

# The Old Gal Gazette

Number 7

A Publication of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity

December 4, 1992

## NATIONAL NEWS

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### CHANGING THE CHAPTER RUSH CULTURE

Chapter rush events can quickly become trite and superficial, leaving members less than excited to participate. The essence and dynamic nature of fraternity is lost.

Rush should happen 365 days a year. Every time a Greek spends time with a non-affiliated student, *rushing can occur*. Not the "cram it down their throat" approach but a subtle strategy which promotes relationship building and encourages continued interaction which ultimately will lead to increased interest in fraternity membership.

Basically, both the members and rushees are looking for something more than making small talk about a table of refreshments. Here are simple ways to add variety to a chapter rush program and generate quality conversation among members and rushees:

- **Size**

Some of the best rush events are informal and intimate--a handful of members and rushees enjoying each other's company and participating in an activity which all personally value. Too many people can quickly make a quality rush event overcrowded and impersonal. The best rush is done one-on-one.

- **Pick-up Sports**

We've all seen the immediate attraction and migration to a pick-up football or basketball game (or any number of other sporting activities). The sporting activity is a natural way for people sharing a common interest to come together, oftentimes with people they do not know well.

Many students in residence halls, especially early in the academic year, would jump at the chance to play recreational sports. A group of chapter members (the whole chapter is not needed) can form the nucleus for a great afternoon of pick-up sports. Remember to have members divide among the teams to promote additional interaction.

This type of event works because it is natural, simple, easy to set-up, and free in cost to both chapter and prospective members. People who participate in a sporting activity have immediate bonding which can become the basis of fraternity friendship and affiliation.

- **Community Service Events**

As many as 50% of college students have indicated that "helping others" is of value to them. With this in mind a chapter service event can easily double as a rush event.

To maximize interest the chapter should approach (two to three weeks in advance of the proposed activity) a residence hall floor or student organization whose membership base may be ideal candidates for fraternities. The event should be billed as a service event with a fraternity, rather than a service and rush event. Service is the primary purpose, and in the process relationships may be formed which will lead to affiliation.



Together, the two groups should mutually decide on a service activity. The chapter may suggest several possibilities. A *hands-on and interactive* service project will produce significant opportunities to meet, converse, discuss, challenge, support, and bond. Members and prospective members should be equally divided among work teams.

Ideal service activities or locations may include:

- river or water clean-up
- soup kitchen
- elementary school field day
- Boys' and Girls' Clubs
- senior citizen center (card playing or ballroom dancing with disproportionate number of women)
- painting homes of elderly or low-income
- residential home for disabled

### • Study Breaks

The "study break" approach to rush can pay dividends. All college students study so why hold rush events which are scheduled around studying. A 45-60 minute activity is suggested with a location near the library or other study area. Simple refreshments or activities will allow members and prospective members alike to refresh before returning to the books. Members should be encouraged to bring students from their classes or work groups. The key to this rushing concept is simplicity and convenience.

### • Membership Education

Chapters are consistently looking for *positive* ways in which new members can show loyalty to the organization and increase personal commitment. Requiring new members to play a major role in recruitment is an ideal arrangement.

Not only do new members know more prospective rushees who are freshmen and sophomores than upperclass members, but they can immediately convey the positive elements of membership to their peers.

Imagine the impact if every new member simply recruited one or two people during the first term of membership. Responsibility is placed on the individual, and recruitment is made a priority from the initial days of affiliation.

*Rush is social in nature,  
but rush is not a social event!*

*"Don't Do Rush... Do Fraternity  
and Invite Others To Join You"*

- Campus Commentary

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## CHAPTER NEWS



### BETA DELTA CHAPTER, MARSHALL UNIVERSITY:

Greetings from Beta Delta! We have been hard at work this semester trying to repeat our performance of last year. On Saturday, November 7, we held our Homecoming Dance at the Huntington Civic Center. We had the largest turnout of alumni ever! Nearly 100 brothers and their dates came out to enjoy our brotherhood.

Also, **Mark Winston**, Chapter Leadership Consultant, paid a second visit to Beta Delta. We hope he had a great time at our dinner/dance. While here, Mark presented a helpful seminar on the importance of commitment to the Fraternity. He also met with individual officers and committee chairs to discuss how we can further improve our chapter. We look forward to seeing him in the spring!



