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CROW NEWS

The Newsletter of the
Phi Kappa Chapter of
Alpha Chi Rho
Spring, 1997

Welcome

I would like to welcome those Brothers that have not been receiving these newsletters in recent months or years. I have tried especially hard to get a hold of Brothers that we had lost contact with. If this describes you, than you might be surprised at the recent turn of events, and I am glad we found you once again.

If you have no idea who we are, then we have probably mistaken you for one of our "lost Brothers" with whom you share the same name. I apologize for the mistake, and we would appreciate it if you let us know of the mistake via one of the methods described below.

We have had the families of some of our deceased brothers express a desire to continue receiving this newsletter so that they can stay informed with the happenings of the Phi Kappa chapter, and to hear news from old friends. If you are a family member of a deceased Brother, and you would rather not receive this newsletter in the future, please let us know and we will remove you from our mailing list.

If for these, or any other reasons you are receiving this newsletter and do not wish to, please drop us a line to the PO Box shown in the outside of this newsletter, or by calling **Bob Horvath** at (847) 359-7322, sending a fax to (847) 359-8233, or sending email to bob@horvath.com.

For the rest of you, I hope you enjoy the new look of the Crow News, and I hope you read it in its entirety. There is a lot of important information contained within.

President's Letter

Mark Bouckaert '92

As you know, the past several years have been very difficult ones for Phi Kappa. Since the release of the last newsletter, we have had three board meetings and have made several changes. Each of these meetings was filled with the motivation necessary to get Phi Kappa back on its feet. I believe that the changes we have proposed will continue to have a positive effect on our efforts to achieve this goal. Some of the changes can be summarized as follows:

Bob Horvath has taken over the newsletter, and as you can see, has taken it to another level. He has spent a lot of time on the mailing list and researching cheaper, more efficient ways to publish the newsletter.

I would like to extend special thanks to Brothers **D. Kendall Griffith** and **Andrew Kosowsky**. **Ken Griffith** has been donating his time as our legal advisor for many years. He has decided to step down and Brother **Jeffrey Wilson** has volunteered to take over. **Andy Kosowsky**, who in my opinion is responsible for shaking up the graduate chapter and establishing a full board for the first time in at least four years, has been forced to step down as a Board member due to personal commitments. All of Andy's very hard work has helped to improve communication among the graduates and has certainly helped to pull the Crows together again. A sincere thank you goes out to you both.

Andy has recruited the following to serve as Board members:

President	Mark Bouckaert	1999
Vice President	Kevin Anetsberger	2000
Treasurer	Greg Remec	2000
Secretary	Bob Horvath	2001
	Terry Kuhn	1998
	Gary Schmitz	1999
	Jim Klein	1998
	Gary Matejcek	2001

In addition, **Brad LaPayne** will continue to act as an advisor, local contact for emergencies, and maintain the P.O. Box. Jeff Wilson, as mentioned earlier, will donate time as registered agent and Andy Kosowsky will help out where needed. We ask that you vote in favor of these volunteers using the enclosed ballot.

There are three main obstacles this new board will need to address. First, the three postulants from last year are now gone, thanks in part to our "National Advisor" who tried to keep the Alumni out of the reorganization and pushed the three until they gave up. This situation has brought to light that we can no longer rely on the traditional methods of rushing, and that what we have taken for granted for many years is now over. The House can no longer take care of itself. We will be competing with several fraternities currently attempting to re-colonize, including TKE, and we no longer have the benefit of a House to conduct rush events. A minimum of fifteen new members will be needed to move back into our house and we are open for suggestions on where to find them. Our current target is an already established organization. **Kevin Anetsberger** has obtained a list of all University registered organizations and has volunteered to begin the screening process.

We believe this will be the quickest and most efficient way to get Phi Kappa rolling again.

Second, the House is in need of major maintenance and fire code upgrades that carry a price tag of about \$40,000 to \$50,000. Terry Kuhn has managed to keep the inspector satisfied for the last two to three years as to our progress but this can't last forever. Jim Klein has been in contact with a respected local architect who will conduct a study to come up with the most effective ways to implement the codes. The cost of the study will be around \$1,500. In addition to these upgrades, the roof and radiators are close to, if not already, exceeding their expected life.

