



Rho-Kappa Senior

Rho-Kappa Alumni Association Newsletter

Year IX, Number 2

Winter, 1998

► FROM THE EDITOR ◀

This Winter issue of the *Rho-Kappa Senior*, is here to let you know what is going on with the Association and its members but chiefly to invite you to Rho-Kappa's very own TKE Centennial party, more on that below.

To you fraters, who are not on the internet, or without email capacity you are missing a lot, granted it is not always pretty, but it sure is a lot of fun. If you have been putting off doing it, just do it! And if you need help, you will find plenty of brothers willing to lend a hand and to figure out the ins and out of web surfing.

YITB,

Sebastian Völcker, PK15, Acting Histor.

FRATERS' GATHERING

► RHO-KAPPA'S TKE CENTENNIAL PARTY ◀

On Saturday January 9, 1998 our fraternity will celebrate its centennial nation wide. We the proud brothers of Rho-Kappa will join in with a dinner party in Farmville.

The event will start at five in the chapter room -- school is closed, but thanks to the good offices of the actives, we will be able to meet on the Teke Hall. From five to six we will conduct the association's business, followed by the passing of the gavel.

Dinner -- black tie optional -- will start at 8:30 p.m. at the *205 Steak Club* a.k.a. *Beef's*. Beef proposes: prime rib, chicken dish, salad, baked potato & rice casserole with an open bar for \$35.00 per person.

In order for Beef not to loose his shirt on this we need at least 50 guests, which considering the response thus far will not be a problem, this promises to be a Grand Teke event! In addition you may order a commemorative glass (\$5.00).

Make your reservations by contacting Sebastian by e-mail CalliopeSF@aol.com, by calling 804-457-4656, or by faxing 804-457-3434, we need to hear from you by December 30.

► ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRYTANIS REPORT ◀

Dear Fraters and friends of the Fraternity, it gives me great pride to report to you on the status of your Alumni Association. I was elected as the new Prytanis at the October 3, 1998 meeting of the Fraternity on the occasion of the Charter Rededication. I have used this event to renew my personal commitment to our Chapter and to encourage others to do the same. The Alumni Association was established with the goal of maintaining communication, fellowship, and service to Tau Kappa Epsilon. My personal goals are to improve my own involvement with the Active Chapter and the Alumni, to facilitate the transfer of practical real-world experience from the Alumni to the Actives, and to manage the affairs of organization in an efficient and business-like fashion.

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► THE GOLF GAME BY DARREN MCCAULEY ◀



Thursday night we met at Jason Blount's and sat around drinking a few beers and telling lies. The people that were there were Jason, Ellery Bradley, Stuart Hallett, Scott Kasper, Steve Mahr, Kevin Brower, David Blount, Jon Mills and myself. God bless Carol Blount for putting up with us and allowing us the run of their home! Friday morning we went to Shoney's for breakfast then off to the Longwood Golf Course for a Captain's Choice tournament. There were three teams with three people on each team. The victorious TEKES were comprised of Darren, Stuart and Robert Essington (who joined us for the Friday golfing). After golf we all headed to see Mohammed Stwodah at his restaurant and munched on the buffet. The afternoon was more golf but this time at Landing View Country Club. By this time the serious golfing was over and it was time to just have fun. We played 18 more holes but this time not everyone was quite as sober and the banter was boisterous. It can be quite difficult hitting a golf shot with someone else's club poking you and others loudly making ungolf-like comments...but nonetheless, we all had fun!

► A SMASHING GOOD TIME AT OCTOBER FEST ◀

The Friday golf extravaganza (36 holes) went very well, as noted above. Friday closed with an off-campus party attended by the actives and a handful of Alumni.

Saturday began early for the actives as they upheld the fine tradition of the Gurney Push sponsoring the March of Dimes and were also the only fraternity to partake in the Parade. TKE #1!! The Stubbs lawn offered the traditional booths with all the organizations on campus peddling their products. TKE was selling drinks, hot dogs, and the very cool Caribbean Soul T-Shirt designed for that evening's party.

A few of the guys had Lunch at Beef's. At 2:00 p.m. we held the Rededication of the Charter meeting, and passed the gavel. The Charter is now firmly secured to the wall, with a light shining upon it. The Alumni then gathered for a quick meeting which saw the election of Ricky Stanfield as Prytanis (Yeah Ricky!!), Steve Mahr and Mark Cole took on the responsibility of organizing next year's Annual

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Prytanis Report (continued)

I want to reduce fractionalism amongst our ranks without discouraging personal initiative and involvement. The health of our Alumni Association can be measured by the following benchmarks:

Communication/involvement with the Active Chapter: The Active Chapter has a healthy social life, and seems to be holding its own academically.

Alumni involvement with the undergraduates is basically limited to social events and signature parties. There is little alumni involvement with educational or professional development efforts. These are experiences we can and should share with the actives so that they can be more competitive in the work place and proud reflections on TKE. I want to encourage more of this type of constructive involvement during my term. I score Alumni Association health in this measure as a C.

