

should not expect another successful year this coming September.

In closing, it should be reiterated that this has not been an easy year for anyone in any respect. The city tax has put a strain on the alumni as well as the active chapter, and the brothers are well aware that their house bills have increased \$25.00 in two years. They now pay more money and get less for it. But the chapter is not unaware that it is responsible for keeping the house open, and it will bear this responsibility as well in the future as it has in the past.

*Ben B. Thelin*  
Treasurer.

#### ARE FRATERNITIES ON THEIR WAY OUT?

It seems that fraternities as a millenium in brotherhood is something of the past. The idea looks well on paper but is another story in actual practice. Now, it is just a matter of how closely each fraternity and its chapters hold to the old traditions.

Over the past four decades the world has been in general chaotic condition. Wars, booms, and busts have been the rule rather than the exception. It is felt that the unstable life created by this dilemma is largely responsible for the present condition of fraternities in general. This condition consists of slackening in the ritual, general apathy, and resentment against the 'authoritive whip'. Apathy cannot just be blamed upon the actives but can also be applied to the Alumni.

This overall picture does not give rise to a strong fraternity system. At various colleges anti-fraternity action has become the cry. More than forty years ago Harvard abolished fraternities in favor of the less secretive organizations, such as the clubs. This seems to have been a premature move; however a few other schools have followed this example. At present the fraternity systems at many different schools are under fire. Modified programs are in practice at Kenyon, Michigan, Amherst, and Brown, to mention only a few. Williams recently has had severe regulations imposed upon them, and even in this school, the 'Mother of Fraternities',

we have been burdened by the levying of new administrative restrictions. College freshmen are required to live in dormitories until their sophomore year, and they must eat five dinner meals a week in the college cafeteria.

It is also felt on campus that the college did not adequately fight the newly imposed city tax. Such examples as the above, misleading magazine articles and apathy of the students and alumni alike tend to point toward a declining road. It was here, at Union, that college fraternities first started. Let us hope that they will not die here.

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Brothers,

I am very proud to be able to write to you as the President of the Active Chapter.

This year again has seen many changes here at Union and at the Chapter. The enrollment at Union has again fallen below the previous year and now stands at 900. The House, however, has enlarged and now has 31 members with only 4 men leaving in June. Despite increased costs and the burdensome city tax, expenses have been kept in line with the general price rise.

The Alumni turnout at the recent initiation was gratifying but not as many as we had hoped for to welcome Brother President Avirett to the Union Chapter. We here have been most grateful for the Alumni help in rebuilding the Alumni-Active relationship to their previous level and hope that they will continue.

Also we sincerely thank the Alumni for their aid in reupholstering the furniture, purchasing new beds, and in general house repairs.

Most of all we want to see many of you here at the coming Reunion Weekend this coming June, by making the Chapter House your headquarters for the festivities.

Fraternally yours,

*Richard A. Genthner*  
President.