

THE PHI ALPHA

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A New Order

By **R. D. Dana,**
Wisconsin Alpha

There is nothing more difficult to carry out nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things.

—MACHIAVELLI

At no time in our nation's history, have we witnessed such rapid social change as what has been taking place in the past decade. This social change, stretching from the ghettos to our finest universities, is the product of a new attitude which has swept America's youth. This attitude stems from an awareness that somewhere in this country a man is being refused a seat in a cafe because of the color of his skin or that somewhere in this land of milk and honey someone is going to bed hungry. Two words can best describe this attitude — "social responsibility."

Throughout the nation we are hearing of individuals who are becoming totally committed to the cause of curing the social ills in America today. This is not a passing trend but a sincere movement on the part of these individuals who realize their responsibility to their fellowman and to their country.

Within the colleges and universities today we witness a greater and greater number of students becoming dedicated, sincerely dedicated, to the cause of trying to arrest the problems which are causing the great turmoil in the ghettos of our larger cities. But, there is one institution on the campuses today which has failed to respond, in any great degree, to this call for social responsibility to our fellowman. This institution is, of course, the Greek System.

It is true that many Greek organizations, both fraternities and sororities, are finding themselves currently in the position experienced by their antecedents in the second century B. C. — the Romans seem to be taking over. The dominance by Greeks of most student affairs and activities on the campus has diminished rapidly in recent years. The reason for this can best be summed up by Dr. William Boyd, vice chancellor,

student affairs, at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Boyd states that, "Many critics regard them (Greeks) as the dinosaurs of university life — organisms which failed to adapt." He goes on to say that, "They do sometimes seem to be attempting to answer questions no one else is asking any more."

This writer is aware that Greek organizations are apolitical in nature. But this is no excuse for almost total apathy and little commitment whatsoever towards curing the social problems of our society. The fact is that Greek organizations consist of "social" fraternities and sororities. The word social implies that these organizations envision the group as its own end. The promotion of internal brotherhood seems all too often to be the goal of the Greeks.

Indeed, it is ludicrous that these organizations which attempt to project true fraternalism as their ideal, limit their membership, for the most part, to persons of remarkably similar backgrounds and race.

In his address at the first session of 34th Leadership School, Henry B. Taliaferro, Jr., 1954 Oklahoma Kappa stated: "My question goes to the spirit of the fraternity system: Do not speak to me now of education unless you speak of the spiritual quality — Truth. Do not speak of fraternity unless we speak of the spiritual quality of brotherhood, and do not speak of brotherhood unless we fraternity **Brothers** are willing to know its essence — Justice."

Brother Taliaferro is Acting Executive Director of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders and by virtue of his position came to a real understanding of the problems of the ghetto. His response may seem a bit emotional to the skeptic, but in fact, everything indicates that this can be nothing but rational. Since his White House appointment to the commission in 1967 Brother Taliaferro has spoken with young and old Negroes in the streets and pool halls of the ghettos of our major cities.

Concluding his speech Brother Taliaferro offered this new order of justice within our Brotherhood as a "challenge to the men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon."

It is truly a great challenge.

EXTENSION AND SAE

By Jerry Perkins

Washington City Rho

In the five-year period since 1963, SAE has received more than 750 inquiries from local fraternities seeking national charters. During that same period we have installed 24 new chapters. The number of inquiries reflects the enormous recent growth of higher education.

Why do local fraternities want an SAE charter?

Steve Rhodes, EA of Phi Alpha Fraternity at Colorado State College, says "We decided to petition Sigma Alpha Epsilon because it represents all of the ideals our fraternity stands for as a local. Our ultimate goal is to become a part of SAE, an organization with many camps and national leaders."

Nine local fraternities are represented here at the first session of the 34th Leadership School. All these chapters wish to become part of SAE.

In addition to these locals attending Leadership School, there are several others who are in the process of petitioning for charters.

Chapter Charters

The process of becoming a chapter in Minerva's Realm commences with the initial contact with the Province Archon. The Province Archon then contacts the Permanent Extension Investigating Committee who examines the school where the local is domiciled.

If approval is given by the Extension Committee, the Supreme Council, and the Province, the local may then petition the National Convention for a charter. SAE is the only national fraternity in which charters may be granted only by a National Convention. The great majority of national fraternities have adopted the colonization system.

