Activities and the path to glory

Quite a few freshmen come here with an idea of making a name for themselves in extracurricular fields—becoming "big men on campus," perhaps, and gaining valuable leadership experience as well. This is basically a praiseworthy ambition. Unfortunately, too many of these freshmen have seen themselves too much emphasis on a "single pathway to power"—the Freshman Council. From this group most of the class officers emerged, as well as the members of the class honoraries. Some critics of Freshman Council have felt it unnatural and unfair that an election early in the freshman year should have such a long-term effect on one's future. There are certainly many freshmen who would have preferred not to be "prepped" by extracurricular activities leaders in their houses.

Our point here is not that one side or the other was right or wrong; in fact, we would like to point out that there are certainly many freshmen who join fraternities because of the extracurricular emphasis exhibited there, as compared to the dormitories. Indeed, fraternities and sororities are visible by the administration for their ideals of achievement.

Are pledges now forced to select one of their fellows and then stand by in a noble sacrifice while he alone achieves the ideals of Phi Wheats? Noble, but unnecessary. There is another pathway, not so easy perhaps, but such an effort can get entrants starting at the bottom and working up—not as glamorous, perhaps, as being a class leader in only four weeks.

We refer, of course, to membership in the recognized OB groups.

Above all we would urge the "unfortunate" to describe their "pathway to power" carefully. Of course there was a time when the only good and acceptable pathway by quite a few people. The prestige of activities was not too high. The "old guard" of a TAFK who rose through the ranks of APO and Kappa Delta Phi and who never held a class office, was a real change. It pointed out an alternate pathway. And now, this may be the only pathway for some freshmen who might easily have been elected to the old Freshman Council. The old council had another disadvantage—it drained off a lot of freshmen talent from activities. Not all this talent was put back to work when only four of the council became class officers. Also, not all of it went to activities, where as in fraternities, public speaking and self-determination with one of the true ideals of Freshman Council, which must be f&

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