Communication/involvement with other Alumni: There are many subgroups in our Association that are doing very well, but some individuals are disenfranchised or disgruntled. We are now a very large group (something to be proud of) and it is only natural that some subgroups will form and remain close. This is, in many ways, good because it reflects closeness and friendship and initiative. I do not want to discourage these groups from existing. I do want to focus everyone's attention on key Association wide events and the importance of pulling together to make them happen. This is your Alumni Association and your Fraternity. We can make it better together, or we can just be a bunch of guys who went to college together. I score Alumni Association health in this measure as a B (for effort).

Fund-raising and Philanthropic Efforts: The Alumni Association has not collect formal dues for years and we are not a voting member of the National Fraternity. We do not collect dues since non-dues paying members cannot vote in Association meetings. To keep everyone involved we operate on donations alone. We need to improve our fund-raising efforts with simple low-impact tools that can improve our ability to cover our own expenses and to help the Active Chapter. We must stop taking advantage of our generous and caring benefactors. We do very little in the way of Philanthropy. I score Alumni Association health in this measure as a D, but only because I graded on a curve!

I am proud of our International Fraternity, our beloved Rho-Kappa Chapter, and our Alumni Association. I am more guilty that many for not being there at the right time. But it is my turn to take up the banner and lead the charge. Look at our membership. We have Fraters in positions of leadership, management and influence. We have members in medicine, academia, banking and finance, insurance, science and technology, civil service, public service, retail business, small business, and industry. We have members who are still very involved with Rho-Kappa and/or other Teke Chapters. I think we should capitalize on our collective successes. I hope you can make it to the TKE Centennial Celebration in Farmville on January 9, 1999. Additional details for this event are contained in this newsletter. We will have a brief Alumni Association meeting prior to the start of festivities (not to exceed 1 hour). I encourage you to attend. Please bring your ideas and solutions to this meeting. I love Teke!

Yours in the Bond,

Ricky W. Stanfield, PK-13, Alumni Association Prytanis

October Fest (continued)

Alumni Teke Fling (Yeah Steve!! Yeah Mark!!). The Alumni also embraced the chapter's idea of celebrating the Teke centennial at Longwood on January 9, 1999 as well as on Spring week-end. Beef had already offered the Chapter the use of his restaurant and the excellent deal of a prime rib dinner with open bar for \$35.00. Sebastian Völcker will secure the Alumni funds and explore the possibilities to open an Alumni Teke account. Ricky will endeavor to see what real life knowledge and experience the Alumni can share with the undergrads.

That evening the actives threw their Fourth Annual Caribbean Soul party which in spite of all the new restrictions was a great success! To give you an idea of the difficulties, the Greek affairs guy in person was there to check IDs!! But all went very well, and Prytanis Jimmy Bell (aka Willow) was **not** hauled off to jail.

The Following Alumni were in attendance: Ellery Bradley (PK 1), Jett Driver (PK 5), Stuart Hallett (PK 9) Ricky Stanfield (PK 13), Sebastian Völcker (PK 15), Jason Blount (PK 21), Darren McCauley (PK 27), Walter Alford (PK 33), Robert Essington (PK 36), Steve Wertz (PK 52), Scott Kasper (PK 55), John Devaney (PK 60), Will Birdsong (PK 62), Kenny Strawn (PK 63), Mohammed N. Stwodah (PK 64), Steve Mahr (PK 70), John Benton (PK 76), Kevin Brower (PK 82), Charles Maurice (PK 84), Jeff Elmore (PK 89), Brian Litman (PK 101), David Blount (PK 102), Grayson Lipford (113), John Mills (PK 117), Mark Cole (PK 129), Grant Hayes (PK 145), Dan Harrison (PK 155).

► MONEY AND THE FRATERNITY ◀

Fraters:

I hope you all are doing well and are ready for the holidays. I want to bounce a few ideas off everyone concerning our old pal, money.

We are all inundated with requests for money from people we know and people we don't know, people we like and people we don't like, etc. The last thing I want to do is add to someone's stress relating to monetary issues.

The undergraduate chapter has asked for our financial help with regard to the Centennial Celebration -- the second one to be held during Spring Weekend -- and the chapter room. Ricky Stanfield and I have been discussing this issue and I would like to pose a few ideas which we can further discuss on January 9, a day I hope many of you are planning to spend in Farmville.

My idea is rather simple. We, as alumni, could conduct a yearly giving campaign to benefit both the undergraduate chapter and the alumni association. Suggestions for uses of the money by the chapter will accompany the gift and they will consider these suggestions and hopefully see the benefit in using the money for one or more of the suggested purposes. The remainder of the money collected will go to the alumni association for expenses, primarily (I would think) mailings. Not everyone is on line so an Alumni newsletter is still important. I am thinking \$20.00 a year with half going to the chapter and half going to the association. With over a hundred alumni we could build a nice balance rather quickly. I have volunteered to head up the campaign this year and welcome any input you may have. Of course, the things I have just mentioned are only ideas created in my feeble mind. I would like to finalize a plan at the January 9 meeting. Please feel free to forward any comments or suggestions between now and then.

YITB,

Stuart Hallett, PK 9, Fund Raising committee chair.

