

The Old Gal Gazette

A Publication of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity

Number 13

March 26 1993

NATIONAL NEWS

W
E
L
C
O
M
E

B
R
O
T
H
E
R
S

B.O.S.S. PETITION ACCEPTED

On March 19, 1993, thirty-three young men were initiated as members of Epsilon Chapter, Ohio Wesleyan University. The B.O.S.S. group (Brothers of a Social Society) of young men elected not to join one of the other Greek letter organizations on the Delaware, Ohio campus. The group had been in contact with Alpha Sigma Phi about re-establishing a chapter since December 1990 because, while they desired a fraternity experience, none of the existing groups provided the proper type of environment to foster their needs. B.O.S.S. members are actively involved in community service, extol academic achievement, and believe that physical and mental abuse of members is contrary to leadership, brotherhood and character development.

The B.O.S.S. group had attempted to secure University and Interfraternity Council recognition. The group followed all administration and interfraternity conference guidelines but were rebuffed in their endeavors to gain approval.

When they petitioned us, we double checked to make sure that they had attempted every possible avenue for recognition. We also double-checked the institution's policy for expansion and found that it would be very difficult for their current policies to support a spontaneous, unplanned expansion effort for either the B.O.S.S. group or our Fraternity.

Based on the petition of a most outstanding group of qualified individuals and the National Interfraternity Conference's Statement of Position on Expansion, we found that the mutual selection process works. We are not advocating changing our current policy of going only where we are invited by the host institution, but we are exploring our self interests by returning to a campus where we officially never left.

Alpha Sigma Phi will operate a community based organization until proper recognition is secured. It is hoped that administration and IFC approval can be expedited based on the continued quality work of the group.

The group will continue to reside in University provided housing although an off-campus meeting facility is being explored for the group. The local chapter advisor is Richard L. Jackson, Ohio Wesleyan '50.

The B.O.S.S. group ranks as the fourth largest in total size of the current Ohio Wesleyan fraternity chapters. The B.O.S.S. group has more than 40 members and counts only four seniors among these. The current president is Devaraj (Dave) Southworth. Following the initiation ceremonies March 19, chapter officers were installed and the original charter returned. A subsequent banquet to officially commemorate the group's ties as Epsilon Chapter is scheduled for April 24.



NOTES FROM A MIFCA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Kevin Grose, Marshall '91, recently received a scholarship from the Alpha Sigma Phi Educational Foundation to attend the MIFCA (Mid-American Interfraternity Council Association) annual conference. He reported the conference was very enjoyable and enlightening. He offered the following comments after his MIFCA experience:

The MIFCA conference was a success. I learned more than I thought I would. The opening session with T. J. Schmitz, Executive Director of Tau Kappa Epsilon, was very motivating. Some of the things he talked about on motivation were setting goals because people support what they help create, rewards for good work, and something I agree with, quick meetings. Long meetings are ineffective when people are bored and are not paying attention. Communication is another topic he discussed. He suggested that chapters publish calendars of the events they are having so everyone can see them. Something that T.J. said that I thought was neat was that Greeks are people helping people to become better people. Public Image is the pathway I chose.

As the current president of IFC I felt that this pathway would benefit Alpha Sigma Phi, Marshall's IFC, and myself. The first session was geared on determining who our public really was and examining the status of the relationship with them.

Our public, as we decided was our alumni, newspapers, community, faculty, and peers. We also decided that every time something bad happens to Greeks that it gets more publicity than good events. In order to change this, we decided that we needed to gain good relations with our school newspaper. Easier said than done, of course, but this was a start.

In the second session, we assessed the things Greeks are currently doing to negatively impact the perceptions people form of fraternities and sororities. In this session T-shirts were the hot topic. It was very enlightening to find out how obscene we really are when wearing these shirts. We also learned how to be good next door neighbors to non-Greek houses. We learned better ways of cleaning up the yard after the parties by making people bring their bottles or cans back to the bar before they get another one.

In the third session we focused on strategies to enhance our image with newspapers and press releases, so we can use our news media as allies. We also learned how to handle a crisis situation if one were ever to arise. If a situation were ever to arise the only people that are to talk to the media are the president, vice-president, or the advisor. This is very important as to not let information out that should not be let out. Also in this session we were given a sheet that shows you what to do when a reporter calls.

