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Happy Living Through Cooperative Living

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Through a system of numerous governing groups explained here, ISC women practice the motto . . .

"Happy Living"

by Mary Grout
Home Economics Junior

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Sue Freshman, Class of '56, may be somewhat perplexed when she starts her first experience in dormitory life, and hears about the maze of officers and councils that do the governing which is necessary for all group living.

Sue will soon find that a large network of officers and councils are responsible for directing college life within the organized residence women's groups at Iowa State. Each of these councils takes actions which affect Sue and her roommate very directly—in making the rules she will follow and establishing the traditions she will come to know. Most of all, Sue should realize that each of these councils has as its primary objective and reason for being making her campus life more interesting and valuable as well as helping Sue herself to become a more mature college woman.

Advisor

First to greet Sue and welcome her to Iowa State is her advisor. Sue's advisor, her new college friend, will be an independent sophomores, junior, or senior woman. She was chosen because she is really interested in helping girls over the rough spots in the road of college living particularly Sue's first year.

The advisor is the smallest and one of the most important units in the dormitory system, for she is closest to the most vital part of the system—the girls themselves. An advisor must be a very adaptable "Walking Encyclopedia of Common and Necessary Knowledge for Iowa State Women," able to answer most of Sue's questions. She must also be endowed with that delicate combination of qualities that command respect and still invite close friendliness. She must also have a certain amount of time for her advisory duties. Most requisite, however, is a big heart—that real interest in her girls. Freshman halls have one advisor for every six or eight girls, with one for every 14 to 16 in upperclass dorms.

Officers

Each dormitory governs itself by electing its own officers. The women are elected in spring quarter and serve that quarter and the following fall and winter quarters. Each house council plans its own special social events and acts on minor disciplinary problems.

Dorm council

For Sue to look up to at the top of the system is Dormitory Council, the main governing body of the seven undergraduate dorms. This year it is headed by Joan Strong, H. Ec. Sr., of Birch. Each hall president serves on the council, which discusses all-dorm problems and works to promote an "esprit de corps" in the dormitory system.

Subsidiary councils

Four subsidiary councils serve under Dormitory Council, the chairman of each also serving on the dorm council. Oldest of the four is Advisory council, organized in 1911 when the advisor system was begun. The vice-presidents of each dorm make up this council, headed by all-dorm advisory chief Dolores Bauman, H. Ec. Sr.

Activities and Scholarship council includes the activities chairman from each of the women's dorms.
Under Shirley Bruckner, H. Ec. Jr., the council tries to coordinate and boost extra-curricular campus activities among dormitory women. Each fall the council sponsors the Activities Carnival to give Sue a preview of activities which she may work in during her years on the campus.

Social council, headed by Pauline Lane, H. Ec. Jr., takes in all the dormitory social chairmen. They have regular "bull sessions" to talk over dormitory social problems. The group cooperates with the social council of the independent Men's Residence Association to plan for even bigger and better exchanges.

New group

Newly-organized Publicity council has as members all the dormitory publicity chairmen. Under the direction of Mary Grout, H. Ec. Jr., the group will work to see that "dormitory women, their achievements, and the dormitory system as a whole become better known on campus—especially among the dorm women themselves."

Sororities

If Sue chooses to make a sorority her home during her remaining college years, she will find another system working for her. Each sorority has its own set of officers, elected during winter quarter each year. Although the officers' duties vary from one house to the next, all have about the same functions.

Panhellenic Council, governing body for the eleven sororities, is composed of 26 women. Each sorority has two representatives—the president and one other woman chosen by her group. Each house takes its turn in providing the president and secretary-treasurer of the council. Mrs. Vida Benson, head of the Social Office, is Panhellenic adviser along with three sorority alumnae who also rotate from sorority to sorority.

Panhellenic

Panhellenic Council's primary purpose is to see that their houses work together. Working with Inter-Fraternity Council, central governing body of the social fraternities, they sponsor a number of projects each year. Last year the two groups inaugurated Greek Week, held during spring quarter. Panhel and IFC take turns sponsoring the annual Greek Dance.

Working with Panhellenic Council are two smaller groups, Rush Council and Pledge Trainers' Council. Rush council is in charge of rushing regulations, which have a profound effect on Sue if she is interested in pledging. Rush handbooks are sent out to all new students each year by Rush council. Pledge Trainers' council is somewhat comparable to Advisory council in that they both work primarily with new Iowa State women.

At the top

Above all this maze of officers is the head of the Department of Residence, Dr. J. C. Schilletter, assisted by Miss Rachel Peisen, associate Director of Residence in charge of women. When Sue has reached the wiser end of her freshman year she will have seen first hand how all the groups on campus—both sorority and independent—cooperate with that administration in carrying out the motto, "Happy Living through Cooperative Living." It makes for maintaining a friendly, democratic, and wholesome family life within each residence group of Iowa State women.