

Let's Not Backtrack

It will be hard now for those determined souls who still don't like deferred living to get a pliable audience. One of the worst defects of the system, thus far, has been its lack of "objective" publicity. Saturday's alumni report goes a long way toward satisfying that need.

What did the report say: freshman grades have definitely improved since the plan went into effect; student morale is high; the greek-independent "cleavage" has been minimized. The conclusion: these improvements outweigh the discomforts suffered by some greek-letter organizations as a result of deferred living.

Yes, it will be very hard for the disconsolates to carp. For if any group could turn out a report which was not "suspect," it seems to us that the alums would be the choice.

But the fact remains that greeks in general are apparently suffering. Some say the solution to the problem is to throw out deferred rushing for men. Perhaps that would help somewhat to alleviate fraternity financial difficulties; but perhaps it would louse up the deferred living program itself.

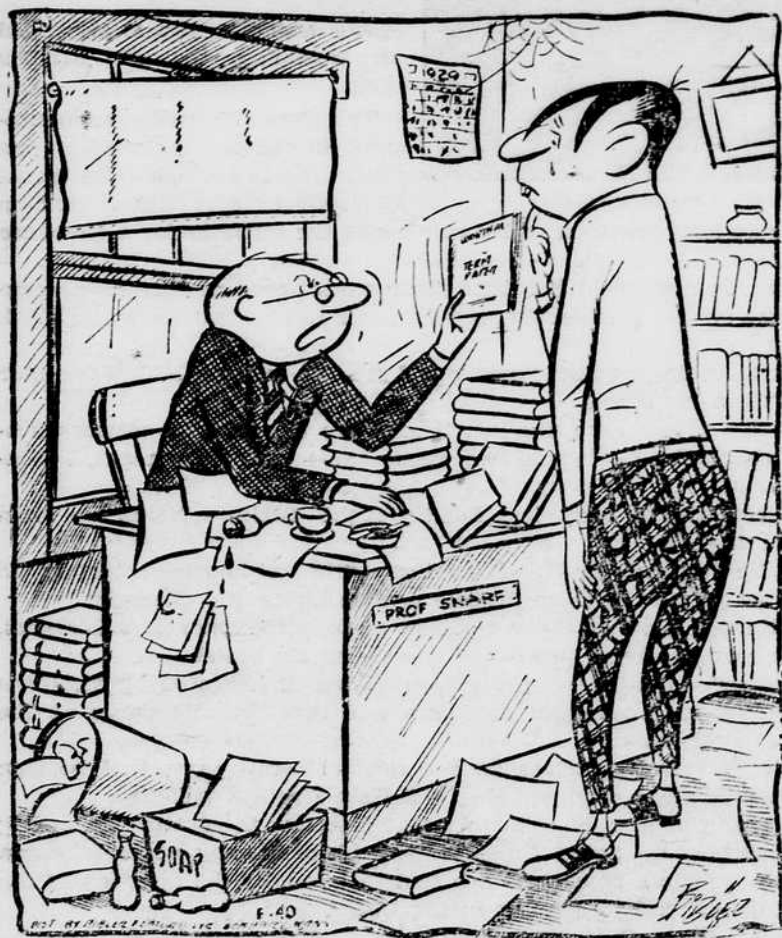
One of the biggest advantages of deferred living is the homogeneity it gives to the freshman men. Those on campus live together. They get a much broader picture of University life where, formerly, they could, and often did, pledge and move into houses without ever knowing much about "the other half."

Well, there isn't any "other half" if you want to get right down to it. The conceptions (in this case the misconceptions) that greeks have about independents, and vice versa, stem from ignorance. Deferred living, we believe, goes a long way towards beating down the foolish ideas young college people are sometimes wont to have about people outside their immediate surroundings.

Granted, immediate rushing for freshman men wouldn't change the fact that they still lived in the dorms. But it would do a lot to destroy what unity, what homogeneity, does apparently exist fall term in the frosh dorms (despite the "gentleman's agreements" which allow fraternities to rush during fall in violation of the very hands-off code which they set up).

There is a problem, a tough one, concerning deferred rushing to the extent that it isn't deferred at all—just undercover until legal rushing begins. But the answer is most certainly not to give in again, to pull the props out from under a well-functioning plan just because the fraternities don't trust each other.

'Do As I Say...'



"Do this over — How do you expect me to give you an 'A' on a paper that isn't neat?"

Alum Committee Calls 'Living In' Successful

By Len Calvert
Emerald Assistant News Editor

The University of Oregon's "living in" program, going into its third year, has been a success in all but two of its stated objectives, a report from the alumni committee to study the deferred living program has declared.

The objectives of the program, declared unsuccessful by the committee, were the strengthening of the fraternity system and the social development of the individual as part of the over-all orientation of the freshmen.

The committee, consisting of six Oregon alumni appointed by Charles Holloway, jr., president of the Oregon Alumni association, has been working since early January on the report presented at the fifth-annual conference of alumni leaders Saturday.

