartered in 1789, no "secret societies" were allowed to organize until 1851. Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE), called "the oldest social fraternity in the state," formed its Beta chapter in April of 1851. One contemporary history book described the chapter as "the favorite of the polite gentlemen... When they appeared in public, they were adorned with canes, gloves and ponderous chains."

The chapter was successful until Reconstruction forced the University to close. The school re-opened in 1876, again refusing to allow fraternities to organize. In 1886, DKE again became the first to re-organize when the ban was lifted.

Meanwhile, other fraternities were quickly organizing chapters. Sixteen fraternities were chartered between 1851 and 1895. All of these still have chapters at UNC.

During the 1890's the campus was stirred by conflict between fraternity and non-fraternity men. Officers of the Athletic Association and editors of "The Tar Heel" were all elected by fraternity men, and the annual, "The Hellenian," was published by fraternities.

Of the 512 students in 1900, 419 or 82

percent were non-fraternity men, and 93, or 18 percent, were members of fraternities. During the 1920's, the percentage of fraternity rose to approximately 25 percent.

Ten of the fraternities in the early 1900's were located on Old Fraternity Row, the alley where the Porthole Restaurant is now situated. A fire destroyed the frame buildings of Sigma Nu, Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) and Pi Kappa Phi in 1919. The original DKE house, next to the Porthole, is now privately owned by a Chapel Hill resident and also houses the Episcopal chaplain. The present Health Department building was originally the Chi Phi house.

The next year lots were obtained on the west side of South Columbia Street in exchange for Old Fraternity Row. DKE, SAE and Sigma Chi erected their buildings by 1923, and by 1926 the entire Big Fraternity Court was developed.

By 1931, three more fraternity houses were built on Cameron Avenue, Little Fraternity Court.

When World War II came, naval trainees were housed in fraternities, once more suspending the fraternal life.

After the war, the Navy returned the houses it had rented for barracks. With the return there arose problems of refurbishing and repairing the houses. Increased expenses forced the

fraternities to permit non-members to live in the houses until the financial situation improved.

Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) strengthened its role in fraternity life during the 50's. It headed the campaign to banish hazing from the campus. IFC court was reorganized and given the "right to try any fraternity for activity unbecoming fraternities of UNC and to inflict any penalties as it sees fit."

The R.B. House Award was established by IFC in 1957 for the fraternity judged to be the "most outstanding." DKE won the first award.

Plans for a \$500,000 fraternity court near Finley Golf Course were announced in 1955. The plans, however, "appeared doomed in light of vocal and vigorous opposition by persons living in the area concerned with 'undesirable neighbors' and possible traffic congestions." Foiled many times by Chapel Hill zoning restrictions, a 12-acre tract on Finley Road was approved in July, 1960.

Fraternities at UNC have progressed until now there are 25 social, 3 professional and 1 service fraternity scattered from Finley Golf Course Road to Rosemary Street to Pittsboro Road.

(Editor's Note: Much of the information used in this article came from a research paper, "The History of Fraternities," by Ron Hyatt, director of the Intramural Sports Department.)



In the spring, the fraternity brothers come out to throw their parties on the lawns and enjoy one of the finer aspects of fraternity living. The party atmosphere of a fraternity is perhaps the biggest criticism leveled by anti-fraternity forces, but the brothers will tell you it's the only way to live.