



A PRIVATE PUBLICATION OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

The Brothers of The Supreme Council and Their Views

At the second session of the 37th annual Leaderships School the Brothers attending the sessions were fortunate to have a personal interview with the members of the Supreme Council. During the interview Brothers from chapters all over the country were able to ask any question they had concerning the procedures and views of the members.

It was a good session; questions asked and answers given will be of interest to all.

For instance, each member was asked to explain briefly exactly what his office entailed. First, the Eminent Supreme Warden Russ Heuer is responsible for the financial aspects of the Fraternity. Second, the Eminent Supreme Chronicler Bill Brickle is assigned his duties by the ESA. Presently he is the coordinator of the Collegiate Council. Third, the Eminent Supreme Herald Louis Smith is in charge of the national level of Alumni affairs such as Alumni Associations, clubs, etc. Fourth, the Eminent Supreme Deputy Archon Joe Mancini acts in the ESA's absence and carries out duties assigned by the ESA. Fifth, the ESA, Bob van Blaricom presides over the Supreme Council meetings. He is also the spokesman and representative of the Fraternity in all national fraternity affairs. The final member of the Council is the Chairman of the Collegiate Council Charlie Sevier who is an undergraduate. His duties are that of liaison between all undergraduates and the Supreme Council, to relate to us the various actions of the Council and to present to the Supreme Council members the feelings and reactions of undergraduates on controversial issues.

A common misconception is that ESR Jack Hotaling is a member of the Supreme Council and with a vote. Jack is an elected national officer, the Executive Secretary, and is a full-time salaried officer who meets with and executes decisions made by the 5-man national governing board. Furthermore, he is subject to nomination by the Council although he is elected by the delegates at the National Convention.

Another national officer who is not on the Supreme Council is Honorary ESA John Baugh, who has the rich

experience of 25 years of service, spent with Chapter members through Chapter visitation.

Some of the questions-answers and Council views in which I feel brothers everywhere would be especially interested are:

Q. Do each of you think that women should be allowed to join our Fraternity?

A. For various reasons all the officers except ESR Jack R. Hotaling, felt that women do not belong in the Fraternity. Jack feels that selection of members should be the prerogative of the chapter itself and that the national office should not be involved therein.

Q. How do you, as the Supreme Council feel about having an undergraduate as Province Archon or any other Province office?

A. If an undergraduate had the time to get out to visit chapters and do the work involved, it would be great. (Mancini)

Q. How many Brothers have been killed in hazing incidents?

A. Many, but one in particular in the early 1930's, which caused legislation to be written into the National Laws. (Hotaling)

Q. Can you tell me why the firm statements on no hazing are not enforced?

A. The national fraternity, like any law enforcement agency, does not take action unless a local agency has reported it. (van Blaricom)

Q. What are the reactions of the Supreme Council in finding that many Brothers use "illegal" drugs in their chapter house.

A. National is aware of it in the

chapter houses. When you do have drugs in the house you are endangering the chapter as a whole because you break the laws of our country. (Heuer)

Q. Do you think the law should be changed to make possession of marijuana a misdemeanor instead of a felony?

A. I cannot see charging a young man with a felony for possession of marijuana, because a felony is an extremely serious offense. (Mancini)

Q. Why do we not have extension into Canada?

A. I feel that most Canadian schools do not recognize fraternities as a significant part in learning. (Baugh)

Q. Why doesn't the national fraternity take a stand against the war in Vietnam?

A. This was proposed at the National Convention and was discussed there. The feeling was that everyone has his own opinion; if the national fraternity were to take a stand there would be Brothers who would be forced to take a stand either with or against the national fraternity. (Hotaling, with all the members of the Council in agreement.)

Q. What should a person do if he, after graduation, would like to work for the fraternity as a Chapter Consultant or in some other area?

A. If a Brother would like to be a Chapter Consultant, he should write a letter to either Bill Flournoy or ESR Hotaling. Furthermore a Brother should be

What It's All About

The essence of fraternity in Sigma Alpha Epsilon is love, regardless of how much brothers refuse to admit it.

During rush a chapter consciously or unconsciously evaluates what they have to offer new men and decides on those qualities they believe will appeal to rushees—diversity, lower living cost, food, shelter, belonging, social life, scholarship, friendship, brotherhood. But the most beneficial thing that the fraternity is offering is LOVE. People long for acceptance by their peers, they want someone to care about them and their worth in society.

Too often rushing is superficial and bypasses the real values on which fraternities are based—a loving bond among brothers.

Suggestions received during Leadership School include greeting the rushee with concern. ESA Robert van Blaricom said he had never been unanswered when he approached a rushee with the question "Who are you? I want to get to know you."

