

The Paragon

Volume V, Issue I

Ohio Alpha Beta at Case Western Reserve University

September 1994

Who'd have thought that when I took over as Alumni chairman there would be this much work involved? Well, that's okay because it is well worth the effort. My goal this semester is to reunite old friends and hopefully help you make some new ones. How am I going to do that, you ask? Simple.

On Saturday, November 5th, 1994 the Ohio Alpha Beta chapter is going to hold an Alumni Pot Luck Dinner at the house. It will be a great opportunity for you and your families to come over to the house for a casual night of dining and conversing. Not only do you get the opportunity to revisit with old friends, but we are also celebrating the completion of some monumental house improvement projects. By the time you receive this newsletter, our new roof (along with gutters and downspouts) will be completed and looking great! Not only that, but the long-awaited CWRUNet has finally been installed and all the brothers in the house are hooked up to it. Getting crucial classwork off of the network couldn't be easier now. This dinner is a way for us to show you and your families that an investment in Phi Kappa Theta is an investment for life. We're proud of the new look of the house and we want to share this exciting time with everyone. I ask that you let me know by October 31, 1994 how many are coming to the event and what you would like to bring. The active brothers will be providing appetizers (chips, crackers, cheese, etc.) and beverages for everyone (milk, pop, juice, etc). You can either call me in person or return the form at the end of the newsletter back to me.

Some other Alumni news...did you miss the Founder's Day Golf outing last in June? Well, not to fret. We have a ton of extra golf balls left over from the event and want to

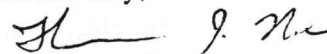
share the extras with any alumni who couldn't make it on that day. These are high quality golf balls with our crest emblazoned in cardinal purple on them. The previous alumni chair overestimated how many we would need and ordered some extras. So, if you need a couple of extra golf balls or if you just want a couple as souvenirs, let me or Bart Sharp (754-7585) know and we can reserve some for you. They are \$2.00 per ball or 3 for \$5.00.

It's that time of year again for those brothers who will be graduating either in December or in May of '95. The best way to find a job these days is through networking. If there are any of you who could help some of our brothers find jobs, it would be most appreciated. You can call me with the information or fax me (phone & fax: 754-7584) a sheet with all the necessary qualifications. If you would like a list of brothers who are searching and their respective majors, please drop me a line and I'll be more than happy to help you out.

If you happen to know of any alumni we are not reaching with our newsletters, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can put them onto the mailing list. It's very important that we keep in contact with all of our alumni and any help you can provide will be of great assistance to us.

Well, that's all I have for now. Mark November 5th down on your calendar right now as the Pot Luck Dinner. Make your reservations as soon as possible. I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you!

Faternally,



Tom Noe
Alumni Chairman

From the desk of the President...

Greetings from the Oval Office of Ohio Alpha Beta. As usual, the workload is large and keeping this ornery bunch under control is always a task! I'm sure all of you recent alumni are probably going to look at the author of this particular article and say, "WHAT EVER POSSESSED THEM TO ELECT RYAN PRESIDENT?"

Yes, it's true. I am the newest "Big Cheese" in these parts and don't make fun of the hat! For those of you who don't know, this summer I purchased a stetson (that's a cowboy hat to all you yuppies and thinkin' cap to all you rednecks!) and have not had a moments' rest from all the comments.

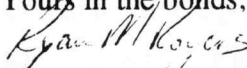
Anyway, things are changing around here with all of the new actives and our 6 pledges. I want to thank brothers Larry Dues, George Doviak, Michael Herskowitz and the various other alumni who popped-in on Friday, September 23 to meet our pledges and, of course, load them down with some heavy duty blackbook questions. Personal apologies to all of those alumni who were not contacted, as this was a pretty spontaneous event.

