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THE PHI ALPHA
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
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THE PHI ALPHA

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Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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National Affairs

Plans are proceeding well for the 117th Anniversary National Convention in New Orleans on June 17-20, 1973. The Marriott Hotel, Canal and Chartres Sts., has been selected by the Supreme Council as headquarters. Chairman of the local New Orleans planning committee is Tom Soniat, Tulane '69, who is employed by the Better Business Bureau of Greater New Orleans, and is exceptionally well qualified to assume this important responsibility.

At the Joint Meeting of the Province Archons and Supreme Council last August, a number of program suggestions were made and adopted. Two of the most important are:

1. Election of officers will be held early in the convention, probably Monday morning, and those who plan to be candidates may submit their names, photographs and a biography to be included in the pre-Convention PHI ALPHA scheduled to be published in late February.

2. An effort will be made to adjourn the Convention prior to the Convention Banquet Tuesday evening, thus leaving Wednesday morning for workshops and other content presentations.

Some committees will be asked to come in early and begin their work before the Convention convenes on Sunday afternoon. Also, every attempt will be made to avoid evening committee meetings which have normally followed the dinner functions.

A REMINDER: December 17, 1972 is the deadline for submission of proposed changes to the National Laws

and for the receipt of charter applications for consideration at the Convention. Those submitting proposed changes to the National Laws are asked to include a short statement of reasoning and purpose for the change in order to assist the Convention Committee with its work.

More information about the Convention will be presented in succeeding issues of PHI ALPHA.

A student guest editor has been designated by the Supreme Council for the February 1973 issue of the RECORD. He is Robert (Bobby) Thompson, Emory '73 (Georgia Epsilon). Bobby has served on the faculty of the Leadership School, is an IFC officer and an officer of his Chapter, and is a journalism major. He will provide an undergraduate point of view to that issue of the magazine that should be of interest to students and alumni alike.

The Chapters

Welcome to our 183rd active chapter, Utah Sigma at Weber State College in Ogden. It was a smashing installation in every respect, and especially to the 85 who were introduced to SAE at the impressive initiation ceremony on Saturday afternoon, November 4. All were very encouraged by the warm welcome to the college, by the great alumni strength created, by the excited interest of surrounding chapters, and by an exceptionally close knit and fraternal group of new brothers. We proudly salute Utah Sigma!

FLASH TO PRESENT OR CONTEMPLATED GRADUATE STUDENTS! The House Corporation of Indiana Beta at Purdue University is actively seeking a graduate student SAE, beginning hopefully at the second semester of this school year, to live in the chapter house and work with the membership to build back their strength on campus. Room, board and tuition will be provided. For further information write to Richard Schelsky, School of Education, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809. Failing to locate someone now, the program will be available next fall and those interested for then should also write to Brother Schelsky.

Four new officer manuals have been completed and distributed to the chapters. They are: Pledge Education, Rush Skills, Financial Techniques, and the Eminent Archon. Other aids are in progress. Anyone desiring a copy of the manuals should write to Director of Chapter Services Charlie Witzleben.

From The Province

We have just learned that Province Phi Archon Bob Serrano has accepted a new position as Student Union Operations Director at the University of Wisconsin. We are sorry that he must resign his position as Archon but we are also excited for him in his new and challenging responsibilities. The Supreme Council will appoint a new Archon upon the recommendation of the Province Council.

Communications in the Provinces is decidedly on the upswing. Almost every Province now has a newsletter, according to the number that are coming to our attention.

The Alumni Scene

SAE has another brother in the Senate. Peter Domenici, New Mexico Tau '55, was elected as a Republican from the State of New Mexico. Returns are not complete enough for us to indicate the number of SAEs who will be serving in the House of Representatives but there will undoubtedly be many.

We quote a few paragraphs here from Dr. William F. Sunday, Gettysburg '16 (Pennsylvania Delta) in a letter he wrote about the Levere Centennial issue of the RECORD which should be of interest.

"Brother Levere visited Penna. Delta Chapter late in the afternoon of a cold wet day in October of 1916. A group of us met him at the station. Mazi, our housekeeper, joined in welcoming him, dried his clothes and pressed them. Then, handing him his trousers, she turned on her bewitching smile and whispered, "I thought it was a tent." Billy Levere was a big man. He remained with us three days explaining the history of the fraternity

and the Greek mythology of its liturgy. He lived SAE, this is what was so important—much more important than what he said about SAE.

"In your letter you ask for suggestions in keeping SAE in its position of leadership in the Greek world. This is a good question and is worthy of much thought and prayer. Levere, as you know, was a man of prayer, if one understands frequent 'conversations with Christ' as prayer . . .

"I believe in immortality as do all SAEs—else what is an 'Eternal Chapter' for? Further, that Noble Leslie DeVotie, the Founder of that Chapter and Billy Levere, its Supreme Recorder, proposed St. Peter as an honorary member of the Chapter Eternal, and I believe that together with the hosts of our beloved brothers gone before us in peace or in war, gathered each dawn with the supporting Angels singing 'Violets' and at dusk in the Chapter assembled—'Sing, Brothers, Sing; Sing, Brothers, Sing; We'll twist the devil by his tail and sing for SAE.'

