



The Paragon

The Alumni Newsletter of the Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter of
Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity

October 1997

President's Welcome

If there is one thing that national conventions have taught me, it's that Phi Kappa Theta is a Brotherhood for Life. Though I've heard this cliché many times at our beloved fraternity over the past three years, I have only begun to understand its meaning and the truth behind it. As many of you may have found yourselves in the past, I find myself frantically holding on to my last semesters for fear that in May I will end my active brotherhood, pack my bags, turn in my keys, and leave nothing behind but some old files and a composite picture on the wall. If I am lucky, my name will creep up in future black books for the next few semesters. When I feel this way I remind myself that I will always be a part of this fraternity, and this house will always be filled with my brothers.

Let me tell you this: when each of you walked out of our doors at 11016 not so long ago, you may have left your spirited college days behind, but you have also left your brothers behind, waiting for you patiently. We are still here, forever a part of you. Currently we are 22 brothers strong, with 3 associate members. (How many of you have heard that word before? "Pledge" isn't politically correct, you know). Though small, we have a close knit brotherhood, with many wonderful stories for future generations. And this is what we need from you... stories. I will admit our finances are as rocky as ever, so if you can spare a donation, we would gladly welcome it. But what I request from you is more important, more crucial to our experience in Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity. I invite you home. Stop by and visit us, your family in Cleveland that is still keeping your house as cozy and fun as ever. Share your days at the University with us, your most beloved moments at our house, and your hardships with classes, house politics, past loves, and humbling days of cleaning the kitchen.

We also have much great news to share with you as well. We have retained a wonderful cook, Jim DiFranco, for a year and half now. (By the way, dinner is always at 6pm Sunday through Thursday. Of course, you are ALWAYS welcome). We finally have a new faculty advisor, Dr. Christopher Town, of the Biology Department. Dr. Town replaces Dean Gerry Lind, who many of you probably remember from past years. Dean Lind recently retired from his position here at CWRU. Some of you may have met Dr. Town at our Formal Brunch this past August. Thank you to those who attended.

I welcome all of you back home. Return to us and share your life since you left, your accomplishments, your failures, your families, and most of all, your time. Call us up, our new numbers are (216) 754-PKT(1-7). I know you can never forget 11016 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, so write us letter, send us a card. I hope to see you all soon.

Yours in the Bonds,
Joseph M. DiFranco
President, Ohio Alpha Beta
president@phikap.cwru.edu

Convention News

This summer the Phi Kaps were California Dreamin' when it came time for our 51st Biennial Convention which was held in sunny San Diego, California. The convention took place the second weekend of August and was packed full of meetings, lunches, dinners, activities and General Sessions. The San Diego Area Alumni Association organized a few events including a welcome reception the first night we arrived and a beach party at a local beach another night.

The general sessions were the formal business meetings of the convention where motions were carried out and the general business of the Fraternity was addressed. The usual issues of fee increases and general housekeeping were present. The big issue that ruffled feathers this year was the issue of substance free housing. Acknowledging the beginning of a trend toward substance free fraternity housing, The International Convention of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity passed a resolution stating that the Fraternity is in support of the idea of substance free housing and charges the Board of Trustees to investigate the possibility of bringing this type of housing to our fraternity houses across the country. The issue will again come to the table at the 52nd Biennial Convention in Chicago, Illinois in 1999.

Elections also took place for four new Board of Trustee members and the Board then elected a Chairman, President, and Treasurer. The Board of Trustees are as follows:

President - Mike McSweeney
Chairman - James Conrad
Treasurer - Bard Williams
Trustees - Bob Smith Dick Hohman
Marty Cinadr Jim Flanigan Steve Walling
Undergraduate Trustees -
Ted Piton - DePaul Tom Myers - Texas A&M

Our Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter sent three members to the convention this year: Joe DiFranco, our current President, served as a delegate; Dave Rowan, our alternate; and Brian Bacher who attended as a guest.

