Faculty Votes To Support Recommendation

by Floyd Higgins

At their Tuesday afternoon meeting the Faculty of Trinity College voted by a 2-to-1 margin to support the recommendation of their own Faculty Committee to phase out the College fraternity system over the next three years.

The Committee, which has been reviewing the fraternity system during the course of this year, published, four weeks ago, a 24 page report reviewing the past 20 years of the system, presenting the findings of the survey (which McKee had used as substantiation), and the appropriateness of the questionnaire itself. For these reasons, she felt that the student opinion figures given by McKee should be discounted. Channels said that it was, in fact, the fraternity structure itself which should be carefully examined. “Students are tied to the system that they know. The current stronghold which the system has on the student body is contrary to the College’s commitment to intellectual and social life. ‘We are imposing ties of intellectual and social life on our students. We are imposing ties that the system has on the students.'”

Chairman George Higgins introduced the motion to adopt the recommendation to a turnout of alumni. Another financial reality introduced the motion to adopt the recommendation. Hence, the cost of the implementation of the abolition. "It is an anomaly that there are still single-sex institutions which went co-ed, while the College had decided to drop its in co-ed within two to three years. The problem remains that a large number of its members, administrators, and faculty members, administrators, and alumni have not been as many options towards the social life on campus — the intellectual life did not change, but a variety of options which would have hoped. How come all of us would have hoped. How come all of us would have expected? He emphasized that he is still learning and sorting out his views. English stated that the fraternity question will now go to the Board of Trustees, which will pass the issue on to committees. He believes that the Trustees will talk with the various constituencies involved including students, faculty and alumni. He also stated, "There have not been as many options towards the social life on campus — the intellectual life did not change, but a variety of options which would have hoped. How come all of us would have expected? He emphasized that he is still learning and sorting out his views. English added that the issue is not a "yes-no" question. He stated that the administration will be more accommodating to the motion or moving to table discussion until some twenty minutes into the debate.

President John English sees the issue of the fraternity system as being the structure of the fraternity system. Speaking after the faculty decision was reached, Miller admitted that the fraternities have problems that need to be addressed. Miller believes that the current issue is whether the administration and faculty believe we can change. If the fraternities are given a one year period where either we can clean up our act or be gone, this would represent a more reasonable attitude. A probationary period under the guidelines of the administration and IFC could demonstrate changes. People won't have to speculate, the changes will be evident.

Miller stated the IFC plans on rewriting its constitution to make it a more viable governing body. This has been approved by all fraternity houses. Disciplinary action taken by the IFC may include handing out social probation to fraternities and sororities violating the new constitution provisions.

Miller believes the faculty decision will ultimately help the system if the fraternities are given a reasonable time period in which to enact change. As a result of the Faculty Committee's Report, Miller indicated some of the traditional fraternity practices such as "pick-up right" and hazing have been abolished.

by Peter A. Sichone

"We are an old-fashioned men's institution which went co-ed, while the College had decided to drop its in co-ed within two to three years. The problem remains that a large number of its members, administrators, and alumni have not been as many options towards the social life on campus — the intellectual life did not change, but a variety of options which would have hoped. How come all of us would have expected? He emphasized that he is still learning and sorting out his views. English stated that the fraternity question will now go to the Board of Trustees, which will pass the issue on to committees. He believes that the Trustees will talk with the various constituencies involved including students, faculty members, administrators, and alumni. English also stated, "There have not been as many options towards the social life on campus — the intellectual life did not change, but a variety of options which would have hoped. How come all of us would have expected? He emphasized that he is still learning and sorting out his views. English stated that the issue is not a "yes-no" question. He stated that the administration will be more accommodating to the motion or moving to table discussion until some twenty minutes into the debate.

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Chaplain Questions Validity Of Trinity's Fraternity Situation

by Ian McFarland

"A residential college is not an adolescent ghetto, which is what this place is on weekends," said College Chaplain Alan C. Tull in a recent interview. Tull was an outspoken proponent of the Faculty Committee's final report at Tuesday's faculty meeting and believed that "the issue is of far greater scope than simply the face of the Greek system itself.

"The real issue is that the College is responsible for the social possibilities of residential life," Tull, who is a faculty advisor to IKA, said. Tull maintains that the IFC proposal, apparently overwhelmingly adopted, does not distinctly disfranchise fraternity members and even said that he admired some of the values people find in fraternities. "But I think that these can be realized in other ways without the pettiness of the fraternity system," he added.

Tull feels that the fraternities have demonstrated a persistent resistance to change, and he has rendered the faculty decision invalid. He pointed out that the same day that the faculty report came out, the members of AXI painted their logo over the campus, but found this particularly offensive in that it is a Christian symbol. Also, Tull pointed to the IFC proposal, "It didn't face the real issue; it left entirely vague the College's policy toward affirmative action and nondiscrimination," he said.

Tull was also critical of the fraternity argument that "freedom of choice" is at stake. "Freedom of choice is not the issue," he said, "but whether or not Trinity is going to allow outside organizations to control all aspects of student life." As an example of this danger, Tull related how a national representative of IKA came to him and said that the Trinity house would be closed down because it had too few members, too many of whom were not academics. "The representative then went on to say that the fraternity needed more "decent thinking people." He added that the motion to go to question was made out of consideration of the issue, "but whether we should just eliminate fraternities or not."

