Campus probe is on Fraternities are served notice

A fried State College President John O. Hunter was right to create a task force to look into the future of fraternities and sororities on campus, and we share his disgust with reported events that have resulted in two fraternities becoming the targets of criminal investigations.

Mr. Hunter in a press release: "I'm fed up with the behavior of the fraternities. The way things are going, there may not be any at Alfred State College. If there are going to be Greek organizations affiliated with the college, they must work responsibly with the administration and demonstrate that they can be a positive influence on campus life."

Arrests of fraternity members following allegations of injuries being inflicted on an individual during a hazing incident at one fraternity, and the alleged assault of a member at another fraternity, where students were also charged with being in possession of stolen property, has rightly worn the patience and tolerance of college and community members.

HAZING AND OTHER questionable fraternity activities, while perhaps not initiated with the intent of bringing harm to anyone, can have disastrous and lasting consequences. Nearby Alfred University is still haunted by the February 1978 death of Chuck Stenzel, a fraternity member who died of an alcohol overdose during a reported hazing incident.

Hazing is an irresponsible, dangerous and illegal activity. And other fraternity shenanigans that can bring injury to others or culminate in criminal activity are unconscionable.

Mr. Hunter has declared that such activity cannot and will not be tolerated on his campus. A task force consisting of representatives of the College Council, the Student Senate, faculty, administration and the community has been formed to study the issue of fraternities and sororities on campus. They are expected to make a recommendation by April 1.

It may be too late for students affiliated with the Greek organizations on campus to clean up their act; college officials would certainly be within their rights to do away with fraternities. That would be a shame for the houses which have clean track records and within whose walls members are afforded all the familial benefits that go along with fraternity or sorority life.

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, the organizations must be made to toe a very firm line in the future, and the consequences of stepping over it must be severe and immediate.

Such organizations are now on notice that their future is no longer in their hands, that they may have used up their last chance.

Mr. Hunter is right to be fed up, and he is right to have confronted this problem head-on.

If fraternities and sororities are allowed to continue, their members should feel most fortunate. If they should find themselves without campus recognition, they have only themselves to blame.