

true democratic spirit which has an inherent hatred for pretensions to aristocracy and selection. They sometimes cause insurrections against college authorities and are influential in destroying the regular literary societies. They increase the expense of college education and tend to laxer standards. They exalt the social abilities above the intellectual and as a result of the too great facilities for idleness, the student drifts out of touch with college activities.

On the other hand friends of the fraternity contend that living in the chapter house brings a healthy sense of responsibility to its members who no longer indulge in carelessness, uproar, and destruction which often characterizes dormitory life and that instead of encouraging dissipation they keep their black sheep from excess.

As a result of all the general fraternities becoming national, they have had by no means an unimportant influence in causing the disappearance of sectional lines, especially in the West and South. Each is coming more and more to stand for a fixed ideal of culture, either for wealth, literary capacity, all-round good fellowship, or social qualities. In the East the old colleges have characteristics more firmly fixed than elsewhere and the same society usually has the same ideal in the different colleges while in the West the same fraternity may stand for different ideals in different institutions. As a further argument that the fraternity influence is not wholly bad is shown by the fact that among university graduates of the last forty years who have become famous, the majority in their student days were fraternity men.

It cannot be denied that fraternity associations have a definite influence upon their individuals and also upon their college. Good societies, without question, are beneficial and bad ones are injurious. Everything depends on the spirit and aim of the fraternity and the influence of its graduates, whether they are going to identify loyalty to their fraternity with loyalty to their college.

The university offers equal opportunities to all—it says “choose” and it is for each, fraternity or non-fraternity man to shape his own career.

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