

# COMMENTARY

## Despite the apathy, fraternal love does exist at Dal

by Randy Kelly, President,  
Inter-Fraternity Council,  
1980-81

Here I sit in the Archives of the Killam Library, leafing through the Pharos. I notice something that disturbs me, no actually it annoys me. Why are there no fraternities in OUR yearbook anymore? What has happened in the past decade? Surely Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Theta, Alpha Gamma Delta, Zeta Psi, Phi Kappa Pi and Tau Epsilon Phi all did not suddenly cease to be? I am sure their active participation at Dalhousie did not end when we heralded in the 1970s. It is ten years later and who knows what has happened to our respective Chapters. Do people have fond memories when they leaf through their yearbook and notice that their fraternity isn't included? Wouldn't you, couldn't you imagine that they would get upset for not being included in the records of their years at Dalhousie? It is a shame that brothers and sisters cannot look back and see some old friend while passing a pleasant moment in retrospect.

This fact is just a point I am trying to make. That point is this: Who knows about fraternities at Dalhousie and more importantly, who cares? Well, I care and I know that the brothers and sisters of the fraternities care. What do fraternities

do anyway? What is the good of them? As we know, we have a large beautiful campus here at Dalhousie and I am sure we are all grateful for it. With the increase in size in the past few years, the number of students at Dalhousie has also increased tremendously. How do fraternities fit in? Basically, fraternities provide a means of attrition and socialization into the University's lifestyle.

When I first came to Dalhousie, I was overwhelmed by the size of the campus and the number of people here. In a large university, campus life is very complex. For those who live in residence, the opportunity arises to meet other young people and expand your circle of acquaintances. For everyone at Dalhousie, fraternities offer you the brotherhood or sisterhood that is shared amongst its members. It is very important to note that anyone can pledge at these fraternities.

Here at Dalhousie there are many fraternities with proud members who would welcome interested people. Fraternities are not all fun and games however. The fraternities located at Dalhousie are:

The Alpha Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity. Founded in 1932 at Dalhousie, they have initiated over 500 sisters with 46 active sisters and 10 pledges. These women follow the ideals of Altruism, Scholarship and

Friendship. Each year they contribute hundreds of dollars in aid of Juvenile Diabetes as well as actively canvassing for the Heart Foundation and United Way.

I think we have all heard of the Nova Scotia Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta. They have initiated over 650 Dalhousie students since they received their charter. Currently they have 47 active brothers involved in Dalhousie activities. Last spring they raised \$1,000.00 for C.F. and campaign for the Heart Foundation and Cancer Society. Now they pride themselves upon the fact that they are the 1979-1980 Intermural Hockey Champions at Dalhousie.

How many of you know that Canada has a National fraternity? We are actively represented at Dalhousie by the Zeta Gamma Chapter of Phi Kappa Pi. There are approximately 20 active Phi Kaps with almost 50 alumni in the Halifax area alone. These brothers support the Crippled Children's Society by sponsoring a Hallowe'en party in conjunction with the Alpha Gams. As well, they actively campaign for the March of Dimes.

The Alpha Mu Chapter of Zeta Psi, the largest fraternity in Canada, has just acquired their own Chapter house. After re-establishing themselves after a ten year absence from Dalhousie, the 300 alumni and 17 active brothers of Zeta Psi

are well on their way. In the past they have donated money to the Children's Aid Society.

The Tau Iota Chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity is also at Dalhousie. Unfortunately they are inactive this year because of rushing problems and the negative feelings towards fraternities at Dalhousie.

Last, but not least of the undergraduate fraternities we have Sigma Chi. They are registered as the Gamma Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity and received their charter in 1933. Sigma Chi is the second largest International fraternity with well over 600 initiated members at Dalhousie alone. The active Chapter of 26 brothers work with the pledges, alumni, and the Gamma Rho's ladies auxiliary (Theta Omega's) to try and improve life for the students at Dalhousie as well as the Halifax community. Sigma Chi recently presented the Multiple Sclerosis Society with an \$1100.00 cheque. This donation is an annual event by which the Sigs raise money through a Trampoline-A-Thon. At leadership workshops, Sigs learn different facets of leadership and involvement for the betterment of the Chapter, the fraternity, and the community.

Undergraduate fraternities at Dalhousie work together and organize themselves through the Inter-Fraternity

Council. This council deals with any inter-fraternity problems and tries to organize and promote fraternities at Dalhousie.

