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UA37/44 Diary to Kelly

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October 9, 1969

For the last several days I have been watching with great interest the outbreak of the fraternities, something that I have been expecting for a long time. The citizens of the city, especially in the College Street area, have been very vocal when I have met any of them. When I have told them that the fraternity next door to me has been relatively quiet for four years, I have rarely been believed. I am really surprised that it joined in with the revolting groups, for it normally is much better poised than to act like a group of irresponsible children. I learned last year, however, that it has suffered at the hands of the other fraternities because it has ranked highest in academic grades. One or two dissident boys have always been around, rarely in official positions, but injecting their own special spites into the calm of the group. Fortunately, the worst influence of all finally quit going to Western and has now removed himself from the city. He steadily griped and often showed a complete lack of manners toward people in general. Basically he is a fine workman, but as a student he was a failure. If he could ever learn to be reliable, he would do well; but he would do excellent work for me, I would pay him well, he would promise to return the next week or even the next day and never return at all. His parents, I have learned, have been badly disappointed in him; they are middle-income people of excellent standing, I am told, and had hoped that the boy would do well here.

Some of the citizens on College Street, among them some of the best friends of the university, have often told of the uncontrolled activities of certain of the fraternities on that street. It came as no surprise when Charles Keown finally lost patience; he has stood bad conduct longer than any one else I know would have. Outside the city the stock of Western, because of depredations by our students or people masquerading as such, ^{is low.} I have never known our standing to be

so low as it is now among many of real friends of our university whose property is often damaged by hoodlums, ours or somebody's.

It did me good to know that the Board of Regents backed up President Downing and Dean Keown in their efforts to clean up the mess that will have to ^{be} regulated. And I got many a delightful thrill in watching the common sense of the large portion of our student body. I have always believed that basically our students are much like the ones of your generation and even of mine: stolid, not easily led into any sort of outbreak, too concerned with their efforts to get an education to endanger their grades or the university.