

EDITORIAL

Dalhousie Student Council:

Liberté, égalité but no fraternities

This Sunday the Dalhousie Student Council will be picking a Judicial Board. The Judicial Board will then rule on the constitutionality of the Inter-Fraternity Council's bid to be recognized as an A Society, and obtain a vote on council.

In the preamble of the Student Union constitution we are told "The Union and any organization under the jurisdiction of the Union shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, political orientation, or ethnic origin." It will be up to the Judicial Board to decide if the I.F.C. adheres to these guidelines.

While the Judicial Board is investigating the I.F.C. to see if they discriminate on the basis of sex, they might also want to look at the individual fraternities currently recognized as B societies, to determine if they discriminate on the same basis.

As a B society must surely be considered as "under the jurisdiction of the Union", all B societies and their constitutions must then satisfy the same criteria that the I.F.C. is now being tested on.

Some of the fraternities presently recognized as B societies include: Phi Delta, Sigma Chi, Phi Kappa Pi, Alpha Gamma Delta, and the Omega Pi Sorority.

If any of these frats are found to practice discrimination, as outlined by the student union constitution, then surely their privileges and status as B societies must be withdrawn.

However, while the problem of societies and their practices being unconstitutional is an issue, right now the larger question is whether the I.F.C. deserves a vote on Council.

The I.F.C. is a body which represents eight fraternities. A fraternity, regardless of what one might think of it, is essentially a social club. There is nothing either intrinsically good or bad about that, but there is no precedent for giving a social club a vote on council—especially if they represent only 150 people.

Presently council is made up of elected representatives from faculties, appointed executive members, an international students' representative and residence representatives.

The members elected from the various faculties represent students, including frat members.

The appointed executive members are elected by council. They also help administer the Union.

The international students' councillor represents a group of students who have special interests. They pay differential fees and bring a viewpoint to Council which might otherwise not be heard.

The representatives from the residences are there because they speak for many more people than the Frats do, plus they also have a special interest in how the administration runs the residences. The student union can best represent resident student's interests to the administration by hearing from them directly.

In short, there are no gratuitous seats on council. Fraternity members are already represented on Council as Dal students; to ask us to recognize their social clubs seems a little much.

Pat Savage



LETTERS

What's their purpose?

To the Editor:

Mr. Dunn states that my negative opinion of Dal. fraternities indicates that "there are some people... that still believe everything they read". I must admit that he is correct in inferring that my reading on this subject has been, up to now, limited—limited, in fact, to a few advertising handbills. You know the ones I mean, they're plastered over every tree on campus and have really catchy slogans like "B-52 PARTY" and "ELECTRIC JELLO PARTY!". I apologize for my naivete in assuming these sources were reliable.

However, sarcasm aside, I would like to thank Mr. Dunn for his informative letter—he has

provided exactly the kind of information which should have been included in the original article. Perhaps he would be willing to further my education by answering a few more questions: Is membership open to all student? Are memberships given free of charge? Where is the emphasis placed in fraternity life—on serving the community, or on making "on-going contacts with brothers" in the political and economic elite?

Isabel Fearon

Kwak ducks the issue

To the editor:

I thought I should respond to last week's column, where "another arts student, grammatically yours" has some interesting observations. Of course we were pleased to read your correspondent's opinion that Dalhousie's

finest academic minds are led by chemists. And yes, the building addition has been planned for many years; more than 20, in fact.

By the way, Dr. Clark is not Dalhousie's first president-chemist. Most building expansion at Dalhousie took place during the presidency of Dr. Henry Hicks, who is still, and rightly, proud of his undergraduate degree in chemistry. During those years we've seen arts centres, libraries, dental schools, life science buildings, Dalplex, and many others arise, but no new chemistry building. We invite your visitors to drop by in the chemistry department afterward. They might partake in the smells and sounds, and for instance watch 48 organic-chemistry students all trying to manipulate intricate glassware without raising their elbows. Or they might try to force themselves through the centre isle of room 6017 in the LSC, filled with 28 1st-year chemists. Even better, they might come

to the analytical/organic lab and see where their great-grandparents were taught, or try to see through the smoke and the crowd.

The new chemistry addition will provide the healthy, safe, and inviting modern laboratory atmosphere that our students deserve. The decision to build it was not only based on good demographics, it was also based on the demonstrated need, considerations of ventilation and health, fire safety, and education requirements. We can't wait until next year!

Chemically yours,
Jan C.T. Kwak
Chair, Chemistry Dept.

Raves for slaves

To the Editor,
Grawood Lounge and Bar Ser-

VICES would like to thank all those who participated in the Slave Auction for Big Brothers/Big Sisters held in the Garden October 9. Response for the charity fundraiser in the Grawood Lounge has been a big success this year.

Thanks to one and all,
Deborah Brown

Good for Glazov

To the Editor:

Thanks to Jamie Glazov for his enlightening feature on the situation in Nicaragua. Seeing that Calero, Robelo and Cruz are all former Sandinistas, and are presently leaders of the Contra Freedom fighters, it is ridiculous to assert that the Contras are "Somacismo". Not only should Mr. Glazov be commended for pointing out the

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THE GAZETTE

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

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The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

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