

The Paragon

Volume IV, Issue I Ohio Alpha Beta at Case Western Reserve University

November 1993

ΦΚΘ Gets CWRUnet !!!

Ohio AB Moves Into the 21st Century

It has been a long time coming but the paperwork is signed and the slow wheels of the CWRU machine are finally moving in our direction. This all started a year ago when they said they would install the fiber-optic network in our house. They never did, sighting the lack of funds as their reason. Since then we had formed a fraternal alliance with the other deprived North Side Fraternities and brought in our big guns, our alumni. With this backing and continuous pressure we got the attention of the CWRU president, Agnar Pytte. He, in the end, was the man to give us CWRUnet by spending the rest of his discretionary budget. The next hurdle was the contract, and as we keep finding out time and time again Case was trying to get something for nothing. This was made clear by a clause that gave the university a 'First Right of Refusal', which for those who don't know would give them the right to buy the house if we decided to sell and had a legitimate third party offer. They, of course, would pay the price of the other offer but this clause has been shown to deter any substantial offers that we could get. You say you don't like this clause? We didn't

either, so we axed it. However, the big repercussion was that we would agree to pay, if the contract was violated, a \$75,000 fine that would be pro-rated over a 10-year period. If that sounds like a lot of money, it's actually not looking at construction and hardware costs. Our belief is that we do not intend to violate the contract, so this fine never comes into play. The last two issues I'll cover are phones and cable TV services. CWRUphone was a must for the university. By us subscribing to their telephone provider it gives them a better economy of scale. This will also mean that we will soon have campus lines, those 754 extensions, so the house numbers will change and we hope to inform you what they are around Christmas time. The last big hang-up in the grand scheme of things was the CWRUvideo, or CWRU cable TV. In this case the university wanted exclusivity for the same reason as for CWRUphone but they finally backed off when they saw the telephone and cable companies possibly merging. Now we're ready to build! The first step is for the university to get the house checked for asbestos. We lucked out here because they are willing to pay the bill if it is found. Hopefully if things go as planned the construction itself will start in about two to three

weeks from now. In addition, I would like to thank the alumni who helped me push this thing through, namely, Tim O'Shaughnessy ('80) and Dave Essi ('82).

Alumni Help Rush

An event that we have every semester during rush is Sunday Brunch. This is a formal event we invite hand picked rushees to as our last event. 'Sealing the Deal' is the hope with these perspectives and this year we had a little help from our alumni. Dave Essi ('82), Syed Hoda ('89), and Joe Jirgal ('88) told the freshmen about the benefits of being in a fraternity and how it has helped them. The response from the actives was

EVENTS CALENDER

- Saturday, November 20th
Pledge Party starting around 10pm.
- Tuesday, November 30th
Alumni Board Meeting (Note: Dave Essi's buying a few afterwords at the 'Spider'.)
- Friday, December 10th
Next Alumni Event 'Phi Kap Potluck', an evening of eating, drinking, and reminiscing.

overwhelming, hearing from most that this is something they would like to see continued. If you would like to address the spring rushees or have other ideas on how you would like to get involved, please contact me, Matt Nelson. Thanks again to Dave, Syed, and Joe for making fall rush a success for us.

Shrinking Alumni Budget

Out of necessity we have to make changes every now and then. This semester and in following semesters budget constraints have nipped away at the budget of the Alumni Committee. I hope to keep producing more quality newsletters despite this set back though.

Chairs in the past will note that the newsletter takes up 80% of the committee's budget. Money that could be spent putting on events or sponsoring an alumni to national conventions is consumed by copying and mailing costs. So I will propose this to you, our alumni, to donate to the committee to supplement these costs. The cost per year would be a mere two dollars and a guarantee from the Alumni Committee to produce three newsletters per school year. The progress that we have made in the past three years has been remarkable let's keep this up by supporting this 'new and improved' newsletter produced on Ventura Publisher. Improvements are in the works to add pictures and more 'alumni news'. Help us all move forward, Phi Kaps are just the best!

Visitors Abound

The house has been graced by many new visitors as of late and during the summer. Phil Tsubaki ('90) stopped unexpectedly and gave a tour to his girlfriend. Later on in the summer, Ian Best ('92) stopped by after living in California for a year or so, he gave news that Rex Beck ('92) was bound for Harvard where he would go to graduate school in physics after taking a year off to study the bible. Paul Yanko ('91) stopped by to visit his old stomping ground after a long absence. And good old moose stopped by after having a few to talk to the actives. I'm glad to see more and more of the alumni over at the house, it reminds the actives that being a Phi Kap isn't just a temporary thing.