In other areas of the "living in" program, the report had no serious criticisms to make. The report stated that figures show "beyond doubt that grades generally and freshman grades in particular have improved since the plan went into effect."

The committee also found that student morale is high, with "the old cleavage between affiliated and non-affiliated students seemingly minimized." The report concluded that the benefit to the University as a whole gained from stronger school spirit and class unity seemed "to outweigh the resulting loss of some of the advantages enjoyed by some of the fraternities and sororities before the plan."

The deferred living program as set up by the administration has four main objectives included in a broad framework designed to broaden and strengthen the student's University experience, according to a letter received by the committee from University President H. K. Newburn. The objectives are an improved orientation to University life for new students resulting in a reduction of the wastage of human time and talent, an improved counseling program making it possible to supervise more intelligently the student's academic progress during his first year, a greater maturity and stability in fraternity and sorority membership, thus strengthening these organizations, and the improvement of general relationships between the student body as a whole and the general educational objectives of the University.

In declaring the unsuccessfulness of the program in strengthening the Greek letter houses, the report stated that "the financial outlook for fraternities and sororities for the next four or five years is bad." In early February, the office of student affairs reported 394 vacancies in men's houses and 284 vacancies in women's housing to the committee.

In results shown by a questionnaire sent by the committee to the houses, of the 12 fraternities which replied, only one house has enough men coming back next year to "break even." The results, as shown in the report, also reported that eight of the houses operated at a loss ranging from \$200 to \$1,452, while four houses showed profits ranging from \$418 to \$1,200. All houses reporting showed vacancies and none had enough men living in to "break even" in expenses.

For the women's houses, the report says, "the picture is not much brighter." Fifteen sororities answered the committee questionnaire indicating that all but three houses "are running on an average of eight below 'break even' capacity."

Figures from the office of stu-

dent affairs, as shown in the report, indicate that only four women's houses "have occupancy at or above the average 'break even' point of 33 members." However, there is a greater percentage of fraternity men on campus than ever before, student affairs figures show.

The report concluded that the situation "will probably not show significant improvement for at least three years when enrollment is expected to increase."

In discussing the other weakness of the deferred living program, the report referred to "the grave inadequacy of social training for both men and women with possible exception of Hendricks hall." The report was especially critical of the situation in Carson hall.

Admitting that the counseling program as a whole was meeting with success in the freshmen men's dormitories and Hendricks hall, the report stressed that "counseling in Carson hall, while showing steady improvement, is severely handicapped by lack of facilities." The report also said that counseling of freshmen women under the present program "does not appear to have substantially improved upon the counseling the freshmen women received in the past under the sorority system."

Hawk told the group that a recent survey taken by the president of the Oregon College of Education showed that only two per cent of high school seniors care about joining a fraternity or sorority when they are choosing a college. Hawk admitted however, that the more urbanized an area becomes, the more "house conscious" are the high school seniors.

Recommendations

The committee ended the report with a series of 14 recommendations. They are:

1. The University should without delay, and at the highest administrative level, undertake a thorough study of the situation in Carson hall with a view toward providing two full-time house mothers plus enough additional counselors at the graduate level of proficiency to provide counseling service commensurate with the stated objectives of the deferred living plan. One immediate change recommended was the conversion of the lobby into a living room as the present living room is "too remote and uninviting."

2. The University should immediately assume responsibility of broadening the counseling program so as to approach the social development of the freshmen with the same degree of attention that is presently being given to their scholastic ability.

3. A more extensive training program should be instituted for both men and women so that experienced personnel will be available for the opening of school in the fall.

4. The abandonment of the Veteran's dormitory as soon as possible.

5. The University physical education plant should be made available for evening recreation in view of the fact of limited facilities in the dorms and the Student Union.

Information

6. Parents should be completely informed of the counseling program and the "living in program," what it means to the student and what the counselor can do for the student.

7. The fraternity and sorority groups should re-examine their pledging and rushing policies with a view toward resolving the apparent difficulties created by pledging people who can not move into the house and initiating people who have never lived in the house.

8. The fraternities should take steps to strengthen their positions within the existing framework of conditions. Suggestions are increased rushing of eligible non-freshmen, examination of fiscal policies, critical study of food management, realistic collection of house bills and bring town members into the house.

Stand By

9. Alumni should strengthen their relationship with their individual fraternities, as has been done in the case of sororities, and should form alumni advisory groups on a standby basis which should be available for advice and assistance in financial matters.

10. Sororities should also do more rushing among eligible non-freshmen.

11. Alumni should unite behind the University in its efforts to provide better housing and better counseling. Alumni opposition to the plan gives "aid and comfort to those seeking to establish competing colleges in Portland and at the colleges of education. Seriously reduced enrollment might well be the final blow that would break fraternities and sororities."

12. The University should continue to allow no new fraternities and sororities on campus until the present organizations are on a sound financial footing.

13. This report should be made public to the press, alumni and national offices of fraternities and sororities having chapters in Oregon.

14. The president should appoint another committee to provide a continuing study of the program.



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