

CYSF to use its liquor license for frat AIDS benefit

by Daniel Wolgeleenter

The CYSF has decided to put some bite in its resolution to support "greek organizations" by obtaining a liquor license for a campus fraternity.

The CYSF is planning to use its liquor license to obtain alcohol for a benefit being held in January by the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity for the York Council on the Prevention of AIDS (YCPA), said Sigma Alpha Mu vice-president and philanthropic chair Jay Kowal.

The group was approached by YCPA founder Ron Kelly to hold the event, Kowal said. The benefit

is tentatively scheduled for January 18 in Stong dining hall.

"We've said we'll try to support them and we are," said CYSF president Peter Donato. "They want to put on an event for a good cause and we're going to help them."

In October, the CYSF voted to recognize and support fraternities and sororities, despite the administration's opposition to "greek" organizations.

The CYSF support comes after the university refused to grant Sigma Alpha Mu a liquor license because it is not recognized as a campus organization. Despite not being recognized, Hospitality York waived the \$150 fee for the

use of Founders dining hall because it was for a good cause, Kowal said.

The fraternity then tried to get a license through the Intra-Fraternity and Sorority Council (IFSC) but could not because the IFSC is also not recognized by the university.

Hospitality York director Sylvia Zingrone said the fee was waived because the group was holding a charity event and had the backing of the CYSF, which normally does not pay for space for events. She said that once its application for a liquor license was rejected, the booking was cancelled.

Kowal said Sigma Alpha Mu will organize and publicize the

event and all the CYSF will do is provide the liquor license. He said the event will also involve some kind of fundraising for the North York Harvest Food Bank, possibly in the form of reduced admission with a can of food or other non-perishable food item.

Donato said the party will be for the food bank as well as the YCPA but said the details of how the money would be divided between the two causes has not been finalized.

Kowal said he hopes to see the YCPA get all of the door receipts and any profits realized from the bar. Usually organizations holding events with the CYSF's liquor license get half of the net liquor

profits, with the rest going to CYSF.

Donato said the event was originally scheduled to run next Thursday, but Bethune was already holding a semi-formal dance and the university did not want to have two major events happening in the same college complex.

"[The university] said the reason they won't let us have a license is because we're elitist and sexist and we don't do anything for the York community," Kowal said. "Then when we try and do something for the community, they won't let us."

"We're being screwed left and right," he said.

Fraternities and sororities form council, CYSF gives support to IFSC

by Mike Leger

This year's Intra-Fraternity and Sorority Council (IFSC) has formed at York. The Council reconvened this year with a few changes: the number of members has been expanded from two to three fraternities and from one to two sororities, and it has gained recognition and support from the CYSF.

Though it will not get funding from the CYSF, IFSC president Derick Reingold says the move is

important. He sees CYSF support as, "helping us get recognition as a school group." According to the CYSF's Club Handbook, this entitles the IFSC to a mailbox at the council office, as well the right to set up tables in Central Square put up posters in order to contact students.

"How we stand within the community is our primary concern," says Reingold. "[We are trying] to remove the typical stigma associated with sororities and fraternities." He does not see the stereotype as justified, adding that fraternities and sorori-

ties "never had a cause of incident at York."

He contends, in response to charges by Provost Elizabeth Hopkins, who was unavailable for comment, that fraternities and sororities are not guilty of gender segregation any more than the Women's Centre.

Ron Studt, president of the York chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, agrees. "There's no Men's Centre, that's even worse. At least we have an avenue for both sexes," he says.

Studt says the purpose of the IFSC is "to unite all of the fraterni-

ties and sororities on campus and increase awareness." He adds, "I, as well as other people... believe the college system will be replaced by fraternities and sororities." He sees the college system as obsolete.

Rob Morais, member of fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi and a Vanier College representative to the CYSF, had a less radical opinion. "We see space for both [frats and colleges]," he says. "They provide a social function...you can't get intimate with 10-15,000 thousand people."

Peter Merrick, self titled "foun-

ding father of the IFSC" and vice-president (external) of the CYSF, said that fraternities operate on a tighter rein than any other club at York due to the risk of losing the insurance policies offered through each national fraternity. Discipline through the national fraternities and sororities has an economic dimension lacking in the avenues of regulation open to the CYSF. The IFSC, like the CYSF, governs the fraternities and sororities with guidelines for conduct, the bottom line of which is that failure to comply will result in expulsion from Council.

Ex-AE Pi pledge master alleges hazing

by Daniel Wolgeleenter

An ex-member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity is alleging that severe hazing took place in the fraternity's York chapter during the spring of 1987.

