

Sororites seek to upgrade image

By KIM McCLENAGHAN

WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY not like Animal House. In talking with the presidents and vice-presidents of Alpha Gamma Delta and Omega Pi, it became obvious that many conceptions university students have of sororities are really off-base. Mine were.

Lisa Bugden, vice president of Alpha Gamma Delta, says the general impression most university students have of sororities is negative.

"We aren't just a social group. We have made certain commitments to each other and we have to pull together to achieve the goals we have set. We encourage scholarship, sisterhood and community activities."

The president of Omega Pi, Eleanor Mangusso, feels the same. "When you become sisters, you are sisters for life. There's a special bond". We use the best traits in all our members to accomplish our team and individual goals, including "Leadership, respect and individuality."

Pi contributes to local charities where they can see what their money is doing. Last Saturday, they held a fashion show at the SUB. All the proceeds went to "Wee Care", a nursery school for handicapped children. "The money will be used for therapy and equipment. Omega Pi also contributes to funds for Spina Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy Research."

Lisa Bugden is also the altruism officer for Alpha Gamma Delta. Her job is to organize community activities and see that this part of fraternity life is maintained. Her sorority contributes mostly to the Juvenile Diabetes research Fund but also canvases monthly for the March of Dimes and Red Cross. On Hallowe'en, they also have a party for handicapped children and take them trick-or-treating.

Bugden says, "These sororities uphold a good image off-campus" but "university students seem to have a negative view — movies like *Fraternity* don't help either. In Canada, sororities and

fraternities don't generate a big interest in the students like they do in the States. Here, people are quite removed from the sorority-/fraternity scene"

"The University itself doesn't discourage sororities but it certainly doesn't encourage either," says Bugden. For example, sororities are labelled a 'B' society. "The Student Council in past years has been helpful when approached, but the sororities would like to see a little more active encouragement on the University's part."

Neither sorority owns a house. Omega Pi was founded in 1984, by Elizabeth Beck, Heather Reynolds and Jennifer Flynn, and a house fund was set up. They are growing steadily. Last year they had only three pledges; this year they have eleven. Alpha Gamma Delta doesn't have a house because of the strict zoning laws. In both cases, not owning a house is a disadvantage because there is no outward visible sign of their existence.

When sororities do have parties, fraternities lend their houses for the event. This seems to be a good working relationship between the fraternities and sororities. This is partly due to the Inter Fraternity Council of the fraternities. It is the major governing council — something like the "Greek Council" in *Revenge of the Nerds*. Last year it was fairly inactive. This year it has become more active and has planned a number of events to bring the fraternities and sororities closer together and to upgrade their image.

UHS stresses awareness

BY ALEXIS PILCHOS

"Sexually transmitted diseases are a big problem among both men and women at Dalhousie," says Dr. Rosemary Gill. As director of University Health Services at Dalhousie, she ought to know.



Since 1969, the centre in the bottom of Howe Hall on Coburg Road has been providing health services, contraceptives, and advice to members of the university and local community. Abortion counselling is also available.

Dr. Gill says providing information, rather than just pills, is their most important service. "Awareness of the problem is our biggest concern. Education is very important. If anybody is going to benefit from acquiring good health habits, students are.

"We want to reach as many people as we can and help them to develop good health habits to last them for the rest of their lives," says Dr. Gill.

She says the service will usually recommend the pill to women who come in for contraceptive advice because it is the least risky method and the health risks of an unwanted pregnancy are more than those associated with the pill. Morning-after pills are available but there hasn't been a great demand for them.

The centre also has a full-time psychiatrist on staff who is kept busy with counselling in such areas as adjustment to university, personal problems and drug and alcohol abuse.

Dr. Gill says one of the nice things about the practice is that much of their clientele are very intelligent, but they also have enormous pressures on them. Not until October or November does the centre start to see many people coming in with adjustment problems.

Sports medicine is also offered by a specialist in the field, one of the doctors at the 1984 Olympics.

There are four full-time physicians, three part-time physicians, a nurse, a nursing assistant and a psychologist who serve about 200 patients a day.

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Petition Fights Withdrawal Date

WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS a petition, protesting the current

October 6 withdrawal date from "A" and "R" classes in Arts and Science, Management Studies and Health Professions, will be circulated throughout the University campus.

This year a two week grace period was negotiated by the DSU however, next year October 6 will be the final day to withdraw from classes without academic penalty.

The Student Union feels that this early withdrawal date does not give students the opportunity to be properly evaluated by their professors and therefore cannot make a decision as to whether or not they should stay enrolled in the course.

If you are concerned about this issue, please read and sign the petition. For more information, drop by the Council Office in the SUB.

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CORRECTON

The ice time advertised is last week's "goatender wanted" classified was for 11:30AM to 1:30PM and not 11:30PM to 1:30AM.