After all brotherhood is love. It's the best thing we can offer.

To paraphrase what an SAE alumnus has written, "Take advantage of your fraternal experiences while you're in college for the opportunity passes all too quickly. "Love—the time is now.

Dale Johnson
South Dakota Theta

Phi Alpha - Second Session

STAFF

- Loren Boone - South Dakota Theta
- Gordon Winterrowd - Oregon Alpha
- Sterling Minor - North Carolina Nu
- Myles Karpman - Cal. Lambda
- Larry Pasquale - Ohio Lambda
- Dale Johnson - South Dakota Theta

The Pledge As Equal

Rushing and pledge training dominated discussions at the 37th session of the SAE Leadership School. The underlying theme of "the socially sensitive seventies" provided incentive for those attending to question the traditional ways of rushing and pledge education. They realized that both need re-evaluation now in order to secure the existence and growth of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Pledges in the past have been treated as objects for the active members harassment. In certain instances they have been treated as a separate and unequal group. Some chapters have recently created successful new pledge programs and brought their pledges out of the darkness.

Pledges are now being included as an integral part of the chapter's working organization. For the fraternity member this has proven to be a means of increasing involvement and instilling concern. Many pledges now attend active meetings.

Pledges have been, up to now, taught to respect the fraternity through use of physical and mental harassment. All in all old attitudes created alienation of the pledge class from the active chapter. What former pledge training hoped to accomplish was unification of the pledge class—which it did. In the process there evolved a group so bonded together that they continued to identify with their own pledge class rather than with the chapter as a whole throughout their undergraduate days.

The early harassment caused the pledges to avoid the active chapter rather than work with it. In the new, improved approach actives work hand in hand with pledges, thus earning their respect and instilling pride and zeal for the fraternity in which the pledge will soon become an active member.

It may be observed that active SAE's can no longer treat pledges as unequals by humiliating them, but rather must treat them as equals in the hope that the new men will continue to work for the good of the fraternity as actives in the same way they did as pledges.

It must be said that we do not propose that a pledge be handed his place in SAE. The new men must earn their places in the fraternity, but in a different, more meaningful working

relationship with the active chapter through brotherhood, interaction with people, and a genuine love for the fraternity and for what it stands.

Myles Karpman
California Lambda
and
Gordon Winterrowd
Oregon Alpha

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come involved in Province matters to help build the fraternity as a whole. (Baugh)

- Q. What's done with the \$85 initiation fee?
- A. The \$85 initiation fee is used in the operation of the national office and falls far short of covering the national's expense. (Hotaling)
- Q. What happens to the \$75 charge to delegates for attending Leadership School?
- A. Of this, \$60 to \$70 goes into room and board. The national office has a deficit of \$12,000 in the operation of the School. (Hotaling)

After the session I asked ESR Hotaling what he thinks about pledge training. His comment was that he is opposed to pledge training that focuses its purpose on keeping the chapter house clean. He believes we should consider a return to that day when a person was pledged one day and initiated the next.

Hopefully these answers were as interesting, surprising and satisfying to you as they were to the Brothers who attended the School. Whether you are in agreement or disagreement with any of the answers, feel free to write members of the Council. They are always glad to hear your views; also to clarify their views on any matter which affects the fraternity. Their concern is evident by their presence at the Leadership School.

It is obvious to all who attended the School that the Brothers of the Supreme Council and the members of the faculty of Leadership School have kept pace with our changing times. I am confident that this will continue to be the case.

Lawrence Pasquale
Ohio Lambda '73

After Charter Fatigue—Something To Avoid

Editor's Note: South Dakota Theta became the 175th chapter of SAE in February, 1971. The suggestions made come from the experiences of post-installation.

A Sigma Alpha Epsilon charter has been granted. And now what?

In the last two years, ten new chapters have been activated into SAE. And this fall six more will enter the realm of Minerva.

In many cases the charter has been given to a local fraternity and it has been a sought after goal for years. It has led the men in each local to a common, united bond where everyone has struggled to gain recognition of the local fraternity by SAE.

But, what does the chapter do after the initial "high" of becoming SAE wears off in two, three or four weeks?

Faced with a lack of enthusiasm, the six chapters being installed this fall will no doubt have their hands full forestalling a lull in their activities.

The lull need not happen to new chapters but most national officials say it does because there is lack of direction, a deficit in the financial books after activation costs, a sudden time when the ultimate has been reached, when no longer is there a common bond which has pulled and magnetized the local men into a solid unit. Brotherhood is still there but that's often not enough—some higher goals within the chapter are needed.

After living through three months of constant self-criticism, lack of enthusiasm, poor attendance and poorer excuses for not attending functions, South Dakota Theta (initiated in February) has risen from a slump which threatened to obliterate our existence.

