

Homecoming 1992

In typical crow fashion, the undergraduates welcomed back all of the esteemed alumni for Homecoming. In case you missed it, there was a barbecue lunch and plenty of refreshments before and after the game.

The game itself was a little disturbing (in case you missed it Northwestern came back to win 27-26), but the reunions of past Brothers helped to make up for it. We had a good turn out of alumni, but of course we wish that everyone could reunite with the other Brothers.

Those who were able to make it were able to enjoy the newly renovated bathrooms and new French doors. For additional information about this please see the article concerning improvements.

As always, the undergrads and the alumni board would welcome any suggestions on how to improve upon the Homecoming weekend. We recognize that this is an excellent time for all Phi Kappa alumni to get together and we would like to facilitate you to make this the most enjoyable day possible.

We hope to see you at Homecoming 1993!!

*Have food cooked & ready ahead of time
Plan evening
Bang.
Summer Picnic*

Undergrads Lead in Community Service

Phi Kappa is joining Fraternities and Sororities on over 8 campuses in the Midwest, sponsoring a disabled person from the campus community. Proudly, Alpha Chi Rho is the first chapter at the University of Illinois to join this program. It is called Natural Ties, and the idea behind it is just that. The Greek sponsor hosts the disabled peer from a nearby community whom they have been paired with, creating natural friendships.

Crows' friend is Randy. He is developmentally disabled, and he lives in a home outside Champaign. He has a job and now has a Fraternity full of new friends. Randy is friendly and shy, but if you want to talk Illini sports with him, he will talk your ear off. He comes over about twice a week to hang out with the guys.

We invite Randy to dinner and football games, but what Randy enjoys most is being around the people he knows. Put simply, it just really makes him happy, and that is important. His activities with the house are not only valuable to him, they are valuable to every Brother. The Brothers are eager to see life from a disabled man's point of view, and it is a learning experience all around.

Natural Ties started at the University of Kansas, when a Sophomore in the Fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, made friends with a developmentally disabled person he had met. He brought him around his house to hang out, and eventually Jay, his friend, had met several members of the Fraternity. After a month, Jay was not only a friend, but he was an honorary member of the Fraternity.

The friendships that Jay formed at that Fraternity were priceless to him. He was twenty-one at the time he became involved with the Fraternity, and he said that they were his first real friends. He no longer felt like he was isolated, or non-mainstream.

Patrick Hughes was that young Fraternity man who was just making friends. Today he orchestrates the organization, Natural Ties, based in Evanston, IL, which has grown from 1 to over 8 campuses in less than five years. Natural Ties gains contacts in the community of campuses with Greek organizations and pairs up volunteering houses with disabled people from the area. The program has been recognized by President Bush as a Point of Light for its efforts in integrating developmentally disabled persons into the university community.

Natural Ties has found an eager sponsor in Phi Kappa. The

Brothers are excited to be part of the program, and they are making friends with Randy. We are even more excited to be the first Greeks on campus to start the program. Our goal is to further foster friendships with Randy, but eventually we would like to help Natural Ties expand their program to the other Greek houses. We are confident that this program is valuable to both the tie and the sponsors, and we want to share the experience.

Alumni Board Elects New Officers

Over the Homecoming weekend, the Phi Kappa Building Association met with the undergraduates and elected new officers. The new officers are as follows:

Mark O'Beirne- President
Andy Kosowsky- V.P.
Mark Bouckaert- Treasurer
Steve Mroz- Secretary
Stig Lanesskog- Chapter Advisor/
 Crow News.

Phi Kappa Building Association

Mark O'Beirne	President
Andy Kosowsky	Vice President
Mark Bouckaert	Treasurer
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Ghalib Hussain
 Rob Hood

Phi Kappa Building Association
 P.O. Box 255
 Champaign, IL 61824-0255

The Alumni Board discussed a number of important issues. A major concern is the total number of Brothers living at the undergraduate chapter. This has also affected the number of Brothers living in the chapter house. The undergraduates have addressed this and currently have a postulant class of 8 men.

