

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

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## FRATERNITIES

The first fraternity was established in the United States in the early 1840's. In the 100-odd years since the fraternity idea has grown into a powerful, wealthy, and highly controversial system.

Nearly everyone has an attitude towards fraternities. A majority of students who have not, do not, and will not belong to them and are more or less against the system. Some of these are highly vocal. Many don't care too much one way or another. There are even those who feel the fraternities are relatively harmless. Members, of course, are in most cases enthusiastic supporters of the Greek letter societies.

Here at Toronto, fraternities play a lesser role in undergraduate life than they do in most American, and some Canadian universities. There are forty-one fraternities here, eleven of them for women, thirty-one for men. Their membership probably doesn't exceed 1500 persons; about 12 per cent of the student body. They are not officially recognized by the University, but are tolerated.

Those who are considering joining a fraternity might do well to take a little time before they take the plunge to look behind the highly artificial picture presented during the rushing season. For the fraternities, in spite of all their high-sounding principles and strong protestations of being nothing more than a system devoted to providing "social contacts for a group of congenial students in different faculties and different years" have built up some traditions peculiarly their own in these hundred years of growth.

They are not traditions that sit well in a mature mind operating in a democratic society. The fraternity system is built on one main idea: exclusiveness. Out of this has grown a multitude of unhappy consequences.

High on the list is discrimination. And we are not concerned here only with racial or religious discrimination, which is not universal in fraternities although it remains prevalent. It is more subtle than that. Primarily economic, the fraternity discrimination perpetuates the idea of exclusiveness within the relatively narrow confines of a definite social strata. You have to be able to afford it.

Also growing out of the idea of exclusiveness is the idea of pre-eminence. It is this feeling, carefully nurtured by the fraternity system, which inevitably puts the major part of a University like Toronto on the defensive. After all, some say they go after the cream of the crop, so naturally they get good people. Cream can go very sour.

Beyond this lies the wider, still less obvious field of the standardized mind. The fraternity, whether it would admit it or not, seeks and often demands a set of ideas and values which ordinarily leave small scope for the individual. Such an influence is of the creeping, crawly kind: people banded together in tight little groups such as a fraternity tend to try to be one of the boys.

And what about this business of "social contacts"? Certainly companionship and friendship are important parts of university life. But those who claim that fraternity friendships, growing as they do out of a narrow and limited group, with roughly the same background and same ideas, are either more firm or more valuable, are not telling the whole truth. Physically, it is easier to make friends in a fraternity. But the limitation is a little too large to make the fraternity a profitable field for strong, lasting and vital friendships.

Is it proper that a university should harbour within itself, by the subtle artifice of turning its head, the kind of group whose whole basis is a motivating force directed not at the community but at the small "privileged" group who "belong"? We do not think so.

The high ideals that are written in some fraternity charters are not borne out by the fraternity record, nor by their present activities. They have no place in a democratic university, because they are essentially a negation of the very principles of freedom, of tolerance, and devotion to service to which the university is committed.

Undergraduates who avoid such a system as that established by the fraternities may have to work harder to make their "social contacts." Those who have done it both ways find they like hard work.  
—Reprinted from Toronto Varsity.

## Law Students Play Prominent Part in College Activities

1951-1952 promises to be another big year for Law athletic teams. Law's record of consistently good Interfac teams finally was rewarded last year with the Interfac Rugby Trophy and the all-round Interfac Sports Trophy being copped by the lawyers from Forrest.

Back from last season's championship rugby squad are veterans Ron MacDonald, Jim Palmer, Al Graham, Eric Kinsman, and "Spike" MacLeod.

Manager Bob McInnes has high hopes for the hockey team which last year won their section of the league only to be beaten out in the playoffs by a power-packed Med-Dent aggregation. Veteran goalie Gil Jordan and hard-hitting defencemen Don MacDonald, Eric Kinsman, and Jim Palmer are back at Forrest, along with high scoring Ted LeBlanc, Paddy Fitzgerald, "Spike" MacLeod, Scott Henderson and Jeff Flinn to make it rough for their opponents when the league kets under way in the Dal Rink. Rumour has it that the lawyers may set a precedent in the Interfac loop this year if Joyce Carney, outstanding member of the Dal girls hockey team for the past few years and now a student in first year, can be persuaded to don the blades.