Extension has always been a point of spirited controversy within SAE. In 1881, at the Atlanta Convention, Northern extension was vigorously opposed. However, in 1883, Pennsylvania Delta (Gettysburg College) was admitted as the first Northern chapter. Every convention since then has had to face the question of whether to extend Sigma Alpha Epsilon or not.

"Nearly everyone agrees that our extension policy and procedure need a complete overhauling," said J. W. Walt, chairman of the Permanent Extension Investigating Committee. "ESA Miller has a special committee studying the matter now, and proposals for changes will be presented to the 1969 Convention at San Francisco."

THE INDIVIDUAL AND SAE

By Mike Hussey, Indiana Zeta

A major fear of the new university student is that in a highly accelerated, coldly competitive, and often generally impersonal atmosphere his worth as an individual to himself and others will be retarded. A fraternity, if truly Greek, is designed to give the university student an atmosphere conducive to furthering the development of individual worth. From the work of Brother **Gene St. Martin, Jr.**, Louisiana Epsilon, come some quotations and suggestions to the Brothers of SAE which are concerned with the building of individual worth. We hope these ideas may inspire each chapter to seek new insights into the stimulation which will help brothers and pledge brothers develop their own identity and personality within the fraternity environment.

"Much of a person's self-respect has to come from within. It is the job of the fraternity to allow these needed moral changes to take place."

BUILDING RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

"A man who is 'true to himself' is surely an individual in the fullest sense of himself. William H. Whyte, Jr. describes 'the organization man . . . spending his existence, not as an individual but as a member of a group, and coming in the end to feel guilty and lost when he deviates from his fellows. Adjustment rather than achievement becomes the social ideal. Identity consists, not of self-realization, but of smooth absorption into the group.'"

DEVELOPING A WELL BALANCED PERSONALITY

"The problems we face today in America require a universal, global answer—one only that a total personality could come up with. Our day-to-day relationships with people require a well rounded personality . . ."

"Evaluate the programs that are already in existence. Strip away any incidentals which block the 1968 college man in this country from satisfying his need. Do more of what you are doing now and do it better than before. Then shift to new and different programs (imaginative and meaningful) which will achieve . . . and eventually help alleviate the problems of today. These goals will be reached through, with, and in people.

". . . Fraternities can build respect for the other fellow. . . . Once a person is 'true to himself,' he will be true to others. Once he understands why he does what he does and why the other fellow acts the way he does, Mr. X will not be so quick to take a punch at the other guy. Mr. X begins to like the other guy not for what he does but for what he is."

NEW MEXICO ALPHA HELPS TO CREATE A NEW LIFE

Nancy Thompson, eleven-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Floyd Thompson, was stricken at birth with cerebral palsy and has no control of her muscles. This is due to brain damage. Doctors believe that portions of her brain cells can be regenerated. This would require special exercises three hours a day. Doctors say she must start with steps that a baby would go through. This is a long and hard road for Nancy. Those who are working with her can see the improvement from day to day, although it is minute.

The Thompson family does not have the time that it requires for Nancy to go through these exercises, so the brothers of New Mexico Alpha together with the Little Sisters are lending a helping hand. There is a distance of sixteen miles to the Thompson farm, and every day four brothers are called upon to go there to help Nancy in her three-hour exercise program.

It will take a long time but the brothers of New Mexico Alpha welcome the day when Nancy will be able to converse with an intelligible vocabulary, be able to feed herself, and eventually be able to walk. This would indeed be a new life for Nancy Thompson.

INNOVATIONS AT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

By **Arnie Ishizuka**, Indiana Alpha
and **Tom Weber**, Michigan Epsilon

Two new wrinkles were added to the first session of the 34th Leadership School curricula this year. A sensitivity program for E.A.'s and E.D.A.'s was directed by Brother Hank Perritt '66, Massachusetts Iota-Tau; and a novel "computerized rush" proposal was forwarded by Brother Fred Phelps '64, New Mexico Alpha.

Brother Perritt said that the goal of the sensitivity program is "to help SAE's understand the dynamics of a group and the way the individual relates." It results with the stimulation of reflective thought focusing on the resources of others, who can, when properly approached, make significant contributions to the group.

Part of the program is similar to one described by an article in **BUSINESS WEEK** concerning the sensitivity shown by effective leaders. The basic format is an instructed group whose progress is directed by a group leader. There are no planned subjects for discussion and all discussion is created from within the group. It is here that individual personalities evolve.

