**Greek Rush at an All Male College**

**By Rebecca Sydnor**

Every fall, Hampden Sydney College students get the opportunity to participate in Greek Rush. A current brother of the Pi Kappa Alpha Chapter and junior at the college, Harrison Cobb, spoke about the process, stating “its a time to meet the freshman, bond with them and possibly strengthen your fraternity”.

It is tradition that the freshman class isn’t allowed to roam around the fraternity houses, known as “the Circle”, for the first two weeks of school.

The first day of rush, which takes place on the first Thursday of every September, is the freshman’s class first time they get to be at “the Circle”. This September, H-SC freshman had a cookout with the fraternities and given the opportunity to exchange contact information and visit all ten of the Greek houses, including: Chi Phi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Phi Gamma Delta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu and Theta Chi. If the brothers have interest in a particular person, Cobb explained, they will invite them to brotherhood events and activities but don’t give out bids to potential members until the following semester.

Potential members have the opportunity to receive bids from multiple fraternities in January of 2019.

Cobb who also plays basketball at Hampden Sydney explained how between practice and games, he can still manage time for his brothers, “I mean for the most part I manage it well, I’m not really involved with the fraternity during the weekend but I have kept my grades up as well”.

An Alumni of the Pi Kappa Alpha chapter, Jacob Beekman ’17, explained his process from a legacy’s point of view. Beekman’s father and uncle were both brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha when they attended Hampden Sydney themselves. “Even as an Alum, its neat to come back and visit your brothers and see the growth of the chapter plus you already feel a connection with the new guys” Beekman exclaimed while continuing to explain the benefits of a brotherhood.

Both Cobb and Beekman touched on what joining a brotherhood has given them and what it can give potential members. Hampden Sydney Greek life provides academic support, whether it be from your own brother or a brother from another chapter. “No matter what fraternity your in, every brother is welcome at other brother’s houses” Cobb explained. Beekman attained a job from an older brother who had graduated Hampden Sydney in 2016, “without that connection, I would never have the opportunity to be doing what I love”.

Cobb defined what brotherhood means to him and the benefits of joining a one, “we mess around with each other, but they always have your back when it comes down to it. You know you can always count on them when you graduate, now or ten years down the road you’ll always be able to hit them up and they can help you out”

If one brother is better in one subject than another we will study together”.

With the rapid expansion of Greek life at Hampden Sydney College, comes greater expectations, with a rise in the required GPA amongst the fraternities, which is now a 2.5. “I think overall the fraternities will have a really great turn out this year with new brothers. The best part is getting to spend a whole semester with these guys and feeling a sense of brotherhood before they actually become a brother” Cobb stated.