Another high priority is the physical structure of the house. New fire codes require major capital expenditures in the future in order for the house to meet these codes. These improvements include additional fire escapes as well as a sprinkler system. We have started evaluating this situation and have some preliminary plans draw by a local architect. If you have any expertise in this area, please give **Steve Mroz** or **Mark O'Beirne** a phone call.

Steve is heading this project and would appreciate any additional help he could get.

If you are interested in becoming active with the Alumni Board in any way, please let us know. The board is currently made up of Brothers who have graduated no more than 6 years ago. We would value input from some more "experienced" Brothers.

Alumni Challenged to Reach Dues Goal

It is that time of year again, the annual request for your alumni dues. Last year we only collected \$80 in dues. The Building Association does

accept part of this responsibility since we were not good about sending out the *Crow News* on a regular basis.

This year we would like to try something new. In order to reach a desire level of performance it has been generally accepted that a specific goal should be set and feedback should be given concerning the progress. Therefore, we have set a goal of \$ 1,000 in dues to be collect by August 31, 1993. With over 1,000 Phi Kappa alumni, this goal seems to be more than reasonable.

The dues for this year is \$25.

I will be tracking the amount collected and will be reporting it in the upcoming issues.

The Phi Kappa Building Association would like to thank Brother **Ken Griffith** for his generous donation. In order to make the additional improvement to the chapter house, donations would certainly be appreciated. I will recognize all Brothers who contribute to the Phi Kappa Building Association.

Please use the enclosed form to send in your dues and donations. We thank all of the alumni for their continued support.

Phi

AXP

Kappa

Be Part of the Next *Crow News*

As the new editor of the *Crow News* I will be asking you for your help to make this publication as informative as possible. Therefore, if you have any information about yourself or any pledge class reunions let me know.

Send your information directly to me. **Stig Lanesskog, 205 East Stoughton #34, Champaign, IL 61820.** Your suggestions regarding the *Crow News* are always welcome. Please let us know if you are moving so that we can make sure you continue to receive the *Crow News* and other information.

Chapter House Gets Improved Look

Renovations of the bathrooms and French doors were recently completed. The first, second and third floor bathroom received much needed improvements. New sinks, toilets, walls and mirrors were put in to replace the deteriorating fixtures.

The front French doors were replaced with sharp replacements. The new doors have a similar style to their older counterparts, but are superior in security and insulation from the cold.

The Phi Kappa Building Association would like to thank

Brother **Cliff Waldbeser** for his major contributions on this project.

The Building Association is always looking to improve the chapter house. We need your support to help us in these activities. If you can contribute any resources or expertise, please drop us a note. If you have any suggestions on improvements we would like to hear them. All of us want to make the chapter house (our past home) the best it can be.

Undergraduates News

By Brian Sheehan,
Undergraduate President

The Undergrads of Alpha Chi Rho send their greetings. We are proud to be part of the 77th year of AXP at the University of Illinois.

I think it hardest to write about the problems of the Chapter along with the strengths, but I am not going to keep you in the dark. In the four school years I have been a Crow, I have seen the changing times of Greek and University life take its toll on Alpha Chi Rho and the Fraternity system. It is up to us, the undergrads, to meet these changes and succeed. I am confident that the current men of Phi Kappa can do it, but not without commitment and hopefully with support from their Alumni.

Honestly, Alpha Chi Rho is low on campus in terms of membership. Due to poor recruitment last school year, Phi Kappa is faced with an even

more important agenda to rush this year. Thinking of the future, rush is our primary goal this school year. We can be frugal and creative to find ways to pay our bills, but the key is just plain rush.

Phi Kappa is learning through tough times how to rush the undergraduates of the 90's. Attitudes have changed faster than Fraternities can adjust to succeed. And that is true with Phi Kappa.