## CHAPTER NEWS (Continued)

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During our recent Pinnacle Week, on Monday, we performed the Black Lantern Processional. We had over 50 brothers and pledges form an Omega on the quadrangle while several other brothers passed out leaflets explaining the ceremony to spectators. Tuesday night big and little brothers joined in a Thanksgiving food drive for the needy in which a large quantity of canned goods were collected for local food banks. Wednesday we began a 24-hour candlelight vigil over the Fraternity crest and our charter in the Beta Delta Chapter Room. From 5:00 p.m. Wednesday until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday there were at least two brothers watching over our symbols and reflecting upon the meaning of Alpha Sigma Phi. Thursday night Silent Dinner was given for our pledge class, followed by a TGIF with Alpha Xi Delta Sorority.

Friday of Pinnacle Week, Beta Delta welcomed 21 new brothers into the Mystic Circle. Our initiation ritual was a stunning success thanks to the enthusiasm and organization of **HM Larry Dial**, **HC Hulse Budd** and a hard working group of brothers too numerous to mention. Congratulations to our new brothers and thanks to everyone!

We all attended the last regular season football game here at Marshall which we celebrated with our usual tailgate. Other activities include aiding the American Red Cross, promoting Inter-Greek relations with a Big-'Lil Sis Party, and an All-Sorority TGIF. We are pleased to be working with former Beta Delta HSP, **Andrew Hermansdorfer**, who is now Co-Coordinator of Greek Affairs here at Marshall.

Upcoming events at Beta Delta include a Founder's Day Dinner on Friday, December 4 at which the model pledge award and others will be presented, and a soon to be planned Christmas gathering by brotherhood development. Happy Holidays to all from the brothers of Beta Delta Chapter.

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#### **BETA OMICRON CHAPTER, TRI-STATE UNIVERSITY:**

The Fall Quarter at the Beta Omicron Chapter saw the brothers participate in community service activities, concentrate heavily on rush, and even have some time for Greek fun. The main event held was our Annual Haunted House, again a tremendous success! Approximately 110 parents and children dated wander through our house of ghoulishness. Our greatest help came from the two elementary schools, which sent flyers home with every child telling the parents of our haunted house. The brothers also volunteered to bag groceries for the Scott's Food Stores' Annual Cancer Day. A percentage of the day's receipts from every Scott's store were donated to the American Cancer Society. We are also collecting canned good and dry goods for the homeless and hungry of Steuben County. The goods will be given to Project Help and distributed to the needy in the community during the holiday season.

Rush is a continuous challenge on the Tri-State campus. Small incoming Freshmen classes, a Fraternity Headquarters mandated 25 brothers minimum membership, and restrictions on freshmen moving into the fraternity houses make an already tedious job even more difficult. To try and combat these problems, the rush budget was increased by 35%, and a function was held once a week at minimum. Brothers were paired and assigned a list of freshmen, and it was their responsibility to bring those men to the house for the functions.

What would Greek life be without a little competition? The Beta Omicron Chapter won the Fall Greek Games Trophy by competing in Euchre, darts, pool, and foosball, and for the first time in many years, we entered a float in the Homecoming Parade. Although it did not win an award, it was a fun ride down the streets of Angola. The academic side of fraternity life has also gone in stride. After two consecutive quarters winning the IFC Grades Plaque, the brothers fell to third in the spring.

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#### **DELTA IOTA CHAPTER, LONGWOOD COLLEGE:**

The letter on the following page was recently submitted to Delta Iota Chapter at Longwood College.



## CHAPTER NEWS (Cont'd)

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Mike Macfarlane, President  
Alpha Sigma Phi  
Longwood College  
Farmville, VA 23909

Dear Mike:

*I want to congratulate you and your Chapter for participating in, and winning, the Alcohol Awareness Week Alternative Mixer Contest sponsored by GAMMA. Your mixer with Alpha Gamma Delta and Delta Zeta showed that social events without alcohol can be both fun and successful.*

*Thank you for your participation in Alcohol Awareness Week and for promoting Greek Life at Longwood College in a positive way.*

Interfraternally,

Steven B. Dealph  
Greek Affairs Coordinator

**Kudos to the brothers at Longwood College!**

## PLEDGED TO THE SEVEN POINTS

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**UPSILON CHAPTER, Pennsylvania State University:** Michael David Anderson, Kevin Andrew Beccaris, Nathan Jon Celko, James Patrick Cooney, Matthew Lawrence Garrity, Gregory Bret Gilbert, Mark Andrew Kramer, Shane Morgan McAleer, Ian M. Silverstein, Demetri Chris Tsavekou, and Basil A. Vassilicos on September 28, 1992.

**ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER, University of California-Los Angeles:** Brent E. Blue, Henry Aryan, Derek A. Arteta, and Edward R. Vasquez on September 24, 1992.

**ALPHA NU CHAPTER, Westminster College:** Brian M. Andruscik and Todd A.C. Mustard on October 29, 1992.

**BETA RHO CHAPTER, University of Toledo:** Zach Bergen, Brian Bickmire, Chad Bumb, Scott Dickey, Brian Durk, Pat Hargrave, Aaron Lawson, Ted Lawson, Sean McGuinness, David Miller, Tim Miller, Max Ohnzeit, Nicklaus Padilla, Tony Sarvo III, Jim Schindler, and Jim Sutherland on October 28, 1992.

**DELTA NU CHAPTER, Lock Haven University:** Michael Pase, Thomas Croce, Steven Vignati, and Scot Brayford on September 29, 1992.

**PHI KAPPA COLONY, Central Michigan University:** Todd Difiore, Spencer Breidinger, Chris Scharaswak, Chris Gramm, Archie Wood, Dave Jensen, Jeff Trush, Bryan Neal, Doug Jullie, Tom Majeski, Jake Huffman, Chuck Larnard, Jeff Powell, Kevin Chesea, Eddie Wilson, Mark Zerial, Kevin O'Brian, and Sean Galley on September 30, 1992.

## INITIATED INTO THE MYSTIC CIRCLE

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**ZETA CHAPTER, The Ohio State University:** Michael Kenneth Matthew, Eric Kenyon Klipfer, and John Matthew Griffin on November 24, 1992.

**ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER, University of California-Los Angeles:** Jim Aggen, Sheldon Allen, Ivan Canete, and Matt Mitchell on September 18, 1992.

## INITIATED INTO THE MYSTIC CIRCLE (Continued)

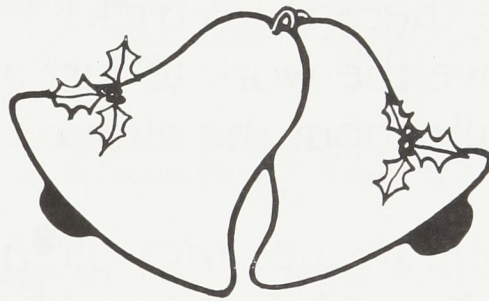


**BETA DELTA CHAPTER, Marshall University:** Brad W. Bennett, Gregory J. Duffer, Christopher A. Dunmore, Brian A. Greenlee, Dennis M. Hicks, Matthew B. Hill, Scott J. Liebman, John W. Long III, Jason D. Loos, David P. Maier, Seth B. Marshall, William A. Nitardy, John W. Pennington, Eric J. Plumley, Jeremy A. Sayre, Stephen A. Smoot, Thomas M. Stover, Britt R. Swanger, Tamejiko Takubo, Jr., Mark D. Walker, and Anthony E. Wilson on November 13, 1992.

**BETA RHO CHAPTER, University of Toledo:** Pat Dalessandro and Brett Miller on October 10, 1992.

**GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER, Bowling Green State University:** James C. Vickers III on November 21, 1992.

*Happy  
Holidays*



*The Old Gal Gazette* is published every two weeks during the academic year by the Fraternity Headquarters. It is distributed to all chapters, colonies, advisors and fraternity volunteers in an effort to keep all informed of their Fraternity's activities, plans and progress.

News items for the Gazette may be sent to: Alpha Sigma Phi National Headquarters, P. O. Box 838, Delaware, OH 43015-0838.



Are you an active member  
The kind who would be missed?  
Or are you just contented that  
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay away  
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part  
To help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind who "just belongs"?

Do you ever work on committees  
To see there is no trick?  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?

So come to meetings often  
And help with hand and heart.  
Don't be just a member  
But take an active part!