Jeff Leibovici, last year's chapter pledge master in charge of initiating new fraternity members, alleges that he and fellow new recruits were subject to "physically tormenting activities" and "emotionally disturbing tasks" as part of an initiation programme designed by then pledge master Mike Kemper.

Leibovici has since been expelled from the chapter for, among other things, allegedly hitting a pledge during his term as pledge master, according to current president Steve Offen-

heim. Earlier this year, the chapter was under suspension for incidents of hazing that were devised last year by Leibovici, during which time they could not recruit new members.

Leibovici says the "pledge tasks" he devised had to be approved by the whole chapter, which he says, "loved them." He denies hitting a pledge and says he was expelled from the chapter because the membership was intimidated by him.

He says he continued to haze pledges despite having experienced hazing himself because he "was a part of [the] fraternity." He says he was planning to simply "leave quietly and get alumnus status with the fraternity and that's it."

Leibovici claims that one night in 1987 he was kidnapped, blindfolded, handcuffed with his hands behind his back and taken for a ride in a car. He says he was brought to a schoolyard where

there was a track and he was made to run around the track while led by one of the fraternity members.

He also says he had his hands handcuffed in front of him and he was forced to hold a barrel until he recited the Greek alphabet, which he said took at least 10 minutes. He claims he was also made to do push-ups blindfolded, and that he was forced to sit in a sandbox while members of the fraternity put sand down his pants and threw pebbles at him.

Leibovici also claims that at the same event he was placed handcuffed and blindfolded between four cars and made to run in the direction of the car that honked. He also said that he was forced to learn a song with these lyrics: "Back that girl into the corner and turn the lights down low. Put one hand upon her bosom, put the other way down low. When she starts to whine and whimper, tell her the reason why. Tell that's the secret handshake of Alpha Epsilon Pi."

Leibovici further describes an incident the same night where he was led blindfolded to the edge of a curb and told to jump.

"They said to me 'Jump. If you trust your brothers, you'll jump'," he said. He said he subsequently dove face first into the pavement.

According to a statement of position by the Fraternity Executives Association, to which Alpha Epsilon Pi belongs, hazing is defined as "any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule."

Leibovici said that similar hazing rituals were performed on other members of his pledge group, and that most were kid-

napped and blindfolded. Leibovici also tells of an incident he witnessed involving another pledge where the pledge was made to eat ham by-products while being told it was dog food. He said that the pledge threw up during the event but Kemper continued to make him eat it.

Another witness who requested anonymity, said that Kemper gave this pledge a test on fraternity life and rules, and for every answer he got wrong, the pledge was made to eat a mouthful of ham by-product.

"We said to him 'whatever you see, just trust your brother'," the witness said. He said the ritual lasted for 15 minutes.

"It was pretty sick, actually," the witness said, "but you have to know this guy [the pledge] to understand it. We didn't want him in [the fraternity] at all."

The witness also said he was kidnapped and blindfolded as part of the same pledge programme.

"If [a] pledge didn't want to go, they probably would have been kicked out right there," he said. "There would be a vote [by the chapter] but Kemper would be able to persuade them to kick them out."

"Jeff was probably one of the worst pledges in history," the witness said. "That's why he got the treatment."

Kemper, who was last year's chapter president, admitted that some kidnapping and blindfolding of pledges did occur when he was pledge master. He said, given that hazing "is not well defined, I'm sure we overstepped the boundaries a few times."

He said his pledge programme became a model for subsequent pledge programmes.

He added that he did not know

of the incidents involving Leibovici and that he did not engineer them, if they occurred at all. On the ham by-product incident, Kemper would only comment "If I were going to do something like that, I wouldn't do it with another pledge there."

Kemper also said Leibovici is not a credible source because of his problems with the fraternity, and that when Leibovici left the fraternity "he vowed to get revenge."

Current chapter president Steve Offen-

heim said he does not know if the incidents Leibovici mentioned actually took place or not but that he had heard rumours. He said that what may have happened is all in the past and the people allegedly involved have all left the chapter.

"I don't think we should be held responsible when we've had a complete turnover of people," he said. "I believe the current Alpha Epsilon Pi can only be held responsible for what is going on now."

"Right now we're doing a lot of community service work and a lot of positive things and to dwell on negatives would be unfair," he said.

"This year there has been a drastic change and an understanding in the chapter that things done in the past weren't correct," Offen-

heim said. "This year there is absolutely nothing in our pledge programme that can be construed as hazing." "We've taken the strictest definition we could this year," he said, adding that a representative from the fraternity's national headquarters in Indianapolis helped formulate the new programme as a part of ending their suspension.

Quote of the week

"Then it is no joke at all," said Nicholas, "to say that Bruno is probably the reincarnation of the Sicilian dwarf who found the dead Lorenzo."

(source unknown)