Less Glamor in Sorority Rush

Panhellenic Leads the Way Toward More Sane Social Life on the Campus of the University

SOMETHING amazing has happened in Oklahoma. It begins to look—at long last—as though the University of Oklahoma were making some progress toward convincing the general public that the atmosphere on the O. U. campus isn’t quite as frivolous as most persons seem to think.

Wherever you bring together thousands of young people from the ages of 16 to 25 you are going to have a certain amount of social life and fun. On a college campus it is inevitable that much of this social life be well organized. And with so many sons and daughters of prominent citizens participating in the social life, it has seemed inevitable that the state newspapers give a big play to social life on the campus.

When a page or a half page is devoted to pictures of sweet young things being rushed by sororities, or attending a fraternity dance, while a report on some significant scientific research project at the University is given a half column on an inside page, it’s not surprising that the general public gets the impression that social life is the big thing on the campus.

For many years, there has been a great deal of complaining by alumni and faculty members and friends of the University who felt that the general public had an unfair opinion of conditions on the campus. Numerous efforts have been made to try to give the public a more true picture.

There is evidence now that real progress is being made. For one thing, the Panhellenic organization on the O. U. campus, including most of the sorority chapters, is making a determined effort to put rush activities on a more sensible basis, and to avoid undue publicity.

President Joseph A. Brandt is helping the good work along by making it clear in his public statements that he plans to require high scholastic standards and to avoid undue publicity.

President Brandt says he isn’t going to be hardboiled about student life, but he definitely favors putting emphasis on high scholastic standards, wholesome outdoor sports for students, and not too much time spent on purely social affairs.

Actually, of course, this isn’t any new attitude on the part of the University administration. Efforts in this direction have been made for many years. But the combination of a new president, and the work being done by Panhellenic, and the work of various University departments dealing with the general public is catching public attention.

For example, take a recent headline in the *Tulsa Tribune*, over an article written by Amy Comstock: PANHELLENIC AT O. U. IS OUT TO LIVE DOWN TAG OF FRIVOLITY PINNED ON SORORITIES. That’s exactly the kind of publicity that alumni leaders and other friends of the University have been wishing for.

The article stated in part:

“Life is earnest, life is real,” Panhellenic at the University of Oklahoma would have freshmen going through rush this fall understand.

College campuses have earned a reputation of being glorified country clubs. Weekends full of parties and visitors convinced the uninformed that the curriculum consisted pretty largely of dates and dances. Whereas anyone who really knows college life is aware that the other five days of the week are plenty full of serious work.

Panhellenic at O. U. is out to dispel this libel of frivolity. It has ruled that society news of sorority life shall be played down. Hence the dearth of news, in the press, if you are interested, of rush parties for girls who are going to Norman this fall. Of course, O. U. rules can be made to stick only for O. U., and cannot
ust 2 in Schenectady, New York. Mr. Taylor is employed in that city, where the couple have established a home.

William M. Craig, '416a, is physicist in the testing department of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York.

Lt. A. G. Mayse, '41eng, Ardmore, has enrolled in a battle officers' course at the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill.

HUTTO-GARVIN: Miss Don Hunt, '41a, and Harold Garvin, '41ba, were married August 30 in Big Springs, Texas. Mrs. Garvin is a member of Delta Gamma sorority, and Mr. Garvin is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. The couple live in Norman where he is enrolled in the School of Law at the University.

James Lee Kerr, '41geol, has been employed by Brown Geophysical Company in Houston, Texas.

Elwood Kretsinger, '41ma, has been appointed speech and English instructor in Idaho High School. He and Mrs. Kretsinger (Geneva Buchanan, '41ma) have established their home in Idaho.

Kathryn Larson, '41ba, is assistant librarian of the Carnegie Library at Lawton. Her address is 911 Bell Avenue.

William LaRue, '41ed, has been named to teach social science and direct athletics at Sulphur High School.

MAHAFFEY-HUMPHREYS: Miss Bonnie Gene Mahaffey, '41ec, and Jack Humphreys, University student, were married in late August at the home of the bride's mother in Norman. The couple live at 120 West Lynn Street in Norman.

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McKoy-Allen: Miss Laura Ann McKoy, '41, and Lt. Edward Philip Allen, Jr., '41, were married August 31 in Norman. Mrs. Allen is a member of Chi Omega sorority. Her family were pioneers of Pontotoc County and are prominent in Oklahoma history. Lieutenant Allen was graduated from St. John's Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin, and is a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. The couple live in San Antonio, Texas.

PARKER-RIDDLE: Miss Kathryn Parker and Charles Riddle, '41soc wk, were married September 2 in Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Riddle, who last year traveled throughout the United States in behalf of the Student Volunteer Movement, plans to work on a master's degree at the University of Chicago. Mr. Riddle was employed in the Y. M. C. A. offices at the University before his graduation. He has enrolled in the Chicago Theological Seminary. The couple live at 5757 University Street in Chicago.

STUBBS-ALLEN: Miss B Mae Stubbs, '41bus, and Wayne M. Allen, '38bus, were married August 10 in Amarillo, Texas. Mr. Allen is a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He is manager of the Hood-Allen Lumber Company in Erick, Oklahoma, where the couple live.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10) include A. and M. or Tulsa University. Since it is a trend which National Panhellenic has urged for years, these campuses too will fall in line in time. O. U., merely beat them to the draw. For the present it seems to put at a disadvantage those sororities which have chapters only at Norman, but not at Stillwater or Tulsa. They are not appearing in the news "socially." But since National Panhellenic is not a legislative body and has no authority whatsoever over either college or city Panhellencis, each group makes its own rules. As campuses grow in maturity, they discover where to put the emphasis.

This is news!—the University of Oklahoma being commended for taking the lead in de-emphasizing one of the most glamorous phases of campus social life.