Finally, we will need to deal with our financial situation. If we do not improve our cash flow, we will be unable to obtain additional loans through our bank to pay for any emergencies or capital improvements necessary to avoid an emergency situation. We have had consistent and generous support from a small portion of our membership. Unfortunately, without the support of more members, we end up devoting most of our time and money trying to make ends meet. If more of the alumni paid their dues, we could focus on more important issues such as recruiting. We sincerely appreciate the efforts that have been made by those loyal Brothers who have provided their generous support, and we strongly urge those Brothers who are not pulling their weight to help. I'm sure that if you think back to your days at the University of Illinois you would like to ensure that new students are provided the same opportunities and benefits that Phi Kappa gave you.

On a brighter note, we are organizing an informal summer event to be held at the House in Champaign on July 19th, 1997 for the sake of getting together and rekindling old friendships. This will be our last opportunity to use our house until we can afford to reoccupy it. The secondary purpose is to see what kind of interest regarding the Chapter House is out there. Please RSVP so we can estimate how many people to expect. You can RSVP via fax (630-393-2378), my home phone number (630-393-6588) or mail via the P.O. Box. Yes, rooms, couches, and floors are available at the house. Only a donation will reserve a room and/or mattress while supplies last. If you can't make it, all we ask is that you at least drop us a note to tell us if you are interested in making a commitment to help rebuild the Chapter. Please do this as soon as possible as all unanswered newsletters will be deemed "not interested in rebuilding Phi Kappa and favoring a discussion of selling the House". We are also planning a non-Homecoming gathering in Champaign for a football game. We will keep you posted.

Finances

Mark Bouckaert '92

Brother LePayne put it best "WE NEED HELP NOW -- NOT LATER -- AND WE NEED LOTS OF IT!". The name of the game is cash flow. Over the past year, we have used up most of our money on property taxes and insurance (\$13,000 per year). Our attempt to cover our costs by having Central Property Managers

rent out rooms has back fired. All but one tenant has been evicted, graduated, or walked away from their lease. Jeff Wilson will attempt to track them down, but the fact remains that we lost money on the deal. Consequently, we are forced, once again, to rent to another fraternity. This time the renting fraternity will be Chi Psi. They are looking for a long term arrangement which should translate into fewer repairs than we encountered with Sigma Chi. We have agreed to rent the House to them on a year to year basis for \$25,000 per year, with the right of first refusal. In other words, they will be our tenant until we can reclaim our House, provided they don't find a better deal.

Through some creative, yet legal, financing, I have been able to loan Phi Kappa just under \$8,000 to keep cash available for day to day operations and to prevent our financial emergency from turning into a crisis. I would not have done this if I did not believe Phi Kappa was worth it, or if I thought I would never see it again. The bottom line is that we are relying on you to pull your weight. Isn't Phi Kappa worth \$25 to you? Despite the situation we are in, I get such a charge at the quarterly meetings just talking about old times. Walking through the halls of the Chapter House over the summer, I got to thinking about the bowling ball rolling down the 2nd floor hall during formal dinner or executive meetings, hearing the thud of the "T" falling out of someone's top bunk, hearing the sound that always follows "Table Up!", and the sight of Dom and Rick walking around in their Spandex -- well maybe not that. The \$25 annual dues covers all fixed expenses (property insurance, real estate taxes and mortgage payments) IF everyone pays it. I realize many of you are disappointed with the Chapter right now. So am I. But we are doing our best to build off of what we have. We all would like to see the House back to the way we remembered it, but we can't even try if you don't give us a chance.

Following is the current year financial activity. It does not include rental revenue of Central Property managers as a separate line item which, when netted against expenses is projected to be a net loss of about \$5,000. The \$5,000 is carried as utility expense in the income statement below.

Balance Sheet

May 15, 1997

Assets	
Cash	<u>\$9,703</u>
Liabilities	
Note Payable	\$7,949
Chi Psi Damage Deposit	3,500
Accounts Payable	93
Mortgage	<u>26,021</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$37,563</u></u>

Statement of Income

9/1/96 - 5/15/97

Income	
Dues and Donations	\$3,683
Investment Income	89
Total Income	\$3,772
Expenses	
Building Maint/Utilities	\$6,000
Insurance	5,851
Phi Kappa News	338
Phone and Postage	753
Real Estate Taxes	664
Rush	609
Annual Sewer Fee	42
Miscellaneous	123
Total Expenses	\$14,380
Net Loss	\$(10,608)

Summer Party - July 19th

Get out your calendar and block off July 19th, 1997 to attend the Phi Kappa summer party. Nothing fancy, just burgers, beer, and brotherhood. Since we will not be able to hold a Homecoming get-together at the house, this is the **last chance** for us to gather at the house before giving the keys over to Chi Psi.

