



Rushees will not be so laden with congratulatory corsages on O.U. Bid Day this year.

# The Greeks Had An Answer

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*The University administration has a responsibility to provide educational opportunities for all of its students. Occasionally, in the discharge of this responsibility, the administration and the Greek-letter system do not share common viewpoints. Such a situation may exist when any change is suggested or directed. Fraternity members must realize that change does not indicate a desire to weaken fraternities or sororities. The purpose of change should be to strengthen the educational programs of the institution. In the long view, such change also strengthens fraternities and sororities if the objectives of the Greek organizations and the institution are as compatible as they should be.—President G. L. Cross.*

CHANGE was in the air in March. And the emotion-charged subject was the rushing procedures of fraternities and sororities.

Directed by the University Regents to recommend sweeping revisions in Greek

rush, President G. L. Cross found himself in the center of a mild tempest. A disorganized but orderly rally was held on the lawn of the President's home to demonstrate against the unknown changes. Throughout Greek housing tempers frayed and flared.

Moving quickly to end the period of tension and confusion, President Cross appointed a committee of staff members and representatives of the Intrafraternity Council and Panhellenic Association to study and recommend rush modifications.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Verne Kennedy, director of the Research Institute, considered three basic proposals for an organized rush period:

1. *Pre-School Rush* would retain essentially the same rush period as in the past—one week before enrolment began.

2. *Orientation Week Rush* would call for a combination of orientation, enrolment and rush in the time slot presently reserved for enrolment only.

3. *Delayed or Deferred Rush* would delay rush activities until school work was underway. Rush could be delayed by a few weeks or a full semester.

Greek representatives declared against a deferred system of rush. The Regents wanted definite changes in the pre-school rush. After many meetings, the committee settled on the establishment of an Orientation Week, recommending to the President that such a week combine rushing, enrolment and orientation activities.

In a summary statement to the O.U. Regents, President Cross explained the committee's detailed report:

"It is apparent that the committee's recommendations would reduce many of the artificial aspects of the present Rush Week. The Orientation Week program would place the proper emphasis on the educational purposes of the University. No special week would be set aside for rush, and rushees would not arrive on campus prior

continued



## the new orientation week will be more informal and less extravagant than the old rush

to their normal orientation period. Rush activities would be informal, conducted simultaneously with other campus activities."

On April 10 the second act in our Greek drama opened. With the committee report favoring Orientation Week in hand, the Regents invited three members from both the Panhellenic Association and Intrafraternity Council to a meeting to present their case for continuing pre-school rush. Speaking for Panhellenic were Robbie Tiffany, Shawnee; Sandra Davis, Amarillo, and Mary Helen Rahhal, Duncan. Spokesmen for the IFC were Jerry Tubb, Midwest City; Ken Lanyon, Amarillo, and Daryl Bristow, Midwest City.

Their arguments were clear and persuasive: We will initiate any reasonable modifications, but we wish to continue pre-school rush.

No decision was reached at the April meeting, but a sub-committee of the Regents was directed to meet again with President Cross and the Greek representatives. At that meeting the spokesman for IFC and Panhellenic once again recommended modifications in existing practices and once again requested pre-school rush. Impressed with the earnestness and responsible leadership of the students, the President and the Regents' committee conferred privately

and recommended action for the Board of Regents, took a telephone vote and announced the results:

1. The Regents approved the report of the University Rush Committee, establishing an orientation period which would include fraternity and sorority rush. The University Rush Committee's recommendations would be fully implemented by 1962.

2. The Intrafraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association and the proper University officials will be responsible for developing details of the orientation period to begin in 1962.

3. Recognizing the difficulty of the required transition, the Regents' committee approved an orientation period for 1961 which will begin September 6 and continue through enrolment September 11-15.

4. From September 6 through 10, rush will be conducted by fraternities and sororities. Other orientation activities will begin September 11.

5. Modifications for rush which have been recommended by the Panhellenic Association and the University Rush Committee will be effective for 1961.

Modifications recommended by Panhellenic and the University Rush Committee included these major points:

1. Sorority rush activities will be conducted within the various houses.

2. Fraternities will be permitted to have sports activities in their own yards. All other activities will be held within the various fraternity houses.

3. Off-campus communications to rushees will not be restricted. Communication between members of Greek organizations and rushees will be restricted to time allotted for extra-curricular activities.

4. During the entire orientation period, the University will establish hours in campus housing.

5. House decorations, refreshments, skits and other expensive and time-consuming activities will be limited.

6. The dress of rushees will be informal and in keeping with regular campus attire.

7. Sorority pledges will not wear flowers outside of their respective houses.

8. Alumni and alumnae will be discouraged from participating in orientation period activities.

9. In general, all ostentatious displays will be eliminated from rush.

10. No list of fraternity and sorority pledges will be released to news media.

11. By beginning rush activities on Wednesday and reducing the extravagant preparations previously necessary, active fraternity and sorority members should be able to eliminate "Work Week" and make such preparations as are necessary in the same week that rush is conducted.

Rush activities for both fraternities and sororities will begin Wednesday, September 6. Pledging will take place at different times, however. Men will be issued bids at 6 p.m., Sunday, September 10. Women will be issued bids at 7 a.m. Monday, September 11. Sorority pledges will go directly to the respective houses for breakfast and pledging. Formal pledging ceremonies for women will take place the same night.

There should be a calm ending for a story which created such emotional tension while it was being acted out. And there is.

Panhellenic and IFC have moved quickly to develop rush plans which include all of the directed changes. The leaders of the Greek organizations are proving, through their constructive leadership, that the objectives of fraternities and sororities are compatible with those of the University of Oklahoma.



Sororities will have to entertain their rushees without the assistance of fraternity serenades.