

# THE PHI ALPHA

A PRIVATE PUBLICATION OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

VOL. 54

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS — APRIL, 1969

NO. 3

## Relevance, A Crucial Student Issue

*Following are excerpts from a letter received from David Perrault, California Xi '66, Activities Adviser at San Fernando Valley State College, which was sent to all National Fraternity Executive Secretaries with Chapters represented on that campus. He writes with the expressed hope that the information included will assist all in a better understanding of the problems being confronted by fraternities there.*

"As you are probably aware, San Fernando Valley State College has been going through a period of tremendous change. This 11-year-old institution, which will surpass the 20,000 enrollment mark next fall, has been experiencing a variety of stresses and strains which are normally associated with accelerated growth. In addition, the college has not escaped the effects of pressure for social change among today's youth, nor the more recent phenomenon of minority militancy.

"With regard to this latter topic, you have probably seen the LIFE MAGAZINE article which recently thrust Valley State into the national limelight because of its apparent success in solving some of the problems which led to serious disturbances on the campus. I might add that our fraternities and sororities have conducted themselves in a very commendable manner with regard to this situation, and are continuing to do so.

"By no means as a result of racial issues, but more indicative of a trend which I am sure you have seen developing on campuses and throughout the nation, the 'traditional' student activities (e.g. Spring Sing, Homecoming, etc.) are giving way or being modified to fit the needs and attitudes of our present student body—Greeks included. Additionally, new programs are being instituted, such as community involvement programs, tutorial projects and special urban affairs programs. In other words, the hackneyed but very precise word—relevance, has become a crucial issue with students at Valley State.

"In anticipation of your question, 'How has all this affected the fraternity system at Valley State?' I will simply answer by saying, profoundly. However, these effects have been in the process of development over a considerable period of time, any changes in the fraternity system here were predictable over a year ago, and they have been well thought out. I should also say that nothing that is occurring with the fraternities

here is truly novel—it is a quest for relevance that many fraternities have already or will soon experience throughout the country in the years ahead.

"The most recent development in the fraternity system here was the disbanding of the formal Interfraternity Council by its member fraternities. The reason—IFC seemed to represent nothing positive to the groups, just a taxing agent. In its place, Valley State's IFC will take the form of a very loosely structured federation of campus fraternities. This federation will meet only when a request is made by a chapter president, or at the call of the Fraternity Affairs Advisor. In place of IFC officers, the chapter presidents appointed a student fraternity affairs coordinator who will clear up current business of the IFC and then serve as a secretary-business manager to all chapters regarding items of mutual concern. I might add that the decision to disband IFC was a unanimous one, and it was not brought about as the result of antagonism among the chapter officers. I believe the major reason was the feeling among the chapter officers that they would prefer to spend their time (and money) coping with problems within their respective houses.

"Within each house the fraternities are attempting to meet the needs and demands of their brothers. There has been experimentation in activities such as: faculty seminars, community awareness programs, group encounters, and more personalized pledge programs. Each of our fraternities has had to deal with strong feelings of individualism among its members. This is a most perplexing situation, because fraternities by their very nature are used to dealing with problems of directions and goals the group should take (often at the sacrifice of individuality). Frankly, many groups have lost brothers, yet the groups have also gained an internal strength unequalled in their brief histories and, under this approach, I believe they will be able to keep strong individualists.

"What is the college's position regarding all of this? Frankly speaking, I think that we look at the change and experimentation in programs as definitely advantageous. Personally, I believe that the fraternity system will be much better off in the long run, although at this point the fraternities are experiencing some difficulty. We in Student Personnel at the college will continue to encourage and support the fraternity



## Relevance (Continued)

system and strive for its growth and longevity as we have in the past.

"What should the position of a National Office be? I am not in the business of dictating National Fraternity policy, but I would strongly urge that central offices carefully review and study campuses such as ours. There is, I believe, a great deal to be learned in studying such campuses—with positive results which could be applied elsewhere. It is not a time to react and retreat by removing charters, but a time to move forward and strengthen them. I know this will be a difficult task and I know it will require the re-thinking of some philosophies and attitudes, but it is definitely worth the effort."

GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

### The New Lion

by Gary L. Garnand  
Idaho Alpha

The lion is a symbol of the strength and glory of our fraternity, but today our lion is changing. Sigma Alpha Epsilon has been blessed for 113 years with loyal and dedicated leaders, men who have placed their fraternity above their personal lives. For their sacrifice Idaho Alpha is eternally grateful.

However, as part of a rapidly moving world, we see a stumbling block for fraternities in the distance and we suggest that this obstacle is a matter of relevance to changing conditions. All of us fear the loss of a single chapter and we have personally dedicated ourselves to the preservation of SAE by means of a strong, viable and concerned Idaho Alpha. Our chapter is attempting to do this through innovation and creativity and we are succeeding. But what is our future without the same dedication on the part of others? NOTHING! SAE needs your help and needs it from the top down.

The quality of our leaders is unsurpassed, but our needs are greatly changed today from our needs of 50 years ago when Idaho Alpha was founded. The Leadership School must remain relevant, progressive and current. Our Supreme Council must be more student-directed and our chapters must have the courage to be bold, creative and innovative. We must work together realizing that we are the leaders of the Greek system. If we fail no one else will succeed.

SAE at the University of Idaho wants all Brothers to come to the National Convention ready and willing to work together to insure the preservation of our beloved fraternity. We seek not to ridicule any group; only to regain closer working contact. Idaho Alpha is prepared to reemphasize the strength and glory of the lion. Are you?

## MORE ABOUT THE CONVENTION

As stated in the February-March issue of PHI ALPHA, we bring you some additional plans about the Convention.

**10:00 A.M.**, Sunday, June 15—Registration begins at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco.

**2:00 P.M.**, — ESA Miller will gavel the opening session to order, the delegates will be appropriately welcomed to San Francisco, and all of the preliminary details will be completed.

**6:00 P.M.** — There will be a buffet dinner in the Grand Ballroom, delegates will have an opportunity to meet the Supreme Council and, although no program is planned, there will be entertainment

**8:00 P.M.** — The important work of the committees begins.

**9:00 A.M.**, Monday, June 16—General session. Provinces will meet at either breakfast or luncheon meetings Monday and Tuesday as arranged by Province Archons.

**3:30 P.M.** — Adjournment for bus excursion of San Francisco and dinner at the Officers Club, U.S. Naval Station on Treasure Island.

**8:00 P.M.** — General session followed by committee meetings.

**9:00 A.M.**, Tuesday, June 17—General sessions and committee meetings all day.

**6:30 P.M.** — Convention Banquet followed by dancing. A date bureau will be in operation.

**8:30 A.M.**, Wednesday, June 18—Final general session and adjournment at the conclusion of all committee report action and the passing of the gavel to the new ESA.



# THE LION'S SNORT



Texas Rho at the University of Texas has set an exceptional record over the last two years as far as men pledged and eventually initiated. Of 81 pledged during that period, 79 are now active members of the Chapter. Does any other Chapter have a better percentage than that?

\* \* \* \*

A planning committee for the 35th Leadership School met recently to finalize plans for the two sessions this summer. Members of the Committee are: Past ESA Glen Nygreen, Chairman, Past ESA Gurnett Steinhauer, ESDA Paul Jacob, Assistant ESR Jack Hotaling, National Treasurer Chuck Trangsrud, Scholarship Commissioner Neal Berte, John Henry Stone and Johnny Isakson. On the Committee but not present was Province Beta Archon Jay Beck.

\* \* \* \*

The following quote is taken from the EA's Report of Mississippi Sigma which appeared in the THETA-TIMES, newsletter of Province Theta: "Mississippi Sigma has had a short, but glorious history. Many men have worked long and hard to make it what it is, and many men are working hard and long to make it better in the future. There will come that time when we will fondly remember our fraternity days. We will feel then, as we do now, that 'we are not everybody and we can't do everything, but we are somebody and we CAN do something'."

\* \* \* \*

On April 7, Oklahoma Mu at Oklahoma State University received The Darrel Troxel IFC Award as the most outstanding chapter on the campus in overall operation for the year. This is the first time that the award has been presented, and is in honor of Dean of Men Troxel who served for so many years as Director of Fraternity Affairs.