Think this over,  
You know right from wrong.  
Are you an active member  
Or do you . . . just belong?

—Anonymous



# IDEAS FROM THE ROAD

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The Chapter Leadership Consultants of Alpha Sigma Phi travel the countryside assisting chapters and learning new ideas from each chapter they visit. "IDEAS FROM THE ROAD" is a special feature of the Old Gal Gazette in which the Chapter Leadership Consultants will share some of the different ideas they feel are noteworthy and explain how they can be implemented at your chapter. If you have a question about one of the "IDEAS FROM THE ROAD" ask the Chapter Leadership Consultant visiting your chapter or contact Jeffery Owens, Director of Chapter Services/Expansion at the headquarters, (614) 363-1911.

**Idea:** Letter written to the parents of pledges.

**Idea seen in action at:** Beta Xi Chapter, Hartwick College

**Officer/Committee Chairman/Brother responsible for implementing idea:** This idea can be the responsibility of the Pledge Educator, Editor, Public Relations Chairman, Parents Relations Chairman or Corresponding Secretary.

**How to implement idea at your chapter:** Often parents are concerned when their son pledges a fraternity because of their misunderstandings of fraternities. Parents frequently believe that fraternities are elitist and expensive organizations that are involved in hazing rituals, alcohol abuse and detract from academic pursuits.

A simple letter can be written to parents following the acceptance of a bid or the Formal Pledging Ceremony which addresses the concerns of parents and assures them that the fraternity is indeed a positive experience. The following is a sample letter which your chapter can use as a guide.

*Dear Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_:*

*As a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity I am pleased to introduce you to the fraternity your son has joined and to welcome you to the Alpha Sigma Phi Family. Your son, by joining Alpha Sigma Phi has taken the first step toward an experience that will last a lifetime.*

*For more than 147 years Alpha Sigma Phi has provided a positive fraternity experience, touching the lives of more than 50,000 undergraduates and alumni.*

*Within our chapters are the future leaders of our country. Through scholarship programs, community service and leadership workshops we try to impress upon members the importance of their education and leadership potential. The goal of membership in Alpha Sigma Phi is "To Better The Man" in every aspect. To assist him in striving for excellence in all that he does and fulfilling his personal potential.*

*Your son will learn many things his first year in Alpha Sigma Phi. His education will include his academics, the fraternity, and most importantly, living and working with others. The fraternity is a place to grow, gain responsibility and achieve a level of self-confidence that will prevail long after his undergraduate years are over.*

*We are always happy to be of service to you if there are any details of the fraternity which are not clear to you. We can accomplish much more when there is a close understanding and relationship between the parents and our fraternity.*



## IDEAS FROM THE ROAD (Continued)

*Whenever you are in \_\_\_\_\_ we hope that you will visit. We are always glad to meet the parents of our brothers and are proud to have them meet, what we consider, a fine Brotherhood.*

*Alpha Sigma Phi is proud to have your son as a member.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*And the Brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi*

**NOTE:** It is also an excellent idea to include a separate page detailing the costs of membership in Alpha Sigma Phi. The chapter can also include with the letter a copy of the Parents Guide to Alpha Sigma Phi, the Code of Conduct and Alpha Sigma Phi's Position Statements on Positive Pledgeship, Substance Abuse, Human Dignity, Aids, and Racism and Religious Discrimination, copies of which are available through the Fraternity Headquarters.

**Benefits to your chapter:** This simple letter can go a long way in promoting good relations with the parents of the chapters members. For those chapters looking to create a parents' club this is an excellent way to begin the program. Parents can be a tremendous resource to the chapter and its members if utilized to their fullest potential. Overall, the more informed the parents are and the better understanding they have of Alpha Sigma Phi the more supportive they will be of their sons and of the chapter. With the blessing and understanding of his parents, the new member will be much more secure, determined and enthusiastic about his decision to join Alpha Sigma Phi.



**NOTE:** If your chapter has an idea that they would like to see included in the "IDEAS FROM THE ROAD" section of the Old Gal Gazette talk to the Chapter Leadership Consultant visiting your chapter or contact the Fraternity Headquarters at 12 Lexington Blvd., P. O. Box 838, Delaware, OH, 43015, (614) 363-1911.