With the development of adequate reaction of the group to its members, the group leader turns to the processes involved in group communication from which the members of the group express their reactions to each other clarifying "mirror images" and expressing

their own feelings on approaches to aid better communication.

Rushee Number 243

Through the use of computerized rush a chapter could eliminate the human errors in judgment encountered in rushing.

Computerized rushing would require the respective rush prospects to fill out certain data forms which could be fed into a computer. The computer would then analyze the personality of the rushee.

The members of the chapters would also fill out similar forms, indicating the type of individual that each member would like to have in the house. From the responses of the individual members, a composite personality for the entire membership would be prepared with the aid of the computer. The total "chapter personality" would then be matched with the personalities of the rushee. Sight unseen, the chapter would have its ideal pledge class.

In summarizing his proposal, Fred concluded: "One of the main criticisms of current fraternity rush practices is that fraternities tend to pay too much attention to the most prominent superficial characteristics of each rushee. In that sense, the typical rusher is performing a simple computer operation of looking at a bit of information about the rushee and saying Yea or Nay. If fraternities are satisfied with this type of analysis of its potential members, then we might as well save ourselves a great deal of time, money, and effort — and at the same time process more information about each rushee — by computerizing the entire rush process."

The delegates, however, felt rush was more than just a "yea" or "nay" process and the goals and gains of rush emphasized the necessity for human involvement. Among these goals are:

1. The social experience of meeting new people.
2. The creation of house unity by the intense activity associated with traditional face-to-face rush procedures.
3. The increased knowledge of the scope of SAE gained through alumni participation in rush and through heightened individual commitment to fraternity ideals.

NEW BROTHERS

The following pledges were initiated at the first session of the 34th Leadership School.

They are: Tommy Dudley, Alabama Iota; Ken Buckner, Arkansas Alpha-Upsilon; Rudy Kadlub, California Kappa; John Yedinak, Illinois Gamma; Neil Covert, Iowa Sigma; Bruce Harlton, Michigan Alpha; Mike Morrissey, Nevada Alpha; Bill MacVeigh, New Mexico Alpha; Gary Poole, Ohio Gamma; Russ Decker, Tennessee Kappa; Bobby Barbour, Tennessee Sigma; John Yancey, Texas Delta; Jim Purvis, Washington Beta; Gary Pommerenck, West Virginia Alpha; Dave Moershel, Wisconsin Alpha.

THE PLEDGE: AN ACQUAINTANCE OR FRIEND

By **Bruce Stelzer, Doug Barhorst, Randy Barnes,**
Ohio Kappa and **Tom Strachan,** Ohio Mu

"Pledge Dan Manoc now entering the house, sirs!"

"Hey Dan, you don't have to announce yourself."

This exchange of conversation comes from the house of Ohio Kappa (Bowling Green State University). The Ohio Kappa pledge program is an award winner and one in which the pledge is a friend.

There is a new attitude in the active chapter which helps a new pledge to assume the role of an active brother. The past pledge-active barrier has been broken down by pledge participation in the active house committees. With the abolishment of personal servitude for the brothers, a more friendly atmosphere is created and the pledges welcome the chance to work in a constructive house program. The brothers have developed meaningful goals and ideals. The new program has made the active brothers and the men they have pledged more mature.

The Pledge Council, the ultimate authority on pledge affairs, discusses the progress of the pledge program. The Pledge Council serves in preparing the pledge program and provides for its execution on both the active and pledge levels. It also serves as a judicial board for any pledge-active grievances.

A pledge has the opportunity to sit down with an active and discuss the problems confronting the chapter.

Big Brothers

"Come on Dan. Get your books and let's go study."

"Right, Big."

In the Big Brother program, emphasis is placed on a close relationship between the Big and Little Brothers through bi-weekly meetings and written reports on the pledge's grades, attitudes, and behavior. With this information the active chapter is able to observe the pledge and his progress during his pledgeship.

A pledge can complete his pledgeship without any type of mental or physical hazing. He is respected for being a mature, intelligent, and self-governing individual. A pledge becomes an integral part of the house far sooner when he has not been subjected to the active brothers' harassments.

The pledge program which stresses daily house duties and major weekly projects is a good substitute for pushups. We constructively build loyal pledge brothers who are not forced to aspire for pledge unity but rather aspire for **house unity**. No longer is a pledge simply an acquaintance during his pledgeship at Ohio Kappa, but much more, a friend.

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