While it is always great just to get together, we thought it would be a good time to ask people to get together so that we can gauge the amount of support that exists to bring Phi Kappa back. While these newsletters tend to focus on the financial support that is needed, it is just important to know that the spiritual support is there.

The party will start around noon, and will last as long as people feel like staying. The house will be empty, so if you want to stay the night, you can stay at the House (you might want to bring a sleeping bag). If you can't come as early as noon, then come later in the day. Bring the family or come by yourself - the important thing is that you are there.

AXP Homecoming - Illini vs. Penn State

While Homecoming is certainly a great Illinois tradition, it is usually late in the season (as in cold), and the throngs of alumni that descend on Champaign make it almost impossible to get a hotel room. Since most of us come down for Homecoming just to take in a game and see some old friends, we thought it would be fun to hold our own Homecoming on a weekend that isn't so crowded, and hopefully isn't so cold.

The game on October 4th against Penn State is the ideal weekend for such a gathering. It shouldn't be as crowded as Homecoming or Dad's Day, the weather should be nice, and it should be fun watching the Illini beat the Nittany Lions. Well, the weather should still be nice anyway.

Tickets haven't been hard to get in recent years, so we will probably not be doing any organized ticket purchasing unless we hear from a lot of you. If you are interested in this weekend, please let us know so we can get an idea of how many people we might expect to see. Be sure to check the next newsletter for more information.

Crows on the World Wide Web

For those of you with access to the Internet, surf on over to the official web site of the Graduate Chapter by pointing your browser to the URL "<http://www.horvath.com/AXP/>".

Once there, you will find a picture of the house from a weekend last summer when several graduate brothers made the trip to Champaign to perform some much needed repairs and cleaning, as well as a small collection of email addresses from brothers that I know that have access to email, and a search engine for looking up the "snail mail" addresses of the brothers from Phi Kappa that we have an address for.

I am hoping that there are many more of you out there that have email. If you have email and are not listed, please send your address to bob@horvath.com, even if you do not have access to the World Wide Web. Email is a such a great way to keep in touch.

I have also implemented a search engine with the addresses of all of the brothers we know about. There is a lot of information on people already on the Internet (which some of you may have indirectly discovered if you haven't received a newsletter in a while). If you are concerned about your address being accessible on the Internet, please let us know, and it will be removed, or we can discuss its accessibility to see if you are comfortable with how we are doing this. If you have a list of brothers that you keep in touch with, run them through the search engine and see if we have the same address as you do. Maybe we have lost someone that you still keep in contact with.

There are numerous ways we can take advantage of the Internet to our benefit.

Other ideas are to start a discussion area or mailing list to discuss issues relating to the chapter and its future. If you have some pictures from your era that you think are particularly amusing, send them in and we will scan them and put them up for everyone else to enjoy (and return them to you, of course). One of the things I always enjoyed the most was looking at the old photo albums from years past and thinking how silly they all looked. Finally, there is one advantage to not having any undergrads on campus looking through old photo albums!

Most importantly, since there is no cost in sending email, we will be able to keep you informed more frequently than we are able to via the newsletters.

As is the wonder that is the Internet, the possibilities are bounded only by the interest in it. If you have any suggestions, please email them to me at bob@horvath.com.

Election of Board of Directors

There has been a lot of change in the Board of Directors over the last couple of years. Due to these changes, we thought it would be a good time to reaffirm those members of the board that are currently in place, along with noting the end of the term that they were elected to fill.

Jim Klein	'98
Terry Kuhn	'98
Mark Bouckaert	'99
Gary Schmitz	'99
Kevin Anetsberger	'00
Greg Remec	'00

In addition, the following two brothers are nominated to fill the remaining two seats on the board.

Bob Horvath	'01
Gary Matejczak	'01

Please return the ballot enclosed at the end of this newsletter containing your, votes, objections, or nominations.

Dues and Donations

More so than ever, dues and donations are particularly important.

There has been some confusion between the dues and donations that are sent to National, and those that are sent directly to Phi Kappa. These funds are used for different purposes. The Phi Kappa chapter benefits indirectly from funds sent to National, and

National benefits indirectly from what is done with the donations sent directly to Phi Kappa. It is important to realize this distinction.

