

President's Letter

By: Andrew Kosowsky
PKBA President

Greetings, fellow alumni. Well, a number of events have occurred since the last newsletter. Steve Jereb, Undergraduate President, discussed the poor state of the undergraduate chapter in his last letter. Because of our predicament, a number of steps have been taken.

The first step relates to the Chapter House. The president of Sigma Chi's Building

Association called me early in the Spring, asking whether we would be willing to rent the house to them for the coming year. A generous alum (ahem, ahem) left a substantial amount of money for the renovation of their building and 35-40 undergraduates needed housing for the coming year. The alumni board consulted with a large number of alumni from several eras. After being told the relevant facts, the response was overwhelmingly in favor of taking them up on the offer.

The reasons for the board's unanimous decision are the following: First, the handful of remaining undergraduates would have a very difficult time keeping the house in any sort of presentable condition. Second, the undergrads should put virtually all of their energies into Rush this year (It was also decided that alumni would take an active role in Rush). And the third and most important reason is money. The Sigma Chi building association will be paying rent that will substantially exceed our operating expenses. This has not been even close to the case in the past few years, and we are being

given a year of breathing room while efforts are made to increase membership.

This is a rare opportunity for us to actually make money, while not losing our standing with the university, since the building will be rented by their building association and used for the same purpose as it has always been. We will move back the following year.

Where does that put us? As I mentioned, the number one priority is rush. We need to pledge a good number of young men, but equally important is to find gentlemen who possess leadership and other desirable qualities, rather than just filling the house. We can no longer afford to pledge men who are only good for a housebill. Several alumni have offered to help (response from the mid-80's been good). If you would like to help, consider yourself a good communicator, and are willing to come down to Champaign for a weekend or two in the fall and/or spring, please let us know.

It would be nice to see some response from earlier classes. The classes of the early-to-mid 50's have been the most generous with their donations lately. I think that the rush efforts would be greatly enhanced with help from a few of these Brothers. From what I hear, Phi Kappa was a force to be reckoned with in that era. We need your help to make it so again.

So You Want To Help...

As you can see, Phi Kappa needs help. Several alumni have recently called or written to volunteer. You might be thinking of doing so, but are afraid of the time commitment. I have noticed this problem in the past, and think that our problem has been in asking too much of a person once they volunteer. I am offering you the chance to volunteer with only a small level of time commitment. I will list several areas where help is needed. Pick one or two and let us know. A little effort by a lot of people is what is needed to get Phi Kappa back on its feet. The opportunities are as follows:

- Pay your dues for 1995. They're only \$25, they're desperately needed, and you can specify where you want additional donations to go. Two current high-priority areas are house improvements and rush materials.
- Come down to Champaign for the July 15 weekend to help fix/clean up the house for our new tenants, our friends at Sigma Chi. There are two good reasons for this. First, they will return the house in the same condition that they find it. Second, most of the improvements will be of a long-lasting nature, so there will be less to worry about when we move back in.
- Offer to help with Rush. We will need help for one or two weekends in the fall and spring. As an alternative, if you're an older alum and will

be in the Champaign area, the undergrads will probably appreciate it if you stop by and give them advice and encouragement.

- Let us know of any legacies or any other promising men who will be attending U of I in the coming year or who are already there. We already know of two legacies who will be starting this fall, and would appreciate knowing of any others.
- We will try to offer a mentor/graduate contact program to all undergraduate Brothers. If you would like to offer insight to an undergrad in your field, please let us know. You will be contacted and told about the undergrad and asked if you're still interested before anything is set up. This is not intended as a job search program, rather it will help undergrads to make choices and foster a stronger brotherhood.
- Write and let us know how you're doing. We would like to double the number of Phi Kappa Shorts.
- We need ideas for homecoming and for graduate brother programs. If you think of anything, let us know. I know that a number of you have written in the last year and not gotten responses. Between the switch in officers and the undergrads' troubles, I'm afraid we didn't get a chance to answer all letters. Please be assured, though, that all mail received has been read, and suggestions have been considered. I will try to answer future correspondence in a timely manner. Any positive suggestions are always

welcome. However, please don't just complain about how bad everything is (with no ideas to make it better) if you haven't volunteered or paid dues for the past 10 years, and have no intention of doing so. It is just not productive.

As you can see, the opportunities are many. If a number of you each help in a small way, we can get a lot accomplished.

Andrew Kosowsky '87

Phi Kappa Graduate Fix-up Weekend

On January 28, 1995, several graduate brothers converged on the Phi Kappa House to perform needed repairs. Joined by some of the undergrads, they repaired walls, patched plaster, strengthened railings, and did other jobs that needed to be done. They were led by Steve Burns and Terry Kuhn, who made sure that the most needed jobs were done first and that adequate supplies were on hand. Other Brothers attending included Brian Sheehan, Andy Kosowsky, Greg Remec, Joe Hansen, Bob Horvath, and Gary Schmitz.

A number of alums were not able to attend, but made monetary contributions that were put to good use. We were actually under the budgeted amount for the weekend, and the extra money was spent on an emergency lighting system and for purchase of a Knox Box, which has been required by the fire department since January 1995, and will be installed over the summer.

