

Kickin' it with K-von | Greek for Life

Fraternity life at Nevada was not all booze and babes. It had to do with philanthropy, history, leadership... and well, let's be honest, perhaps some of the previously mentioned. I can say with confidence that, while in college, I rarely went near alcohol and never drugs... as for the babes, well they weren't so lucky. Recently, I found myself sharing fond college memories with a friend who did not take part in the Greek system at his university. When I asked him why he never joined, I heard the all too familiar three basic objections:

Objection No. 1: "I don't need to buy my friends, man."

Coincidentally, the guy that said this to me had just subscribed to eHarmony and Match.com. Talk about buying friends! The Greeks I knew didn't have trouble making friends; rather, they had them their whole life. We most definitely had some diverse personalities in our group. Some members were already very outgoing and used the fraternity as a vehicle to make even more connections. Others were more naturally shy and learned to come out of their shells. It was a melting pot of backgrounds and we all learned a lot from each other. In today's world, social networking websites are taking off. Just think of the Greek system as one of the last real life versions of Facebook.

Objection No. 2: "The fraternity houses are messy and disgusting, dude."

I can't really argue that one. Living in the house is not mandatory. However, the advantages include residing very close to campus and living in a unique environment with your peers and striving for a healthy balance of school and fun. Also, rent at the fraternity house is cheap. Now, sorority houses are typically clean, but I have seen a few that could double as a pigpen. Admittedly, our house could have quite easily been quarantined by the Department of Health had they come a knockin'. On the plus side, I think a lot of us developed a more robust immune and digestive system living in the Petri dish that is a fraternity house.

Objection No. 3: "I would never go through that stupid 'pledging,' bro."

This one doesn't make sense to me. Certainly we find ourselves "pledging" out in the real world constantly throughout our lives. I don't care if you're an attorney, a manager, or a fast-food employee. If you want to advance at anything, most of us start near the bottom and work our way to the top. Might as well get used to it while in school. It always shocked me to hear people say, "How could you pledge for a whole semester?" Sure, I washed cars in the winter, went on multiple grocery runs, even delivered flow-

ers to girlfriends on Valentine's Day (talk about lazy actives!). I didn't always enjoy it, but

for one semester's work, I then had the same assistance myself each year for the remainder of my college days. For some of the lazier members in my fraternity that was seven to eight years of personal assistance! I think putting your ego aside for a little while is a humbling and good exercise for anybody.

I still have quite a few friends from college that I owe to the Greek system. I've traveled with them, crashed on their couches while on the road, and had a lot of laughs the whole way. Maybe my friend was right. Perhaps being Greek really is like buying some lifelong friends after all. Judging by today's economy, I think it was a pretty good investment.

K-von '03 (marketing) is a lifelong Sigma Alpha Epsilon brother and comedian. He's currently touring with Darren Carter and Jamie Kennedy. Look for him coming to a town near you. Check out his schedule at www.K-vonComedy.com



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