There are certain pitfalls to avoid

and steps to be taken to prevent the "after charter fatigue."

First, set a retreat or goal-setting session within a month after your installation where the chapter goal is to decide what track or direction they will now take. Decide what your chapter specialty is, where your best assets are and use them to obtain a higher goal such as the John O. Moseley Award. Discuss at the sessions where your chapter is weak and what needs immediate or future improvement to insure a lasting bond of brothers. The important thing is not to sit back and revel in the glory of receiving a new charter—it will only hinder later action, alienate people and add pressure to the expediency with which things must later be accomplished.

Second, in the process don't let self-criticism rule the chapter. Constructive criticism can be taken to a point of no return where suddenly to criticize becomes a norm. Make the best of your situation.

Make sure your social activities don't falter because funds aren't available and the initiation cost more than was expected. Plan ahead for post-charter activities.

Third, the pledges should be informed if the fraternity is having internal problems. Many will know that something is wrong, and perhaps they can offer their assistance as part of a new chapter who look upon the newly activated fraternity with fresh incentive. They, after they become actives of SAE, will be the ones who will suffer the most when those responsible for the lull have graduated and entered the comfortable status of alumni.

Fourth, don't let the preparations for an activation weekend provide a working hardship on the chapter members. Spread the load so that

there isn't a sudden desire to sit back and watch someone else provide the incentive to progress toward other goals.

Fifth, insure for yourselves that you have learned everything you can from your Chapter Consultant for he will be gone within a week of your activation leaving questions unanswered and insecurity behind.

Sixth, look to your Province for guidance. The older, established chapters can provide some guidelines in uncertain matters until experience can be a guide.

Thus, a common, degrading circumstance can be alleviated with some immediate planning.

For those six chapters being activated this fall it could be a long, hard road if incentive isn't kept up and if there isn't a desire to "keep the ball rolling."

Belonging to SAE provides unity and security within itself but that cannot be the single factor. The chapter must continue its drive toward common goals.

You must sell yourselves on the idea that you are still the same group of men with a different name, and that there is no revelation that suddenly things will be much better because you're SAE's. There are definite benefits to belonging to a national fraternity but the national office cannot and will not provide incentive in your members.

A newly activated local chapter must continue the learning, educational experience that Sigma Alpha Epsilon should be. The chapters initiated have already met stiff requirements for admittance; those aspects and qualities need to be continued without a lapse.

Lorne Boone
South Dakota Theta

Striving for An Academic Environment

As Sigma Alpha Epsilon attempts to change its fraternity image from an exclusive social club into a useful and relevant campus organization, the local chapter must begin to provide a means for attaining an atmosphere compatible with academic excellence.

The fraternity has long been a place for escape from scholastic pressure. At times this is necessary, but the chapter should foster, not hinder the educational capabilities of its brothers. If SAE is to appeal to today's freshman, extra out-of-the classroom academic activities must be provided and used.

The transition to an organization with high academic ideals must originate with activities in the chapter and can be done in two steps.

First, the brothers need academic interest. The chapter should offer a good scholastic atmosphere and educational programs for its brothers, and

if it does not, such programs must be initiated. When provided, the academic programs must equal the claims made for them. Pledges do not stick around when their expectations are not satisfied. Speak of far-reaching programs but measure up to your plans. If your chapter is academically deficient, specific programs may be initiated to help the brothers improve their standings and attain educational excellence.

If your chapter does not have a scholarship chairman, make this a priority. The EDA fulfills this job in many chapters. In some chapters incentive programs are a partial answer. Award cash or certificates for top grade-point averages and most-improved averages or get a scholarship plaque to recognize performance and improvement. If a large percentage of the brothers live in the house and some rooms are more desirable than others, assign roommates by grade-point average, pairing the best and the worst with each other.

To promote excellence in classroom scholarship, the chapter should provide out-of-class academic programs. One practice at both Stanford and Duke is the Favorite Faculty Cocktail

Party where each brother invites a professor to the house for a social hour or a meal.

If your college or university does not have a plan whereby living groups may have courses, with or without credit, taught in individual houses, apply for one. If there are no provisions for this, work toward having special courses taught in the housing groups and fraternities. Courses offered through SAE have ranged from "Sex and Marriage" to "French Cooking" to "University Administration."

Scheduled rap sessions with pre-announced topics can be introduced or talks can be given by persons from the university or by outside professionals. This type of instruction can be successful in providing knowledge in a variety of areas.

These plans may not be right for every SAE chapter but for most chapters an increase in academic excellence can make the fraternity rewarding to more students. The important element is a good attitude toward all educational ideas.

Sterling Minor
North Carolina Nu

The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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