Spring Bar-B-Q

Last Spring the Alumni Committee put on a Bar-B-Q. For a number of Phi Kaps it had been a long time since they had been here. Lou Velez ('84) was one such alumni who took a look at the composites on the walls and wondered what he was thinking about, because it certainly wasn't style. Also in store for those who attended were gifts that were given away along with free directories. There was a fraternal family reunion that occurred which included Dave Revay ('73), Tim O'Shaughnessy ('80), David

Conger ('84), Dave Essi ('82), Gary Gough ('84), and Lou Velez. All in all a good time was had by those who attended and the little kids even had a video of 'Aladdin' to watch so the parents were free to mingle.

New Pledge Activity

As a part of this semester's pledge program, I would like to have some sort of activity where the pledges could talk with alumni to gain insight into the history of Phi Kappa Theta and how great it is to be a brother. One idea suggested to me was to have the pledges call a few local alumni and ask them questions or just chat with them. This is similar to how our black books work. I would also like to have a few alumni come to one of the meetings to talk about the Alumni Board and past fraternity events in general. If you have any interest in this program or in attending any other pledge events (candling, initiation, etc.), just call me at 791-1068 or Matt Nelson at 791-1066.

Chris Snively ('95)
PledgeMaster

Convention News

Phi Kappa Theta held its 49th Biennial Convention during this past August. Ohio Alpha Beta sent four representatives to the convention. Our delegate was brother Carl "Chick" Italiano ('94), with brothers Rob Stalder ('94), Nick Urban-

Welcome Our Newest Alumni

Larry Dues

Greg Flaute

Dave Hill

Brian Keating

Don Manuszak

Mike Maxwell

Tim Porco

John Short

Raja Srinivasan

Duong Ta

Jeff Tseng

Rick Ubic

Jon Yuzon

ski ('95) and Mike Sheppard ('95) also attending. One of the major decisions reached at the convention was that all chapters must now have \$1 million in liability insurance. Luckily for our chapter, we already had the necessary coverage; other chapters, however, felt that it might be a difficult financial burden. Also a new fee schedule was established, with pledge fees rising \$5 to \$55 total, and active dues rising \$5 as well. The National Fraternity believes that this will generate enough money for them to add a second chapter consultant to the Fraternity. This way chapters can receive more attention from the National office. The next Convention will be held in

1995, and it will be the 50th! If anyone is interested in forming an alumni delegation to go in '95, please contact our Alumni Chairman, Matt Nelson at 791-1066.

Class of '68 Returns To Campus

On May 15, 1993, several members of the class of 1968 got together for a 25 year reunion. In lieu of attending the official Case 25th anniversary events, Dave Cesaratto, George Ursick, Cos Sciotto, Rich Hansen, Mark Bryan, Paul Motylinski, and Dave Beechuck decided to organize a reunion of their own. After meeting for dinner in little Italy, they drove to the Phi Kapp house. Unfortunately this trip was spoiled by a flat tire on George Ursick's car. After about twenty minutes, several of the Case engineers were able to locate the jack and eventually replace the flat tire. The alumni were warmly welcomed by the current actives. Unfortunately, most of the brothers had already gone home for the summer so the house was fairly empty. However the actives who were present with the alumni sat around comparing college life now to what it was like in the late '60s. This discussion took place over several bottles of homemade wine brought by Dave Cesaratto. They found that the major change seemed to be the size and number of parties. Recent insurance regulations have forced most fraternities across the country to cut

down on the number of large parties. The alumni also said that they were pleased to see how well the house has been maintained over the last 25 years. All in all, the evening was enjoyed by both actives and alumni. I would encourage any other alumni interested in visiting the house at any time to do so; we love to hear about the history of our house. Just give a call beforehand and we'll try to find old yearbooks and scrapbooks to help bring back memories of college life.

Phi Kapp Alumni Take 1st Place in Festival of Light

How would you like to win \$1000 by cruising around in a boat? Well, Brothers Craig Griebel ('75) and Tom Dunn ('76) did just that this summer as part of the BP Riverfest in the Flats. They have carried on the tradition of the Ghetto Queen (a boat they owned while attending CIT) with their 23 foot, 1960 wooden inboard on the waters of Lake Erie. Craig and Tom won the Festival of Lights Parade with the theme of "Barney Goes To Jurassic Park", complete with Barney on board and dinosaurs in tow on a dinghy. They take an entire day off work to prepare for the competition, and spend approximately \$100 on costumes, lights, fog & bubble machines, and other items to outfit the boat. They have entered the Festival for the last 8 years and even got boos early on. Not to be daunted by unfriendly locals,

they persevered and have been in the top ten for the last couple of years before this year's 1st Prize. This is quite impressive, since 40-70 boats enter the competition each year. Craig also wants everyone to know that they were boating to Fagan's before it was cool. Ohio Alpha Beta salutes Brothers Griebel and Dunn for their creativity and enthusiasm! [Author's Note: If any alumni out there want to hit him up for a ride or a walleye expedition, Craig can be reached at (216) 892-9497.]

by Rob Stalder ('94)

Alpha Beta gets New District Governor

For the past two years our district governor has been Bob Bubnick (Ohio State, '91). Since it was clear to all that we had differing opinions, national decided to give us a new district governor. Gene Ney, Province President, wrote about him in the most recent province newsletter saying, "Brother Rod Craddock (Ohio State, '92) has just recently been appointed to serve as District Governor for our chapter at Case Western Reserve University. Rod is an outstanding brother and we welcome him to our province team!". I feel that if Gene gives his okay to Rod, I have confidence that he will add to our chapter. If you wish to get in contact with Brother Rod, he can be reached at (216) 255 - 5438.