Of all the changes taking place, the one that has stirred up the most excitement around the AB household is the rebirth of the "Ohio

Ball." Brother Brian Wilson uncovered some historic records which recall the gala event which used to take place in the grand ballroom on our third floor. The ballroom has since been subdivided and refurbished to house additional brothers. This leaves us with the task of finding a suitable location to hold the dance. Brothers, both of active and alumni status, from chapters in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York are being invited to attend. If you wish to find out more about our current plans, would like to give your insights into past balls, or just want to shoot the poop, please feel free to contact the following brothers:

Brian Wilson (co-chairman) 754-PKT4
Steve Enseleit (co-chairman) 754-PKT2
Matt Nelson 754-PKT1
or myself at 754-PKT3

I hope to hear from or see all of you soon and keep your eyes peeled (ZZZIIIPPPP!!!!) for informational updates on the Tri-State Ball!

Yours in the bonds,

Ryan "Guzzler" Rogers
President, Ohio AB

Rush and Pledge News...

After two-and-a-half weeks of rush, thirteen bids were handed out. Of these, six were returned to form our fall 1994 pledge class. The members of the class are: Matt Breen from Westerville, OH; Matt Ducar from O'Fallon, MO; Joe DiFranco from Seven Hills, OH; Ian Orozco from Barberton, OH; Brian Bacher from Parma Heights, OH; and Ron Cuirle from North Hills PA.

The percentage of bids returned might seem low, but we have a few guys on the "back burner" that are interested but do not want to go Greek this semester. Also, due to the low numbers in the house, we are allowed to open bid this semester. This means that we can have rush events and hand out bids any time during the semester.

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Academic News from ΦΚΘ...

The responsibilities and developments of the Academic chair have extended into a whole new realm. A recent new addition to the house rules is the establishment of quiet study hours for the study room Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. People have already signed up to be in the study room to help brothers with certain subjects. Hopefully, this will strengthen our academic foundation for the house. Other amendments are still in the works to encourage a greater focus on academics for those having problems.

The files are currently being organized so that a complete list of all our files and every document in each file will be available to the house. A limit of five years of age has been set for files, with everything older than that being discarded. Hopefully this will help us maintain more useful files and also solve our space problem. This apparently hasn't been done in some time, due to the fact that an ECON 102 assignment sheet was found from 1972 (which is older than many brothers presently in the house!).

All brothers' majors, minors, sequences, classes, professors, and ratings of those professors are being entered into a database. This way, any brother can find out who else

has had certain classes, or is a certain major, or has had a certain professor. This should aid brothers and pledges to find help for certain classes.

Academic programs are in the works as well. We plan to have at least one, and hopefully three, programs with such topics as 1) Coming Back from Burnout, 2) Getting Ready for Finals, and 3) Getting a Career and Writing Resumes. Attempts are being made to utilize the resources of the university more - drawing on their files, speakers, and hopefully tutors. Beyond university tutors, brothers have also signed up for subjects with which they'd be willing to help other brothers/pledges.

So, things are basically looking very hopeful for Academic changes in the house. Many brothers have voiced interests, ideas, and a willingness to commit time to helping others. Right now, we're ranked eleventh out of the seventeen fraternities on campus, so these changes should start us on the road to academic excellence again.

Fraternally,

Raney
Matt Raney
Academic Chairman

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The agenda for our pledge program this semester is the same as previous semesters, except that we have an extra week because of the shortened rush. I am planning to use this time to have an alumni/pledge event and a pledge sleep-over. If you are interested in attending candling, initiation, or any other pledge events please call me, Chris Snively, at 754-PKT7.



Current House Improvements...

Well, when last we talked we had just finished signing the contract with the university over CWRUnet. I am glad to tell you that as this article is being typed, there are brothers using the network to read mail sent by other students, glance over past tests, read news from all kinds of sources, and chat with students from far off lands. Installation started towards the end of the summer as contractors began stringing pipes through the walls and across the rooms. Of course, we would not have our house demolished in the process, so we artfully crafted the plans with the university to prevent exactly that. I am happy to report that there is no conduit to be seen on the first floor. Our plan was to only show exposed conduit in the bedrooms and bathrooms, except for the ceiling of the basement near the back stairs where the backbone enters the house. All in all, it looks good and minimal damage was done.