"There is no more dedicated body of men than in the more than hundred chapters scattered all over the land. It would require only a change in point of view for SAE to have a Chapter Eternal, Brothers DeVotie and Levere co-founders. We would then regard our pledges as candidates for initiation into the Chapter Eternal, the first degree being the training in the local chapter.

"It would require only a change in point of view to have the Chapter Eternal related to the neophyte as is the 'Kingdom of Heaven' related to the confirmed of an institutional church."

All alumni should be reminded that contributions to The Levere Memorial Foundation are deductible for income tax purposes. This is timely as we approach the end of the tax year. A handsome brochure is available describing the educational and charitable activities of the Foundation. For further information write to Jack R. Hotaling, Secretary, P.O. Box 1856, Evanston, Illinois 60204.

Announcing an Educational & Leadership Consultant opening for January 1973. Any brother who will have graduated and is interested in a Consultant position with the National Fraternity, effective January 1, 1973, should contact Charlie Witzleben, Director of Chapter Services, for more information. Applications are being accepted now.

Some Thoughts On Housing

The following article was prepared by Jim Cobb, Western Kentucky '67 (Kentucky Beta) who is presently House Director for Colorado Alpha (Northern Colorado) and Recorder of Province Eta.

How does a three year old Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon rate a functional fraternity house so soon after its initiation? Why do beards and business men mix so well for the mutual benefit of both? Somewhere between Frank Zappa's "we're only in it for the money," and Eric Fromm's beginning concept of brotherly love ("love of the helpless one, love of the poor and the stranger"), Colorado Alpha Chapter has found itself fortunate with its newly discovered (and appreciated) local alumni—all graduates from many different chapters of S.A.E.

Included are some suggestions which might aid your chapter in designing a viable organizational model for acquiring a lodge or chapter house. It dispels some of the common ideas pedaled from classroom podiums and the Paul Newman movie **Cool Hand Luke** where "what we have is a failure to communicate" is the theme. (Like you can't get forty-some-odd chapter members and oodles of alumni together and hope that too much production will result.) What one can expect is a distant impression which is hardly the intimate encounter of understanding that may result in bucks for the chapter and a tax write-off for the investment conscious.

Suggestion number one for all you poor, ill housed or homeless S.A.E.'s: Keep your alumni group small. Concentrate and involve them individually into the obvious problem(s) your chapter possesses.

Suggestion number two: Rationally introduce to your interested select-group how your chapter is suffering from your present housing problem(s). As business men, they will appreciate your goal direction when it is coupled with pragmatic problem-solving techniques.

Suggestion number three: When set-backs occur, be optimistic. Be resourceful by developing the "we can do it together" attitude between your chapter and alumni group. After all, if Julie Andrews can sing while mountain climbing out of World War II, no problem(s) should be too big to overcome.

Suggestion number four: Possibly student activism, campus disruption, and new behavioral codes have alienated some of the older alumni. Colleges and universities have changed. Young men and women have similarly changed. Education to ease the consciences of alumni to restore their faith in the young is made easy by the fraternity tie. The hair may have changed but the Phi

Alpha spirit hasn't. Just possibly the alumni may find that their own "flesh and blood" are not so different from the younger generation . . . well, at least they might know what to expect when their kids go to college.

Suggestion number five: Initially, coordinate all your activities directed toward your one goal. In the design let each alumnus use his business forte instead of everyone flogging in over-communication decision-making. (The camel was designed by a committee, you know. And it took thousands of meetings, too.)

Suggestion number six: Listen to the alumni and use their advice in the selection of house and/or materials. They will use your advice when you have a better idea. But remember to channel the coordinated communication instead of having your entire chapter on the phone or cluttering alumni reception rooms and offices.

Suggestion number seven (note to farmer's and insomniacs): Get in the breakfast habit. The agrarian clock ticks-on everywhere except college campuses. Since many in the work-a-day world have schedules that are tight, you may face alumni over eggs and toast. Try to be bright-eyed, knowledgeable . . . and smile(?).

Suggestion number eight: Get a good tax lawyer who can set up a non-profit housing corporation of "general partners" and "limited partnerships." Despite a fraternity house's being a communal living arrangement, you will be able to use the tax advantage as an incentive-building-plus for personal investor's income through depreciation of purchased corporate property. (Write-offs through the loophole system are fun, educational, and humanitarian.)

Suggestion number nine for creative writers and potential politicians: Myths are fun to make. Create a few (good ones) about your own chapter. Somebody may believe you, and take them seriously, including yourself. For example, Colorado Alpha emphasized a community service orientation as a part of its profile in its initial meeting with the alumni. Now it is living up to these "premature" press releases. The alumni, the brothers, and, most importantly, those who are helped by the fraternity's involvement in community affairs, are benefiting from the new "myth reality" or behavior modification.

Finally, suggestion number ten: Some alumni may believe fraternities are dying. To silence the death knell, many want to help preserve and perpetuate the local S.A.E. chapter through their interest, time, and money. If your chapter doesn't have an on-going goal-directed alumni program, it is denying these loyal S.A.E.'s an opportunity to help the fraternity.