As a result, Tull questioned how much of a real fraternity system Trinity has, and whether this fact does not simply exacerbate the present problem. Tull perceives a major problem with the fraternity system as it now stands is that many fraternity members do not actually live in frat houses. Tull found this statement contrary to his experiences with other schools and said that it leads to a realization in which fraternity members live in College residences, but take only a secondary interest in them.

On the other hand, Tull speculates that the phasing out of fraternities could lead to a revitalized residential life. He suggests that a conscious program could be implemented not simply to turn the fraternities into campus residences, but to make them and all College residences more closely integrated with the faculty and more open to the specifically residential activities. Tull maintained that the faculty decision was an important part of a college education and that the phasing out of fraternities would provide a unique opportunity to expand Trinity's offerings in this area.

Resolution Passed By: 2:1 Vote

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do parentis status. "I wonder how we can avoid the exposure created by the obliteration of the fraternities," he said. He then proposed that the faculty investigate the rationale for the collection of ideas and opinions from the entire Trinity community was critical for a full knowledge of the decision.

The motion to table brought on a lengthy disagreement concerning parliamentary procedure. Since McKeen had refrained from introducing an alternative motion at an earlier time, he asked that his motion be considered before the table be taken. Tabled amendments and points of order were made, and Table was reached in favor of Cooper. His motion was tabled, debated and resumed. Consultations again later to motion to table, but was out of order.

Alan Tull rose to make three points against the fraternities. He noted that, of late, certain fraternities had been making their presence very much known and Tull wondered about "the capacity of the College to effect change." He also asked the question, does Trinity have a fraternity system here at Trinity? Comparing fraternity systems from other colleges and universities with Trinity's, Tull pointed out the difference in having members living in social forms rather than at their own houses. His third point addressed the issue of "freedom of choice as a red herring and a false issue." By referring to the group which outside organizations, namely the national fraternity chapters, have implemented affirmative action, Tull made out the real issue to be "Trinity College's relationships with outside organizations and the fraternities on the campus."

Gerald Gunderson made a brief statement, placing some of the blame for the situation on the lack of student self-determination in terms of their housing arrangements. He felt that consideration of the issue should include a new master housing plan for the campus.

Drew Hyland made two points. One that "to lament the loss of freedom for 15 percent of the students was a blatant choice of joining fraternities is small compared to the prevention of freedom left by the rest of the campus which might want to join fraternities." Furthermore, Hyland didn't feel that the presidents had condemned all forms of selectivity on the Trinity campus. He observed that the admissions policy of itself was elitist in that we choose the best students from among the applicants.

After some final words from Higgins about the reasons for including a secondary motion, Dirk Kayk expressed a desire to get a feel for the sentiment of the faculty by calling the question. The motion to go to question was approved and the main motion went to vote. By secret ballot, the faculty voted 69-33 to approve the motion; whereupon, the meeting was adjourned.
Admissions Sees No Changes

by Peter A. Stinson

Surrounding the entire fraternity issue are many peripheral questions concerning everything from alumni support to possible applicant pools. Donald N. Dietrich, Director of Admissions, stated that he could see the phasing out of fraternities as having "no impact at all" on admissions. Dietrich was at Ambler as an administrator when fraternity activities were revised on that campus. He stated that the revision had a "positive impact on admissions." He foresees the same response here. Dietrich believes that a selling point for a college with revised or abolished fraternity system will be that the campus appears less sexist and discriminatory. He reiterated that "all students should have all opportunities — especially in a college this size. The issue here is sex." Dietrich said that the decision to abolish fraternities was made by the college's staff. "We've had several alumni that have said they're withholding their contributions," he said. "We've made several changes. It's straightened out to their satisfaction." He added that to this point in time there has been no significant drop in alumni contributions, although forty percent of all giving alumni are brothers of fraternities.

Kathleen L. Frederick, Director of Media Relations, said that the issue of the fraternities is one which the college has been receiving for the past ten years. Johnson advocated a policy that would affect alumni and current students. "I'm a true liberal in the sense that I believe in the diversity of thought and the challenge of ideas. I don't see the faculty decision as effecting the alumni. They realize the large amount of people involved to effect this end in the future of the college." Frederick said that the college is still trying to come to terms with the entire fraternity issue. He reiterated, "It is the task of Public Relations to lay out the entire question so it is understood by the various constituents involved."
Cooper Calls For Debate On Issues

by Donald P. Gass
Professor George B. Cooper, at Tuesday's faculty meeting attempted motions in favor of reser-
ning judgment on the fraternity/ security issue until a later date. His position represents a "middle way", moderation amid frenzy.

