

THE MYSTIC CIRCLE

Experimental

NEWSLETTER OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY

February, 1960

THE FRATERNITY

Wanted: Your Reaction

You, as you read this newsletter, are part of an experiment in fraternity communications. The National Magazine Committee would like to have you try this newsletter on to see how well it fits: as a way to inform you quickly and easily about the "top of the news" of the fraternity. It is purposely concise. The format provides sufficient flexibility to report news on a broad front. However, news in any one issue would be selected for its news value to the majority of members, alumni and actives. For example, sports news would be included only when justified by news developments of sufficient merit.

If the experiment shows member favor for such a newsletter, the Magazine Committee will urge the Grand Council to give the main communications effort to issues of such a newsletter during the year and reserve the magazine-type publication for a single major issue per year.

Since this newsletter is going to only one member in six, your reactions are extremely important. Please send them, if only a sentence or two, to: C. G. Coburn, Magazine Committee Chairman, Alpha Sigma Phi, 24 West William Street, Delaware, Ohio.

A New Helping Hand

Among Alpha Sigma Phi's 56 chapters are at least 22 which, during the 1960s, will likely find it necessary to replace or remodel their fraternity houses. For some, the housing problem is one where the solution may determine whether the chapter survives. Said Alpha Sig's Executive Secretary Ralph F. Burns: "A chapter with inadequate or non-competitive housing which must compete against well-established and attractively-housed fraternities is at a terrific disadvantage. Many rushees are too often won over by attractive physical facilities alone."

For many a chapter, a house building project has served not only to place the chapter in a better competitive position on the campus but it has greatly rekindled alumni interest.

Special Help. However, there are situations where no amount of interest and enthusiasm can produce all the funds needed to complete a house project. Alpha Sig's National Housing



HOUSING CHAIRMAN MASON
A-S-P spells timely help.

Committee, headed by W. Gardner Mason, has been attempting to find some way to enable the national fraternity to locate a financial "helping hand" for such situations.

Virtually all of the 22 chapters which will have housing problems face the prospect of full private financing without the benefit of institutional assistance.



FIELD MAN ADAMS
He aims high.

Most significant to the future of the fraternity, therefore, may be the formation last year of the A-S-P Corporation, incorporated under Delaware laws and independent of the fraternity and the Grand Council.

A-S-P's board of directors is made up of alumni with Herbert L. Dunham (Mich.) as president. Aloys F. Herman (Pa.) was elected vice president; Douglas P. Hammial (Mich.) was elected secretary and National Housing Chairman Mason (Mich.) was named treasurer. Other board members: M. J. Pierce (Ill.), Paul A. C. Anderson (Ill.) and C. Russell Kramer (Rutgers).

Mortgages. The A-S-P Corporation, according to Burns, will play an "assisting" role in house financing by taking second or even third mortgages in certain instances. A-S-P will be financed partly by undergraduate contributions and partly by the sale of debenture bonds (\$100 denominations at 4% rate) to alumni.

"The national fraternity is not in the house-building business," said Burns, "but through the A-S-P Corporation it hopes to be of assistance to chapters and alumni when and if necessary."

Inquiries should be sent to W. Gardner Mason, chairman, National Housing Committee, 4508 Olivia, Royal Oak, Mich.

The New Man

Lanky (6 ft. 2 in.) Ned Adams went "on the road" for Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity this month as a field representative. On the job at national headquarters since mid-December, Adams has been undergoing extensive orientation work to prepare him for his assignment. In addition, last month he attended a three-day Field Representatives Training School, sponsored by the College Fraternity Secretaries Assn. at Memphis, Tenn.

Born Edward Lee Adams III, Ned last June was graduated (cum laude) from American Univ. with a B.A. degree (journalism major). He set the pace for scholarship at Beta Chi chapter, served as scholarship chairman in 1958, was one of two brothers named as outstanding scholars of the chapter.

Personable and competent, Adams has maintained continuing high standards for himself. He was in the top fifth of his class when he graduated from Waynesboro, Pa. high school.

SCHOLARSHIP

Alpha Sig Grade Cards

"The class scholarship and a majority of the mathematical and translation prizes were borne off by Alpha Sigma Phi men."

—Henry H. Jessup, Yale,
August, 1849

As reports filter through the National Interfraternity Conference's Scholarship Reporting Service and are forwarded to fraternities they show a pattern which can be comforting or alarming.

Those which had reached the desk of National Scholarship Chairman Ray Glos (Ill. '22) last month were a curious blend of achievement and danger signs. Reports covering 42 Alpha Sig chapters for the 1958-59 school year showed that 23 chapters had improved or held their relative positions of the previous year. However, 19 chapters had slipped a notch or more.

