

# The Old Gal Gazette

Number 10

February 5, 1982

## FIRE SAFETY: EVERYONE'S JOB



A large portion of this issue of the "Old Gal Gazette" is devoted to fire safety. Please make an extra effort to see that it is circulated among your membership and posted on your chapter/colony bulletin board.

### Fire's Destruction



...Early in the morning on Sunday, January 17, the three main buildings owned by Alpha Chi Rho Fraternity at R.P.I. in New York had most of its facilities destroyed by a fire which started in the kitchen area....

...A 17-hour fire this January gutted the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house at Iowa State University, after a burning fireplace log lodged in the wall of an ash chute....

...Fire broke out at about 11 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, at the Kappa Sigma chapter house at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, causing at least \$50,000 damage according to fire department officials, and maybe three times that amount, according to fraternity officials. The fire apparently started in an attic used to store members' extra clothing....

...Sigma Pi and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity houses were struck by fire this fall at the University of Missouri, Columbia....

The list goes on and on. This school year has been filled with an alarming number of fraternity house fires. Many local communities and universities are upgrading fire code laws for multiple-dwelling facilities in an effort to combat this harsh destruction of life.

### Most Common Causes

The "Old Gal Gazette" spoke with Ronald Krebs of Alexander & Alexander, whose company offers a group insurance program for fraternity houses, about the most common causes of house fires. He listed the following:

1. overloading circuits--too many extension cords
2. electric blankets left on and forgotten
3. improper use of fuses
4. poor housekeeping--trash accumulation, discarded cigarette butts, etc.



Overloading of circuits is an all-too-common — and dangerous practice — in chapter houses.



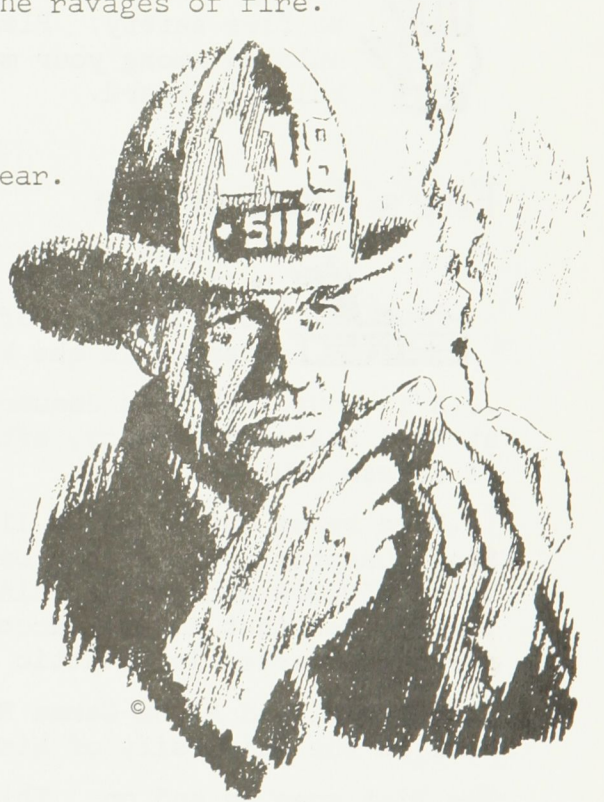
Mr. Krebs told the "Gazette" that one of the most important fire safety measures a chapter could practice is that of having fire drills. "They have them in high schools and even in universities," he commented, "but for some reason fraternity members don't always feel they are important. When it comes to saving lives, they are a lifesaver."

## FIRE SAFETY HINTS

Take fire safety seriously. The devastation, destruction and sometimes death that are caused by fire are experiences we hope and pray you never have. Hoping and praying isn't enough, however. What follows are some points to consider and discuss with the chapter's or colony's Prudential Committee. Please don't put this ever-important task aside. Do everything you can to protect your Alpha Sigma Phi house and brothers from the ravages of fire.

