



The social position of residence halls : status stratification among a selected portion of college students within two types of residential systems  
by James Albin Yokie

A THESIS Submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Applied Science  
Montana State University  
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Abstract:

This study is concerned with examining the social position which residence halls occupy within a collegiate community. In particular, the status structure of various residential units is examined.

Fraternities and sororities consistently enjoy higher status than do halls of residence. This is true both in the opinion of residents of fraternities and sororities as well as occupants of residence halls.

Consequently, residence halls are regarded as less desirable places to reside than all other organized living groups. This is in spite of the fact that most of the residence halls are superior in certain physical characteristics such as location, construction, and furnishings. The occupants of residence halls also have lower academic goals than do fraternities and sororities.

While this is merely a descriptive study designed to only explore the social position of the residence hall, it does point to the fact that the residence halls in this study were in an inferior position to perform their educational function as compared with fraternities and sororities.

This study illustrates the need for research in depth to examine the structure and function of residence halls from an educational standpoint.

With the projected increase in enrollments during the next decade, additional research concerning residence halls is essential and it is felt that this study may be helpful in providing a foundation for these future inquiries.

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THE SOCIAL POSITION OF RESIDENCE HALLS:  
STATUS STRATIFICATION AMONG A SELECTED PORTION  
OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WITHIN TWO TYPES OF  
RESIDENTIAL SYSTEMS

by

*A* J. ALBIN YOKIE

PARCHMENT DEED  
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at

Montana State College

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August, 1959

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express his special appreciation for the guidance, suggestions, and critical review provided by Dr. A'Delbert Samson. Appreciation is further extended to the other members of the examining committee: Professor George V. Douglas, Dr. Carl F. Kraenzel, Professor James W. VanWinkle, and Dr. Harry E. Hausser for their interest and criticisms.

Appreciation is also given to those students at Montana State College who willingly agreed to take time out of their busy schedules in order to participate in this study.

Special thanks are given to Mrs. Ann Hewitt and Mrs. Mildred Ramsey for their diligence and perseverance in the typing and proof-reading of the manuscript. However, the writer assumes full responsibility for any and all errors or omissions which may be contained herein.

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#### ABSTRACT

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## CHAPTER I

### THE RESIDENCE HALL

#### HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In terms of historical time, the residence hall is a relative newcomer on the American educational scene. Although some of the older educational institutions in the country have had residential facilities on campus for over 100 years, the bulk of the colleges and universities in the United States have not been concerned with providing residential facilities until after 1900. Specifically, the residence hall movement became important both numerically and educationally during and after the 1930's. It remains an important aspect of higher education today and with the projected increases in enrollments during the next decade, it may be expected to become even more important in the future.

The residence hall had its origin in the English universities. In fact the English system of higher education was, and is today, built upon a residential structure in which both the student and the teacher lived and interacted.

The ancient English University is first and foremost a community. Not only is residency basic as such, inclusive of quarters for its faculty as well as its students, but the whole college is a collection of academic and social institutions essential to the character of this way of getting educated.<sup>1</sup>

English universities, which developed somewhat later than those of continental Europe, developed the idea of a college as a residential unit of teachers and students. The college, as a social unit, was expected to transmit cultural tradition through the forms and activities of daily life as well as

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<sup>1</sup>Ostafin, Peter A., "Has the Residence Hall Come of Age", address before the Association of College and University Housing Officers, Ames, Iowa, 1955, p. 11 of Association's annual minutes.





















































































































































