Brotherhood

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Abstract

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THAT'S the word they used when I officially became a member—brotherhood. And I suppose that's right. When we live together, study together and sleep together, that makes us all brothers under the skin. Yes, that's right, it's much easier to study when the halls are noisy, and I'm sure everyone likes to frequent the Annex usually called Pete's, and we like to sleep in a cold dorm with just two blankets on the bed.

And then, too, we get to understand each other better when we spend two or three hours in the chapter room discussing whether the drapes in the living room should be blue or green. And there is a unifying effect when we all stand outside a sorority house and serenade off-key to sleepy-eyed girls shivering in the cold, winter night. I'm sure the girls don't mind standing on those windy fire-escapes because they know that the forty-odd fellows bellowing below are adding another bond to this brotherhood.

The cook, too, knows that there is a strong bond of brotherhood present. She knows that we think of each other first and of ourselves second. She knows we only want our fair share of the food and nothing more. Sure she does—that's why she locks the kitchen every night.

The most important aspect to me is that the whole system builds character. I'm sure that Chick's character was strongly improved when he was asked to turn in his pledge pin. Chick was a good fellow, but he just didn't fit in, too much of an individual. And that's not good. He'll be given six months now to change and become a conformist. Then he will be acceptable for repledging. Of course, his personal feelings musn't be taken into consideration. No, it's his character alone that's important. Yes, that word is correct now—brotherhood.

—Anonymous