Fall Alumni Council Meeting

This past alumni council meeting was short and to the point. The main order of business was the signing of the CWRU documents. Brothers present at the meeting were Ernie Schmidt ('41), Joe Curtis ('48), Dave Essi ('82), Tim O'Shaughnessy ('80), and Mike Spisak ('91), along with a handful of actives. The next meeting was set, and the topics of discussion will be the future goals and the role of our alumni in both national and local arenas. I might add that our Alumni Chairman Dave Essi has pledged to buy a few rounds after the next meeting on November 20th, so I want to see a lot of you there to remind Dave never to say 'Free Beer' near Phi Kaps.

Homecoming Event

We had an alumni event on Homecoming Weekend, but much to my dismay only a few Phi Kap Alums showed up. The event however, was a step in the right direction. My hope is to make the alumni realize that, no matter what, the house will keep having events for the alumni to enjoy. I advertised, this time, in a flyer put out by the Alumni and Parent Relations Office in hopes that it would reach out to many of our Alums. If it did, please let me know. For those who had to miss the event, we had a tailgate party behind the house com-

plete with food and much drink. After we had filled up on food and such, we went over to watch a miracle occur. The CWRU Spartans, who were 1 - 6, winning only against Oberlin, won versus the Big Red of Denison. The final score was 28 - 7, with two blocked field goals, multiple sacks, and a new starting quarterback that was really on his game. As football here at CWRU is not a big deal, most of us who went had been to few, if any, previous games. This, of course, did not stop us from whooping it up and harassing the other team along side the Pikes (Pi Kappa Alpha). Everyone who came had a good time and didn't leave hungry. I hope that the Homecoming Event will become an annual event and that we will see more of you next year.

Weddings

Mr Michael Spisak ('91) and Ms Dawn Cook were wed in holy matrimony on July 17, 1993. Their honeymoon was in the Bahamas, and Mike for one did not want to leave.

Lt Eric Huweart ('91) and Ms Felicia Ciesko were wed on April 25, 1993 at Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Congratulations!!!

Phi Kap JOBnet

These are seniors and Alumni who have not found jobs in their majors. If you have any leads please give let the Alumni Chairman know and we will make sure they are informed. Keep those eyes peeled.

- Tim Porco
Chemical Engineering
- Don Munuszak
Mechanical Engineering
- Mike Racut
Medical Illustration
- Duong Ta
Mechanical Engineering

If any alumni would like to be mentioned here or have information about any possible leads please write us at:

Alumni Chairman
Re: JOBnet
11016 Magnolia Dr
Cleveland, OH 44106

or Call (216) 791-1066

Checking the Old Mail Box

Last time I heard Chris Hoge ('92) was living in Texas and learning to play the banjo. Well I don't know if he could keep up with the boy from "Deliverance" yet, but he has written and tells us a thing or two. Big thing being that Chris has learned to like beer. That's right! Under certain circumstances and with the right beer, he says that it actually feels better to drink it (when sober) then to pour it

down the drain.

Steve 'Stevo' Brock ('91) is working in California, and has very little free time. But he's makes those spare minutes worth while, because he has a new favorite activity, white-water rafting. Stevo's new California address is:

**955 Escalon Ave # 501
Sunnyvale, CA 94086**

He has also active in his new church and gets to visit San Francisco about twice a month. As a post script from your Little Brother, I would like to say that the family has grown and you now have a LLLLB.

We've also heard from Russ Lenhardt ('59) who wrote us telling about the time that he, Dick Ludwiczak ('59), and Fritz Szejbka ('59), and built a huge snowman on the roof of the front entrance way. This task, he recalls, was aided by a liberal amount of liquid anti-freeze equivalent.

Thanks for the letters and keep them coming!

Phi Kap In Need!

