



# The Fraternity in Transition

In order to more effectively perceive the role of the National Office in the total relationship between the various Chapters and that organization, some studies have been started. It seems important that there be a rather constant re-evaluation of how well the National Office is performing in its service role to more adequately meet the needs of those being served.

At the outset, a distinction should be made between the National Fraternity and the National Office. The National Fraternity is all segments, i.e., the Provinces, the Chapters, Alumni Associations, and the membership. General policy is established for the Fraternity by the National Convention. The National Office is the vehicle for translating this policy into the daily life and operation of the National Fraternity. The National Office is an instrument of service and functions in those ways that it is directed.

Another distinction that seems important is that, in the case of the Chapters, this service almost always takes the form of assistance to the group rather than to individual members. Effort is focused on services that will help each Chapter develop its operation to the level of greatest advantage to those involved. Concern is for the success of each Chapter. Indirectly then, the individual member derives benefit first from the fact that there is

a Chapter and secondly, that it provides him with the best possible experience.

Each Chapter Consultant has been assigned the in-depth study of a different area of the National Office operation. Ken Tracey is presently involved in a listing of those services that are actually being offered at this time. His study will result in a description of current activities which can be scrutinized to determine whether there might be those which should be curtailed or eliminated, and those which should logically be included.

Monty Podva, in a review of present policies, suggests that, "The second area of policy that is of great concern is that of active and involved membership. It is the belief of the National Fraternity that the difference between a pledge and an active is negligible. The use of mental or physical hazing to create a subordinate role for a pledge is not condoned by mature active members and has no place in a pledge program. It should be kept in mind that we are trying to gain good brothers, not good servants. This is congruent with Section 221 of the National Laws: 'Every initiated member and each active Chapter shares in the obligation to develop programs so that every initiated member will find it educationally advantageous to remain active throughout his attendance at

college.' (Perhaps this is where many chapters, who seem to lose men in their junior and senior years, could very well profit by changing the focus of fraternity life from the pledge program to the active program.)"

He suggests further that, in a discussion of autonomy of chapters, each is given the responsibility of creating, maintaining and stimulating its own existence, with the ever-present opportunity of acquiring assistance and support from the National Office for their objectives.

The recently created Collegiate Council resulted from a resolution adopted at the last National Convention which expressed the need for a flow of information from the Chapters to facilitate adequate decision-making at higher levels. It also was intended to establish a reverse flow and in general to increase communication and involvement. Charlie Witzleben goes farther and suggests a Province Collegiate Council and reasons that, "It is my belief that such a Council would be a vital channel of communication at the grass roots level and would provide each chapter with a definite identity with the Province and National structure. This is certainly of utmost importance at a time when chapters are asking 'why National?'

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Such a structure would require careful planning and earnest support from the Province Officers, but is most important if we are to gain a total understanding of chapter attitudes so we can readily act on their needs."

Another important means of communication is through the various publications of the Fraternity. Constant review and examination in this area is also quite necessary. Bill Stovall suggests that, "The day-to-day operations of the Central Office in Evanston are becoming more efficient with the advent of electronic data processing and other internal innovations. So the National Office is now, more than before, the true 'nerve center' of the Fraternity. With a closer touch on the Fraternity at large, there should be increased opportunities to share general information with the active chapters throughout the nation. It is unavoidable that undergraduates perceive the entire Fraternity through the essence of their own individual chapter. The undergraduate's perspective could be broadened if more information were directly available to him through the National Office. The publications of the National Fraternity, specifically THE RECORD, simply must present more than which chapter won first place at the big ice carnival last winter. If 'National' does in reality embrace the theory that the fraternity experience can mean more to a pledge by reaching his mind than by paddling his behind, then let us begin to seriously challenge old ideas through our publications."

