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The un-Greek

Delta Upsilon eschews secret frat ceremonies, seeks to increase 'diverse and mellow' society

By JOHN CROWLEY
Of the Emerald

"Animal House" notwithstanding, fraternities still have a mystique to them, and secret passwords and arcane initiation ceremonies are still part of the trappings at most fraternities. Not so at Delta Upsilon, a non-secret fraternity that's trying to survive in the competition for new members.

The original Delta Upsilon was founded at Massachusetts' Williams College in 1834, with its goal to promote brotherhood while opposing the exclusive societies that were springing up on and off campus.

The secret societies of the time had invited the reaction. One celebrated case occurred in 1826 when William Morgan disclosed the secrets of his fellow Masons. He was abducted and murdered, ushering in a decade of anti-secret society sentiment.

Secrecy had always figured significantly in fraternities. North America's first Greek letter fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, started the trend in 1781. They introduced the oath of secrecy, the Greek and Latin mottoes, the elaborate and secret ceremonies, and the special hand-clasps which subsequent fraternities adopted.

Although they later abandoned these accoutrements, Phi Beta Kappa's example had taken hold. But Delta Upsilon, alone among the fraternities, began as an anti-secret organization. Today they continue their open policy, although they now describe themselves as simply "non-secret."

Active on campus until 1970, Delta Upsilon dropped out of sight for a few years, emerging again in 1974 as a colony — a reorganized group petitioning the international order for chapter status. To achieve this, they need to maintain a roster of fifty members. Currently they have 22.

"We pride ourselves on being non-secret," house president Don Pope explains. "Interested people can come over and talk with us, and we'll tell them anything they want to know."

There are no secret rites, handshakes or passwords; all members and pledges enjoy

voting privileges, because, as Pope says, "we don't believe in taxation without representation."

They do believe in laying it on the line. A visiting prospect need only ask to receive Delta Upsilon's pledge manual. This contains a history of the fraternity as well as helpful information on such worrisome concerns as "study", "drinking", and "etiquette".

"We don't keep you in the dark," explains member Stewart King. "Whatever there is to know, we tell you up front."

While apparently enjoying their non-secret status, Delta Upsilon has been hard-pressed to lure prospects away from the traditional secret fraternities.

"It's the 'secret club' mentality that attracts many guys to fraternities," King observed. "It's basically a trip that six-year-olds are into, but that's what sells, I guess."

Rick McCloskey of Kappa Sigma likes his fraternity's secrecy. "I'm comfortable with it," he says. "It's kind of neat to have something nobody else knows about." House brother John Bradley agrees: "If all houses had no secrets, we'd all be the same. We'd be like Philadelphia House" (a Christian cooperative).

Nevertheless, secrecy holds a strong attraction for some. Mike Eisenberg of Sigma Phi Epsilon defends the secret ceremonies of his group. "Yes, we'd rather have secrecy. It adds to the sensationalism."

"We see it as an enhancer of ideals — ideals of high positive standards, community standards, brotherhood," Eugene Walker elaborates. "It might seem childish out of context, but the ceremony involved helps give the proper frame of reference. It's something to be respected."

Even so, Sigma Phi Epsilon members will not allow "outsiders" to observe their rituals. "This is a process that builds brotherhood," Eisenberg says. "Strangers walking around might ruin the process."

"An open-minded observer might be okay," Walker added, "but those who disagree with what we're doing might impede the process. It's possible to get misconceptions about it. What we have to transmit to pledges can't just



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Law evaluations to be debated

Public access to student evaluations of law courses will be debated and voted on at today's law

faculty meeting.

The proposal, initiated by Student Bar Pres. Tom Carter, would allow law students to examine evaluation results in the law library. Carter says the computer summaries would assist many law students in selecting their courses.

Students would take evaluation forms more seriously when filling them out, Carter suggests, if they knew they would have access to the results.

'Snatchers' shown

The original version of the science fiction film "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers" will be shown tonight in 123 Science at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Admission to the film is \$1.25.

Statistical results of law school evaluations are currently used by the school's dean and personnel committee for promotion and tenure recommendations.

Although Chapin Clark, Law Dean, also supports releasing evaluation results to students, Carter expects today's vote to be close.

The issue of student access to course evaluation information was raised at the November University Assembly meeting by a faculty committee. Today's debate continues over whether evaluations should be made public. The Assembly will hear several recommendations concerning student access at its December meeting, but today's Law School decision will stand independent of the University-at-large.

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