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An EA's Report To Founders Day

The following is a report to the Nashville, Tennessee Alumni Association Founders Day by Tennessee Nu (Vanderbilt) EA David Bagwell.

The path of fraternities has traditionally paralleled that of the universities. Noble Leslie DeVotie and seven others were founders of little more than a secret, though close-knit literary society. As the years went by, times and the universities changed, and with them changed SAE. The Fraternity altered its nature in order to become a dormitory, a dining room, and a brotherly social organization. The size, purpose and character of SAE has always depended almost entirely upon the attributes of individual campuses. When most of you alumni were active fraternity men, the universities lacked sufficient living, dining and social spaces to serve all their students. As a result a fraternity experience was for you a totally complete sphere of existence; it served to fill almost every extra-curricular need of you and of your friends.

But time has brought change to American universities, and with time has come change in collegiate fraternities. Federal government loans have made construction of huge and comparatively lavish dormitories and food services not only possible, but desirable at many universities, one of which is Vanderbilt. Our university is now physically able to supply almost every service which the fraternities once provided. A ten-minute walk over the Vanderbilt campus will show the amazing metamorphosis of the university. Gone are many of the shoebox dormitory rooms. In their places are wonderful new high-rise buildings with spacious rooms, live entertainment on many nights, and suites open for dating on weekends. The result is that every student can share in many of the advantages which have traditionally accrued to fraternity men. Many students have found fraternities to be an unnecessary expense in a spiralling budget of educational funds. We as fraternity men have found it necessary for the first time to provide a really valid explanation for the rights to and the advantages of a fraternity experience. This has not always been an easy task; and many defenders of the faith have given up in disgust. Others of us have seen the trends, and we have attempted to deal with them. As the university has changed, the fraternities have changed; and as

the fraternities have changed, so has SAE. Sometimes we have led and sometimes we have followed. But we **have** changed. We talk about it often. New social spaces have meant less people at the Friday night parties. Increased academic pressure has meant that fewer people are back from the library at night by nine for a favorite TV show. More pleasant living quarters have made the fraternity house suffer by comparison.

And yet, we can see many improvements in the new system. No longer are fraternity houses islands unto themselves as they once were. It is now much easier to develop friends in other fraternities, or friends from outside the fraternity system. Though fewer men can afford to watch television every night, we have made grudging adjustment to the library date. Our usually dim academic light has brightened, and in an unusual blaze of glory our new pledges had an unusually high scholastic average. We have already made many changes, and we shall no doubt make many more. As in the past, we shall lead in some and we shall probably drag in a few.

This semester is one of change. Already we have revised our rushing procedure. We are studying extensive improvements in our chapter government, and in the operation of fraternity athletics and our pledge program. Change will make the fraternity mean less to some of its members. But there will be others who see the necessity and the desirability of a well-planned evaluation.

Within these fluctuations will stand elements of bedrock continuity: the advantages of small group associations, of discriminating membership, and of a great historical tradition.

Thus, our chapter is represented perfectly by the Phoenix, symbol of SAE. Ever living, ever dying, as we are consumed we recreate. The flames of our consumption are even now kindling the warmth of our rebirth. As we evolve, let us graciously accept necessary change, even glory in it. But above all, let us remember to grow out of our ashes. Let it never be said that the Phoenix of SAE perished in the flames of Arabia and forever remained a pile of ashes. Let us in SAE lead on to a better 100 years of fraternity life.

THE PROVINCE CONVENTION

This is the season for the twenty-one provinces of Sigma Alpha Epsilon to gather, legislate, elect officers, discuss the state and condition of their regions, and get to know one another. At this writing, twelve have already done so.

Originally, the province convention was conceived as a purely social gathering and little else. We read in Levere's History about the development of the convention as a means for chapters in a province to learn to know one another, and to hurry through a minimum of necessary business such as electing some officers.

Gradually, without neglecting the social side, a committee structure was developed for the purpose of delving more deeply into the organizational structure of the province, the state and condition of the chapters therein, and some discussion of the issues facing fraternities in the future. Problem solving was attempted in various ways and with varying degrees of success.

This brings us to the present. With increasing regularity we hear criticism from undergraduates who attended province conventions that they did not get as much as they anticipated from them. Certainly these are busy times on the campus and pressures on the student continue to mount. It is becoming more obvious all the time that attendance at a province convention must be justified in terms of substantive accomplishment.