The funds sent directly to Phi Kappa are used primarily for the maintenance of the house at 311 E. Armory such as repairs, improvements, insurance, and property tax, and for the business of running the chapter such as the cost of putting out these newsletters.

Funds sent to National are used for the business of running of the National Fraternity such as the cost of putting out the Garnet and White.

The tax deductible contributions to the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation are used for scholarships to undergraduate members of the Fraternity, which at this time does not include any Phi Kappa members.

While we encourage you to contribute to both the National Fraternity and the Phi Kappa chapter, we would especially appreciate you giving extra consideration of the needs of the Phi Kappa Chapter at this time. Without the Phi Kappa Chapter, none of us would be members of Alpha Chi Rho, and without your continued support, the survival of the Phi Kappa Chapter is in danger.

We would like to thank the following for their dues and donations which have been received since the previous newsletter:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin Anetsberger | Chuck Hulick |
| Erwin Bauer | Ghalib Husseini |
| Erwin F. Bauer | Thomas Jack |
| Jack Benard | Lee Johnson |
| Carter Black | Andy Kosowsky |
| Mark Bouckaert | Terry Kuhn |
| John Randall | Brad LePayne |
| Fed C. Burghardt | Horace G. Marshall |
| Roger Clemens | Paul McWilliams |
| Roy Cousins | Michael Miller |
| Carl Dietz | Ralph Murphy |
| Seth Dietz | Peter Noling |
| Tim Duez | James Pautz |
| Anthony D. Eckert | Gabriel Puc |
| Thor Edgren | Richard Schultz |
| Thomas W. Fifer | Neal Shoger |
| Dan Franklin | Ronald J. Skupien |
| Earl Fox | Roy C. Smith |
| Mark Gagliano | Irving C. Stansell |
| Burton Gerber | Thaddeus Staskiewicz |
| William Harant | John Symons |
| Robert Horton | |

A special thanks to Theodore G. Koerner III and Sarah K. Peterson, who gave a very generous contribution in memory of their father **Theodore G. Koerner, Jr. '22.**

Phi Kappa Shorts

Theodore G. Koerner III and Sarah K. Peterson, the children of **Theodore G. Koerner, Jr. '22** who passed away on May 29, 1993, shortly after his 93rd birthday write, "*Dad was always proud of his fraternity and we know he would wish you well in your efforts*".

Earl F. Fox '47 sends us the sad news that Brother **Carrol W. Brown '47** died on October 3rd, 1996 after battling an inoperable brain tumor for a year. Brothers Brown and Fox were both originally in the class of '44, but were called to active military service in 1943. When they re-enrolled at U. of I. In '46, the Trimester plan was in effect, and it took 3 terms to finish their undergraduate work. "C.W." was a retired Lt. Col. In the Active Reserves, and also retired from Shell Oil Co. His wife "Peg" and two sons preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Jan, and her 4 children and grandchildren. Jan was the nurse that attended to Peg when she died 24 years ago.

Jack H. Benard '40 writes with news that his health at age 79 is greatly improved. Since returning from a trip to Scotland and Ireland in 1992, it was discovered that he had a lung disease (not emphysema) by his doctor (then he had one doctor, now he has six doctors). He has been in the hospital 6 times with pneumonia and has been on oxygen since May of 1992, but has not let that keep him at home. He and his wife Doris are very active socially, pulling the oxygen tank wherever they go. They had 68 of their friends over on October 11th 1996 for a cocktail and dinner party to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. It is good to hear from you again Jack, and good to hear you are feeling better.

Peter R. Noling was originally in the class of '41. He went to school for two years, and then took his father's advice on how to become a better mechanical engineer by taking three years off and working in a shop. He was back at Illinois in '42-'43 and then into the Army for three years after which he started working in engineering. He also writes, "*I have many fond memories of Phi Kappa and ask that those members of the '38 to '45 classes help to rebuild the chapter with cash or labor if possible*".

Tom Jack '43.5 moved to Prescott Arizona in 1992 after having retired in 1984. He had worked in human resources for 24 years with Amoco and 13 years with Montana Dakota Resources. He says that it would be hard to find two cities that are better to live in than Bismark, N.D. and Prescott AZ. I am sure that Champaign must not rank far behind.

