May 2013

War of the Weekend

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2013/iss2/14

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So you’re fixin’ to get crawl-on-your-knees, text-with-one-eye-closed, wake-up-in-a-stranger’s-bed drunk tonight? Better decide between the house party with a keg and the frat party with sorority girls. Where should you go? Let’s weigh your options.

**The Greek Party**

When most people hear the word ‘frat boy’—a word that has grown to be synonymous with ‘douchebag’—images of Polo shirts, boat shoes, pastel-colored chino shorts, Natty Light beer cans being crushed over foreheads and abuse of freshmen pledges come to mind. It’s a stereotype that has remained alive and unchanged for many years. Don’t let these guys consume your opinion, there are also plenty of frat boys that are perfectly normal, sociable guys that won’t fill you with an urge to punch them in the throat.

All stereotypes aside, fraternities are one of the most popular places to party, particularly for younger students. Frat boys know how to drink and have a good time—and they’d love to party with you too, given that you don’t purposefully destroy their house or disrespect their fellow members.

You’ll usually end up doing one of two things at a frat party: dancing in the neon-lit basement or dwelling in the crowded hallway, bouncing from room to room. Frat basements are dark, damp, sticky-floored and beer-scented caves where many acts of hedonism take place. If you end up here, you most likely won’t remember it, which is probably a good thing—you don’t want to remember beer-bonging a Four Loko and dancing like a jackass.

Frat parties are usually uncharted territory for non-Greek partygoers (the Greeks call these people GDI’s: God Damn Independents). As you try to gain entrance to a frat party, the guy attending the door will ask you, “Who do you know here?” If you don’t know anyone, didn’t come with a girl or someone who does know someone, be prepared for rejection. They like to keep their house to themselves, their friends and girls. Can you really blame them?

The biggest thing to know about frat parties is that most people you meet there are Greek. Frats have been, and likely always will be, the stomping grounds for frat bros and sorority girls. This is why many non-Greek students take their partying somewhere else, somewhere they feel more at home.

**The House Party**

Remember that crazy party you always wanted to have in high school? Before they left for the weekend, your parents would leave leftover food in the fridge for you and tell you to not stay up too late watching TV. Ha! Little did they know, you planned to throw the single greatest party your high school has ever seen. It would be a party that people would talk about 30 years from now at your high school reunion. You would become a legend.

In college, that sort of house party isn’t just a dream; it’s an every-weekend reality. But it’s not as glamorous as you imagined it to be.

If a house party is too big, which it often is, you won’t be running around drinking and frolicking, flirting and dancing. You’ll be squished up against a wall, cursing under your breath as you slowly move like a sheep in a herd to the next room, wondering why the hell you went there in the first place.

What makes or breaks a house party is the amount of people that go to it. If there are too many people, you won’t be able to move. Big house parties consist of standing around and looking like an idiot. People will sometimes occupy different spaces and form into cliques—just like your high school cafeteria.

House parties can be giant melting pots of wildly different personalities, “God Damn Independents” in the truest sense of the words. But that is part of the beauty of house parties, and it’s something frat parties can’t always offer. If you’re at the right party, you’ll see a lot of your own friends, but you’ll also get a chance to meet a lot of other cool people, so don’t sit in the corner and stare mindlessly at your smartphone. Step outside of your comfort zone and talk to new people—you are guaranteed to have a good time.

When a keg is introduced, a house party can go from a casual drinking circle to a rowdy, lawless free-for-all within minutes. Keggers will attract people from all over the place, because everyone knows a $5 beer cup leads to a drunken good time. Keggers are especially great if they are outside. There’s just something about blue skies, sunshine and kegs that brings out the crazy in people.

In the end, it really doesn’t matter if you’re partying with the frat bros or kickin’ it with the GDI’s. Sure, they’re a lot different from each other, and they both have their own culture, but they share a common ground—they both enjoy letting loose after a long week of class and having a few drinks with friends. So what are you still doing here? Put on your party pants and get crunk at the party of your choice.