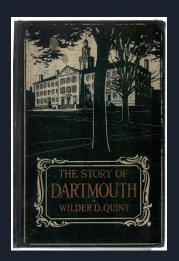
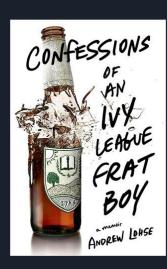


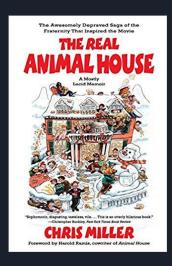
Final Paper

Potential Thesis/Concept: Using the various primary and secondary sources pertaining to aspects of Dartmouth's social life throughout the college's history, to what extent is drinking portrayed as necessary for thriving social spaces at Dartmouth.









Dartmouth College Survey of Social Life 1935

The first source is a four volume report on the status of Dartmouth's student social life in 1935 according to student surveys, graphical analysis of fraternity growth and development, and other summaries of student club and recreational activity.



Post-Prohibition Drinking at Dartmouth

Composed in 1935 two years after the end of the prohibition, the survey takes college drinking as a serious topic in discussion. This first page offers an introduction to the matter discussing early 20's drinking at Dartmouth.

DRINKING

In the years immediately preceding national prohibition, frinking of hard liquor by undergraduates of the College had declined to such a degree that the average undergraduates seldom glimpsed a bottle of whiskey in Hanover. Of course there were groups which were much more familiar with hard liquor than the first statement suggests, but the membership was fairly small and the campus attitude was one of disapproval rather than admiration. In these times drinking at dances or football games would have been considered very extraordinary indeed. Many fraternity chapter carried out the spirit of house rules prohibiting liquor, and the College administration was fairly successful in eliminating its appearance in dormitory rooms.

Most of such drinking as was done occurred during the socalled keg parties. Two or three times a year a congenial group would plan to have a beer party in the Vale of Tempe; or at the old "kegging" grounds across the Connecticut. There were many in a college class, however, who did not participate in such affaire. In general, it can be said positively that some of the present undergraduates! assumptions that Dartsouth has been consistently a hard drinking college has little basis in fact. Perhaps one of the popular songs concerned with Element has much to do with the myth.

In the early 1920's a change occurred. Liquor assumed a new importance in the eyes of undergraduates. As was true of some of their fathers, many undergraduates assumed that it was a mark

Post-Prohibition Drinking at Dartmouth cont.

This particular piece of the six page section on drinking highlights access to alcohol during the 1920's. The passage touches on the fact that many students had a trusted bootlegger to produce them with bottles of liquor when needed.

of distinction to know a bootlegger and to be able to groduen a bootle secured from a well-known character or a mysterious stranger with a little risk, some difficulty, and much expense. Drinking became popular at country clubs, in homes, at high-shool dances. The result was more drinking in the College, with increased emphasis on its importance, with the unfortunate misconception that sophistication and maturity were synonymous with the ability to secure, and the capacity to absorb, gin or whister. Beer and ale disappeared from the undergraduates experience. Drinking was no longer a matter of individual taste and judgment. Under these conditions college or fraternity regulations represented a police power not generally accepted as founded on reason,, and they became ineffective means of coping with the situation.

During the last two years, conditions have changed to a considerable degree. Hard liquor has been readily available to students of twenty-one of age, or more, if they cared to take the trouble to go to state store in Lebanon or white River Junction, and if they had the required amount of money. Ale and beer are dispensed to the same students in local restaurants and the college tap room. College rules prohibiting individuals from possessing liquor in dormitories or fraternity houses have been temporarily, at least, withdrawn. The Administration has placed responsibility for proper conduct of residents or members on dormitory committees and fraternity officers, instead of on policemen. The latter are still responsible for the conduct of men outside the dormitories

Post-Prohibition Drinking at Dartmouth cont.

This page of the section written summarizing the drinking at Dartmouth states that the administration's belief is that they can never eliminate drinking on the campus. Specifically they think that it will be a development of the student body's mentality on the matter to eventually bring drinking to a more secondary issue of the college.

The Administration assumes that student social conduct will finally depend on undergraduate attitudes, standards, and leader-ship, and that these are more likely to improve through student through carrying on a losing game with the aid of regulations and a college policeman. The Administration has attempted to meet the actual situation in a realistic way through suphasizing moderation and proper conduct, rather than to seek the impossible by endeavoring to eliminate drinking through penalties.

Through the questionnaires to non-fraternity men and freshmen, the Committee secured some interesting information in regard to undergraduate attitudes and tendencies in regard to drinking. The questionnaires answered by fraternity men did not contain any questions conderned with drinking. Replies of about six hundred freshmen and two hundred and fifty non-fraternity men serve as a basis for the statements that follow.

According to their own standards but six tenths of one per cent of the freshmen drink a good deal, and two per cent of the non-fraternity upperclassmen. About two-thirds of each of the two groups drink moderately. Thirty-nine per cent of the freshmen and thirty per cent of the non-fraternity men do not drink at all. All non-fraternity men except one confine their drinking to occasions when they have companions. Fifty-nine per cent of the frames and sixty-might per cent of the non-fraternity men have the opinion that, all things considered, social occasions are made more congenial by drinking.

Student Surveys

This report is confidential and not to be used without the consent of the President's Office.

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