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THE CONTINUING DEBATE

The following appeared in REACH, publication of Colorado State University Associated Students, and was written by Father E. F. Ostertag, Tenn. Omega '48, who is Recorder of Province Eta and pastor of St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Fort Collins, Colorado. Because of space limitations we are only reprinting the article in part.

If there is a re-evaluation now going on, is it possible to single out the weaknesses of the Greek system? Yes, by all means, and the Greeks are the first to admit them.

There is first the most notorious weakness of all. It is as common and prevalent as air. It is the tendency to allow the weakest, least responsible, and most dulled moral viewpoint to prevail in a chapter. Somehow the lush seems to be heard the most, the sexual braggart dominates thinking; the indifferent student sets the tone of study habits. The others tend to go underground, go along with them, become converted, or go inactive. As deplorable as this is, it certainly is no different from almost anything else, from athletic teams to political parties to church congregations. Somehow the weaker elements have a way of carrying the day. Secondly, there is the criticism that the Greek system is an elaborate, costly, indirect way of preserving old prejudice. There are fraternities now giving the impression that their racial policies are vital to their existence. The status quo of mid-19th century America upper classes is found printed large in the charters and by-laws of all too many fraternities. Correspondence from national headquarters may say little openly about such problems but when the national officer comes to town all doubt is cleared up in a few, well-chosen words if there was any when he arrived.

The third criticism is that of snobbery. This is the least important since it is always heard in any society, in all ages, when there is any organization to which some persons don't belong. It is the eternal cry that the "ins" have something the "outs" might like and usually is entirely unimportant. We know these faults well; there are many who are zealous to point them out sometimes not with the best motives. But let it now be stated that there are strengths and good qualities too, and these need to be re-emphasized clearly. The process of re-evaluation will help them emerge. Some of these are easy to point out; others are difficult to describe.

I suppose it should be mentioned first that the chief feature is fellowship. There is a happiness that comes from belonging to any group - a circle of friends, a university community, a good class, or a family. So also is there an increased sense of identity and satisfaction that comes with the acceptance provided by the social fraternity. There is nothing quite like it, and even after the passage of many years of success in a profession with all the good things success brings, there still remains the closeness of that collegiate group. It should be mentioned that the fact that membership in a fraternity provides continuing background for the development of leadership within "close terms" is an advantage not frequently cited. Many a sound leader in later years first emerged with leadership qualities serving on a sophomore committee to decorate for homecoming.

Thirdly, the Greek system will never be popular with a student who was raised without restraints by his parents, having all his wants supplied and doing whatever he wished. The child who was reared in the now de-

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THE CONTINUING DEBATE (continued)

function school of psychology-permissiveness will never take to fraternity life because he cannot take the group discipline. In this particular decade this is the most important strength the Greek system has to offer. It can teach any child, no matter how spoiled, that this life is not a long series of people eagerly bending over you anxious to supply your every need. Rather, life is relationships--some hard, some easy--and if you failed to learn them at home, a fraternity or sorority can teach you that you can't always have your own way; you have to learn to get along with others for your own inner happiness.

There are other points, but these will suffice. The pros and cons will go on for years to come. In the meantime, the Greek system will be shaping the lives of more and more men and women and by and large doing it for good. The American collegiate system on the whole is served well by the Greeks.

A TIME FOR LEADERSHIP

Spring is the time of vacation, soaking up the first rays of the warming sun, making summer plans, and all sorts of activities surrounding the approach of nice weather. It is also the time when the responsibilities and leadership capabilities of the Chapter EA are put to a true test.

If we were to make an analysis of frequency of probation, hurried calls from deans and incidents of misconduct, it would certainly reveal that most take place in the spring. Spring fever and the direction in which a young man's fancy turns sometimes portend pending doom and disaster as far as the fraternity chapter is concerned.

We thought this might be an appropriate time to sound an alarm to all chapters and chapter advisers. When rumblings are first detected of a campus disorder is the time to move aggressively to make certain that the members of SAE are not involved. When the spring social calendar is being planned is the time to be certain that every effort is made to create an environment that is controlled, but enjoyable. When the thoughtless brother jeopardizes the position of the entire chapter is the time to strongly remind him of his responsibility. This is forward-looking leadership.

Maintenance of the chapter house in proper and respectable order seems to be more difficult in the spring also. Remember that the image presented by the appearance of the house is, in a real sense, indicative of the pride of the chapter. Now is the time, too, to start making plans for closing the house for the summer. Is everything securely stored? Is water and telephone service discontinued? Is there adequate police protection? Does someone have responsibility for the care of the grounds? These and others are items that require advance planning.

The true test of the effectiveness of a chapter is the way in which it is organized and plans ahead. When the leaders of the chapter anticipate difficulties that may arise and move to meet them with firmness, then there is every possibility that they will be averted. And now is the time to start!

This will be the last issue of PHI ALPHA until August. At that time a special issue will be prepared and distributed to the delegates at the 32d Leadership School, as well as to the Alumni mailing list.

The following appeared in a bulletin released recently by the American Council on Education, and should be of interest to our undergraduate membership.