In the fourth session, Confrontation was the subject matter. This session provided us with the skills of how to confront people effectively in a constructive manner that would help our chapter members and hopefully redirect their behavior. We also received a handout that shows you how to effectively confront someone without being overbearing.

Due to the fact that I had to attend the MIFCA business meeting, I was only able to attend one Hot Topic session. I chose to work on my social etiquette. This was a very interesting session. The speaker for this session was very interesting and informative. I learned many things from how to answer the phone correctly to setting a dinner table correctly.

The general session on Empowerment was excellent. I cannot begin to tell you what I learned during this session. I feel that this session could show anyone how to better themselves. Words just escape me on how beneficial this topic was for everyone attending. This session should be given again so more people can benefit from its vast improvements one can do for themselves.

Thank you for making this possible! Thanks to the alumni who contributed to my scholarship, thanks to Headquarters and thank you Alpha Sigma Phi for giving me the chance to better myself. I'll never forget it. I hope I didn't bore you with what I learned, but this conference was one I'll remember a long time. I know that the Alpha Sigma Phi National Leadership Conference will educate me more on how to be a better person.

*Fraternally,
Kevin G. Grose
Marshall '91*

ATTENTION

1993 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Every chapter is required to send a delegate to the 1993 National Leadership Conference. The representation fee for the delegate is \$190 which was billed to the chapters on March 2, 1993. Please keep this delegate fee in mind when sending in your registration forms regardless of the rooming packages listed on the form.

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

Do you know any alumnus Brother who is deserving of the **Delta Beta Xi Award**, the **Distinguished Service Award** or the **Distinguished Merit Award**? If so, please fill out the enclosed nomination forms for the Brothers to be considered for these awards.

The **Delta Beta Xi** recipient will have some or all of the following characteristics:

1. Active in chapter functions i.e., attend chapter meetings, dinners, day-to-day chapter routines, chapter advisor).
2. Active in alumni corporation as officer or committee chairman
3. Has served the National organization as: a member of the Grand Council; a Grand Province Chief; or volunteer in the fields of Expansion, Housing, Publications, Scholarship and/or Career Development.
4. Has offered to the chapter, active support in time, experience and materials.
5. Instrumental in expansion efforts to new campuses.

No more than ten men each year can be named by the Grand Council to this high honor. The award is generally presented on Founders' Day to new members of Delta Beta Xi.

The **Distinguished Service Award** is presented to a previous Delta Beta Xi recipient for sustained superior alumni service to the Fraternity even above and beyond Delta Beta Xi. General criteria for the award include years of service, types of service, and significant achievements.

(If you are not sure the Brother has received the Delta Beta Xi award, nominate him anyway as the nominating committee will research to see if he qualifies).

The **Distinguished Merit Award** is presented to a Brother of the Fraternity who has attained prominence and distinction in his profession or professions. Criteria that will be evaluated will consider lifetime accomplishments.

It goes without saying that by nominating someone you know for one or more of these awards you are saying to them "thank you for a job well done."

Nominations are due to the Grand Council by May 1, 1993.

CHAPTER NEWS

ZETA CHAPTER, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY:

So far this academic school year has been crammed with entertaining social events, philanthropies, and intramural sports. We started out the autumn quarter with rush and a premier "Black Light" theme party. On the social calendar's next stop was the Columbus "Chill-Out"ing date party on November 10th. Basically the Sigs captivated their dates to an evening of hockey, food and fun. November 20th the brothers held their first philanthropy since the reorganization, "Meatloaf Madness." It was a meatloaf dinner benefitting the **Child Assault Prevention Center**. We also participated in two philanthropies, Fuzzie Football, and Phi Mu Earth Ball.

