

# THE VALUE OF THE COLLEGE FRATERNITY

By L. C. Wormley  
(In "The Oracle.")

There are three dominant elements in the influence which a worthy fraternity exerts upon its members and these three elements are, respectively, of a social, intellectual and fraternal nature. We will discuss them in turn.

The rash desires, the decided aversions, the abandonment of enthusiasm in favor of nonchalance, the sheer delight of living for its own sake, the sowing of "wild oats," the emphasis on the pleasure rather than on the obligations of life, irresponsibility, thoughtlessness, even vice seem to be attributed characteristics of modern youth. It is then, this period of a human's life which is most susceptible and which needs the attention of the most worthy influences. It is then that our young men, in response to a healthy curiosity, come to know the world, come to a full cognizance of facts and the relations between facts, to an appreciation of the actuality and ideality of life through experience.

Wide experience is very valuable in character formation and the average college of today, with its conglomeration of types, forms a splendid crucible for the melting and tempering of all metals. In likewise, the fraternity, smaller, more compact, more intimate and more intense in the relations it fosters is the ideal point of contact, the perfect spot for the study under correction, and not merely the slight observation of our fellow men. This is what should transpire in the folds of every fraternity chapter. Men continually learning new situations and increasing their range of adaptability is the desirable situation.

Is it not true that all the different traits of our nature must get their airing through friends? Our personality lies dormant until contact with some friend stimulates some particular train in us to overt expression; and it is then the whole chorus of the expression of these traits that teaches us just what we are. Thus according to this conception a friendship is now seen to be valuable both subjectively and objectively as a form of self-impression and as a form of self-expression. But the fraternity, not like a mere friendship, brushes aside the awkward formalities incident to the progression of a friendship from the initial acquaintance. The wearing of the same pin is a pledge and surety of a sincere mutual interest and forms a valid introduction to the most delicate subject; it premises the ensuing discussion with an authorized and expected sympathy. This is one difference between the relationship among fraternity brothers and that among "good fellows," it is one contribution which the fraternity makes to the college world.

That youth at times is carnal and extravagant is very fortunate for it enables the fraternity, standing for the principles of restraint and aspirations to provide idealism for the youth's extravagance of spirit. These ideals are created by the very careful restrictions the fraternity places on the conduct of the men within the house. Earnest effort is made via the "suggestion and habit" route to direct the scattered enthusiasm of the under classmen to proper ends by the guiding effect of ideals, exemplified by the older and more experienced brothers. Much has been written and said about the abuse of the social force of the fraternity, but I feel that we can safely deny with vigor the charges that the fraternity stands for little else than immorality, laziness and vice. In reality, the fraternity as a social force is more largely used than abused.

Youth is the age of many awakenings. Before the rapidly unfolding panorama of personalities and events, amid a curious jumble of experiences the member of the rising generation must develop to a firm station of spirit. In his own mind heterogeneity and confusion of ideas and ideals, must give place to consistency and order. The fraternity stands for a co-ordination

and a settling; it takes the young man "in four of the best years of his life" and helps him to understand, and become what he seriously intends to be. This is its intellectual value.

We speak now of the purely fraternal relationship. It is more significant indeed than the social or intellectual side. It is the essence of the fraternity, the brotherhood in the fullest sense of the word. The social side represents friendship; the intellectual, community of interest; the fraternal, love. The fraternal bond is Platonic love in the sense that Plato meant it, the love of one man for another. This is the ideal of fraternity; its expression is in the treatment of the brother. Circumstances of accidental association and separation may govern our friendships, but not our loves. In the fraternity, an indissoluble tie always unites brother with brother, there is always a commonality of opinion on certain of the deep and fundamental things of the spirit. It is always this persistent personal influence, in the light of high ideals and common understanding, that is the basis of the bond that exists in the college between men of the same fraternity.

## ALPHA PHI ALPHA

By Chas. B. Stewart, '27

Although Spring is generally a time of spring fever, day dreaming and castle building, the members of Alpha Omicron have dispensed with such, knowing that we cannot accomplish our spring program under such methods.

At this time we wish to announce that the Annual Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College Campaign will start the last week in April which is a little early, but this is due to the closing of the school two weeks earlier.

The National Annual Campaign is fostered throughout the United States in most of the leading schools and churches. We are hoping that every brother far and near will do all in his power to foster this great cause.

Hundreds of boys and girls have been influenced to go to high school and after finishing high school to go on to college and finish college.

We have realized that if we could get two-thirds of our boys and girls to finish high school there would be vast changes in the condition of our race, in fact there would have more power.

Most right thinking people believe that education of the right kind is going to solve this great race problem of ours.

Our last spring festival will be "The Annual Banquet" which will take place Friday evening, May 6, 1927. This promises to be the grandest occasion of the year.

### SHEIK LOUI SAYS:



Since Easter is a season of colors, it will be pleasing to know that the sun will rise in the East and set in the West, the precipitation will be neutral and the atmospheric pressure will coincide with the humidity.