He also discusses the possibility of more effective service through the Province. A greater decentralization in the future is an obvious necessity as growth occurs and college administrations find less time for direct involvement with fraternities. He says, "The

consideration being given by National to the possibility of a regionalized structure with 'branch offices' for the National Staff at key points throughout the nation is commendable. However, this plan is set far into the future, for it is not altogether feasible at the present time. Alternatives for the coming years would include increased sophistication of the Province structure and the development of regional workshops or 'mini-Leadership Schools.' The available number and talent of volunteer alumni officers for Province work is limited, but with the attention of the members of the National Staff, programs and policies within Provinces can be encouraged to better serve active chapters. Realignment Province boundaries could enhance the effectiveness of the Province structure. Dropping the geographic or 'state line' approach to the Provincial arrangement and adopting the 'chapter cluster' idea might loosen up the structure, so as to inject a freer and more creative spirit into the Province operations. Furthermore, drawing together actives and alumni in a given area of the country for a two- or three-day workshop to share ideas and concepts can offer to undergraduates an opportunity to experience the benefits of affiliation with a national structure. Such a workshop provides a chance for the members of various chapters to find out what other chapters on different campuses are doing and how the challenges facing fraternity men today can best be met. By employing the talents of the National Staff, these workshops could prove to be most beneficial to the undergraduates involved with the operation of our active chapters."

These studies are preliminary and there has not yet been time for discussion and action by the Supreme Council. However, in a period of rapid campus change, we feel the necessity for the type of introspection that is presently under way. Some suggestions will be implemented and others will not, but there must be a constant striving to accommodate the National Office to a meaningful role of service.

# An Important Deadline

The 115th Anniversary National Convention will open on June 20, 1971, at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Much planning for this event has already taken place and it will be a pleasant and productive session.

Article 66, Section 215 of the National Laws states: "The National Laws and Ritual may be amended or repealed by the National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Notice setting forth the proposed amendment or repeal shall be submitted to the Eminent Supreme Recorder at least six months prior to the National Convention at which such amendment or repeal is to be considered and shall be printed in Phi Alpha preceding the Convention."

In the case of a local fraternity that wishes to seek a petition at a convention, Article 57, Section 190 (6) states: "On receipt of a petition, the Supreme Council shall submit it to the next National Convention meeting not less than six months thereafter."

The deadline, therefore, for proposed amendments to the National Laws, and for charter applications for consideration is December 20, 1970, in the office of the Eminent Supreme Recorder.

There may be some confusion about charter applications that needs some clarification. In order for a local fraternity to appear at a National Convention, the petition and \$500 charter fee must be submitted to the Eminent Supreme Recorder prior to December 20, 1970. In the case of a Province request for a mail ballot, no such time limitation applies. A mail ballot may be approved by unanimous consent of the Supreme Council, provided the proper information and charter fee of \$500 is submitted. It is unlikely, however, that such a request would be granted if a local fraternity could readily appear at the National Convention.

# THE LION'S SNORT



Kansas Alpha at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, dedicated its new addition in excellent ceremonies on Saturday, November 14. The Supreme Council was represented by Past ESA Leo S. Cade.

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After a five year suspension, there is once again a Massachusetts Kappa. At the request of Province Alpha, the Supreme Council returned the Charter, thus displaying confidence in the local fraternity, Theta Sigma Phi, and in the future development of the fraternity system at the University of Massachusetts. ESDA van Blaricom was the installing officer and Past ESA Glen Nygreen was the banquet speaker.

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As a reminder to those Chapters concerned, we list the following anniversaries during the next two years: Louisiana Tau Upsilon will be seventy-five years old on January 22, 1972; Iowa Delta will celebrate fifty years on February 5, 1971; and California Gamma will have their fiftieth anniversary on February 19, 1971.

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We have recently learned of the impending marriage of two of our most outstanding housemothers; Mrs. Ellen Davis, who is with Oklahoma Mu, and Mrs. Carmen Neuman, formerly with Illinois Psi Omega and more recently at Alabama Mu.

## Fraternities Offer Classroom Space

—Seven University of Wisconsin fraternities have offered their living rooms to offset a loss of classroom space from the fatal bomb explosion which destroyed the campus' Army Mathematics Research Center. The explosion killed a physics scholar and caused an estimated \$2.7 million damage to the building and its contents.

