

OPINIONS

Greeks: Just a matter of choice



STEVE WYMER
Columnist

Hazing, rape, selfishness and discrimination are just some of the accusations placed on the Greek system at WSU.

Greeks have written letters to the editor arguing these points. These students, usually fraternity members, have been nice for the most part.

They defend their fraternities by saying the actions of some members don't always represent a whole house, or they deny a false accusation made against them. Although that is respectable and certainly better than nothing, it is not enough.

This column serves another purpose. I want all of the people who write columns or letters to know what they should do: Wake up. Just writing about it is not the solution.

I'm sick of women who could not possibly have ever been fraternity pledges writing about the horrors of being a pledge.

I have experience being a pledge. It is not fun, but a pledge has a higher goal. You become a pledge because you want to be affiliated with the house of your choice.

Pledges have responsibilities and requirements they must complete as an outward sign of an inward desire to be a part of their house.

Although this does not always and never should include physical harm, that is the choice a person makes. Why waste time writing about it in the paper?

People choose to act conservatively, liberally, well behaved or rowdy. Believe it or not, thousands of people even choose to become Huskies each year.

At WSU, people choose to be Greek. Generally, Greeks don't write letters about those who live in the residence halls and call them stupid for wasting four good years of their life in a residence hall.

Every person is different. Respect others' choices as you would want yours to be respected.

Fraternity members make a definite decision to dedicate time, money and their very being to a house. This is a choice everyone makes when deciding where to live.

ASWSU spent weeks debating a decision to give a Greek leadership retreat several hundred dollars, while handing out several thousand dollars that week for a speaker sponsored by the GLBA.

The way the two groups were funded spells favoritism in every

sense of the word.

Even if there were only 25 fraternities with 50 members each, there would still be more than 1,200 students in the Greek system. Of course, the actual numbers are much higher and represent a significant percentage of the WSU student body.

Greeks have the choice to live this way, and it never ceases to boggle my mind why others are so determined to tear the entire concept apart.

I disapprove of hazing and would not want it practiced at my house. Hazing and any other kind of physical abuse is wrong. I hate to inform people of this, but what you think doesn't matter. This is our system, and that means although we reap the benefits, we also suffer the consequences when we have problems.

We don't tell people how to run the Cougar Marching Band, the GLBA or a residence hall. We are well aware of the problems existing in our system and we work on fixing them each day.

You waste your time taking up space in a paper that could be better used allowing people to voice their opinions after they have actually experienced what they are talking about.

Again, I'm against hazing fraternities and sororities, but it is inappropriate to constantly rip a Greek system you have no part of.

Nobody knows what goes on within the walls of a fraternity unless they have been there.

Nobody knows what it is like to be a pledge unless they have been one.

And certainly, you have no clue about the horrors of being beaten in a fraternity until you have been.

I don't ever recall a pledge writing a letter complaining about his ordeal. It is always the sister of a friend's brother's acquaintance who hears of the terrible events.

Don't tell me a pledge is too scared or intimidated to voice his opinion.

The people coming out of Greek houses aren't your soft-spoken wimps. They are all but three of your presidents, 75 percent of all Fortune 500 company CEOs and your own WSU student body president.

We are talking about successful leaders and skilled professionals.

The rape, alcohol, noise and conflicts that occur in a fraternity also happen in apartments and dormitories all over the world. This is not a Greek problem. It is a societal problem.

Stop telling people their choice of living quarters and affiliations is wrong. Most of all, stop blaming the problems that occur all over our campus solely on Greeks.

Steve Wymer will return your call if you leave a message at 335-1140.



Where has all the respect gone?



DANIELLE STROLIS
Columnist

I am overwhelmed and frustrated by many human beings' decisions to renounce morals and humanity. I constantly learn of and experience the acts of persons choosing to be deceitful.

Are there such things as morals and basic human respect in a society where we are bombarded by acts of

others that are the complete opposite?

Being an idiot is one thing, but disregarding the effects of one's judgments on others is causing the disintegration of open minds in a society where this may be the only thing left that can heal distrust.

If you were driving down a slick road lined with apartments at 3 a.m., during a storm of goliath proportions and accidentally slid into a car parked alongside that road, causing only minimal damage, would you leave a note or be on your way?

Forgive me for sounding like a saint, but I don't think even a note would be enough. It may take a little time and discomfort, but finding and informing the owner should be top priority, unless extenuating circumstances (such as a hurt passenger) prompted one to leave the scene quickly. If notification was not possible at the time, some sort of

follow-through ought to be equally important.

Does anyone believe in "what goes around, comes around" anymore? Vengeance is not justice, but the pursuit of justice can be liberating and I highly recommend it. For the victim of another's selfish act, tolerance should not be suggested or accepted.

For those who choose to burglarize: get a life and a job. I firmly believe the act of stealing is the thief's way of explaining he or she is too lazy to earn it. It is a reflection of one's character.

I smell the stench of thoughtless acts that occur everyday on this campus. A small robbery may seem insignificant to most, but the rights of the victim have been seriously violated.

The criminal's common excuse may be "If they're stupid enough to trust, they deserve it." Good people do not deserve to be ripped off just because they choose to trust humanity.

A crucial but delicate matter of discussion is the all-too-common human assault. It comes in several varieties. Domestic abuse, child abuse, mental abuse, rape, racism and sexism are only a few.

For those who have experienced one or more of these examples of assault, the results of such dehumanizing confrontations usually shape the way they choose to live the remainder of their lives.

A rape victim may choose to go into hiding, distrust

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINIONS POLICY

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