

# Less Glamor in Sorority Rush

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

**S**OMETHING 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.

**F**OR 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 establish regulations for student conduct which will discourage the spending of too much time on social life.

His remarks have been widely printed, and widely commended.

Sorority rush on the University of Oklahoma campus this year was a lot different from the hectic and frenzied rush periods recalled by many alumni. Panhellenic each year for the last several years has made definite progress in its efforts to shorten and to simplify rush.

"The sorority leaders are working toward the elimination of high pressure

and sales tactics," Margaret Stephenson, women's counselor, explains. "Some universities have greatly improved their rush programs by putting all the factual information about the different sororities into printed form which is given the rushees in advance. The actual rush parties are then devoted to informal visiting and getting acquainted, instead of bragging about their own chapter's merits and running down all the others."

Panhellenic accomplished two specific goals this year. No rush pictures were printed in newspapers, as it was agreed in advance that none would be permitted. Also, rush publicity was held to a minimum with no stories given out about details of the various rush parties. At the end of rush, only the bare list of names of girls pledged was announced for publication.

Under present rush regulations, no rushee may be invited to meals, or given favors or corsages. Only two items of food may be served at each rush party, in order to hold down expenses. With the length and the elaborateness of the rush parties definitely restricted, rush is shorter and less strenuous.

Through efforts of Panhellenic, there is now much more co-operation between sororities than in the old cut-throat days. There is still rivalry, of course, but in order to make rush function more smoothly and to protect the interests of rushees as a whole, there is now a clearing house system by which a sorority that decides not to take a certain girl notifies the central agency, which in turn notifies other sororities that this girl is available.

**T**HE result is that of the nearly two hundred girls who went through rush this year, only four failed to pledge.

Is the "de-glamorized" rush working out satisfactorily?

One good indication is that on the Sunday night after rush closed last month, the last telephone call to Miss Stephenson came in at 9:30 o'clock, and no really serious difficulties arose. In some past years, delegations of indignant parents and uncles and aunts and sorority alumni and chapter officers would keep tramping into her office until midnight, complaining about rush complications.

The new system isn't perfect, but it is an improvement. Some sorority alumnae have voiced objections to the limitation system now in effect, which prohibits any sorority from having more than 55 girls

living in the house at one time. However, a checkup this year revealed that not a single girl participating in rush was prevented from pledging her preferred sorority because of this limitation.

Actually, it isn't a "quota" system, as there is no percentage restriction or other requirement except the single rule that not more than 55 girls be living in a chapter house at one time.

**T**HERE is one thing in particular that sorority leaders on the campus wish their alumnae would do to help them. This is to *never* give a girl "courtesy" dates for rush. This practice—arranging rush dates for a girl just because of friendship with the mother or some other personal reason, often puts both the girl and the chapter in a very embarrassing position.

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 uninitiated 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 disprove 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

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 25)

ust 2 in Schenectady, New York. Mr. Taylor is employed in that city, where the couple have established a home.

William M. Craig, '41ba, 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 Hutto, '41fa, 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 Idabel High School. He and Mrs. Kretsinger (Geneva Buchanan, '41ma) have established their home in Idabel.

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, '41h.ec, 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.

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.

▲ ▲ ▲

## Less Glamor in Sorority Rush

(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 Panhellenics, 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.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this issue is available at call number LH 1 .0686 in Bizzell Memorial Library.