Friday was the first day of the Convention and that evening the annual awards banquet was held where award winning chapters were recognized for their outstanding achievements. We took a few moments during this banquet to remember a brother who passed away this past year, Gene Kelly. A video highlighting Brother Kelly's life was shown and it included an interview with Gene Kelly's brother Fred who is also a member of our Fraternity. Fred Kelly was in attendance at this particular banquet and we presented him with a plaque in memorial of our Brother Gene. Many of those in attendance at the convention had the opportunity to meet Brother Fred. He brought with him many stories of his youth and college days and stories about Gene as well.

The Convention itself was a success and much was gained by the attendees in the form of contacts to other chapters, more recognition by the National officers and staff, and different perspectives on the meaning and purpose of Fraternity.

Phi Kap Guy WANTS YOU!

to attend our fall
alumni event:

Join your Fraternity in an enjoyable afternoon of IHL Hockey action when the Cleveland Lumberjacks take on the Orlando Solar Bears at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, 1997.

Meet at the house by 2p.m. and we'll all leave from here for the game.

Be sure to RSVP to Brian Bacher by Nov. 15. He can be reached at (216) 754-PKT2 or via email at <bacher@phikap.cwru.edu>



The tickets will cost around \$10 - \$15.

For those on the Alumni Board and anyone interested the Board's proceedings, they will be meeting at the house after the hockey game, so be sure to attend!



News Briefs

• Our Chapter is definitely on an upswing after initiating thirteen brothers last year, a four year record. We also welcomed a new chapter advisor who was introduced on the front page of this newsletter. Six of our brothers graduated this past spring: Darin Zahuranec and David Marquardt moved on to medical school, Jeff Johnson and Neal Snider are working on graduate degrees in their respective fields, Steve Enseleit and Adam Glick found employment at local industries, and Dan Price accepted a job in Chicago.

• We received first place recognition for our associate member education program from CWRU's President's Cup Committee. Our philanthropy program averaged more hours of service per brother than any other fraternity on campus as we finished our service requirements for the entire school year before the first semester was over.

• Socially our parties have become one of the top draws on campus. We are renewing our effort to have a visible alumni program, which can only succeed with your involvement. With our last newsletter generating numerous responses and the events that we have on tap for you in this newsletter, I think we are making a good effort. Also, a well attended faculty appreciation dinner strengthened ties with the university.

• With rush over, this semester's associate member program is well under way. Scroll Signing took place during the second week of the program, and now with their big brothers, the associates are beginning to plan their party. This semester we have three associates, with three more very interested in joining, but delaying their association until next semester. The three associates are David Jaklitsch from Centeread, New York who studies chemistry, computer science, and music; Patrick Glynn from Herndon, Va, studying Systems Engineering; and Todd Zimmerman from Lima, Ohio, whose major is Aerospace Engineering. These men are a very enthusiastic group and we are looking forward to a fun-filled semester. If any of you would like more information on the associates, the program, or would like to attend any events or rituals (such as initiation, which you are more than welcome to) feel free to contact Dave Zuckerman at (216) 754-7584 or via email at <ame@phikap.cwru.edu>.

• We are also hosting a social and athletic event at our house this spring involving other Phi Kap chapters in our Mideast Province. The chapters who should be in attendance are those at Penn State, CMU, University of Pittsburgh, Edinboro, Slippery Rock, California PA, and our chapter, of course. We are planning a weekend of social events and some athletic events or tournaments. Any alumni who will be in the area at the beginning of February is more than welcome to drop by and participate. Simply give us a ring for more information, our number is (216) 754-7582.

Alumni News

• Rob Stalder '94 who is employed with Andersen Consulting is currently working on a project in London, England for a year. We wish Rob the best in his overseas adventures.

• Greg Flaute '93 recently received a promotion and will be opening a new office for his company in Cincinnati, Ohio. We wish him and his wife the best in their new city.

• Dan & Michele Price are expecting their second child early next year, and they recently moved to the Chicago area. We wish them the best of luck with new home and child.

This Old House

Many of you reading this newsletter will surely have fond memories of the old Phi Kap house at 11016. Some of you probably have a favorite room that you lived in or others may remember a project you worked on to fix a certain part of the house. Everyone who ever lived here has left a mark on this house whether it be an improvement to the physical structure or just the sharing of your talents and friendship. It is because of this that this house isn't just the "old Phi Kap house," but it is OUR house, both actives and alumni.



