

FRESHMEN 'LIVING IN': THE SECOND YEAR

Little Fault Found by Freshmen, Counselors Administrators; Greeks Have Money Troubles

The Oregon Plan—a modification of the deferred living program adopted in the fall of 1950—has been in effect more than four months.

Quite likely we are in no position to pass final judgment on the "plan." And we won't.

Nevertheless, in this special Dad's Day issue, we are reviewing the "living in" program as it presently appears to administrators, freshmen, sororities and fraternities, and ourselves, the Emerald editorial staff.

We think the general picture is good, although fraternities and sororities have to face definite financial problems. But as far as the freshmen and the University as a whole are concerned, the plan has been to their advantage.

As we recall, that has always been the prescribed goal.

chapters here to select their pledges more carefully on a scholastic basis. Fraternities will gain in stature and stability. Prep decides, pretesting show nothing. One term's grades are the best criteria."

The social activities of the freshmen seem to have been more satisfactory from the freshman viewpoint than from the view of the counselors. Some counselors thought too much time had been spent on a social program. The only freshman complaint in the men's dorm was that some girls didn't take advantage of their opportunities. (During exchanges, etc.)

One counselor was critical of the movement of some freshmen from vet's dorm to a hall in John Straub. "If they continue to split them up and move them to Straub, it will indicate they are washing the program down the drain," he said.

He has a point, but considering the general opinion on the value of keeping the freshmen in one group, we don't think his point will ever become a sore one.

The pudding seems to be pretty good stuff. It can probably be improved, but the basic ingredients are not likely to change.

The credit can't be given to one person, or one group. The counselors have carried the biggest load. The freshman class, in turn, has been called one of the finest groups to enroll at Oregon. And IFC has rounded out the grand alliance in a very creditable manner.

As one of the counselors remarked, "We still have quite a ways to go, but by the time we have four classes who have gone through the program, we'll have a much better University."

It seems to us that the feeling of satisfaction concerning the program was shared nearly as much by the freshmen as the counselors. And that is a very favorable sign. Everyone expected the first year or two under the plan to be fairly rough in spots. Perhaps a rough spot or two lies ahead.

But as of now the whole program is sliding along as if it were on greased rails. The freshman dormitory system for the men is a success by almost any standards.—P.C.

In Women's Dorms More Counselors Needed for Frosh

WE won't go out on a limb and say everybody's happy in an about every detail of the women's dormitory program, but we really can't find much dissatisfaction.

Counselors and students are not in complete agreement on the merits of the all-freshman dormitory. Some feel some sort of program should be instituted to bring the frosh into closer contact with the dorm upperclassmen as the frosh would benefit from the more mature thinking of the older students. Ideally, we think there should be more contact. But we'll admit we have no plan.

Study conditions are generally good, although counselors from Carson wish they could provide a supervised study table for those who want to attend. This will never be solved, however, since Carson has no sufficiently lighted rooms which would serve this purpose. At Hendricks, students study in the basement, or dining room, if they wish.

Reactions to 7:30 to 10 p.m. mandatory study regulations varied. Frosh felt the regulations helped them settle down. Some counselors feel students should definitely be allowed to study in the library if they wish. (The frosh are quite restricted here.) Several counselors felt that, ideally, the girls should be allowed to study anytime they wanted. We

agree that this would be ideal, but the argument always arises that the girls' parents would object and wonder why their daughters weren't getting better grades.

Few griped about the food, or about social contacts.

Concerning sororities, the freshmen generally complained that the rush period had been too short and they hadn't had a chance to see all the houses. Counselors were in just about unanimous agreement that rushing should be postponed at least until the beginning of winter term.

Two main suggestions were made: (1) more emphasis on the cultural aspect of college and (2) more counselors.

One counselor thought more attention should be paid to manners, for instance. She also thought more emphasis was needed on concerts, speakers, and so on.

Freshmen were quite enthusiastic over the help given by their counselors. And the latter were satisfied with the acceptance of their advice. But counselors thought more of their number were definitely needed.

We agree wholeheartedly that more are needed. One student counselor has charge of 80 freshmen in Hendricks hall, whereas there are 8 frosh counselors in Carson. This is not good.

Also, wouldn't it be possible to perhaps set up some course for the counselors prior to their year or two of counseling which would give them instructions in the work and some credit? Counselors seemed to think this a good idea.

