



The Current Crisis In Higher Education

That there is a crisis presently facing the higher education community there can be little doubt. The events of last spring on campuses across the land stunned a nation already beset with self-doubt and deep concern about its basic moral and sociological institutions. So much has been written and said about these events that it would be foolhardy to continue here. This page of Phi Alpha will rather attempt to assess the effect of all that has and is occurring on Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

The following statement has been issued by the Supreme Council and is addressed to all SAE's and the higher education community.

"Each of us is shocked and dismayed over the violent and destructive events which marked the last few weeks of the school year at institutions of higher learning in this country. The resultant fear, anger, and polarization which has become rampant in our society yields a crisis situation which goes beyond the potential destruction of higher education to a greater concern for the basic fabric of our society. Each of us must see to it that neither repression on the one hand nor revolution on the other becomes the order of the day.

"We believe that it is incumbent on every person associated with the Fraternity to seek ways of channeling the angry voices of criticism so that these can be translated into creative forces for change which have historically been a part of the successful progress of our society.

"Specifically we urge:

1) That we no longer continue business as usual in our Chapters and various associations but that we develop programs which make it possible for our members to be exposed to the various issues related to the major problems of the day including the war in Southeast Asia, racial strife in our society, and campus unrest. In so doing, college fraternity members may become involved and fraternity houses may serve as forum places for discussion as a way to dissipate the current level of distrust through constructive dialogue and action.

2) That we recognize there is a small percentage of students and non-students in this country who are bent on the destruction of institutions of higher learning and that we see to it that we assist with the lawful removal of these individuals from the academic community through cooperation with campus and civil authorities. By the same token, we recognize the vital role of peaceful dissent in the history of our country and its im-

In order to acquaint all members of the Fraternity with the position of the Supreme Council in these times of trouble on our campuses, this article was being reproduced and included with our Annual Giving request for 1971.

portance for the continued success of the democratic process.

"The deaths of students and the other dehumanizing events of the past several weeks must stimulate concerted action on the part of each of us to remove violence as a means of resolving conflict in society. We can no longer afford to be indifferent to these problems."

Sigma Alpha Epsilon needs the support and understanding of all of its members during these troubled times. More than any time in history, our chapters have the opportunity to offer a source for reason to the campus at the same time that they provide students a sense of responsible involvement. There have already been innumerable examples of chapter involvement in the community through tutorial programs, individual participation in the Summer Intern Program in San Francisco and Columbia, South Carolina, and attempts by individual brothers to be a stabilizing influence on campus through assisting as marshals during campus unrest situations. The Supreme Council is confident that, contrary to the view of some that the role of fraternities is diminishing, we can serve a meaningful role during the troubled times ahead.

SDS and the Fraternity System

The following article by Ed Hinton of Mississippi Sigma appeared in the Spring 1970 issue of the "Alumni Informer" newsletter of SAE's chapter at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Students for a Democratic Society and similar groups have apparently declared war on Greek systems all over the United States. This is not surprising, since fraternities stand for many ideals which SDS despises.

Gentlemanliness, honor, maturity and self-respect may seem old-fashioned to SDS; but such ideals have proven their value to fraternity men everywhere for nearly a century and a half.

SDS bases its criticism of fraternities around the argument that fraternity men are the sons of upper middle class businessmen, lawyers and doctors. These people, they claim, are part of the "system," and their sons will merely carry on the status quo.

First, fraternity men are NOT necessarily wealthy. Belonging to a fraternity is not nearly as expensive as many people believe. The majority of fraternity men find their dues to be well within their families' budgets.

Also, fraternity men are not all part of the status quo. Their ideas are as progressive—if not more so—as those of the average college student.

The Levere Memorial Foundation announces the appointment of six Tutors in Residence. Each serves a chapter of the Fraternity and assists the members individually and as a group in the ways of study habits and educational programming. They are: Robert B. Connolly at Arizona Alpha, David A. Poe at California Beta, Douglas Sanchez at California Zeta, John W. Radke at North Dakota Beta, Allie J. Prescott at Tennessee Sigma, Douglas R. Marvin at Virginia Omicron.