Next on their plan of attack was to run the CWRUnet cable through the conduit and hook-up the CWRUnet faceplates. These faceplates allow us to plug in our computers, phones, and TV's (cable is another service provided by the university). Finally, the electronics were installed in the house and our computers by one of our own alumni, Rob Browarek. After a brief testing period to make sure everything worked perfectly, we are finally hooked up!

With the completion of CWRUnet, we have dropped our private services through Ohio Bell and switched to the university phone lines. The major change you should know about is that we have new phone numbers.

Yes, that's right! New Phone Numbers.

Basement 754 - 7581 (or 754 - PKT1)

1st Floor 754 - 7582 (or 754 - PKT2)

2nd Floor 754 - 7583 (7584, 7585)

3rd Floor 754 - 7586 (7587)

Apartment 754 - 7588

As you can see we have buckled to those tacky numbers you often see on TV (like 1-800-CALLMOM). But they are easier than the past house numbers to remember. All you have to remember is that the university prefix is 754 and that the last four digits are PKT1 through PKT8.

It has been brought to my attention, however, that we have made it too easy for our pledges to learn the house phone numbers. Several ideas have been brought up such as having a brother whose blackbook question is going to be to learn the old house numbers. Another suggestion is to have the pledge quizzes ask the same. Hey...if we had to learn them, then they should too. All in all, the major parts are done and the rest is up to brothers to hook-up their computers. As the person who headed up the project, I would like to thank those alumni who helped make this possible. We have moved into the high-tech mainstream, and for those of you who would like the electronic mailing (e-mail) address for the actives, just call us up and we'll set you up with those.

If you were to stop by the house during the beginning of school semester, you would have seen piles of slate in our front yard. This was due to our re-roofing of the house. It was a necessary thing in light of the multiple leaks that had allowed water to pour on everything from clothes to beds. In the past, protocol would have called for sending the craziest brother, or perhaps an unknowing pledge, up

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Just a quick note from the treasury:

Our finances this year are looking better than expected, with one extra brother living in-house and a whole slew of bills paid in full. Unfortunately, we're taking a big hit from the work being done on the roof (see a related article elsewhere in this fine publication). The result is a stable but slim operating margin for this semester's budget. The moral of the story is that if you owe us money we'd love to have it, and if you don't donations are always welcome. Donated money allows us to do what we normally can't afford to do such as fixing a bathroom or painting a room. Your contributions let us do all of those little things that make Phi Kappa Theta the best fraternity on campus. Feel free to earmark any money you send for whatever you would like it to be used for. Then come on over and see your cash at work.

If you think you might owe money and are curious as to how much you owe, you can

reach me at 754-7585. You can also just send a letter to the house directed to me. I would be more than happy to supply you with any financial information you need, and ecstatic to receive a payment or donation. If there is one place that we are financially weak, it's our accounts receivable, and you guys are the ones who can do something about that. If you owe a lot, be advised that we will be getting a hold of you to set up a payment plan. Brotherhood may not necessarily stop at the treasury door, but brotherhood also means not stiffing your house.

Thanks to the responsibility of the nearly all of the brothers and alumni, our house is still on its feet. Give us a hand and Phi Kappa Theta will continue to be "just the best."

Fraternally,



Bart Sharp
Treasurer

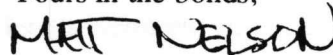
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to the roof with a bucket of tar and a ratty brush to patch it. But after a few citations that the city of Cleveland threatened to slap on us, we decided to kill many birds with the same stone. The package deal for the roof was this: total rip-off the old roof, replace any rotted boards, install thirty-year warranted dimensional shingles, add ridge vents for the attic, point the chimneys (replacing eroded mortar), and put on new gutters with screening and cement the downspouts. We contracted for the above to be done to the house and unfortunately the apartment out

back was to only be repaired due to lack of funding. Money for the project was saved from budgets during the past two years.

How did it turn out, you may ask? Well, our district governor Rod Craddock stopped by and said that the roof looked great! So when all of you come to our Pot Luck Dinner on November 5th, and I know you will, take a minute and admire the finished product. But, you should refrain from partying on this one.

Yours in the bonds,



Matt Nelson

November 5th -- Pot Luck Dinner!! Be There!!