But although some improvement could be made, everyone thinks the overall picture is good. We'll agree too.

The Sororities Say Plan Leaves Gap In Most Houses

DEFERRED living, from the sorority point of view, has brought some problems, probably among the chief of which is the financial hardship involved.

It has been reported that the unfinished Holloway report to the alumni asserts that deferred living has brought no financial hardship to fraternities and sororities.

We beg to differ. According to the facts and figures we've picked up from the Office of Student Affairs, this assumption simply doesn't make sense, at least as far as sororities are concerned.

Here are the facts: Each sorority is assigned what is known as a "base capacity," based on available sleeping, eating, study and sanitary facilities. For more efficient operation, according to treasurers and house managers, each house should be filled approximately to base capacity.

Oregon's sorority base capacities range from 32 to 48, with the average capacity approximately 42. With four classes living in the house before deferred living, houses were filled to base capacity or over.

Official figures for this term show that the actual number of women living in ranges from 17 to 42, with an average of 27. Only one house has over 34 living in; 9 of the 16 sororities are below 30.

In order to fill the gap left by having three classes living in the house instead of four, each sorority would have to pledge an average of 15 sophomores, juniors and seniors—a total of 240. According to Mrs. Golda P. Wickham, director of women's affairs, there aren't that many sophomores, junior and senior women living in the dorms who are elig-

ible to go out for rushing, let alone who are interested in rushing.

And the picture isn't likely to improve very fast; enrollment is dropping now and isn't expected to go up until 1960.

Why must the houses be filled nearer to base capacity for sound financing?

Whether a house has 17 members living in or 48, there are certain costs which remain the same. Cooks' wages, for instance, or housemother's salaries; and operating costs such as light and fuel.

In addition, houses with exceptionally few members cannot take advantage of quantity buying with its lower costs. Granted, the picture is darker because of the combined factors of the enrollment drop and inflationary prices, particularly for food.

But the fact remains that if the houses were fuller—if the freshmen were living in—the financial picture would be much healthier.

Sororities in general are not actively opposing deferred living as such. Most recognize the advantage to freshmen of wider acquaintanceships on campus. Comments from pledged and independent freshmen to the effect that there has been no hostility—as was expected by some—between the two groups in the dorm is seen as a hopeful indication of better relations between sorority and independent women—unquestionably a valuable outcome.

There have been some complaints that actives and pledges don't get to know each other; but in general the sororities are anxious to promote dormitory loyalty in order not to undermine the dorm program. And another thing that's good about deferred living is the simple psychological factor that a freshman woman, when she arrives on campus, knows where she's going to live and has a chance to settle down.

But—if only for the sake of honesty—when it's asserted that deferred living is "no financial hardship," they'd like to have the picture cleared up. G.G.

The Fraternities Say Men Profit, But Not Financially

DEFERRED living is apparently here to stay and Oregon's fraternities are gamely trying to make the best of it. Fraternity men can see the advantages to the freshmen men and to the University of having the frosh spend one of their four college years living together. They have seen better class spirit and wider groups of acquaintances among the freshmen.

Fraternity men have also profited from the opportunity to look the freshmen over as to scholarship, interests, and personality and realize that the freshmen conversely have had a chance to get a better look at fraternities making it possible for them to better determine in which group they would best fit.

Fraternities on this campus last year lost between \$600 and \$800 apiece because of what accountants describe as lack of membership. These are the cold, hard facts. Fraternity men consider the statement said to be in the Holloway Report that the fraternities' financial suffering was to a large extent their own fault and not that of "the plan" a bold faced lie. When the report is finally released, fraternity men will want to know how decreased membership caused by having three rather than four classes "living in" is "their own fault" and not the fault of "the plan." It is suspected that Mr. Holloway's committee chose financial mismanagement rather than just

lack of membership as the cause of this financial hardship. Fraternity financial advisers will take issue with this stand, however.

Fraternity men have been told that in a few (usually five) years these things will "work themselves out", and probably they will. It is believed by many, however, that Oregon's fraternity system will never be as strong as it once was, and the very fact that only three classes are "living in" is offered as evidence.

Fraternity men also question the strange coincidence of the advent of "the plan" and the costly construction of Carson hall.