Altruism is an important word in fraternities and the term, "active", with regards to an undergraduate brother or sister, is appropriate. Pledges must realize the pledge they make to themselves and the commitment to the community it represents. Fraternities are diligently spending time and effort to promote their ideals. The pride that a brother or sister has can be experienced by any person involved in fraternities. The social benefits are numerous as lifelong friendships and ties are formed.

I hesitate to call this propaganda, as one member of the Gazette described my idea, but rather a slight insight into the world of sharing and commitment that should not fade into the past because of ignorance or apathy. Living is learning and one preliminary way of assessing personal values is simply to ask people what they admire in others. Ask away, I suggest. I also invite you into the world of fraternities to experience the brotherhood and sisterhood that is there for the sharing. I hope some of the misconception of fraternities has been cleared up and that you understand a little more about fraternities and their purpose.

## LETTERS

To the Gazette,

I would like to make a comment on an article run two issues ago in The Gazette. The one I am referring to is "Confessions of a Punk". I find it humorous that your punk revealed that she only knew of three kinds of students.

The three types she referred to are:

- 1) The eternal drunk
- 2) The husband/wife hunter
- 3) the punk.

I would like to suggest to you that I know of at least three more kinds of students, and most probably if I gave it more thought, I could come up with several more types. As you know, categorization can become burdensome. In fact every student could end up in a category of their own. However, I feel your "punk" was a little too broad.

Food for thought. May I suggest four more categories? Perhaps other writers could think of even more. An even dozen would cover the majority of students.

Before I get verbose, here are categories four through seven:

- 4) **The Academic:** This is a rare breed, but yes folks the true academic does exist.
- 5) **The Phony Academic:**

They're the ones who brown-nose their way through the dean's list.

6) **The Jock:** This is one category that must be recognized.

7) **The Hack:** That's me. The student who just can't stop being a student. Either student government or student newspaper work seems to be this category's forte and eventually they end up staying in university so they can stay involved.

Does that sound familiar to any of you Gazette staffers?

Sue Drapeau  
Picaro staffer

(For Dal students who have never heard of us, we're at the Mount.)

## Students not

## 'important'

Dear President MacKay,

I would like to bring it your attention that certain people in administrative positions at Dalhousie University believe

that students are not important enough to have their rights respected.

On Saturday, February 7, 1981 my car, bearing a valid Dalhousie parking permit, was properly parked in front of Shirreff Hall. It was towed away and placed in the Dalplex parking lot without my knowledge or my consent.

I went to Max Keeping, chief of security, for an explanation. His explanation was simple: there was an **important** banquet going on in Shirreff Hall and a lot of **important** people were invited and it was **important** that these **important** people could park near the door.

In other words, I understand that I am unimportant and that I should not expect Dalhousie to respect my right to park, even though I paid for the service. Mr. Keeping also stated that he was only following Dean Irvine's orders. Dean Irvine later denied this allegation.

Dr. MacKay, as our new president (not to mention chairman of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission), I hope that you don't condone such an unjust and discriminatory act.

Yours sincerely,  
Blanche Vienneau

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Del Atwood's "Commentary" dismissal of AIRS. As a proponent of prochoice on abortion, a volunteer for AIRS and a student at Dalhousie it is necessary to counter Atwood's accusations that the phone line service throws the questions of public welfare and individual's rights to the four winds.

Before AIRS was set up, the only organization offering advice to pregnant women was Birthright, which we all know refuses to accept abortions as an alternative to pregnancy, even if the mother's health is in jeopardy.

There are many women in Halifax each year riddled with tremendous anguish because of pregnancy. Should they be forced into raising an unwanted child, a child that may lack adequate care because of inadequate facilities in our society to care for children? Should they be so forced in a society that dumps the responsibility of childrearing on the individual parent, causing single parents especially to perform juggling acts of inhuman proportions. Economics play a large role in the decision a woman makes in terminating a pregnancy.

There are methods which would change the number of un-

wanted pregnancies. One is to insist on sex education in high schools and the other is to fight for proper childcare/daycare. Unfortunately, opponents of abortion have little use in struggling with these issues. Their acts, generating from self-righteousness, do nothing to change the social reality.

It is a woman's right to choose and it is also a citizen's responsibility to understand the real issue of abortion. Women choose abortion as the last resort because of birth control failure and the burden of child-rearing. If we could change both of these then perhaps the number of women seeking abortions will fall substantially. Until then AIRS will be performing a much needed and valuable service enabling women to choose without the anxiety of guilt and without the frustration of who to turn to in this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Heather Herington

Dear Editor:

Re: January 22—"Confessions of a Punk"

Hatred is such a waste of time and energy. As John Lennon once wrote, "We all shine on."

Greig Dymond