

Will frats come to York when Osgoode does?

by Kandy Biggs

"No York University student may be a member of a university social fraternity or sorority." (Ruling of the Senate, January 12, 1962.)

Osgoode Hall Law School affiliates with York July 1, 1968. But whether the two law fraternities associated with the school, Phi Delta Phi and Delta Chi, will be allowed to continue here at York remains unresolved.

"Social" is the key word in the senate ruling against frats. Is a professional society considered on the same basis as an undergraduate fraternity? As of yet a distinction has not been made by the York Senate.

Excalibur interviewed the two presidents of the Osgoode fraternities to establish the differences between professional and undergraduate fraternities, and to find out what law frats mean to the law student.

Phi Delta Phi is the first professional law fraternity in Canada, with an active membership of 65. Delta Chi has an active membership of 35. Both claim many prominent alumni in their membership.

To enter law school one must have the minimum of two years university education, but usually students have a recognized degree. Members of the fraternities average from 24 to 29 years in age.

Brian Donnelly, president of Phi Delta Phi, said "As far as getting into our frat our only requirements are: a) they must be male, b) have a good moral character, and c) a satisfactory academic standing."

Larry DeKoning, president of Delta Chi, said although "academic standing is encouraged, acceptance is entirely on the grounds of personality."

Both fraternities, however, stressed membership "rushing" was open to all students at Osgoode.

Unlike some undergraduate social fraternities there is no hazing, blackball voting, compulsory meetings or fines in either of these Osgoode societies.

The professional fraternities do not emphasize "closed togetherness". "Most of our functions are open to all students at Osgoode. We are not trying to remain aloof from the student body," said Mr. Donnelly.

"We are providing academic services to students who are interested in joining us while at law school," said Roy Filion, treasurer of Phi Delta Phi.

Activities at both fraternities include lectures by prominent members of the alumni and special guests, conducted tours to various institutions, and typical fraternity parties, both open and

closed.

"Our social schedule is oriented to establish some sort of contact between the law student and members of the legal profession," said Mr. DeKoning.

An up-to-date law library not restricted to members only is maintained at both houses.

Speaking for Delta Chi, Mr. DeKoning said he believes the professional legal fraternity, and particularly Delta Chi, provides a convenient forum for the expression of thoughts and ideas of students from an assortment of backgrounds.

Members of both fraternities are extremely active in politics at Osgoode, and in other activities. But, said Mr. Donnelly, "We're not a political machine. At no time is it suggested we put up a candidate and vote for him." Often two or three members will be running for the same student government position.

The fraternities have accepted new members this year, acting on the premise they will exist next year.

"We are not attempting to be presumptuous," said Mr. Donnelly, "but there was no other way to do it." "If we stopped bringing in new members now and the York fraternity issue was resolved in our favor there would be no point in our going up there since we would have lost the continuity be-

tween the years here and the years up at York." He stressed the need for new members during the transition, in order to exist.

If the fraternities are permitted to establish themselves at York, housing will be a problem.

"Last year an alumni committee was set up to do research into the possibilities of a house in the area," said Mr. DeKoning speaking for Delta Chi, adding, "We feel their efforts have been quite exhaustive."

Speaking for Phi Delta Phi, Mr. Donnelly said, "We're waiting for a decision from York about our status up there. In the meantime we're trying to decide in what form we would like to exist at York."

The three possibilities Phi Delta Phi are considering are existence without a house, a house off campus, or thirdly, a downtown club to be used by alumni.

"It's not resolved yet because we're waiting for a decision, however, we have made some preliminary inquiries in all three of these," said Mr. Donnelly.

D.S. Rickerd, secretary of the York Senate, said the fraternity issue will be brought forth soon for senate consideration.

Will these professional clubs be allowed to exist at York?

The decision remains with the Senate. The result will set a precedent for future graduate fraternities at York.

Students say

Question: Do you think that professional and/or social fraternities, as at Osgoode, should be allowed at York?

Joel Glass (FI)

Yes, they should allow it because the administration is trying to limit and restrict our social activity and freedom. These things go on anyway so why shouldn't they organize them.



John Nagel (VI)

I think we should accept them. They're established fraternities already in existence. They're a part of the institution so I don't see why we should refuse to accept a part. The individual colleges should vote as to whether they want them or not and then decide collectively.

Bill Webster (FIII)

Definitely yes! Students will naturally see a group atmosphere which is already prevalent at York, whether it be bogs, a stamp club, biz or the '69'ers. Justified recognition in the form of fraternities has in no way hindered the progress at U. of T. or other leading universities. Very few members of a fraternity have ever regretted its existence.



Norm Kelly (FII)

Not especially. I don't really know if fraternities serve all that tremendous function. I think you can get that feeling without belonging without them. It's an exclusive rather than inclusive thing. The concern is not that this is your group, rather who's outside your group. They set up artificial barriers.



Jeff Reynolds (GIII)

No one has the right to forbid fraternities but I don't think there should be any. But there might be a greater danger in the outlawing of fraternities than there would be in the fraternities themselves.



K. Morrison (VIII)

I don't think that fraternities will make a difference to the life of the student in terms of the material he has to digest. No matter how face to face our associations become, it won't change the isolation created by the administration.

Rod Anderson (WI)

That's a tough question. It gets students involved in the university activities but they're particular in who they take. I still don't know what I'd say for that.



Pauline Davidson (FII)

Osgoode's moving up here to fit into our organization, therefore, they have to fit into our ruling. Ideally in a mature student population there would be no problem with fraternities, but we don't operate that way. Therefore, I think it would be interesting to see how we operate without them.

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have to pass any exams. (How lucky can you be?). We are all candidates of the Bicultural Development programme for Federal Civil Servants, in its first year at YORK.

Really, rather than introduce ourselves, I should introduce the program itself because most people are not aware of it. The program consists in sending 20 so-called English-speaking bureaucrats with their families to Université LAVAL in Québec City to give them a chance not only to learn the language but to understand the other culture.

The counterpart of the

program involves 10 French speaking civil servants being transplanted for a year to Toronto with their families to study the English culture, when it is not the American way of life.

The program is in its first year in Toronto with four candidates at York and six at U of T. In a way, our group may be considered as one of pioneers who had a pretty poor idea of what courses to follow and how to engage in a dialogue.

The purpose of our stage is precisely to facilitate this dialogue and to foster mutual understanding. Most of us are fairly fluent in English but our wives never had the

opportunity to converse in English. So currently, they are studying hard with a special teacher of their own. They have definitely more merits than we have because, to them, this whole exercise is a real reconnaissance in a strange territory. The same is true, of course, of the wives in Québec. Probably, even more so with them!

Now that I have explained our presence at York, I should conclude this introduction by naming the candidates for this year: Noel Paquette, Marcel Piché, René Poirier and... Gérard Matte, Vanier College.