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## Survey Finds Spring Protests Greatest in History

—Dr. Clark Kerr, chairman of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education has released the results of a survey of university presidents on last spring's campus protests. The surge of reaction that swept campuses last spring after the United States incursion into Cambodia and the killing of students at two colleges, was unprecedented in the history of American higher education, he said. The campus reaction was strongest at nonsectarian private institutions and at big public universities, the poll showed, with reaction strongest in the Northeast, followed by Pacific Coast colleges. It was found to have been much stronger among students in the top academic ranks. There was some form of organized dissent on 57 per cent of the campuses, the report showed.

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**College Education Costs Soar**—Four years of college can now cost as much as \$19,040 in this country, and that's

a bare-bones figure with little allowance for social activities and incidentals. Average four-year cost in 1970, for a cross-section list of 98 representative U. S. colleges and universities, is \$12,770. It's an increase of 7.2 per cent over the 1969 figure. This increase means that college expenses have increased by nearly a fifth more than general living costs in the past year, as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

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Some years ago, The Levere Memorial Foundation began a program of making available to Chapters the complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica at a very reasonable cost. The program has continued until there are only eight sets remaining. Any individual or Chapter interested in purchasing the 1970 Encyclopedia Britannica should contact Foundation Executive Secretary Rex Smith for additional details.

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At a time when there are those who would have us think otherwise, we are pleased to report that fall rush at most Chapters has been quite successful. Results as reported to the National Office indicate, in most instances, larger numbers pledged than in previous years. One explanation for this is the fact that, more and more, Chapters realize that they must actively seek out and interest those who might not otherwise be inclined to pledge.

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We have just learned that the newly elected Governor of Minnesota, Wendell R. Anderson, is an SAE, Minnesota Alpha '56. As is traditional, a diamond badge will be presented to Brother Anderson at appropriate ceremonies at the time of Founders Day next March.

# Noble Notes



NOBLE LESLIE DeVOTIE  
Founder

ESA Jacob underwent eye surgery in Memphis recently and is now at home and recovering exceptionally well. He is becoming impatient to return to work and to his numerous SAE activities. He had a detached retina but his doctor now tells him that he can assume as much use of the eye as he is comfortable in doing.

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Upon the request of the Board of Trustees in New York, the Supreme Council has appointed Alden C. Hess to fill the unexpired term of the late Frank S. Beckett. Brother Hess, Pa. Gamma '61, Ohio Sigma, is with the First National City Bank of New York.

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New Founder Member #243, Joel Yarborough, who diligently paid Ten

Dollars a month to accumulate his One Thousand Dollar plateau, wrote to ESR Hotaling: "Thanks for your gracious and cordial note. I am proud to become a Founder, even though the method was a trifle drawn out. Looking back, though, I am dismayed at those thousands of brothers who could become Life and Founder members by the stroke of a pen. Maybe it's the little guys who are chosen to help build the great and enduring things—and that's where I come in."

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The new Senator from Tennessee will be William E. Brock, III, Virginia Sigma '53. As far as we know all of our Congressmen were returned and we know of at least one addition to the rolls of SAE's in the House. He is William R. Archer, Jr., Texas Rho '50, who replaces George Bush from Austin, Texas.

From Milestones in TIME magazine, we learned of the death of Count Ilya A. Tolstoy, Iowa Gamma '28, grandson of Russian Author Leo Tolstoy. Brother Tolstoy came to the U. S. in 1924 and became a noted explorer, conservationist and ichthyologist. As an OSS agent in World War II, he led an expedition to Tibet to enlist the aid of the Dalai Lama in case Germany and Japan had managed to link forces in India. As a scientist, he developed a hypodermic harpoon for live capture of huge sharks, and Floridians remember him as a co-founder of the famed Marineland near St. Augustine.

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We learned today that Province Chi Archon Carl Kimball, has been released from the hospital, having been there since August 5. Two weeks ago, on the regional telecast of the USC - California football game, the half-time card section first portrayed a bandaged man with a foot in a cast above the words "Get Well Soon." Then they flipped the cards and the sign read "Carl Kimball."

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Brother Chester E. Bowie, Iowa Delta '29, became Founder Member #244 on November 16, 1970. Brother Bowie is living in Farmington, Michigan.

## The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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