Robert K. Horton MD was originally in the class of '44 but on account of WWII didn't graduate until '47. His brother **Richard** was in the class of '32. He writes "*My experience of Alpha Chi Rho was of the finest. Top scholarship, the friendship of gentleman, both contributed to good memories*". He hopes that the House will succeed with young men of this caliber. We couldn't agree more.

Roy C Smith Jr. '45, was one of many whose college years were interrupted by the War. He was originally in the class of '45, accelerated to '44, and finally graduated after the way in '47, but ended up knowing more of the class of '43. He retired in '84 from GE Co., after having traveled the world with GE and its customers. He took a job with Airstream Co. In '87 as Caravan Service

Representative, and has continued traveling in their Airstream travel trailer over all of North America. He decided to reduce the traveling and do some of the many other things he and his wife Ede (Bucknell '44) wanted to do such as volunteering at home, and traveling at their choice pace - elderhostels and the like.

Jim Pautz '70 and his brother Mike recently purchased a small engraving business in Elk Grove. Jim is commuting from Oklahoma until his family decides to move. As things settle down, he hopes to look up brothers in the NW Chicago area as there were not many in the SE Kansas or NW Oklahoma area.

Roger C. Clemens '75 has been married to his wife Anne for almost 14 years, and has two boys Ryan (10) and Erik (8) that are active in soccer, baseball, and Cub Scouts. He has been a coach in both sports and a "Den Dad". He has worked at Commonwealth Edison Co. For 14 years. He is the company's heat exchanger specialist for the 12 nuclear generating units that they operate. He also mentions that the company is going through a lot of changes lately, so he is keeping his resume warm (I do not know if the pun was intended or not).

Major (Dr.) Michael D. Miller '81 is now living in Panama where he is enjoying scuba diving and an extremely favorable female to male ratio. Hey Mike, do they have squirrels in Panama?

Greg Remec, '84.5 and his wife Lynda had their 3rd daughter Kristina Catherine Remec, on April 29th, 1997. I am sure that Greg, Lynda, and Kristina's older sisters Claire and Laura couldn't be prouder.

Thomas Fifer '89 has moved back from DC to Indianapolis IN. He and his wife Lori are expecting a baby in November.

Can you name everyone in your Pledge Class?

The events of recent months make it even more important than ever for us to be in touch with the entire graduate chapter. We have been working with National and with whatever tools we have available to try and find everyone. Over the years, however, we have lost track of quite a few brothers, and for the ones we do have a record for, our records are incomplete.

For example, of the brothers we do know about, we have information regarding the pledge class they were in for less than half. It appears that the pledge classes for which we have the most accurate information are those that have not been at 311 E. Armory for several decades! So, even if you are a recent graduate, don't assume we know about everyone else in your pledge class.

If you can name all, or even most, of the brothers in your pledge class, jot them down on a piece of paper and stick a stamp on it and send it back to us. If you have any recent information on any of them such as address or phone information, we would appreciate knowing that as well. If you can jot down brothers from pledge classes other than your own, feel free to do this too. If it is easier than mailing, fax what you have to (847) 359-8233.

Since you receive these newsletters, you know what an important time this is for our chapter. Help us reach those that are not aware of what is going on. The day may come when some big decisions have to be made. How would you feel if you hadn't been kept informed?



In Closing

I hope from reading this newsletter, that you can appreciate the situation we are in. Typically, we receive very little response from these newsletters, often because a response hasn't been requested for anything of importance. It should be obvious that this is no longer the case.

The last page of this newsletter contains a form that usually reads about the same in each newsletter. It asks how you would like any dues and donations you have enclosed spent; it gives you a chance to tell us a little about yourself so that others can find out what you have been up to; and it provides a place to vote for any board members that have been nominated.

This time, we have also included a box that can be checked to tell us what you believe should be the direction taken for the future of the Phi Kappa Chapter.

If you have no other reason to return this form, please at least respond to this question.

If the thought of seeing ...

FOR SALE: 15 br, 2.2 ba, wbf in lr and den, one owner, desirable on campus location.

... appearing in a Champaign newspaper is upsetting to you, then let us know that you are committed to the survival of the Chapter.

If you feel that the time has come for us to start discussing selling the house and moving on, then we respect that opinion too, and would appreciate hearing from you as well.

Those of us on the Board would like to see the House survive, but it can only be done with support from the entire membership. If we don't hear from you, then we must assume that you are in favor of selling the House.

Please take the time to check one of the boxes and return it to us.