## G. A. ASSOCIATION

By Ministerial Prognosticator

Once more the ink from the Ice Box of the G. A. is melted enough to flow into words and lines that will reveal the hidden yet persuasive mysteries of the G. A. members.

At an hour when everything, everywhere was fast asleep, the Grand Mogul rolled the cake of ice from the ice box door and switched on the frosted lights that sent their penetrating rays into the guilty souls of its members.

The temperature being 40 below absolute zero and the atmosphere in general being pungent with the drugs that make the women talk, the tongues of all began to wag and every heart to sag, for tales unbelievable and rumors without source were startling the ears and causing blisters to rise upon the consciences of every man there.

The first startling discovery was the tremendous thunder clap from First Ward. The Keeper of Cash, Credit and Order has been unable to have order in his parlor when he is absent, causing much confusion when he is present. It seems he is not absent without some other bird being present. Of course "Rudy" is not at all uneasy as to his position but is not sure just what relation exists between the other two. And the funny part of it all is this other bird is a Rice Bird, all the way from Charleston, S. C. And women do like varieties. The Mogul advised this Bro. not to be no "Van Horn."

Next in line was "Tantalizing Potentate." Now "Dark Boy" is smooth and all like that. But his sudden adventure into the seven hundred block on First Street proves to all that his ability as a shiek is above par and surely beyond the range of any other G. A. The Grand Mogul upbraided him for his disloyalty and sent him back to come once more by the "Keeper of Black Balls" and "The Most Worseful Scribe."

Rumor continued to rumble, gossip becomes gospel and another tale was revealed. The Most Worseful Scribe has met his Waterloo. Scott Harris, another Charlestonian, has closed the valves down on the Plank Road. Clarence was best but Scott was better yet. We all pondered and still wonder if Scott is often at the Fork of the Road.

One of the latest and most startling revelations was the one that uncovered the activities of "Lump of Sugar," just off the campus. Rumor says, Prof. Chisholm missed some grass seed and gossip says Caviness was seen sowing some. Now "Lump" must be dreaming of the hot moonlight night of July and August, when he and—? (these grass seed" of course) will lie on the cooling blades of this comfortable turf and enjoy the sweetness of "their" solitude thinking of days yet unborn.

The Keeper of Black Balls, the Keeper of the Ice Box and Ministerial Prognosticator were all charged with crimes of more or less severity; some more, and Less, less; Ray Shute entertained the other members by a series of Quartets. His lead was bad, his tenor worst, his baritone little better and his bass horrible. But his number entitled, "No matter how tough the stew beef is you can always stick your fork in the gravy," was ticklish, and best of all was a "Solow from Ankle Down."

The most loyal members of the G. A. A. are to be commended on their loyalty—Mr. T. A. "Steal" and T. L. Plair. Mr.

"Steal" is a G. A. by association and Mr. Plair is a G. A. because of his wide experience having never recovered from his fall from "Sugar to salts" on Graham Street during his Freshman year. To the regret of his many friends this was the last of his social activities. And to his anguish the cessation in the flow of what he thought was the wine of the cup of love. But Bum Glenn says different. Recently he sauntered far away to begin again but a certain "gent" that the Freshmen call "Nap" knows more. But we hope the Grand Mogul won't feel hurt.

## THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB

By W. D. Scales

It is the opinion of those interested in Philosophy at Johnson C. Smith University that this has been one of the most successful years the "Philosophy Club" has had during all the years of its existence.

The club has not only increased its numerical strength but the heights of interest which the club has reached is something of which all of its members feel proud. Fortunately we have not been able yet to find any slacker. Each new member seems to enlist his enthusiasm at the time of his application.

The club had a meeting February 15. The topic for discussion was "Personality and Inferiority Complex." Mr. J. J. Spearman led the discussion with a very interesting treatise in which he showed the relation of "Personality and Inferiority Complex" in society. Mr. W. E. Bailey also made a contribution that was equally as interesting.

After several questions and comments we were favored with a few helpful remarks by Dr. T. A. Long.

At the last meeting of the club which was held Tuesday, March 15, a very interesting discussion was had, the subject of which was "Insanity and Feeble-mindedness."

Mr. C. B. Stewart gave a very impressive paper on the problems of the mentally deficient and the conditions under which we may detect such persons. The discussion was continued by Messrs. R. W. [unclear] and A. R. Lord with short talks on "Insanity and Feeble-Mindedness a Social Problem."

The club will hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 19. The topic for discussion will be "The Doctrine of Pragmatism."

### OMEGA PSI PHI

(Continued from page 2)

a summer rose cherished by the morning dew.

On the eve of March 25, 1927 Omega's loyal sons, their fair dames and friends witnessed Omega's Annual Banquet, held in the University Refectory. Every one spent an enjoyable evening.

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