### Checklist

1. Have a city official inspect houses each year.
2. Make a personal inspection of your chapter house from top to bottom each semester look for possible fire hazards.
3. Be aware that fraternity houses are high-risk units with special problems in regard to fire safety.
4. All houses should have fire alarm systems and procedures.
5. Be careful about false alarms. If one should happen, be sure the entire system is properly reset. This measure will avoid a false sense of security.
6. Always notify the fire department in case of a fire, no matter how minor you consider it to be.
7. Make sure all exits in your chapter house are well marked.
8. Check all house doors and stairwells periodically to clear them of blockage.
9. Assign someone in the house to be in charge of fire prevention.
10. Fire extinguishers are important tools in fire safety. Be sure you have them in key locations. Also, be sure they are recharged periodically. Do not let members play with them; they are not toys. They may mean the difference between life and death.
11. The attitude in the fraternity house about fire prevention is quite important. Every member needs to be concerned.
12. Smoking cigarettes in chapter houses is the principal fire hazard. Be especially strict in limiting smoking to specified areas. Members should never be allowed to smoke in sleeping rooms.
13. Basement and furnace rooms should also be kept clear of old furniture, boxes, junk, etc.
14. Be cautious about using a lot of extension cords.
15. A general rule that electrical appliances be allowed only in the kitchen area is a good idea.



*Cigarettes which are not fully extinguished are doubtless the most common cause of fraternity house fires.*

(continued)



16. Have the house's entire electrical system inspected each year.
17. Members unfamiliar with kitchen stove operation should not be allowed to cook.
18. Fire drills can be arranged and supervised through the city fire department.
19. Finally, remember that in the event of a fire the most important thing is to immediately evacuate all persons from your chapter house. Buildings can always be replaced; lives cannot.

## Publications Available



Alpha Sigma Phi has been blessed with very few chapter fires over the last few years, the most recent being in 1977-78 at Gamma Xi Chapter, Widener University. No one was hurt, thanks to planning and drills. The chapter now occupies a different house.

Two manuals that you may find helpful in planning a fire safety program are available from the North American Student Co-Operative Organization (NASCO), Box 7293, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. One is a 135-page handbook called Safety and Sanitation Manual for Small Group Houses (\$5.95) and the other is Cleaning Materials and Methods for Small Group Houses (\$1.95). Write to them for information on ordering.

## Insurance Program Endorsed

Alpha Sigma Phi and the National Interfraternity Conference endorse and support a package insurance program for fraternity houses. There are currently 45 national fraternities that participate in the program. Alexander and Alexander agent Ronald Krebs said that some 1200 chapter houses are currently insured in the group program.

The program encompasses a package policy which will insure building, contents, loss of rents, public liability and other forms of coverage where fraternities have an exposure.

You may keep your local agent involved, and he can share in the commission for very little if any work. Quotations are available upon request. We urge you to inform your alumni corporation about the program. A brochure fully explaining the program, with information in how to obtain a quotation, is available from the Fraternity Headquarters.

## Thanks

Information used for preparing this feature on fire safety was obtained from The Chronicle of Higher Education, Entablature-RPI, Campus Commentary-NIC, Ronald Krebs of Alexander & Alexander, "The Beta Theta Pi," Various & Sundry-University of Missouri, Columbia; and the IRAC Newsletter. Our thanks.



## Chapter Awards



At the 1982 National Convention in August, the Fraternity will present its biennial chapter awards. All chapter HSP's should have received Standard Report Form "A"--an annual chapter report form--recently in the mail.

This report must be completed and returned for the chapter to be considered for any national awards. Among the awards to be given at the 1982 National Convention are:

Grand Senior President's Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Chapter of 1980-82

Alpha Gamma Upsilon Memorial Award for the Most Improved Undergraduate Chapter of 1980-82

Award for Service - Most outstanding program of service to the community, college, and general public, 1980-82

National Province Leadership Award - Greatest contribution to the Fraternity through participation in national programs and leadership in Province activities

Publication Awards - Outstanding chapter newsletter, Tomahawk submissions, outstanding photography submissions

Scholarships and Grants

If you have questions about the completion of the annual chapter report form, please don't hesitate to contact Fraternity Headquarters.

## Mystic Circle Grows



Nu Colony at the University of California, Berkeley will be rechartered in ceremonies to be held on Saturday, February 27 in Berkeley, California. Nu was originally chartered in 1913. Chapters and colonies are once again encouraged to send letters of congratulation on this historic moment in Alpha Sigma Phi.