Cooper sought postponement of the issue because he "thought that the issue under discussion was too important to be acted upon after what was limited debate on one afternoon." When asked whether he felt all sections of the college community had suf-
icient opportunity to discuss the question, Cooper replied, "No, I do not. A fraternity system that has been here for more than a cen-
tury deserved more discussion...I am opposed to 'social engineer-
Ing'; the world is strewn with the remains of social theories that were intended to transform social life. Actually, a great and dangerous vacuum will be created if the College projects "a kind of life. The situation probably exists that should prepare themselves for life in a pluralistic, society. In suppor-
ting fraternities, Cooper believes, the College projects "a kind of 'den mother' complex which does a great deal to derail liberty." Nonetheless, Cooper agreed that there should be an all-campus forum on the fraternity question, and stated, "I am disappointed that so many of my colleagues, several of whom would ridicule any infallible source, seem to think that they have the last word on a... complicated problem."

With the continued absence of discussion on the matter, the question remained: was the vote based on passion and/or apathy? Cooper said that he did not know what motivated votes, but felt that the report was "well-reasoned and based on serious principles." "But," Cooper said, "there was...a lot of militant feminism involved in the voting. One of the charges against the fraternities was that they discriminated on the basis of sex. I do not like to see this vague yardstick used to test our institutions."

Cooper spoke of the decline and sudden reemergence of the idea that the College is in loco parentis. Asked to retell what he said to the faculty, Cooper responded: "I think that we are out of joint in this respect (loc parental). But then this is typical of social engineers. On the one hand they want freedom...but when it suits their ideological bias, they decide to step in and dictate what the style of life is to be."

Cooper furthered that "the College should try to compete with fraternities" by providing social outlets now controlled by fraternities. Citing the example of Swarthmore College during the 1930's, Cooper noted that "frater-
nities remain; but they are part of the plural society on campus." Cooper stressed that students should prepare themselves for life in a pluralistic society. In supporting fraternities, Cooper believes, the College projects "a kind of 'den mother' complex which does a great deal to derail liberty."

Nonetheless, Cooper agreed that there should be an all-campus forum on the fraternity question, and stated, "I am disappointed that so many of my colleagues, several of whom would ridicule any infallible source, seem to think that they have the last word on a... complicated problem."

Winer Calls for Balance In Students' Social Life continued from page 1

Mr. Smith. He added, "the students will feel a greater freedom of social choice and op-
portunity to participate in the terms of social existence. That can lead to a change in attitude. Winer was emphatic that Trinity not over-
regulate student social life and asserted, "I don't want the college to gag student activities.

Dean of Faculty Andrew G. DeRocco said, "You've heard the will of the faculty expressed in pretty strong terms...It seems to me that the issues that were raised or not raised were significant enough to merit disagreement by reasonable men and women. I would have been more surprised if the vote had been unanimous.

DeRocco feels that one of the major issues behind the need to examine fraternities is that the faculty wants to "make the most interesting institutions possi-
ble as well as being academically sound." He added that they would like to encourage behavior which is consistent with those objectives.

However, there are co-ed colleges; there should be co-ed fraternities. Discrimination on any count should not be stood for..."

"I believe that there should be fraternities. It's a way of life," said an unnamed South End Resident. "Any differences should be resolved, but not through militancy. I don't think it should be that severe."

Renaud Parent said, "It seems that fraternities have been a tradi-
tion for so long - I see no reason why it should be stopped..."

Traces Harwell has three children who were in fraternities. She stated that their experiences were positive and that Trinity "should definitely not abolish" the fraternal system.

So goes response to our frater-
nity issue from beyond the Long Walk. Thank you now. Good night and have a pleasant tomorrow.

P.S. Has anyone seen my friend Henry? Last I saw him, he was packing his bags for a quick trip to Norwich, England.

Moshell Proclaims Need For Outlets

by Floyd Higgins

Gerald Moshell's participation in the faculty meeting this Tues-
day was fairly unique in that he was the only faculty member to present a view clearly and whole-
theartedly against the support of the faculty committee's primary recommendation.

Moshell's remarks addressed two main points. One is that students need social outlets. He disagrees with the insinuation made in the report and at the meeting that there was no point to the publication of the report. But it is inherently wrong in student's gathering for social purposes."

On the issue of single-sex, single-interest groups, Moshell states that he unequivocally sup-
ports the existence of such groups, whether there be precedent or not, people simply have the right to go about organizing in the way they please.

If then, the fraternities were to be abolished, the existence of other organizations would be highly questionable. He specifically mentioned the policy of the Women's Center which states "a place where women can meet as women;" a statement which effectively contradicts the rationale behind the abolition of the fraternities.

As for the decision itself, Moshell wonders why the faculty could not have that much to say about the issue. In addition, he hopes that the faculty decision does not carry that much weight. In his mind, the meeting was rather sedate. Discussion was minimal and Moshell feels that faculty are becoming more reluct-
ant to talk for the reason that they are afraid of being "troublemakers," or "bothering the administration."

Although Moshell supports the existence of fraternities, he feels that Trinity is too small for a full-blow fraternity system.

As a final note, Moshell illustrated the change in the hypocritical attitude of the faculty. Moshell has attended the St. Anthony's Faculty Club Christmas party every year since his arrival. Faculty attendance at this function has always been good. However, this year's party was very sparsely at-
tended by members of the faculty. Moshell attributes this decline to the publication of the report. But as he phrased it at the meeting, "Have faculty attitudes changed off that much?"