More frats for brats and pals at Dal

by Anne Umlah

The movie "Animal House" has depicted university social life as one big bash. Do the fraternities at Dalhousie compare to the hilarity on the screen?

There are four male fraternities and one female sorority on campus, with total active membership of 200 students out of an undergraduate population of nearly 8,000. Although only 2.5% of students are actually living in frat houses, interest in that way of life is on the upswing, say the brothers at Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Theta, Tan Epsilon Phi and Phi Kappa Phi. Art Lloyd, Consul (President) of Sigma Chi, attributes the membership decline of the 60's to an anti-ritualistic attitude which has since relented. Fraternities are very conservative and members must follow their many traditional rules and rituals. According to several brothers, the stated purposes of these societies are to act as character builders, encourage academic excellence and altruistic behavior.

However, many of the individual members agree that the greatest incentive for joining is usually the promise of social benefits. In a large university such as Dalhousie, the opportunity to become a close friend to 20 or 30 people can mean a special feeling of belonging, according to Lloyd. "Belonging to a smaller group can help to humanize institutions," he said.

Fraternities first appeared at Dal in the 1930's. They were based on the U.S. chapters, which have always been numerous and popular. Altruistic pursuits were the original mainstay of Dal's frats, although these things mainly involve the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority these days. Multiple Sclerosis is the usual pet project of this sorority. but its activities are suspended for a while because of a fire which destroyed their house. The sorority has neither the money nor the materials to obtain another home yet; accordingly it won't be doing any new recruiting until next September. All the male frats, however, have houses on campus.

All four of the men's fraternities will be having another rush (membership drive) this year which will be publicized. If terrible thoughts of streaking through the SUB for initiation come into your head, then put your mind at rest because one member assured me that no one is asked to do anything that would "humiliate them, jeopardize their good character or endanger their safety." Of course, that can be interpreted in many ways.





Equal fees

EDMONTON (CUP)—The University of Alberta Board of Governors has called for the abolition of differential fees for visa students in Alberta.

In a submission to the Grantham Task Force on student contributions to university education, the board called for an end to differential fees.

"Traditionally, the University of Alberta has welcomed students from around the world and across Canada as a source of enrichment in the education of Albertans," the submission said.

In other recommendations, it called on the government to increase accessibility to university for students from low-income families and to develop formal means of consultation on tuition fee schedules "as they relate to government funding".

The submission suggested that a much smaller percentage of university students come from families with low incomes than from families with high incomes or professional occupations.

"Although Alberta fees are only a small portion of students' total costs," it said, "they still may represent a significant economic and psychological barrier."

"We believe that, insofar as possible, both government and university policies should strive to minimize the effects of students' socio-economic backgrounds on their access to university and their choice of program The board recommended two modifications to Alberta's remission program for student loans to accomplish this goal. It suggested the remission rate be increased and the remission be on an annual basis rather than at the end of a program, in order to reduce the pressure of visibly mounting debts. The submission also called on "the minister and governing boards of post-secondary institutions (to) develop formal means of annual consultation on the whole subject of fee schedules as they relate to government funding, to student costs, and to institutional revenues."

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