Nationally rise in fraternity scholastic standings

Last year, according to a report released by the National Interfraternity Council, for the first time, the all-fraternity academic average reached the all-men's average on a reported basis. Fraternities are located.

According to the report, 61.5 percent of the colleges reporting indicated that the fraternity scholastic standing was higher than that of all non-fraternity groups. This was contrasted with the report with similar statistics from ten years ago, when only 42.5 percent of the campuses reported higher fraternity standing

M.I.T., one of the schools included in the report, also indicated, in the Dean of Student Affairs Office report of last September, that for the first time that all fraternity average was not below all men's average. The Dean's Office standings announced both fraternity and non-fraternity groups at 57. For the seven previous years, the M.I.T. fraternity average was one tenth of a point below the average for non-fraternity groups.

The NIC report further announced that 1949 fraternity chapters out of a total of 230 were above their campus averages, compared with 133 out of 710 ten years ago.

Last term, the lowest average group was posted at 5.5, only two tenths of a point below all men's averages.

The other side of the world

British influence education in India

By Ron Randall

"We have to begin to see in the United States you have surprise quizzes, and have to take exams sometimes. It's just too complicated. Doesn't that make you nervous?"

The seven Americans in our work group were facing an audience of five hundred students at the University of Rajasthan when this question made us all chuckle to ourselves.

Indian students are faced with only one set of exams a year and the British-style final exam at the end of their period of study. In accord with Partington's Law, they consequently do little studying at all before a final, but hectic cramming period, month or two before the big exam.

During the term, homework is handed in is rarely assigned. Class quizzes as we know them don't exist. In class, the instructor may ask a student what she didn't understand about a lecture and the only answers to their questions. The one professor we met who did entertain classroom discussion (the who was also the Vice-Chancellor of Benares Hindu University) was famous among the students for his unusual ideas.

And even he had a great deal of difficulty getting his students to speak up and answer him, largely because the Indians are taught to revere their older or more learned countrymen.

The reason for this marked contrast with an M.I.T. education, for example, comes both from the inherited British form of instruction and unique features of life in India. British style education is predicated on the availability of books for the students, and the students desire to read them. Only in this context does a single final exam make any kind of sense.

Books are scarce in India, and to add to a college degree won't help at all to alleviate the very real problem of finding a worthwhile job after graduation.

It was not very real problem of finding a worthwhile job after graduation. The reason for this marked contrast was that in the University of Rajasthan the students' desire to read books, and the students desire to read them. Only in this context does a single final exam make any kind of sense.

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