

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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Fraternity System Fine, but...

We invite attention to a letter to the editor from Inter-fraternity Council President Don McClain which takes issue with an Emerald editorial of last term.

The editorial was highly critical of IFC for its acts at a private meeting of the week before. At this meeting IFC voted to give fraternity discipline back to the Dean of Men and, to study further the possibility of Rsh Week revision, thus delaying a decision another year.

McClain says that "procedural difficulties" made it desirable for IFC to give up its right to administer discipline. This is an internal matter of IFC, and if its members feel incapable of handling this matter then such power should rest with the Dean of Men. But The Emerald believes that fraternity presidents are sufficiently intelligent, mature and responsible to deal with member houses which get out of line. This belief in student responsibility also underlies our desire for liberal rules for women's dormitories.

The Emerald did not say the Rush Week revision committee had done nothing. Although we (and thus the student body) were not offered its report, we understand that the committee did a very thorough job of outlining the alternatives of both the present system and of deferred (winter term) rush. Our complaint was with IFC itself, which after years of discussion and study decided no decision could be made for next year because its members weren't sufficiently informed. If IFC, in a public session, had decided the time wasn't ripe

for deferred rush The Emerald would respect that view. But to say there is not time to make a decision before next fall was and is ridiculous.

We would also take issue with McClain's promise that fall term rush is satisfactory because it has allowed fraternities to pledge good men. While The Emerald strongly supports the fraternity system. We feel that the welfare of the freshmen should be paramount in setting rush schedules. And there is doubt whether the first week of classes devoted to rushing serves anybody's welfare, especially that of freshmen.

McClain's other point, that The Emerald may attend IFC only at the discretion of the IFC President, is especially interesting. Technically, he is probably right. Should IFC ever consider itself so far removed from the student body, however, we would question its right to decide matters of more than narrow, internal interest; we feel it would thereby forfeit any right to set the rush schedule, for example. Nor do we consider an official handout or the willingness to answer specific questions any substitute for full news coverage. It is also doubtful whether the average fraternity man, whom the IFC and its President represent, would be served by secret meetings of the organization.

The Emerald has no argument with the fraternity system, or with IFC as it has traditionally functioned. We are very critical, however, of the recent attitude of IFC and its leaders. Fraternity men deserve something better.

Term of the Great Outdoors

Spring term, 1957, will only last ten weeks—plus finals—but it will undoubtedly seem like an obstacle course if the traditional attractions of beach, river and mill-race are blessed by quantities of sunny weather.

The spring season, coming on the heels of a particularly frigid winter term (weather-wise), may prove to be disastrous to sagging GPA's, but should do wonders for the social and extra-curricular side of college.

Theoretically, the winter term has been the time to perform that ennobling act of "making grades." Spring has contributed somewhat less to the academic standards of the university.

The epic "Oregon picnic" will attempt to take its place in the social scheme of things in the weeks to come. (Across the river and into the trees, and not always to grand-mother's house will we go...)

Sun porches (and reasonable fascimilies) of living organizations will again offer specimens for the binocular and field-glass set, as well as provide solar energy for winter-whitened health addicts.

Beach trips should again prove popular with yearly walkouts by freshman pledge classes playing hob with usually serene interiors of fraternity and sorority houses.

A somewhat more sobering outing will likely feature soon-to-graduate seniors

turned into the wilderness by underclassmen trying to uphold traditions of the ages.

Sports fans on the local level should delight in the re-appearance at Hayward Field of the Pacific Coast Conference track meet in May. This should salve basketball fans for the withdrawal of the Harlem Globetrotter-College All-Star and Boston Celtics-Pro All-Star games.

And, to add a needed academic touch, seniors will embark upon that last mile in June—commencement exercises. Caps and gowns will supplant levis and pedal-pushers as the term concludes.

With all this ahead in a scant two-month period, the professors will have to compete harder than ever for students' attention. They'll get some, but not as much as they deserve. This is the term of the great outdoors. (A.J.)

Footnotes

The latest saga of final week concerns a studious sophomore who crammed through Sunday night for a Monday morning exam. He left his living organization in slippers, came back to get shoes and found he had mis-mated socks, got to his exam site and discovered that the test was on Wednesday!

IBM Cards Wild?



Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

This letter is in answer to the editorial appearing in the Emerald Friday, March 8, 1957.

Several charges were directed at the Interfraternity Council concerning that group's action; I shall try to supply some of the "whys" for these actions. It is interesting that the paper made no attempt to try to understand our reasoning. Perhaps it is easier to write an editorial if you don't. The following is a rationale for IFC's conduct.

We have had a committee, appointed fall term, studying the possibility of IFC assuming punitive responsibility concerning fraternities. The committee, chaired by Bruce Brenn, proposed a by-law by which the current five-man tribunal, appointed by the President of IFC, would handle cases referred to it by the Dean of Men's office or other sources.

A test case was provided by two fraternities. This case was handled in the usual tribunal manner, but the results, not in the form of penalties, but in procedural difficulties, proved unsatisfactory to a majority of the IFC members. The jurisdiction over these fraternities was given back to Dr. Hawk, Dean of Men, and the by-law was tabled until after the Western Regional Interfraternity Conference to be held at the University of Oregon April 5, 6 and 7. Fraternity discipline has been made a discussion topic at this meeting.

The Emerald stated, "IFC decided it isn't ready to discipline its own members, that henceforth such decisions will be made by the Dean of Men." It is desirable to take this authority upon ourselves, but senseless, as we learned, to rush into the thing. We are waiting to get the opinions and experiences of the IFC presidents in the Pacific Coast area; is this unreasonable?

Rush week revision is a perennial favorite for committees. I admit, but to say this year's committee has done nothing is a bit hasty. A mimeographed report was available to the Emerald on the day its crusading editorial appeared.

The 1956-57 IFC was just about evenly divided concerning deferred rushing. It would seem the next step would be to work out a deferred system and then compare it with the pres-

ent one. This is what we hope to do. The present system is very satisfactory as far as giving the fraternities good men is concerned, and so long as this continues the arguments for drastic change seem questionable.

The third point mentioned editorially was the banning of a reporter from an IFC meeting. It was said this violated the right of the University students to know what transpires at IFC meetings. First, the Emerald reporter is a guest at IFC meetings; he is sent an invitation to each meeting. He does not take part in any of the discussions, he just records the proceedings.

If I think we can carry on a more effective meeting in his absence it is certainly my prerogative to withhold an invitation. Results of the meeting were available for the asking, and were obtained from Dr. Hawk on the evening of the meeting in question, but, if the Emerald thinks we are trying to hide anything, give us your questions and we'll answer them.

As a matter of fact some of the answers might have been obtained had the Editor seen fit to accept our invitation to attend the annual IFC-Dormitory Counselors Retreat at the Oregon coast last fall term. The Dean of Men, the Dean of Students, and the Student Body President were in attendance and the problems of rushing and fraternity discipline were extensively discussed.

Unfortunately the editorial in question appeared in the last winter term issue of the Emerald and an immediate statement of the position of the Interfraternity Council could not be published. It is hoped that this letter will appear in the first spring term issue.

Don McClain, President
Interfraternity Council

Campus Capers

(ACP)—"We cannot see the justice," says University of Kansas Daily Kansan editorial editor Jerry Dawson, "in allowing married students to compete with unmarried students in 'Marriage and the Family.'"

"Perhaps an arrangement could be made where the un-singles would not be asked to come to class until the second half of the subject matter is taught."