

New member to fraternity row...

Gay fraternity gets house at University of Minn.

by Shannon Hahn
The Minnesota Daily
University of Minnesota

While fraternities are often grounded in tradition, an addition to fraternity row this fall may be a sign of changing times.

Some members of Delta Lambda Phi, a national fraternity for gay and bisexual men, moved into a house on fraternity row in late August. The University chapter of the fraternity is the first in the nation to get a house of its own.

Rusty Robertson, the fraternity's president, said having a house helps Delta Lambda Phi provide social opportunities and stability to gay, bisexual and lesbian students.

"This is a bold step forward," said Troy Buckmeier, a fraternity member who lives in the house. The building is home to seven fraternity members and pledges, as well as to three straight men, two straight women and two lesbians who are boarders.

Buckmeier said he doesn't believe they could have had a house on fraternity row ten years ago. Some members of the local gay and bisexual community, who graduated from the University before the idea of having a house on fraternity row existed, say the idea is "gutsy and crazy" because of the risks involved.

Those risks include harassment and vandalism, Buckmeier said. Some Twin Cities gay men, lesbians and bisexuals have been the target of such hate crimes.

But fraternity members said they aren't being harassed, and the house isn't being vandalized.

Other fraternities on the row are "cordial," Robertson said. "We haven't received bad things, but we haven't gotten any warm invitations."

Todd Grothe, house manager of a neighboring fraternity called Alpha Tau Omega, said Delta Lambda Phi getting a house on the row doesn't bother him or the other men living in his house. "As far as neighbors, they're fine," he said. "They don't spill beer cans in our yard."

But Robertson said the fraternity has to deal with a lot of stereotypes within and outside the gay, lesbian and bisexual community.

"People think of us as a sex club," Robertson said. "We combat that stereotype on top of standard fraternity stereotypes."

Because of such stereotypes, the fraternity has to be cautious. The group established bylaws prohibiting pledges and members from dating each other.

The fraternity also has a "strong no-hazing policy," Robertson said. The gay, lesbian and bisexual community is

"hazed enough by society," he added.

"There are no sexual undertones," he said. The fraternity's philosophy is, "Come meet us before you judge us."

The purpose of the fraternity and the house, which is located at 315 19th Aves. S. E., is to help serve the gay, bisexual and lesbian community at the University.

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender offices and organizations on campus can provide education, discussion and events for the community. But the fraternity and the house can offer a different social atmosphere that is often missing from such programs.

After going to classes students often don't want to go to another lecture, Robertson said. In talking to the gay, lesbian and bisexual community Robertson said he thinks, "What they want is to meet people socially, hang out, have fun, laugh, joke and party."

The fraternity's social activities are similar to activities of other fraternities. Activities this fall ranged from barbecues and movie nights to a party that more than 200 people attended.

But the fraternity sometimes takes a standard social event and adds a gay theme to it. This fall



Photo by Dan Murray/Collegian Photographer

We're here to help you: Monday, October 30 was the Health and Wellness Center's Third Annual Open House. In celebration of its new surroundings the Center's staff handed out free samples and healthy food to those in attendance.

According to Patty Pasky McMahon, Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services, "With 300 freshmen enrolling at the beginning of this semester, the staff is pleased with the enhanced professional atmosphere."

The Center is located in the Carriage House and is dedicated to promoting health and wellness to the Behrend community.

the fraternity had a game night when they played a game called Gay Monopoly. The game "encompasses a lot of queer culture," including discos instead of railroads, as well as locations and resorts popular among his community. "Everyone thought it was a hoot," Robertson said.

The house and fraternity can also provide stability for some students, Robertson said. It is difficult for gay and bisexual students to always be themselves in the dormitories, especially if they have an unaccepting roommate, Robertson said.

Dan Whittaker, a sophomore pledge of the fraternity who lives in the house, agrees.

Whittaker said he had negative and positive experiences living in University dormitories. But the house provides a "stable, accepting home environment," and there "isn't a pressure to conform," he said.

The house also provides a safe, open environment for Irene Renee Alvidrez, a straight University student who is a boarder at the house.

"It you're gonna live in a fraternity house, this is the safest one to live in," Alvidrez said. She added that it is nice to live in an environment where people are open about their sexual orientations 24 hours a day, no matter who comes to the door.

"Holy Innocents" comes to Behrend

BEHREND-Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will conclude its International Film Series with a screening of "The Holy Innocents", a 1985 release directed by Mario Camus of Spain. It will be shown on Monday, Nov.13 at 7 p.m. The film, which will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles, will be presented in Reed Lecture Hall, Reed Union Building; it is

free and open to the public.

"The Holy Innocents" examines the dichotomy between the misery of poor peasants and the arrogance of their wealthy masters on a large Spanish estate during the 1600s. The "Los Angeles Times" called it both "an irresistible family saga and a corrosive, gratifying social satire."

The International Film Series

is sponsored by the Penn State - Behrend Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Penn State's Office of International Programs and the Equal Opportunities Planning Committee. For more information, call the Division at 898-6108.

Delta Chi bowling for dollars

by Doreen Foutz
Collegian Staff

"We'll be asking people on campus for money," President of Delta Chi Tim Mallon said. Why? It is time for the annual Delta Chi Bowl-A-Thon with proceeds benefiting the Second Harvest Food Bank of Erie. "Every year we have a Bowl-A-Thon...we basically walk around to local businesses and people and ask them to either pledge per pin, or just give a donation," Treasurer of Delta Chi Brad Obmann said.

Started in 1987, the event has become a Delta Chi tradition. This year the Bowl-A-Thon takes place on November 5, at Eastway Bowling Lanes. "We go out to Eastway Bowling lanes, we bowl, and we donate all of the money to Erie's Second Harvest Food Bank," Obmann said.


For every one dollar donated, the Second Harvest Food Bank is able to purchase seventeen dollars worth of food. Through the years, Delta Chi has donated a

grand total over six thousand dollars. That is approximately \$102,000 worth of food.

When asked why the fraternity holds the annual Bowl-A-Thon, Obmann replied, "Just to help out the Second Harvest Food Bank. We always do it right before Thanksgiving so they can have money for Thanksgiving to buy turkeys."

The Bowl-A-Thon serves to show that greek life is about philanthropy, not just parties. "The Bowl-A-Thon is a time when the whole fraternity comes together to give something back to the community. It gives us a chance to have fun, and to help other people in the process. It also shows that fraternity life is not just partying and things like that, it also shows that we do projects to benefit the community," said Mallon.

"We're looking to give the Food Bank \$1,000 this year," Mallon said. "If anyone would like to support us, just wear a red jacket and give them a buck. Help us out."



ERIE'S HOTTEST NIGHTSPOT

THURSDAY:
COORS LIGHT
DRAFT LIGHT
5PM TO 12MID
COVER \$1 NOT \$3

FRIDAY & SATURDAY:
ERIE'S BIGGEST DANCE PARTY
ALL SHELF HAPPY HOUR
10PM-12MID
COVER \$2 NOT \$3