\* \* \* \*

National Convention credentials and Leadership School applications are beginning to arrive at the National Office. If you have not submitted either your credentials or applications, be sure to do so at once.

The reprint of Levere's three-volume History of Sigma Alpha Epsilon is now available at \$26 for the set which includes mailing costs. It has been out of print and unavailable for many years. Those interested in a purchase should contact the National Office.

\* \* \* \*

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators met recently in New Orleans with, among others, Past ESA Glen Nygreen, Scholarship Commissioner Neal Berte and ESR Rex Smith in attendance. Brother Earle Clifford was elected President-designate of the Association. He is Dean of Student Affairs at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

\* \* \* \*

Data Processing will soon be a reality in the National Office. Initial conversion of membership records should begin next month. The May issue of the RECORD will signal the cut-off of the old addressograph system and all future issues will be addressed by means of the computer.

\* \* \* \*

Chapter Consultant Carl Kimball reports a very successful meeting of the Western Regional Interfraternity Conference in San Diego on April 17, 18, 19. There were many SAEs in attendance and on the program, and all events were under the direction of Steve Ironhill of California Theta.

\* \* \* \*

Students who take a considerable amount of razzing over the names of some of their courses should have a look at some of the following: Purdue has a course in amphibious warfare. Michigan State offers Milk Secretion 444 and Paper Boxes 385. North Carolina State offers Angling 241, Roller Skating 247, Squash 248, and Continuous Filament Yarns 430. The University of Massachusetts offers Symbolism 351. Louisiana State University offers Well Design 135. The University of California and Fresno State have a wine-tasting course. The University of Kentucky offers Tobacco Grading 402 and Old Icelandic 610. The University of Hawaii offers American Taste 475 and Reading Aloud 231. Michigan State formerly offered West African Pigeon, but changed the title to be more in line, with Hausa, Ibo, and Yoruba which it also offers in addition to Swahili. Not to be outdone, students and teachers at the University of South Carolina shouldn't be bored spring semester this year; a student committee is running a program in which students select their own courses and teachers pick out what they would like to teach. There are 101 in all with no entrance fee, no grades, no exams, and no credit. The topics include: "How to use the library," "Yoga," "Bartending," "Extra-terrestrial life," and "South Carolina history of regression and stagnation." (From SOA News.)



# Noble Notes



NOBLE LESLIE DeVOTIE  
Founder

The San Francisco SAE Leadership Foundation proudly announces those selected to participate in the Summer Counseling Intern Program. They are: Stephen J. Ironhill, California Theta; J. Michael Simpson, Indiana Gamma; Dennis D. Weisenburger, North Dakota Beta; and William W. Frank, California Delta. First alternate is Stephen A. Horvath, Ohio Mu. The four brothers selected will spend the summer in Columbia, South Carolina working with youth in that state's department of rehabilitation

\* \* \* \*

Immediately following the Province Phi spring meeting in Boise, Idaho, Province Archon Marty Anderson returned home chilled and feverish. Much to his surprise, he discovered that he had contracted chicken pox. He is recovering well but finding it difficult to explain this childhood illness to his friends.

We make a correction in the whereabouts of former Province Omicron Archon Tom Covington, previously reported as being with the Sterling Institute in Boston. Actually, he is with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company and is doing consulting in higher education from their Atlanta office. He will make a recommendation to the Supreme Council for his replacement as Archon for consideration at their May 2-4 meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Chapter Consultant Steve Walker is on a four month leave of absence while he fulfills a National Guard duty obligation. He will be released in mid-July and will resume chapter visitation next fall. His address is: Private E-2 Stevenson T. Walker, NG 24493778, A Co., 5th Bn., 5th Plt., 1st Training Brigade, Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207.

\* \* \* \*

Newest Founder Member of the Levere Memorial Foundation Sustaining Fund is Eminent Supreme Warden Robert van Blaricom. On March 9, 1969, he became Founder Number 233.

\* \* \* \*

Louisiana Epsilon's "Pistol Pete" Maravich was chosen as the most outstanding athlete of the year in the State of Louisiana. His fame continues to grow.

## The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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