At the Province Theta convention held recently in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this whole question was discussed by the delegates in open forum. Some of the suggestions made are presented here and the National Office solicits additional recommendations to be used in planning a set of guidelines for distribution to Province Archons.

1. Establish a "Council of Delegates," one from each chapter, to assemble and conduct the necessary business of the province.

2. Encourage large chapter delegations to participate in a Leadership School type format under the direction of pre-selected undergraduates with Leadership School experience.

3. Open the convention with a banquet or luncheon which allows everyone to get to know one another casually. This event might also have a keynote speaker who would set the tone of the meeting.

4. Provide the opportunity for individual interviews with resource people for specialized problem solving. With a small member of chapters represented at a convention, this takes notice of the uniqueness of

campus situations and allows for personalized attention.

These and other suggestions should give us a basis for providing a productive and worthwhile experience from the province convention to all who attend. Again, we solicit your suggestions, comments and recommendations.

THE IDEA GAINS MOMENTUM

At Indiana University on October 30, last year, the administration called in Bloomington police to help settle a dispute with the students.

Several weeks later, Prof. Philip Chamberlain of the school of education of the University, addressing an audience on the University and its internal communication problem protested that the University was simply too big, too isolated, and too specialized. The result is a breakdown in communication within the university family, Professor Chamberlain contended, which could be carried into society and be manifesting itself in larger communication problems.

Questioning the purpose of the University, Professor Chamberlain asked: "Is it a place where people study to become mathematicians, geologists, and businessmen, or is it where individuals learn to develop their minds, becoming well-rounded and intelligent beings prepared to contribute to society and help solve its problems?"

If it is the latter, then cohesiveness must be restored between faculty and students. And how is this to be done? Dr. Chamberlain suggests: "The administration has to be conservative, they are not innovators, and the faculty for the most part is passive. So the student body is the only group who can look at the problem objectively and improve the situation."

Enter the fraternities and sororities. As a solution, Dr. Chamberlain recommends breaking down the communicative process into smaller channels. Yes, he proposes making fraternities and sororities into residential colleges with faculty allowed as fulltime members, so that whenever students and faculty wanted to talk it wouldn't have to be so informal as getting an appointment. The faculty wouldn't live there but could drop in for a while whenever they wanted."

Evidence is showing up with greater frequency that his kind of thinking on the part of educators is gaining real momentum. Fraternity and sorority leaders can only regard it as a Heaven-sent challenge and respond accordingly.

(Reprinted from the January 1968 Issue of Bonta's Greek Exchange.)

Noble Notes



NOBLE LESLIE DeVOTIE
Founder

New Province Archons elected so far are: Epsilon, George A. Blinn, III; Zeta, William C. Lucas; Theta, William C. Tatum; Lambda, Virgil L. Cavagnaro; Mu, James W. Gee, Jr.; Omicron, Tom L. Covington, Jr.; and Sigma, Byrle G. Killian. Those re-elected are: Alpha, Andrew P. Cueroni; Iota, William A. Benson, Jr.; Kappa, Edwin M. Wilson; Upsilon, G. Walton Roberson; and Psi, Richard A. Schelsky. Congratulations to all these dedicated brothers.

* * * *

From an Oakland, California, Tribune feature article: "Lurking in the background of nearly every successful Piedmont executive is a former fraternity brother who blows into town periodically. Knowing this, consider Donald Hartley, '53, California Beta, a title insurance executive himself in Southern California, who likes nothing better on arriving in the Bay Area than to look up an old SAE fraternity brother, usually late at night.

"But, aha! The Piedmont man, in the intervening months, had sold his house and moved a few blocks away. Thus, the other night Hartley stood out in front of the old house, late at night, throwing pebbles against an upstairs window and the new home owners did the expedient thing — called the cops. Three squad cars showed up, took Hartley into custody, listened to his story at the station and called Hartley's fraternity brother. The Piedmont man sighed, got dressed, went down to the station and vouched for good old Hartley. And from Hartley a bit of pique. 'You didn't tell me you'd moved.'"

* * * *

Announcement was made by Scholarship Commissioner Neal Berte on April 15, 1968, that Graduate Tutor in Residence fellowships had been awarded to Gary Kenneth Morton, and to Warren Gary Kohlman

by the Levere Memorial Foundation. Mr. Morton will be with Nebraska Lambda-Pi at the University of Nebraska, and Mr. Kohlman will be with Michigan Iota-Beta at the University of Michigan beginning next fall.

