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UA1B2/1 Greek Societies

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Greek Societies

Although Greek societies were not officially allowed on campus until 1961, many were already well established. Their arrival on the hill was due to conflicts between their social programs and those on campus. In 1961, to resolve this problem, Thompson mandated that off campus organizations (mostly Greeks) apply for approval by the college. If they did not then the organization would not be permitted to exist. (Memorandum to President Thompson). The Greek organizations readily agreed and by 1964 there were eleven fraternities and six sororities on campus (*College Heights Herald*).

Although Greek organizations are known for their parties, they also sponsor charitable events. Each year the Greeks have an event known as Greek Week during which they collect and make donations to the Red Cross (Memorandum to faculty and staff). The Greeks have also become an integral part of the community because of their housing situation. Most of the houses are located among private residences. However, this may change as the university has recently proposed a Greek Village. A decision has not been made yet which is due, in part, to funding but it would eventually move all Greek organizations to one area (Mia Hoang, *College Heights Herald*)

References:

Memorandum to President Thompson. 8/3/61

Memorandum to Faculty and Staff 4/4/80

“Western Welcomes Greeks.” *College Heights Herald*. 10/7/64

Hoang, Mai. “Tuition money may fund Greek village.” *College Heights Herald*. 8/6/03