With several prospects from first year to strengthen the basketball squad, manager Larry Machum is confident of improvement over last season's team which finished fourth. Hoopsters Larry Machum, "Buzz" Kerr, Jim Palmer, Jim Fay, Ian Palmeter, Bert Wyman, Don Kerr, and Al Green are continuing their studies and with Gordie McConnel, ex Mount A., Ralph Medjuck, ex Dal Juniors, and others from first year, the basketball picture looks brighter than it has for the past few years.

Nor does the Law School go unrepresented on Dalhousie's athletic board or her varsity teams. Struan Robertson, second year student, is the capable President of the D.A.A.C. which sponsors and runs all interfac and varsity sports at the college. Don Kerr, last year's D.A.A.C. president, is Law's own representative on the D.A.A.C. Managing Committee and is this year coaching the varsity English rigger team.

Outstanding player on the varsity rigger squad is Gordie McConnel. A powerhouse on the line for the Canadian football Tigers is co-captain Don Good, aided and abetted by "Hardrock" Spence Stewart, while halfbacks Don Harrison, and Scott Henderson carry the mail for the Tigers under the quarterbacking of Andy MacKay.

With the prospects, ability, and enthusiasm evident now, this year will be outstanding for Law in the realm of sports.

## Many Prepared for Public Life at Dal Mock Parliament

The natural affinity most Dalhousie lawyers seem to have for practical party politics can perhaps be explained by an institution within the Law School known as the Mock Parliament.

The Mock Parliament is a completely autonomous institution at Law School and is run by political organizations of the national parties that exist within most organizations of the national parties that exist within most Canadian Universities and which meet regularly throughout the year with the object of furthering the welfare of the particular party to which they owe allegiance.

The Government is always formed by the political organization corresponding to the party in power at Ottawa. By this simple device the proper burdens of attack and defence are kept along proper party lines and the knowledge and experience gained within the particular party organization is fully used. An idea of the seriousness and reality of these political organizations can be gained from the fact that two prominent opposing members of these organizations received nominations and fought a by-election with the natural result that one of them became a member of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia be graduation from Law School.

The Mock Parliament is usually of three evenings duration and is followed with much interest by former participants who now hold lofty positions in public life and

## Tradition At Law School

The Dalhousie Law School is the repository of a number of traditional institutions, many as old as the school itself.

In addition to the Mock Parliament, founded in 1888, there is the Moot Court, started the year the Law School was opened, 1883. The Moot Courts have been held continuously in the same room, the Moot Court Room, ever since, and the methods of procedure have changed little during that time.

A recent attempt to alter the moot court system met with stubborn resistance of the third year class, who rallied to the cry "What was good enough for R. B. Bennett is good enough for us".

Other traditions cherished at Law School are that the three members who lead the second year class in examinations are elected to the Moot Court Committee; that no Moot Court give a unanimous decision (this is sometimes broken); and that members display their knowledge of the rules of public meetings by deliberately breaking as many as possible at Law Society meetings.

these men without exception hasten to testify that the most valuable experience of their public life was gained on the floors of the House at Dalhousie's Mock Parliament. Many of these men render valuable assistance at Parliament time by filling official offices such as Speaker of the House and Governor-General.

P. Woolaver (Lib.)  
R. Webster (P.C.)

## Report to the Bar Society

I paid a visit to the Law School just the other day,  
And after staying for too long, I left in sad dismay.

Why men, they're going crazy, it's more like Cupid's Paradise,  
The day is gone forever when marriage was a vice.  
And loitering in the hallway, casting hopeful eyes,  
Stood a group of legal wolverines, their thoughts in ill disguise.

Making life a misery, spoiling all the jokes,  
Using female logic, to make the law a hoax.  
And as I passed, no cursing, no screaming met my ear,  
Only several babbling Newfoundlanders squatting on their knees,

Arguing the legal possibilities of a black dog and his fleas.  
And in a corner on a soap box sadly not unseen  
Was a mad Digby Liberal, blasting Bennett's old regime.  
And from another corner, rivalling Caruso's fame,  
Came the notes of Pagliacci, Three beer mugs tapped the strain.

No wonder revolution is the by-word in Con. Law,  
In Jurisprudence prohibition is being voted for,  
No wonder there's a union to quash all normal trends,  
Thank God I left before I joined and met a tragic end.

M. Elizabeth Neale S. N.

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