Cause for cheers was the fact that seven chapter among the 42 were No. 1 in scholarship on their campuses: Beta Chi (American), Alpha Mu (Baldwin-Wallace), Gamma Delta (Davis & Elkins), Beta Xi (Hartwick), Gamma (Mass.), Alpha Omicron (Missouri Valley) and Alpha Mu (Westminster).

"The distinction of having one sixth of their chapters ranking first is one that not many social fraternities can equal," observed Glos.

There were other encouraging, even spectacular, signs. Alpha Iota (Ala.) had moved from 21st (out of 25) to fifth on the campus; Beta Sigma (Cincinnati), which had been 15th out of 16, moved to fourth spot; Alpha Alpha (Okla.) zoomed from 20th (out of 25) to eighth place, and Alpha Pi (Purdue) jumped from 16th (out of 38) to fifth place.

Slips. Glos was far from happy about some among the 19 which had slipped, however. Some scholastic records, he described as "miserable," adding that a "considerable number" had failed to equal the all-men's average at their respective institutions.

"When a chapter drops 10 or 12 places in its relative standing, it is a sign that other fraternities are placing more emphasis on scholarship or that the group is not interested in its house average," Glos said.

Glos, who is dean of Miami University's school of business administration, had two recommendations for upping a chapter's scholastic standing: (1) get a strong scholarship chairman and back him to the hilt, (2) pledge better men.



SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN GLOS
From miraculous to miserable.

"If fraternities select the best men on the campus, there is little reason why every group cannot exceed the all men's average," he said. "And it is literally amazing what can be accomplished even without the addition of men with superior scholastic abilities by a program of study hours, study tables, social restrictions, etc. Such a program cannot be enforced unless the scholarship chairman takes a firm position and has the backing of the officers and leaders in his house."

THE N.I.C.

Six Guideposts

Heading into a second-half century of service, the 59 member fraternities of the National Interfraternity Council will be guided by a set of six principles adopted at NIC's golden anniversary meeting at New York in late November.

The guideposts in brief:

1. Belief in the cardinal traditions of U.S. and Canada—reverence to God, allegiance to country, fidelity to representative government, devotion to personal liberty.

2. Incumbent upon all fraternity men: "superior intellectual achievement and impeccable behavior"

3. A fraternity's responsibility extends to the conduct of members.

4. As a supplement to curricula aims, the fraternity trains its members in the arts and practices of living together, culturally and socially.

5. Based upon self-governing means and voluntary methods, the fraternity

deems self-determination in membership selection to be implicit in its organization.

6 The fraternity promotes constructive leadership in scholarship citizenship, extra-curricular values, housing standards and business practices.

Representing Alpha Sigma Phi at the NIC meeting: Grand Senior Pres. Charles T. Acre (Iowa '23), delegate; Past GSP and former NIC Chairman Lloyd S. Cochran (Pa. '20), delegate; Exec. Sec. Ralph F. Burns (OWU, '32), alternate; Boyd B. Burnside (Chicago '28), alternate; Donald K. Schwickert (Pa. '42), alternate.

THE ALUMNI

Steel. Named last month as general manager, operations—steel, of the big United States Steel Corp. was THOMAS W. HUNTER (Carnegie Tech '29). He formerly headed the firm's Gary, Ind. steel works.

Military. JAMES H. KIDDER (Columbia '19) has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Since 1955 he has served as special assistant to the Army Surgeon General for reserve affairs.

The Press. RUSSELL W. YOUNG (Ohio State '22) last month was elected president of the Newspaper Advertising Executives Assn. He is advertising manager of the *Seattle Times*. Editor of the oldest daily newspaper west of the Rockies now is WILLIAM R. CONLIN (Stanford '33). Except for a World War II hitch in the Aleutians as a Navy officer, Conlin has been on the staff of the *Sacramento, Calif. Union* since 1937. He was sports editor and columnist before becoming editor.



SACRAMENTO UNION'S CONLIN
Sports to column to editor.

FINANCE

Whither Chapter HCL?

The high cost of college education, at least during the past decade, was something other than eating and sleeping at an Alpha Sigma Phi chapter house. Basing board and room costs at 100% in 1950, a national headquarters survey of 15 chapters of various sizes located in all major geographic sections of the U.S. showed that the cost rise had reached only 121.5% by the fall semester of 1959.

By contrast, the U.S. Office of Education reported that tuition and fees at 209 higher education institutions had increased 34% during a four-year period (1954-58). Alpha Sigma Phi board-room costs during the same period went up 8.6%.

However, there is no question that chapter living costs are headed upward. Eight of the chapters were forced to increase board or room costs last fall; 11 took this step in 1957.