Ever since deferred living was first discussed on this campus, fraternity men have been suspicious of the University administration. The administration has steadfastly maintained that, far from seeking to get rid of Oregon's fraternities, it seeks to better their position. In the light of this objective, consider the statement of the president of the University at a joint IDC-IFC meeting two years ago to the effect that his ultimate objective was to secure University ownership of campus fraternity and sorority houses. The reasons advanced were that this would make these organizations tax exempt and enable them to enjoy the advantages of central heating and utilities. Fraternity men wonder.

So, the future of the fraternity system at Oregon lies in Johnson hall. In chapter meetings methods of keeping up membership are searched for and doubts are expressed as to whether some houses with smaller membership will be able to survive this five year period until things "work themselves out." Only time can tell.

We think deferred living is good in a number of ways. We think it's good for the freshmen. We think fraternity scholarship will ultimately be strengthened. But, we're afraid that the fraternity system will be weakened through the elimination of the smaller fraternities which, we believe, will be unable to survive financially the transition to deferred living.—R. N.

The Original Plan All-Frosh Dorms Plan Violated

SOMEWHERE between now and last April the "Stanford plan" became the "Oregon plan." Now we can note the original recommendations for a deferred freshman living system, and compare them with "the plan" as it is today.

The 9-person ASUO committee which viewed the situation at Stanford last April issued a 20-page report on conditions at the California institution and recommendations for the University.

This report was quite detailed and of course some of its lesser points have been ignored.

But perhaps the biggest and most dangerous divergence is the current movement of freshmen men to John Straub hall. It was impressed on the 9 campus leaders who visited Palo Alto that freshmen dormitories are an essential part of a successful deferred living program.

This exodus from freshman dormitories to Straub—even if it does result in Straub's being filled—seems to defeat the purpose of our freshman consolidated living units.

In only one other striking particular has the recommendations of the committee been ignored—and only partially so in that case. The committee considered it "essential for the houses to postpone their rushing program until the first of winter term." This is now the case for male freshmen, but the rush week for girls comes early in the fall term of their freshman year.

The system in force at Oregon is not a carbon copy of the Stanford freshman program. But it is clearly modeled after Stanford's. And judging from last term's experience, it's a pretty good model.—D. D.

In Men's Dorms Physical Layout Main Complaint

THE deferred living plan for freshmen at Oregon is everything from a "howling success" to a "fairly successful program," according to an opinion survey made among the counselors and administrative officials.

But we didn't accept just the administration's opinion. We checked with the freshman hall presidents and others in the frosh dorms. Their opinions of the system ranged from "fairly good" to "very good." The rather meaningful point is that the freshmen and counselors were not very far apart on most points.

There were complaints, to be sure. There always will be. But the criticisms, such as there were, come mostly from the counselors, not the freshmen.

The freshmen don't think much of the vet's dorm. Neither do most of the counselors. And that's no surprise. The physical characteristics of the building were never regarded as particularly good, and it was a sort of calculated risk when the upper dorm was allotted to the freshmen. But it has been, and still is, necessary to provide adequate housing for students.

We talked to several freshmen who had been moved from the vet's dorm to another hall in John Straub. "Man!" said one enthusiastically. "They've got everything over there. If they had another dormitory like that I don't think there would ever be any complaints."

Dorm food was no subject for praise. We cannot recall when it ever was. It's doubtful that it ever will be. The fact that the gripes seem to be normal indicates that the food is average dormitory fare. The dorms can't compete with Mother.

The separation of freshmen from upperclassmen was strongly favored by both freshmen and counselors. As Ray Hawk, director of student affairs for men, put it, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating. We were not sure at first that it was educationally wise to separate freshmen from upperclassmen. But this year there is no comparison to last year in the matter of control, discipline, cooperation and spirit." And no comparison, we might add, in the number of freshmen who were not dropped from school at the end of one term because of scholastic deficiencies.

The counselors were in favor of delayed rushing, in one form or another. Some mentioned the sophomore year, others indicated satisfaction with the present winter term rush schedule. All agreed that rush week was something of a problem regardless of when it happened, and all of them opposed any sort of rushing before winter term.

The freshmen, generally, were not too concerned about the rushing timetable.

Ray Hawk voiced solid approval of winter term rushing. "It's the salvation of the fraternity system," he said. "The nationals have long wanted the