Many things have changed over the years: things break and we fix them, new technologies are developed and are installed to make our lives a little easier, someone decides to spruce up their room with new paint or carpet, all of which help to keep the house a comfortable place to live. As the house rapidly approaches the century mark, more and larger maintenance projects are required to keep this house a comfortable, functional, and safe place to live. For example, the apartment above the garage recently received some remodeling including the installation of new heating, a new ceiling fan, new carpeting and refinishing of the woodwork to make it more suitable to rent out. In addition, we are looking to install a monitored fire detection system sometime this year, for which we have most of the money saved up. Once installed, we will receive a small break on our insurance premiums, but we will be left with less money for other projects that are becoming more of a priority as the years go by, such as updating some of the bathrooms in the house or installing more efficient insulated windows. This is the area where you can help out by helping to contribute to our capital improvements fund that we also are contributing to so we can keep enough money to perform maintenance on the "old Phi Kap house." After all, this is OUR house.

More Alumni Events

Yes, we have more events in store for our alumni to be involved in. This year we are planning to open up the Spring Formal to our alumni. We invite you to join us for a pleasant evening with dinner and dancing and a chance to get together and share good times with your brothers. It will be an opportunity to reunite with old friends and meet the newer brothers in the Fraternity. The Formal will be held on Saturday, March 21, 1998 at a yet to be determined location, so please clear your calendars! What we need from you is for you to express your interest in attending this event. Without enough responses from you, we may not be able to afford your attendance. Please get in touch with Brother Ron Cuirle and let him know that you are interested. He can be contacted by phone at (216) 754-7587, by letter at the house address: 11016 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland 44106, or by email: <cuirle@phikap.cwru.edu>. Email is probably the best way to reach him. We will be asking a modest donation to attend to cover cost of more food and other favors.

We strongly encourage you to attend this year. We want you to be an integral part of our fine Fraternity and be involved in your undergraduate brother's collegiate Fraternal experience.

Thank you

We would like to recognize and appreciate those alumni brothers who have sent us financial donations. Your help is greatly appreciated and comes in very handy for things like the improvements mentioned above and in helping defray the cost of publishing this newsletter. Thank you very much and we look forward to future donations.

- Matt Raney
- Darryl Mon
- Russel Lenhardt
- Tim Porco
- Rob Stalder
- Dave Sutula
- Ryan Rogers

Scholarship

Matt Raney earmarked his donation to be the beginning of an academic scholarship fund to provide scholarships to active brothers based on academic performance. This goal of giving out scholarships is still off in the future, so if you are so inclined to expedite the process by sending a donation, simply indicate that the money is for the scholarship and we will be sure to set it aside for that purpose. Once again, we appreciate your generosity.

Greek Week Stories

"Greek Week was da bomb!" in the words of our Greek week coordinator, Steve Davis. Phi Kaps showed tremendous unity and outstanding brotherhood during this past Greek Week. Phi Kappa Theta showed excellent turnout for Philanthropy. Phi Kaps took first place for the unity event. In car push, the brothers placed an excellent third.

Two Friday freshmen were hosted by Alpha Beta during Greek Week. The Greek Week T-shirts were much better designed than most fraternities. They were, according to Davis, "Da Bomb." As the Greek Week wound down, Phi Kaps came together for one final event: A presentation of the classic drama "Mr. Snow vs. The Six Million Dollar fraternity" for the variety show. "Six Million Dollar fraternity" showcased the talents of alumnus Neal Snider as the evil pimp "Mr. Snow" hell-bent on destroying the Phi Kaps. The various phikaps after being crushed by Mr. Snow's avalanche, get certain broken parts replaced by bionic enhancements. Using the powers of brotherhood, all the brothers combine their various bionic parts to defeat the evil Mr. Snow (all except for bionic arm boy, he was nowhere to be found...).

Greek week was time for all Phi Kaps to come together, bond and simply have fun. A good time was had by all. Phi Kappa Theta placed eighth overall. Greek week was indeed, Da Bomb!

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