

THE BROTHERHOOD BULLETIN

THE JOURNAL AND RECORD OF THE ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY

Volume III, Number 2

October 13, 1995

Here We Grow Again

Congratulations to the newly-initiated **Delta Upsilon Chapter!** The former Virginia Tech Colony received its charter September 23 at a black-tie dinner in Charlottesville, VA.

The colonies at the **University of Massachusetts, Amherst** and **Middle Tennessee State University** formally celebrated their colonizations the weekend of September 29. If all goes as planned, these groups should join the Mystic Circle by the end of the spring academic term.

Congratulations are also in order for the members of the **Imhurst College** and **University of Southern Indiana** Colonies. The colonization petitions for these two groups were approved by the Grand Council on the October conference call.

Expansion efforts are underway at the **University of Michigan**. Director of Expansion S. Alen McKnight has been on campus for several weeks recruiting the new members of the Theta Colony. If you have friends or relatives that attend the University of Michigan and might be interested in becoming a part of this new interest group, please call or e-mail Brother McKnight (mcknight_a@hcca.ohio.gov).

McKnight will soon begin an expansion project at **Shawnee State University** in Portsmouth, OH. If you know of someone who would be a valuable addition to this group, please contact Alen.

Additionally, expansion efforts continue at **Auburn University** in Alabama. If you know of friends or relatives that would make a good addition to this interest group, please contact Director of Chapter Services Glen Olson at Headquarters (olson_g@hcca.ohio.gov).□

Campaign on Target

In December at the Sesquicentennial Celebration Kick-Off Dinner, a \$3 million capital campaign was announced to raise money for the various educational and leadership programs sponsored by Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity and the Alpha Sigma Phi Educational Foundation.

Foundation President Steven V. Zizzo recently announced that the campaign has already surpassed the \$1 million mark. "We are extremely fortunate to have such generous brothers who join our commitment to provide cutting-edge programming that supports our mission statement, *To Create and Perpetuate Brotherhood*," said Zizzo.

If you would like more information on the capital campaign, contact Brother Zizzo at Headquarters.□

Officer Reminders for October and Early November

HSP: If you have not yet submitted your October Report of Membership, please do so as soon as possible. Also, three educational programs concerning risk management must be completed and certified with the Risk Management Educational Certification Form by November 20 for chapters wishing to participate in this aspect of the Risk Management Incentive Program.

HE: Invoices will go out October 17 for undergraduate dues for members who pledged prior to August of 1994 (i.e., those not on the credit card program) and are due October 30. The annual chapter fee is due November 1.

HR: For those chapters utilizing the Headquarters newsletter service, copy for the fall edition is due between now and November 1.□

INTERFRATERNAL TRAGEDIES

Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity had no major risk management violations or incidents last spring, and has had none so far this fall. Our interfraternal brothers, however, have had to face three tragic incidents that should serve as reminders to us to continue to use good judgment in our activities.

An incident occurred at a fraternity chapter in Arizona where fraternity members invited a thirty year-old male into the chapter house. After sharing a few beers with him, the brothers were ready to go to sleep and asked the man to leave. After repeatedly refusing to leave, a fight broke out between the man and a fraternity member. The guest was beaten badly; the fraternity member turned himself in, and was subsequently arrested for aggravated assault. The next day the local papers characterized the incident as a hate crime, as the guest was an African-American, even though the guest admitted that the altercation was not a hate crime.

Tragedy struck a fraternity chapter in Illinois in September. Four fraternity members and a pledge were driving to a pledge activity when the driver lost control of the vehicle. One brother was killed, the other four passengers hospitalized after the car flipped over the side of the road.

Later that day and throughout the weekend, the Chicago media reported that the men were drunk and on their way to an initiation activity. The police charged the driver with two counts of felony DUI. Lab reports, however, later showed that his blood alcohol level was well below 0.1, the minimum level generally required for a DUI charge. Furthermore, the event was not part of the fraternity chapter's initiation, but actually a part of the pledge program. The fact remains this person should not have been driving after consuming alcohol.

In early September, a fraternity in California decided to purchase a keg of beer while a bar was being built in the basement. Some women came to the chapter house after having attended a sorority function. One of the brothers and a young woman entered the basement and began having sexual intercourse when they were discovered by three brothers. One of the three brothers stayed in the basement and also had sexual intercourse with the woman. The following day, the woman claimed that she had been raped. The situation is still under investigation, and the fraternity members maintain that the sex was consensual.

How would you handle these situations if they had occurred in your chapter? What can you do right now to make sure that they never do happen in your chapter?

Perhaps it is best to heed the advice of a chapter officer who was directly involved in the incident in Illinois. This officer admits that putting the tragedy into perspective at this time is "impossible." However, he offers wise words to his interfraternal peers encouraging them to evaluate chapter activities and operations. He suggests that each chapter "think things through one at a time and then move on...decisions should be a group effort every step of the way."

These are steps you can take today to help prevent such tragedies from striking your chapter:

- Measure your chapter events and activities against the ritual. Evaluate the purpose, time, location, and duties of the event. Make changes if necessary.
- Troubleshoot. Brainstorm things that could go wrong and make plans to prevent them.

- Share your plans with your Grand Chapter Advisor, Greek Advisor, and national staff members and solicit their suggestions.
- Treat brothers, new members, guests, other Greeks, and students with equal respect.
- Don't be afraid to hold others accountable for wrongful behavior. Not only is it your obligation to do so, but it very well may change that brother's life.
- Try to see your programs, events, and treatment of others through the eyes of a parent, university president, or newspaper reporter. Realize that it is often not enough to satisfy your own ethics--it is necessary to avoid all appearance of unethical behavior.
- Think! You took an oath that binds you to live by a higher standard. Reflect on what that means. Remember that your actions reflect on every other Alpha Sig.

Being personally responsible, thinking before you act, holding one another accountable, and showing respect for others are all ways to uphold the obligations of the Fraternity and portray Alpha Sigma Phi in a positive light in the public's eye. Think about what you are doing, not just with your chapter activities but with your individual words and deeds. Realize that Alpha Sigma Phi expects more from its members than the world does of the average man. Draw lessons from our interfraternal brothers mentioned above. By so doing, you will not only reduce the likelihood of tragedy striking at your chapter, but you will be upholding your obligations and preserving the Alpha Sig Phi experience for countless brothers-to-be.□