The day of the wealthy fraternity man who stands around a piano singing "sweetheart" songs and snubbing other people died—if it ever really existed—with World War II. Also, the day of physical "hazing" has long since passed. Fraternity pledges, since they are men, are treated as such—and not as high school boys.

SDS would also have us believe that to join a fraternity is to "buy friends." This may seem, on the surface, to be true. But when a man pledges a fraternity, he has 3½ months or more to decide whether or not the individual fraternity is right for him. There is no "automatic" buying when it comes to brotherhood.

But what about the Greek system's criticism of SDS? Although we of the fraternity system are not as loud and rowdy with our criticism of opposition, we disagree strongly with many of the beliefs of SDS.

Such radical organizations care nothing for the rights of others. They are not interested in orderly processes of law. Their attitude, as Abbie Hoffman has put it, of "revolution for the hell of it," has caused nothing but trouble and confusion wherever they have gone.

In short, they have completely reversed nearly every ideal that has kept the human race in existence. They seem to be "for" anything that other people are "against."

At the University of Southern Mississippi, most students seem too responsible to blindly follow such radical organizations.

Even though the SDS national headquarters in Chicago has a map with a red flag pinned over Hattiesburg, there seems to be little chance that SDS will do any serious damage here.

We at Southern are proud—and relieved—that SDS's number only about half a dozen here.

SAE and the National Interfraternity

Conference

There have been rumors recently that SAE intends to withdraw from the National Interfraternity Conference. It should be pointed out, however, that the Supreme Council has not taken such action but has forcefully expressed to the officers of that organization a displeasure with the present structure and with the services that are currently being provided to member fraternities.

SAE has always taken considerable pride in the fact that our George Kimball made the motion, while attending the Department of Universities and Colleges of the Religious Education Association in Chicago in 1909, which created the Conference. Since then Past ESA's Don Almy and Fred Turner have served the Conference with distinction as Chairman and President. Former ESR John O. Moseley was awarded the Gold Medal of the Conference, and all other ESR's have served whenever they were called upon to do so. In other words, our involvement in the activities of the Conference have, from the very beginning, been consistent and, hopefully, valuable.

But, serious question is presently being raised about the value to SAE of continued participation unless significant change occurs. We have indicated the change that we feel is necessary and it is now the responsibility of the National Interfraternity Conference to demonstrate a willingness to adopt new programs and directions that will assist member groups and give positive direction to the fraternity system. The time has passed for promises; concrete action must be demonstrated.

THE LION'S SNORT



Special recognition is due two chapters in Province Eta for their assistance in rush at Colorado Zeta (Denver). The members and pledges of Colorado Lambda (Colo. School of Mines) and Wyoming Alpha (Wyoming) provided nightly assistance to the two returning members of Colorado Zeta in their rebuilding efforts. The men from Lambda drove about 60 miles each night and the Wyoming brothers traveled nearly 300 miles each time they made the trip. What better example of loyalty to the good name of SAE have you heard about lately? The efforts of these men and local alumni provided a new lease on life through the fine quality of men in the pledge class.

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From the Fall 1970 issue of the Province Theta "Etc. . . ." comes: "HERE WE GO AGAIN! With predictions that this year will be generally quiet from some, and other predictions that this will be the year that all students rise up and destroy the university system, the academic year begins. And with it comes a need on the part of active chapters everywhere for self-evaluation and self-direction. The fraternity system enters formal rush every year and faces falling numbers of rushees and increasing statements about the death and impending doom which is about to rush in on fraternity chapters. Open rush proves again and again, however, that fraternities are not necessarily doomed but that new life comes from initiative and planning events that meet individual chapter needs rather than depending on IFC and the whole system to do something for the chapter. Do it yourself—for yourself!"

Willing to Give a Year? A nationwide study of 2,000 high school students showed 91 per cent of them willing to defer their personal interests and work for a year on one of the nation's problems. The study conducted by Purdue University's Measurement and Research Center found most students willing to give a year to work on pollution, poverty, race and education problems.