Since the beginning of the Viet Nam buildup in the summer of 1965, it has seemed increasingly likely that an indeterminate number of students would have to be inducted. If that is the case, the following principles will probably prevail:

1. It is in the national interest to defer (not exempt) as many full time students as possible, irrespective of the field in which they are studying.

2. It is also in the national interest to defer (not exempt) insofar as possible students who complete their baccalaureate programs and are eligible to go on to graduate and professional schools.

Advisory criteria similar to those used during the Korean conflict, making use of rank in class and a score on the recently announced College Qualification Test, are likely soon to be promulgated by Selective Service to the local boards. It is not mandatory that local boards defer students who meet the advisory criteria. Nevertheless, it seems probable that the more complete, prompt, and precise the information furnished the better served will be the interests of students and the local boards.

It is assumed that students in good standing currently enrolled for the 1965-66 school year will be allowed to finish the year. At the close of the year it is expected that there will be a review of the records of those who finished the year, and that, depending on the need for manpower for the armed forces, those with the best potential for further education will be deferred for 1966-67, while those whose records measure up less well will be considered eligible for military service.

It should be understood that it is the responsibility of the individual registrant to keep his local board informed of his status. It is the responsibility of educational institutions to assist the student by furnishing to local boards, at the student's request, the information that will make that status clear. During the Korean period rank in class or test score, whichever was higher, was used as a basis for determining further deferment. We believe that this alternative approach will be reinstated. In the absence of information on either one, the local board must rely solely on the other; in the absence of both, local boards will have to make their judgments on the basis of whatever information, from whatever sources, they can secure.

Noble Notes



NOBLE LESLIE DeVOTIE
Founder

New Province Archons elected at Conventions held so far this spring are: Alpha, Andrew (Pat) Cueroni; Iota, William A. Benson, Jr.; Mu, Richard A. Walker; Sigma, J. Adoue Parker; Upsilon, G. Walton Roberson; and Psi, Richard A. Schelsky. Albert L. Clary was re-elected Archon of Province Theta for another two years.

A son was born to Jay and Linda Beck at about 1:30 P.M., Friday, April 8, 1966. He will be named Jay S. Beck, Jr. Jay, Sr. is Deputy Archon of Province Beta, and a long-time Leadership School faculty member.

Eminent Supreme Chronicler Joseph A. Mancini will join a delegation of San Francisco business executives for a 26 day tour of industrial installations in Russia and Japan under the sponsorship of the State Department. He will leave San Francisco on April 27th and will return on May 22nd. Brother Mancini will have much to tell of this extremely interesting trip upon his return.

William F. Bigelow, Ohio Delta, '05, died in Newark, Ohio, on March 5, 1966, at the age of 86. Mr. Bigelow was for many years adviser to his chapter, a life member of the board of directors of Ohio Wesleyan University and, before his retirement, editor of GOOD HOUSEKEEPING magazine. He was featured in the August, 1963 RECORD with the title, "The Story of a Devoted Chapter Adviser."

Mrs. Pearle Morse indicated in a recent telephone call her availability as a housemother next fall. She served as housemother for the Illinois-Psi-Omega Chapter at Northwestern from 1960 to 1964, and is currently with Kappa Kappa Gamma at Ohio State. Her preference of location is the Southwest. She can be reached at Area Code 614, 291-3922, Columbus, Ohio.

THE LION'S SNORT



Indiana Beta at Purdue University has an interesting scholarship record. The Chapter average last semester was 4.390 on a 6.0 basis. The waiters had an average of 4.59, and the intramural basketball team had an average of 4.94. We wonder what other breakdown was made.



Three charter applications have already been received and will be considered by the 1967 Convention in Minneapolis. They are from locals at San Fernando Valley State College, California; Sacramento State College, California; and Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia.



In accordance with action taken at the 1965 Convention in Atlanta last June, Province Mu met on the weekend of April 1 and 2, to finalize the details of the re-districting of that Province. The State of Indiana is now designated as Province Psi and the State of Illinois is now designated as Province Mu. Officers were elected for each Province and funds of the old Province Mu were distributed equally between the two new ones. Each Province contains five active Chapters and considerable potential for growth.



The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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Arkansas Alpha-Upsilon at the University of Arkansas has just become a member of the Fayetteville, Arkansas Chamber of Commerce. This is undoubtedly a first in a type of service to the community which allows the Brothers to function on committees and other projects of the Chamber related to course work, and also in a general way.



The Trustees of the Levere Memorial Foundation have asked the Library Committee to develop a new listing of books and reorganize the procedures so that Chapters who did not avail themselves of the original Chapter Library Program may do so now. An announcement will be going out to all who qualify as soon as information is complete.



Bob Bonitati informs us that his work on a "Manual for Chapter Advisers" is almost complete, and that each adviser should have a copy by the opening of school next fall. This will be an extremely valuable guide to chapters and advisers alike.



The Supreme Council will meet at the Levere Memorial Temple on May 21-22, 1966. This spring meeting is usually devoted to budgetary and financial affairs prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1.



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