Gifts and/or letters of congratulation may be sent to:

Mr. Cary Petzel, President  
Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity  
2316 Bowditch  
Berkeley, CA 94704

The Fraternity is indeed fortunate to once again have an active chapter at what is considered by most to be one of the outstanding institutions of higher education in the country. Welcome!

**AΣΦ National Convention · Aug. 15 - 18**  
**In Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia**



## Chapter Reports To Council

Gamma Delta Chapter at Davis and Elkins College was called before the Grand Council on January 16, 1982. The chapter had fallen below Minimum Standards and had not attended a national meeting (Convention or Educational Conference) in over five years.

To prevent revocation proceedings on their charter, the chapter was required to present a program of compliance for exceeding all areas of the Minimum Standards. Ryan Brennan, HSP, and Joe Lafferty, HE, made a comprehensive presentation on their chapter's plans for improvement. The Grand Council found the plans satisfactory and has directed the Headquarters staff to report again in August on the status of the chapter.

## The Mystic Circle



DELTA ZETA CHAPTER (UNC-Charlotte): Clayton Miller Jr., Louis Michetti, and Robert Appleyard Jr.

BETA MU CHAPTER (Wake Forest University): Benjamin Blackman Jr., Jeffrey Parker, John Spengler, and Eric Steimel, on January 19, 1982.

GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER (Bowling Green State University): Paul Kocsis, John Jardine, Jon Reames, John Schnurrenburger, Steve DeBarr, Pete Luttmann, Jerry MacMillan, Pat Connell, and Steve Hartman on January 11, 1982.

PHI CHAPTER (Iowa State University): John Burge, David Krull, Gentry Mullen, James Slivovsky, Thomas Staecker, and Timothy Wood on January 23, 1982.

ALPHA XI CHAPTER (Illinois Institute of Technology): Salvatore Contarino, Andrew Wycoff, Robert Till, John Stachowicz, Norman Dobin, Mark Grandau, Al Dado, Todd Dalessandro, and David Lincoln on January 23, 1982.

MU CHAPTER (University of Washington): James Blundell Jr., Michael Merchant, Jeffrey Bartee, Michael Stevens, Karl Kolb, Gary Crum, Jay Gahan, James Culbertson, John Naab, Joseph Bordeaux, Mark Gucker, Jeffrey Miller, Michael Lockhart, Kevin Patrick, John Christen, Gregory Anderson, Dennis Oldroyd, Gray Drohan, Joseph Blanchette, and Paul Balli on January 28, 1982.

## The Seven Points



GAMMA CHI CHAPTER (Indiana University): Robert Beiter, Christopher Cox, Brian Haskell, Kurt Krauter, Timothy Mathis, and Anthony Nicholas on December 9, 1981.

DELTA THETA CHAPTER (Radford University): Gregory Marshall, Michael Dupont, William Morgan, Harold McGee Jr., and Rodney Baker on January 10, 1982.

PSI CHAPTER (Oregon State University): Brian Henzel, Richard Jilbert, John Sichel, Robert McKinney, and James Baucom on January 24, 1982.



# BROTHERHOOD

At one time or another, you may have asked yourself, "Why should I join a fraternity?" You may have thought about social activities, sports, academics, or housing. All of these are things that a good fraternity should provide. But one of the best reasons for joining a fraternity is brotherhood, and one of the best places to find it is at Alpha Sigma Phi.

Alpha Sigma Phi is the tenth oldest social fraternity in the nation, established at Yale in 1845. At Berkeley, Alpha Sigma Phi can be an excellent place to meet people and make new friends. Our membership consists of a variety of social and ethnic backgrounds, making us as diverse a group as you are likely to find. To us, brotherhood means building a strong organization of men of character, a group of individuals who can rely on each other for support and fellowship without sacrificing principle or personal integrity.

By joining Alpha Sigma Phi, you become part of a brotherhood that spans the United States. Alpha Sigma Phi has more than fifty chapters at campuses across America, all tied together by a strong national organization. We at Alpha Sigma Phi believe that we have something unique to offer. Before you decide on a fraternity, be sure you visit Alpha Sigma Phi.

2316 Bowditch Street, corner of Bowditch and Durant



**ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY**

Nu Colony • University of California, Berkeley

The Old Gal Gazette is published by:

**Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity**

24 West William Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015