* * *

Overcrowded Colleges a Major Problem American education is literally bursting at the seams—one reason for campus unrest that perhaps isn't stressed enough. In 1940 there were about 1.6 million students in college. By 1960 the number had more than doubled and in less than a decade doubled again to 7.8 million by 1969.

While the number of colleges has increased from 1,871 in 1953-54 to 2,382 in 1966-67, this 27 per cent increase has not kept up with the 170 per cent increase in enrollments during the same period.

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Did you know? That there are over 4,000 chapters of national and internationally-affiliated fraternities. At the same time the number of local fraternity groups, not affiliated with an international or national fraternity has declined each year for the past ten years.

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Recently ESA Jacob declared an emergency to exist in the Fraternity and had circulated to the electorate a series of proposed amendments to

the National Laws which would change the name of the RECORD Life Subscription Fund to the Educational and Leadership Fund, change the purposes of the Fund, and provide that the expense of publishing the RECORD would hereafter be met from general funds of the Fraternity. Space does not permit a detailed explanation of the occasion for these changes but they were recommended by both the General Counsel and the special tax counsel of the Fraternity. The vote on these proposals was tabulated (after the twenty-one day period allowed) with an almost unanimous approval. This now becomes the law of the Fraternity and steps are now underway to make the necessary changes to fund names and procedures.

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In the area of extension, the Supreme Council has approved colony status for Theta Chi Alpha at Eastern Washington State College in Cheney, authorized a mail ballot to vote on the request for a Charter of Phi Alpha at South Dakota State University in Brookings, and placed on the approved list of institutions Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, Ogelthorpe College in Atlanta, Georgia, and the University of Tennessee at Martin, in Martin, Tennessee. A charter application has been received from Sigma Gamma Sigma at Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky also.

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Province Pi held a workshop at Ohio Lambda (Kent State) recently and discussed the Supreme Council statement that appears on Page One of this issue of Phi Alpha. As a result, a proposal was made that each chapter in the Province would suggest to their IFC that there be a joint effort in sponsoring a series of dialogues on problems of the day. Student speakers would be involved and there would be a panel of faculty members to serve as a resource. With Province support and funding, Ohio Lambda will conduct a pilot project.

Noble Notes



NOBLE LESLIE DeVOTIE
Founder

We welcome to the Province Archon ranks Bill Bradford in Phi, Bill Barnhouse in Upsilon and Scott Bennett in Lambda. Each has recently been appointed by the Supreme Council to fill an unexpired term of a predecessor who moved from the province.

* * *

Former Chapter Consultants Tom Kee and Del Weston have settled into their new responsibilities. Tom is working in the area of sales and kitchen design for Karlson Home Center and he and his bride Sue are living in Evanston. Del is the new fraternity affairs officer at the University of Idaho.

ESCh Neal Berte has assumed his new duties at the University of Alabama. As Dean of the New College, he will be in charge of developing this experimental college with many new and creative programs for higher education.

* * *

At the first meeting of the newly created Collegiate Council between the two sessions of Leadership School, Bill Smith of Mississippi Theta was elected Chairman of the Council and Matt Cusimano of California Zeta was elected Vice-Chairman. Both will meet with the Supreme Council at each of their meetings this year.

Eunice Holderness, wife of Past ESA Marvin Holderness, passed away on September 7. Brother Holderness is confined to a rest home in Nashville.

* * *

National Treasurer Chuck Trangsrud left the staff on September 18 to return to school. He has begun work at Northwestern on his masters degree in business. To quote from another publication, "not a day will pass when someone won't need an answer to some question of importance that Chuck could have given quietly and correctly. The answer will have to be found somewhere else, and we will miss him."

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We have just learned of the death of LMF Secretary Rex Smith's mother, Mrs. Rosalia Smith, in Beatrice, Nebraska. Mrs. Smith was a charter member of SAE's first Mothers Club, established at Nebraska Lambda-Pi, and was actively involved with the group for many years.

The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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