After the break we started out Winter Quarter with a brotherhood retreat held at National Headquarters and hosted by Chapter Leadership Consultants **Mark Winston** and **Dave Gatzke**. In intramural news the Sigs destroyed their competition in wrestling, leading to their second consecutive championship and a new intramural points record (56 points). There were three individual champs, **Larry "Roach" Fuentes (160 #)**, **Dan "DW" Whalen (190#)**, **Jeff "The Meat" Meade (heavyweight)**. We also had brothers make a good showing in the 3-Man under 6 ft., basketball tournaments. Our flag football regular season record was 3-1. We continue to have rush events all through the quarter and we are hoping for a great spring quarter pledge class. The current brothers along with the help of **Dave Leasure** have fixed up the basement and improving the house appearance. But, we are not done. We are looking to decorate our walls and activity rooms and we thought it would be neat to involve our alumni and include old varsity athlete pictures, awards, memorabilia, equipment, etc. We closed out our Winter Quarter with the "Ides of March Toga Party" which was extremely successful and loads of fun. We will be having an **Alpha Sig Pig Roast on April 3, 1993** for all alumni. Hope to see you there!

*In Brotherhood,
Larry Fuentes, HJP*

RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER

INSURANCE INDUSTRY CLAIMS ANALYSIS SHOWS MOST FRATERNITY CLAIMS ARE PREVENTABLE

Much talk and policy consideration has occurred in the last several years regarding the perceived risk of fraternities in the United States. Most undergraduate fraternity members pay an annual generalliability insurance fee to their national organizations which are usually equal to, or greater than, their annual dues (simply to cover them individually if something goes wrong and they were doing everything right).

But what are the real stats? When we discuss risk management, what are we really talking about?

Harris and Harris of Kentucky, Inc., has put together an analysis of all insurance claims held against a sampling of inter/national fraternities between 1987-91. The carrier, which has provided insurance to numerous inter/national groups since 1987, commissioned outside firms to gather the data represented in its report.

It is important to note that the report does not reflect cases which were settled without a claim made to the insurance carrier. In many cases, fraternities and claimants choose to settle independently of insurance companies to avoid affecting basic liability insurance rates.

It is also important to note that the report does not say whether changes in emphasis on risk management on the local and national levels has had any impact on the number of claims in each of the years between 1987 and 1991. The report takes all claims during that five-year period and identifies potential problem areas in hopes of guiding the education efforts of the groups and campuses.

One major element of the report is a summary of "claim types." By analyzing the situations which have proven most costly to the fraternities and their insurance carriers, we can better target trouble spots through change and education in hopes of avoiding future claims.

The greatest single category of claim types are called "slip and fall" claims — those caused by poor housekeeping, loose carpeting in houses, and so forth — which accounted for more than 30 percent of all claims against fraternities.

"The careless nature of these claims indicated that these are certainly manageable," the report says. "Prompt action (by fraternities) to correct obvious (physical plant) deficiencies should mitigate the number of incidents."

RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER (Cont'd)

Fighting was the second greatest cause of claims with 15 percent. These scenarios typically involved a fraternity member versus a non-member, the report states, on chapter premises during a social function where alcohol was present.

The third most common type of claim involved members driving their own vehicles after parties, usually where alcohol was present. In these particular cases, some loss occurred and the fraternity was held responsible (8 percent).

Other major claim categories included: sexual abuse (5 percent); falls from roof (4 percent); athletic events (7 percent); hazing (3 percent); fire (3 percent); damage to property of others (7 percent).

Twenty-six percent of all fraternity claims studies involved death, paralysis, or serious injury, according to the report.

A statistic which many will find surprising is that *more than half of all claims paid against the policies of national fraternities were paid to their own members*. Only 46 percent of all claimants in fraternity incidences were non-members.

More statistics...of all claims made against fraternities, 54 percent were settled without payment to the claimant. Thirty-two percent paid less than \$10,000, nine percent paid between \$10,001 and \$50,000, and five percent paid more than \$50,001.

Perhaps most relevant is the impact of alcohol abuse on these fraternity risk management cases. Consider the percentage of claims in each of the categories previously mentioned that involved alcohol in some way:

Sexual Abuse - 97%.....Fights - 96%.....Falls from Roof - 96%.....Automobile - 87%
Slips and Falls - 65%.....Hazing - 48%.....All Other Claims - 46%

- reprinted from The BACCHUS Beat

PLEDGED TO THE SEVEN POINTS



BETA RHO CHAPTER, University of Toledo: Patrick Donovan, Ryan Dwornik, Jay Griffith, Ryan Hetrick, Kelly Lipinski, Mike McGrath, Bill Menster, Kirkland Mizerek, Robert Mohr III, Brian Neifert, Peter Schaal, Scott Waghorst and Thomas Watts on February 4, 1993.

GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER, Bowling Green State University: Steve Crosby and Ryan Bell on January 29, 1993.

PHI KAPPA COLONY, Central Michigan University: Mathew Best, Todd Dewolfe, John Walker, Zachary Oper, Mike Sharlow, Don Lincoln, George Davis, Alex Machray, Mark Wood, Gregory Price, Andrew Maker, Jeffrey Faber, Michael Wostaszak, Chad Brown and Jeff Meadors on February 10, 1993.

INITIATED INTO THE MYSTIC CIRCLE



EPSILON CHAPTER, Ohio Wesleyan University: Nathan C. Baldwin, Mirza H. Beg, Luke A. Chapman, Derek A. Chilcoat, Shaheryar A. Chishty, Quentin M. Derryberry III, Josep Domenech, Jonathan J. Eckhardt, Robert P. Fryer, Scott F. Gallagher, John B. Gordon, Jarrid A. Hall, Douglas A. Harvey, Kurt M. Hoffman, Thomas J. Hughes, David C. Humphreys, Khurram Khan, Eric Lewis, Jeffrey A. Linn, Todd A. Morgan, Robert H. Nellson, Jody W. Peacock, Mohiuddin G. Razak, Christopher A. Rittberger, John M. Sasinouski, Jr., Richard C. Sinclair, Devaraj M. Southworth, Mark W. Steffey, W. Todd Stoeckel, Todd R. Taylor, Andrew C. Tollafeld, Adam C. Tosh, Ross R. Updegraff, William F. Vorhees, Robert W. West, Jr., and Yihao Zhang on March 19, 1993.

IDEAS FROM THE ROAD

Goal: Provide an incentive system to insure Brothers complete their house jobs.

Idea: Have brothers pay a "cleaning deposit," then refund a portion each week, or use the deposit to reward the brother who ultimately does the job.

Seen in Action at: Eta Chapter, University of Illinois.

Officer Responsible for Implementing Idea: Prudential Committee, HC, or House Manager.

How to Implement Idea at Your Chapter:

Many chapters face difficulties holding brothers accountable for completing their house jobs. The standard response is to implement a fine system. Yet, very often, fine systems are cumbersome, difficult to enforce, negative, and otherwise ineffective. The brothers at Eta Chapter have devised a very creative and positive system to take the place of ineffective fines.

At the beginning of each semester, each brother pays a \$70.00 deposit as a part of his housebill. (\$5.00 per week times 14 weeks). If the brother has completed his housejob(s) at the end of the week, members of the prudential committee will hand him a crisp new \$5.00 bill. If his job still needs to be done, the prudential committee will find a willing member to do the job, and give that brother the \$5.00. (Often this allows brothers to make \$15.00 to \$20.00 an hour).

Five dollars is deducted each time a brother misses a job, so a brother who misses two or three jobs a week will deplete his deposit quickly, and will need to pay another deposit. The \$5.00 is refunded to a brother only at the end of the week, and only if he has completed all of his jobs for that week. Make sure that a creative rotation system is developed, so that each brother changes jobs frequently, and no one gets stuck with less desirable jobs for too long.

This system works well because the extra \$5.00 in cash provides a positive incentive to get the job done, rather than the negative enforcement of the fine system. The extra cash makes great food money, and there are always many brothers willing to do extra chores if they can make \$5.00 a job.

Make sure that you have a trustworthy accounting system, with appropriate checks and balances. You will also need to make sure that the standards for whether or not a house job is "complete" are clearly communicated.

There are many details which you will need to arrange specific to your chapter. If you would like assistance developing a program like this which will work in your chapter, ask the Chapter Leadership Consultant who visits your chapter, or call the Headquarters.

The Chapter Leadership Consultants of Alpha Sigma Phi travel through the country assisting the chapter 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 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 ask the Chapter Leadership Consultant visiting your chapter or contact Jeffery S. Owens, Director of Chapter Services/Expansion at the Headquarters, (614)363-1911.

NOTE: If your chapter has an idea you 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.