

Rusty & Dave



Dear Rusty and Dave,
I'm a second year Economics student here at Dalhousie. I consider myself in tune with what's going on, so I find it strange that I am stymied by certain oddly-painted houses with strange letters on them. Who dwells in these strange constructions, Rusty and Dave, and what is their purpose?

Marge N. L. Utility

Dear Marge,
How dare you throw us a curve like that! Are you demanding that we supply you with an answer? This being a truly capitalistic column (ahem!) we will do exactly that, supply you with an answer. The long and the short of it is that these constructions you speak about are fraternity houses, commonly termed "frat houses".

The reason you have found these "frat houses" shrouded in mystery lies in the fact that many clandestine rituals are enacted in these monasteries of merriment and mirth.

The four month initiation period for each potential "brother" is a secret process closely guarded by the frat brothers (commonly referred to as "Hitler Youth"). Being highly regarded local sleuths, we, Rusty and Dave, have uncovered a number of these rituals. One of the first dark initiation programs is Lemming Indoctrination whereby the young initiate, mentally stripped and literally rendered naked by various forms of drug intake, are lined up at the top of a stairwell and told they are lemmings. Despite the physical damage incurred the brothers claim that the exercise will make the young initiates more disciplined members of today's society.

Another issue you might find interesting, Marge, is the "frat fee" each brother is entitled to pay. We hate to come right out and say frat brothers have to buy their friends and create phony relationships, but as our sources have it each member is required to pay a tithe. One tenth of their personal disposable income is

contributed to the "frat fund". Furthermore, there are several humiliation clauses involved in their agreements. Frat brothers must wear oversized windbreakers and sing silly songs to insure the maintenance of good faith.

As an Economics student, Marge, you realize that these are tough economic times. The frat houses, you may be interested in knowing, have come up with an ingenious plan for bringing in much needed income. They solicit young high school girls with door-to-door advertising blitzes to help bolster the frat house coffers with additional cover charge collections at parties. Of course, these underage females are induced to purchase drinks, with the fraternity brothers backing it up with typical fraternity ideology, claiming it introduces these young ladies to "university life". Marge, need we embellish further?

So, Marge, next time you see a frat house, sneak up to the front door and check the bulletin board for the latest recipient of the "Lemming of the Month" award. We finish by saying this to you Marge: In this big economics graph called life, may your slopes always curve upward.

Quote of the Week:

"He walked frail, insignificant, shabby, miserable and terrible in the simplicity of his idea called madness and despair to the regeneration of the world. Nobody looked at him. He passed on unsuspected and deadly, like a pest in the street full of men."

Joseph Conrad

* Because of the overwhelming response to our "Guess the Art" contest, the winner will not be announced until next week. Sorry for the delay, but thanks for the entries!

Fraternity brother shows young initiate how to use the special "fraternity phone".

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