Another House Fix-up/Clean-up Weekend is scheduled for July

15-16. If you're interested, call Terry at (217) 352-6649 or Andy at (708) 885-9628, or you can just show up Saturday morning. We will need more time than money this time around, but monetary donations will be appreciated and will again be put to good, practical use.

Phi Kappa Shorts

Brother Richard (Rick) L. Ruddell '63 was promoted to Assistant Division Director in the Office of Water Resource Management of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission last year. He retired from the United States Air Force in 1991. He and **Brother Bill Harant '64**, along with their wives, traveled to Alaska in 1993 and to Australia/New Zealand in 1994.

Brother James K. Klein '78 reports that he is Division Manager of WVP Corporation in Oak Brook, IL, which is an engineering/architectural company. He and his wife Stacey have two daughters, Kelsey and Shelby.

Brother Gregory M. Remec '84 and wife Lynda (U of I '86) announce the birth of their second daughter, Laura. Her sister, Claire, is 1 1/2 years old.

Brother Mark Bouckaert '92 traveled to Uruguay in January 1995 with wife Diane-aka Monte (U of I '91)

Dues and Donations

We would like to recognize and thank the following Brothers who have paid their Phi Kappa dues since our last newsletter as well as those who were generous enough to contribute a donation to the Graduate Chapter:

- Erwin F. Bauer
- Eugene K. Borchart
- Fred C. Burghardt
- Gerald A. Cann
- Mark R. Crowell
- Robert C. Donahue
- Timothy J. Duez
- Anthony D. Eckert
- Thore H. Edgren
- G. William Fisher
- Earl F. Fox
- Burton C. Gerber
- Charles H. Gouveia
- William Harant, Jr.
- Richard (Dick) Harding
- Armand Lee Johnson
- Robert W. Kafka
- James K. Klein
- Andrew Kosowsky
- Brad J. La Payne
- Horace G. Marshall
- Kenneth J. Marshall
- Richard L. Ruddell
- John T. Smithson
- Harold F. Stolle
- William C. Terpstra
- John Ted Thompson
- Jim Vieregg
- Michael D. Warnecke
- Wayne W. Watson
- Myron L. Wormley
- Kent M. Yauch
- John C. Zintak

We would like to give our special thanks to several Brothers who were especially generous with their contributions:

- A. Mark Bilstad
- Randy L. Bisping
- Steve Burns
- Joe I. Conover

- Daniel M. Franklin
- D. Kendall Griffith
- Terry Kuhn
- Chuck E. Long
- Dale W. Marquart
- Jerome Nelson
- Brian Sheehan

Your Building Association would like to thank all of you for support over the last year and hopes you will continue to think of your Chapter House in the years to come.

Phi Kappa Finances

By: Mark Bouckaert
PKBA Treasurer

In the previous *Crow News* (Winter, 1995), I set a challenging goal for this fiscal year's dues. I would now like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude towards all those who have supported their Fraternity and contributed towards our goal. I cannot put into words how much your contributions and support has/will help.

There are still a few months left in this fiscal year. So, if you have not had the opportunity to support your Fraternity, it is not too late.

As mentioned earlier, we will be renting our House to Sigma Chi next school year. This was a difficult but necessary step in rebuilding Alpha Chi Rho.

What happens over this next year is critical. If you have not contributed (volunteer or monetary) to your Fraternity in a while (one year or more), now is the time. Any information, insight, monetary support, and volunteer work will be greatly appreciated as we only have a one year hiatus from our normal, **FIXED** financial obligations.

These past few years have taken a hefty toll on our cash reserves. In addition, our loan taken back in 1992 to purchase new french doors and renovate all three bathrooms will mature in February, 1997 with a remaining balance of around \$25,000.00. So, as you can see, the pressure is on and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to regroup and work together over the next year to boost the presence of Alpha Chi Rho on the Champaign campus.

I would also like to take this next year to find out if the more than sixty percent of the newsletters mailed to Brothers all over the United States that go unanswered are being received. We would like to hear from you guys out there! At least let us know if you enjoy the newsletter or if there is anything you think we can do to improve it or anything else we do. I left that last request open ended for a reason. Good or bad, any signs of life will do. The more Phi Kappa Shorts and feed back we receive, the closer we will become as a Fraternity and the closer we will come to a stronger, healthier Chapter.

Income and Expense Statement
For 9 MO Period Ended 5/31/95

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Rent	1040.96	7000
Dues	1450.00	11000
Donations	1635.00	400
Div Inc	<u>1535.83</u>	<u>2760</u>
Total Rev	5661.79	21160
Prop Taxes	3179.13	9000
Insurance	5011.00	7000
Impr Loan	2516.76	3360
Crow News	100.00	400
Natl Conv	500.00	500
Homecoming	500.00	500
Postage	114.96	100
Sewer	101.36	200
Misc	<u>29.00</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Exp	12052.21	21160

T.Rowe Price Balance	\$23,011.02
Citibank Checking	1,578.86