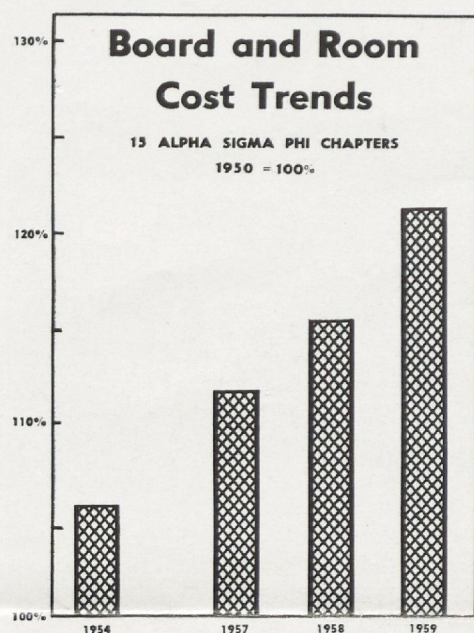
Slower. Neither board nor room costs have been hiked as fast as university dormitory and food charges. While the Alpha Sig board costs were rising 6.9% during 1954-58, private universities increased the rate 8.2% and public universities upped their rates by 7.0%. Alpha Sig house room rent was increased 13.4% during the period while private universities raised their men's dormitory rates by 19.6% and public universities jumped their rent by 21.8%.

The average board bill for those Alpha Sig chapters studied for 1959-60 (assuming no second semester increases) will be \$470, ranging from a low of \$394 to a high of \$657. This is an average of \$24 above last year.

Some difference in the number of meals served per month may partially account for the spread in board costs. Last year's \$446 average board bill for Alpha Sig chapters compared with \$364 for all U.S. colleges and institutions, \$409 for public university board (for men) and \$461 at private universities.

The average of the Alpha Sig room charges (assuming no second semester increases) for 1959-60 is \$224, up \$12 from last year and up \$59 during the past 10 years. The 1959-60 range was from \$117 to \$315.

Danger Signs. Some dangers were seen in fraternity chapter board-room costs which lagged considerably behind the average. One chapter accounting firm warned officers last year that it had better consider making increases, pointing out that the board-room cost was trailing \$116 behind the univer-



sity's rates. "If the university dormitories cannot operate at the present income level, you certainly cannot," the firm said. The chapter has not raised its board rate since 1954.

Some others appeared to be in the same boat. Seven had increased their board-room bills less than \$100 since 1950.

The Hectic Decade

For higher education, the 1960s offer the prospect of an era completely foreign to U.S. colleges and universities. The student population boom with which public education has wrestled for more than a decade now becomes the stiffest challenge ever faced by higher education.

Present enrollment of 3.5 million probably will soar to 6.4 million, and maybe higher, by 1970; costs may rise from an annual \$3.6 billion to at least \$9.8 billion, plus another \$1.5 yearly for new buildings and equipment.

However, much more than money will be needed by higher education if it is to cope with the demands of the 1960s, according to a new 304-page report, (*Financing Higher Education: 1960-70*) published in December by the McGraw-Hill Book Co. Thirteen experts examine all phases of the problem.

The Roughest Notion. An important starting point, according to Economist Philip H. Coombs, is the overhauling of woefully inadequate college management which he described as "a relatively primitive art." Most colleges, he said, have only the roughest notion of the actual costs of rendering various

educational services. They seldom pause to see where they have been, where they hope to go. As the result of relatively few cost-reducing innovations and an accumulation of "built-in inefficiencies," the outcome has been "low utilization of space and low productivity of faculty."

He described the smallness of the college student-teacher ratio (about 12-15 to 1 vs. 20-30 to 1 in public education) as a matter of educational "folklore" rather than any valid indicator, in itself, of quality. A survey of more than 100 institutions showed that on the basis of a 44-hour week, available classrooms were used at only 46% of capacity (and only 25% when measured in terms of student stations) and laboratories at 38% of capacity.

The Wastes. A general disposition to let the faculty determine the curriculum and "convenient" teaching hours in the name of academic freedom and good education without consideration for economic resources has resulted in huge wastes in the educational program, Coombs said, adding: "There must be a better kind of internal governmental system than that which prevails at most colleges."

Harvard Economist Seymour Harris termed the "proliferation of courses" to be a "scandal." He said that a check of 11 institutions over a 55-year period disclosed a rise in undergraduate courses from 12,000 to 39,000 and of graduate courses from 4,500 to 21,700.

Why, asked Harris, should higher education be financed on a cash basis. He pointed to the sharp contrast of \$20-\$30 of loans outstanding per student with \$3,000 of family indebtedness available for homes, autos, TV sets, etc.