National Treasurer Chuck Trangsrud has announced his forthcoming marriage to Miriam (Mimi) Welty on June 1, 1968, in Shenandoah, Iowa. All of Chuck's many fraternity friends wish them the greatest happiness.

* * * *

ESR Smith recently attended the annual meetings of the National Student Personnel Association in Minneapolis. He reports that there were 20 SAE deans in attendance. Brother Earle Clifford will be the program chairman for next year's meeting.

* * * *

Chapter Supervisor Skip Moore has signed a contract, beginning July 1, 1968, to serve on the Dean of Students staff at Memphis State University. He will be working with all student organizations. Skip has made a valuable contribution to the chapters in his territory, and will be missed. We all wish him well in his new undertaking.

* * * *

In the March 1968 issue of a Gettysburg College newsletter we noticed a photograph of former Chapter Supervisor Don Szegda going up for left-handed set shot in an alumni-frosh exhibition basketball game. An 86-70 victory by the alumni and the form displayed in the photo would indicate that Don is staying in shape.

* * * *

Founder Member No. 229 is Kenneth E. Oakley. Ken, an Evanston resident, is our very capable auditor and adviser in all financial matters.

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Taking the lead from our many chapters that have annual or semi-annual retreats, all the chapter supervisors met with ESA Miller and with ESR Smith and his staff on April 11 and 12, a time when most undergraduates were away from campus. At a location away from the Temple, they met to evaluate, assess and plan for the future. The unstructured meeting proved to be extremely worthwhile and adds emphasis to the need and value for thoughtful exchange of this type.

THE LION'S SNORT



A recent survey of the Levere Memorial Foundation Student Loan program reveals that 1297 loans have been granted since the program began; 529 have been repaid in full and 768 are presently outstanding in the amount of \$254,600.

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ESA Miller and ESR Smith attended the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Nebraska Lambda-Pi in Omaha on March 23. It was a gala event with 125 in attendance.

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The new price of the PHOENIX, as of July 1, 1968, will be \$2.50. An increase in printing and distribution costs has necessitated this change.

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In January a letter was sent to all chapters stating the conditions of probation imposed on Ohio Kappa for violations of our hazing laws. The chapter has responded extremely well to the probation, has presented the neophytes with a meaningful program of indoctrination, and has completely restructured its pledge education program. Permission has been granted for the neophytes to be initiated. We are proud of Ohio Kappa and the way in which they have met this difficult problem.

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We recently received a letter from the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director of the University of California, Santa Barbara, complimenting our California Eta chapter for the fine way in which it planned the annual Hubler-Rider basketball banquet. This ban-

quet, an all-university affair, is in honor of two prominent SAE athletes, Harvey Hubler and Dick Rider.

* * * *

The University of Oklahoma has announced the 12th Annual Conference for Housemothers, which will be held in Norman from June 9, through June 14. For information about this program, or a desire to be listed as having a vacancy to fill, write to Dorothy Truex, Dean of Women, at the University, in Norman, 73069.

* * * *

Province Alpha has inaugurated **monthly** Council meetings attended by the Province officers and a chapter representative and alternate from each chapter in the Province. The meetings so far this year have been very productive. In this geographically small Province of ten chapters, communications have been increased considerably.

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ESA Miller has recently announced three important standing committees to serve during the interim until the next National Convention. They are: A Ritual Revision Committee with Past ESA Emmett B. Moore as chairman, and members Dr. Glen T. Nygreen, John H. Stone, Jay S. Beck and Jack R. Hotaling; a Leadership School Planning Committee with Director of Leadership Training Dr. Glen T. Nygreen as chairman, and members Past ESA Gurnett Steinhauer, ESDA Paul B. Jacob, Jr., Assistant to the ESR Jack R. Hotaling, National Scholarship Commissioner Dr. Neal R. Berte, Tom R. Kessler, Fred D. Phelps and John H. Stone; and finally an Extension Committee with Hon. Archon Robert L. Cousins as chairman, members Emmett Moore, Dale Helmers, William P. Flournoy, Jay S. Beck, and Dr. Joseph W. Walt, ex officio.

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This will be the last issue of PHI ALPHA until the issue during the Leadership School in August.

The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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