This fall we have a Postulant class of 8 excellent, and we have all the confidence in the world that they will lead us in these changing times.

As always, looking for names from Alumni of quality men. If you know of someone coming down to campus and you want to give him the opportunities for growth, leadership and fun which you enjoyed, give us his name. Send any rush leads to the chapter house c/o the rush chair.

Homecoming '92 was a better success for Phi Kappa than it was for the Illini. Many Alums made the journey to Champaign-Urbana to visit with their Brothers and relive at least a few moments from college. While the Illini lost to Northwestern, Phi Kappa and the crowd at Memorial Stadium got a glimpse of George Burns as he raced around the field in a golf car, smoking and waving.

Thank you to those of you who showed up! Especially, thanks to those who made a donation

to the house. We are honored and happy to host Homecoming festivities at the house. And we have lots of fun too. Don't dare miss the excitement and nostalgia next year!

Congratulations are in order for two Phi Kappa undergrads who have received recognition from the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation this past summer. **Brian Sheehan** (that's me) received the John C. Enk scholarship, and **A. Mark Bilstad** received the F. Prescott Hammond scholarship, both from the foundation for exemplary academic achievement and service to both the Fraternity and the community.

Once again, the undergrads are excited to be able to greet our Alumni Brothers. If you haven't come down recently, do! The new French Doors might amaze you, but the Brothers will definitely try to make you feel at home again.

Graduate News

By Mark O'Beirne,
Graduate President

We are all aware of the tough economic times in our country, but are we all aware of the tough times for our Fraternity?

Yes, Alpha Chi Rho is having a difficult period right now at the University of Illinois. The Undergraduates are only able to claim 14 Brothers in the Chapter House this Fall semester. The Building Association Board of

Directors had even considered whether a reorganization effort was necessary to get things back on track. However, this was determined to be the wrong approach at this time after meetings with individual Brothers and the Chapter as a whole. We have good people at our local chapter, we're just having a difficult time getting postulants and initiates. AXP needs to use all its resources, including alumni. Please take the time to send a name or two of a prospective rushee who might now or soon be attending the University. We have asked the Undergraduates to make the extra effort towards rush, and alumni need to do likewise. Some of you may be able to pass on techniques of the past or things you've learned in the business world that could help our Brothers. Please let yourself be heard if this is the case, because we will be having a special rush workshop with the Undergraduates in January.

On the brighter side of things, I would like to congratulate Brothers **Ken Griffith '55**, **Rich Gronquist '57** and **Bill Sullivan '58** on their successful organization and executing of a 50's Brothers cruise this past summer. It has received rave reviews.

In the last newsletter an item mentioned the ability to deduct donations to the Chapter. This is not a true statement, and we apologize for the error, but we will soon be able to make those deductions possible. An interfraternal group at the U of I, including AXP, has been

working for the past few years to get the Greek System named as a U.S. historical district. This has finally been achieved. The next task for the group is filing for tax deductible status with the I.R.S. This process is well underway, so soon you may be able to write-off AXP contributions that go toward the physical structure of the house. More on this will be published in the months ahead.

Finally, for those of you living in the greater Chicagoland area, I hope you have received word about area alumni events that are taking place. The National Fraternity is continuing to try to establish a Chicago area alumni group. This allows Brothers in the region from our Chapter and others to get together and socialize after work, or perhaps at a sporting event or something in the future. The next event is December 15 at the 410 Club in the Wrigley Building at 5:15 p.m. When you have an opportunity to attend one of these functions, please do so as they are enjoyable for all Brothers. That's how the 50's reunion got organized, so don't be leery of seeing only the younger crowd.

Phi Kappa Shorts

♥ Congratulations to the following Brothers on their recent marriages. **Todd Bullington '91** to Theresa Radgowski. **Mark Bouckaert '91** on his recent marriage to Diane Dal Monte. **Steve Mroz** on his recent marriage to Lisa. *Please send us info about you!*