Students Pay. The basic issue in higher education, declared Miami Univ. President John Millett was how much of the increased cost of higher education should be paid by students and how much should come from other sources. The proper solution, if higher education has a public purpose, is not to load it all upon the student. "This concern with higher education as a social necessity has not prevented colleges and universities from, in fact, passing a substantial part of their costs of operation on the student," Millett charged.

As a parting shot, Coombs warned that colleges and universities are "among the most conservative—the most resistant to change—of all our human institutions. But change they must—and very quickly and radically—if they are to meet the demands imposed upon them by our times."

A Stand-Up Fellow

So little did the freshman coach think of bespectacled Ray Eliot's chances on the gridiron that he tried to dissuade him from trying out. But Ray, who had arrived from Brighton, Mass. with \$8 in his pockets and three shirts in an old satchel, had other ideas. "Coach," he said, "if I don't win my numeral sweater, I'm going to freeze to death this winter."

Eliot (Eta) made the Illinois squad and stayed there. They supplied him with a special helmet which enclosed his glasses. He became a standout lineman. After serving a coaching apprenticeship at another college, he returned to Champaign to aid the immortal Bob Zuppke. In 1942, Eliot took over Zuppke's post, one which had been made great not only by Bob Zuppke but also by the latter's predecessor, George Huff.

Last month, Coach Eliot, now 54 and dean of the Big Ten's football coaches, ended his coaching career, serving one final stint as assistant coach for the East team in the annual Shrine game, Jan. 2, at San Francisco. After completing 18 seasons as the Illini coach, he will become assistant athletic director.

David Condon, *Chicago Tribune* sports scribe, forecasted that the Eliot athletic shadow would grow even longer in Illini sports history. "One common quality, above all else, makes it possible even now to link Eliot's name with those of Huff and Zuppke," wrote Condon. "That quality is integrity. That's the fancy, professional word meaning someone is a helluva stand-up guy."

A Whisker. Win or lose, Eliot has lived the "stand-up" tradition. He had nine winning and nine losing seasons with an overall record of 82 wins, 73 losses, 11 ties. During his final season, his team missed the Big Ten title and the chance to go to the Rose Bowl by a whisker in mid-season. After having its own chances spoiled by a loss to Michigan (by five points), Eliot's Illini roared back to defeat both Big Ten leaders.

The Sweetest. In some ways it was like the 1947 season. After losing the two opening games, Eliot was so fearful that he was failing the university he tried to resign. But he could not get an audience. Feeling that he had no alternative but to fire up the team, he got the Illini rolling, wound up in Pasadena, Cal. on New Year's Day. A powerful UCLA team met Illinois disdainfully in the first modern Pacific Coast-Big Ten game in the Rose Bowl.



ILLINOIS' RAY ELIOT

The sweetest year was 1947.

UCLA had wanted to test itself against Army or Notre Dame. But Illinois won, 45 to 14. Of all of Ray Eliot's memories of 18 seasons, this one is the sweetest.

Up To The Brothers

Without Alpha Sigma Phi, there would have been little point in anticipating an outstanding gridiron season at Wagner College last fall. The team was so dominated by Alpha Sigs (13 brothers, including nine starters) that the record was pretty much in the hands of the fraternity.

This was true literally in the case of Brother Don Chualli, quarterback, who chalked up a new passing record, with successful heaves for a total of 1259 yards during a single season. Pledge Frank Melos, established a new single season scoring record with a total of 62 points.

ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY

24 West William Street

Delaware, Ohio

Form 3547 Requested

The Mystic Circle
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A Sharp Edge

PLEDGE MANUAL OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI (5th edition, 114 pp.)—*Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity*—(\$1.50, cloth-bound).

"We come with a tomahawk in our hands," chortled a brash six-penny newspaper which showed up on the Yale campus in November, 1847. It lustily attacked an entrenched sophomore social society which controlled the class newspaper and had been blasting the upstart Alpha Sigma Phi society. *The Tomahawk*, now the oldest fraternity magazine in existence, was devoted initially to top notch literary efforts blended with vigorous axing of the opposition. But the editors had their *Tomahawk* whetted to such a sharp edge that it was banned by the faculty. It stayed banned for 57 years.

The story of the *Tomahawk* is but one of many tales of the Fraternity included in the newest edition of the *Pledge Manual*, just off the press. In addition to providing historical information, the book literally is a "fact book" of Alpha Sigma Phi. It also offers pledges a complete run-down of advice on study, manners, dress and appearance, scholarship, etc. The book is one many alumni would like to keep on hand.

Wake Freshmen, Wake

SONGS OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI (57 pp.)—*Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity* \$1.

Among the fraternity songs included in the 1959 Yale Glee Club recording is Alpha Sig's "Wake, Freshman, Wake," one of the 29 songs appearing in *Songs of Alpha Sigma Phi*. The song book is available from national headquarters.

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