Our Alpha Beta chapter recently had a chance to meet David Stiffler ('74). Although always happy to welcome back alumni, the circumstances of this return were not the best. The chapter president received a letter from David informing us that he was hospitalized here in Cleveland at University Hospital for a bone marrow transplant. That process is obviously destructive to the patients blood. To compensate for the destruction, David will have to

receive large amounts of platelets, the component of the blood responsible for clotting. That is what prompted his letter to us. Those platelets cannot be created; they must be donated. Donation requires an initial half-hour screening to determine the donor's suitability, then a follow-up visit for a three-hour donation process. The process itself is called apheresis. It differs from blood donation in that the blood is extracted, the necessary parts are filtered out, and then the rest of the blood is returned to the body. David will require these donations until his own platelet count returns to normal. If there are any of you in the Cleveland area who would like to help out a brother by donating platelets, please contact either, Alumni Chairman Matt Nelson at 791-1066, or Philanthropy Chairman Bart Sharp at 791-1068. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

PKT PhoneTree

In the past we have had a hard time contacting large numbers of alumni around the area for events. The idea of a phone tree

Stories yet to come:

- Ohio AB becomes the big brother chapter to a colony down at OU.
- Alumni Council Meeting
- CWRUnet progress report
- Plus More News, News, News!

So Stay Tuned!!!!

has been kicked around for some time now and I think it is time for implementation. How you can help is to send a list of three or four of alumni you are currently in contact with, or would like get back in touch with, to the Alumni Chairman at the house. We know we want it, now let's do it! Talk to you soon...

What's New At the House

by our illustrious president, Benjamin James I

The Ohio AB Chapter of Phi Kappa Theta remains both a campus and national leader. In the National Founder's Cup competition, we earned a Silver Award. Four other chapters also earned Silver, but no one

New Pledges

Josh Adams
East Kingston, NH

Adam Glick
St. Paul, MN

Jeff Johnson
St. Charles, MO

Dave Marquardt
Novi, MI

Neal Snider
Mt. Airy, NC

Fall 1993 Executive Officers

Ben Martin - President
Tom Noe - Vice-President
Jason Cartwright - Treasurer
Darin Zahuranec - Secretary
Matt Nelson - At-Large
Adam Greenberg - At-Large

merited a Gold Award. Therefore, it is safe to assume that we are one of the five best chapters in the nation whether we won the Founder's Cup or not. Ohio AB also won outright the JFK New Member Education Award. In addition to the National awards, we also won Case Western Reserve's President's Cup, presented to the best chapter on campus, for the third straight year. We also continued our domination of the Sammie Ultimate Tournament, winning for the fifth consecutive year, which happens to be how long the tournament has existed. Ohio AB Phi Kaps are just the best. This year also marks the beginning of a new technological era at the house: CWRUnet will be installed by the end of the semester. We soon will be better equipped to compete with the rest of the campus. As the classes become more computerized, for once, so will we. Yet another new development this year, we have become the "big brother chapter" for a new colony at Ohio University. Our responsibilities include inducting their first class as neophytes this November and then overseeing all initiation ceremonies until they are officially recognized as a chapter. We also will be giving them pointers on running their pledge program and anything

else they may need. We look forward to sharing with them all the wisdom that got us where we are today. Namely, the best Phi Kap chapter there is. So basically, things here are going pretty smoothly. If you ever have any questions about the house or whatever, please feel free to call me at (216) 791-2139. Brothers of Phi Kappa Theta, let us be faithful. Let us be faithful until death.

Top 10 Reasons Newsletters Don't Go Out On Time

10. Heated debate on whether or not to print newsletter on scented paper.
9. Actives fear disabling papercuts.
8. Editor was kidnapped by Elvis.
7. We're just plain lazy!
6. Our cat ate the newsletter.
5. Staff prone to random strikes.
4. California fires lead to massive paper shortages.
3. Computer keeps changing the word "house" to "horse".
2. Cheking the spelling impossible since we're enginers and not english majors.
1. Drinking is more fun!!!

ALUMNI INFO SECTION

(PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL IT OUT AND RETURN IT)

ALUMNI DIRECTORIES

___ Yes, I would like an Alumni Directory, enclosed is my \$3 donation.

___ Yes, I would like you to forward an Alumni Directory, with my name highlighted,
to a certain Phi Kapp who doesn't bother to call any more, enclosed is my \$3 donation.

Certain Anonomous Phi Kap's Name and Address: _____

ALUMNI PHONETree

___ Yes, I would like to be part of the Alumni PHONETree!

This is a list of Alumni I want to call:

The main duties of the Alumni PHONETree member is to call alumni. So when an event comes up we don't have to put out a newsletter just to publicize it. Another duty would be to occasionally write or relay news about some events that involve the people in your phone circle. That's it, mostly calling and occasional news reporting. I urge people to join this network, in reality you are asked to do something three times a year and if you want to do more, you can, it's all up to you.

GENERAL NEWS BULLETIN

Do you have any Announcements you want us to know about (e.g. Weddings, Births, Reminiscing, Graduations, etc.) or is there an Alumni event that you're having that you want publicized in the newsletter? Well don't just sit there, send it in!!!! You're Brothers would love to here from, and about you.

