MEN'S GROUP HOUSING AND FRATERNITIES

In the early days of the University of Puget Sound, there were two prominent literary societies, the Amphictyon Society and the Philomathean Society, which were started by the student body at the encouragement of Dr. Todd, Professor Slater and Senator Davis. Members were required to plan and take part in the programs. They could present a musical number, an essay, poetry or anything else that would help the academic development of the individual.

There were other societies, although the Amphictyons and the Philomatheans were the strong and enduring ones. The Altrusians were referred to in early documents but it did not seem to exist very long. Kappa Sigma Theta was a forerunner of women's sororities and was sort of an outgrowth of some other groups. Another group, Zetes, actually became a fraternity. The Kappa Sigma Thetas had hoped to become a sorority, and Mrs. Todd became very interested in this group.

These societies were the dim beginnings of the Greek system on the campus and eventually we had six local men's groups and five local women's groups on the campus. Later I hope to do further research on the beginning of each of the sororities and fraternities.

In 1942, when I arrived, I found that the fraternities were greatly weakened because the men had left for the Service but the sororities had good strength. When Kittredge Hall was built, Dr. Todd arranged for each one of
the sororities to have a room around the balcony and the allocation was made by a drawing. Before Kittredge was built, the sororities each had a room on the lower floor of Jones Hall.

The men's groups, had been renting houses in the area between downtown Tacoma and the University. Most of these were substandard housing and overly crowded. I remember one father came to me and said he was very worried because he had checked where his son was sleeping and found no fire escape. When I asked the president of the group about this, he said there was a rope under one of the beds but he looked under the wrong bed!

This entire housing situation for men bothered me a very great deal because it was substandard and not the kind of experience that I thought young men ought to have while attending the University of Puget Sound.

After giving it very careful thought, I proposed to the Board of Trustees a plan whereby we might subsidize the building of fraternity houses. We had decided that the women could be housed in different wings of the dormitories as they were built, but it was not feasible to do this for the men. The proposal was that if a fraternity could raise $25,000 the University would raise $25,000 and then the University and the fraternity and its alumni officers would go to a bank and cosign for a loan of $50,000 that could be amortized over twenty years. In this way we would be able to raise $100,000 for each of the fraternity houses.

Each fraternity was very eager to try to raise the $25,000 to underwrite the initial building program but only one fraternity was able to do this -- the Phi Delta Thetas. The Phi Delts had a very fine alumnus, Frank Neal, who had
been a member at one of the eastern universities and enjoyed it so much he was anxious to promote the chapter on our campus.

Inasmuch as none of the other groups could raise the initial amount, it was not possible to proceed with the proposal.

During the War, we had only about 45 or 50 men on the campus, most of them 4-F, so we brought all the fraternities together into one group and called it Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end). In this way, we were able to keep the fraternity spirit alive. When the men were returning, we found one fraternity did not have any active men, so we asked four or five alumni if they would come back and rush and we were able to get all the fraternities started again after the War.

Influential Persons

One of the trustees, Mrs. Frances Swayze, the wife of Thomas Swayze who had been the Director of Licenses for the State of Washington, was very influential on the Board of Trustees for a time. Mrs. Swayze had graduated from the College of Puget Sound, as had her husband and four of their five children, and now many of her grandchildren have graduated from the University of Puget Sound. Mrs. Swayze took great interest in the sororities and was one of the people who constantly supported the coming of national sororities on our campus. She spoke most highly about it and on a good many occasions in the Board of Trustees' meetings suggested that this policy be developed.
Mr. Henry Cramer, who was an alumnus and a judge in Seattle at that
time, also supported Mrs. Swayze in this sorority matter. The first national
to come was Pi Beta Phi, which was a sorority. The son of one of the three
founders of Pi Beta Phi, Mr. Cleon Soule, was very instrumental in leading us
through the procedures by which this national could come on our campus. It
has proven to be one of the outstanding influences in the lives of young women
ever since.

Mr. Soule was a member of Beta Theta Pi and was very instrumental in
Beta Theta Pi coming to the campus as one of the early fraternities. He had
been a member at his alma mater, Miami University in Ohio, and helped a great
deal in the development of our chapter and the maintenance of its standards.

Two weeks before his death, I took him to lunch while he was visiting
here from his home in California. We discussed the coming of Pi Beta Phi and
also the coming of Beta Thea Pi. He was exceedingly pleased to tell me that
when he had landed at Seattle-Tacoma airport six of the Beta Brothers met
him and took him to the house where he was proclaimed "Pater" of the Fraternity.
I think this was one of the grand climaxes of his life and something that he
appreciated very much.

***
It was not feasible to ask the veterans to live in substandard housing when they returned. Since our first proposal did not work out for housing, we had been searching for solutions to the fraternity housing problem as well as other men's housing. About that time HEW came out with a proposal to subsidize housing on university campuses through three percent loans to be amortized over forty years. Inasmuch as the University would be owning the houses, we petitioned to HEW and were granted approval to build fraternity houses since we had a bona fide need for men's housing on the campus.

Inasmuch as we knew it would not be possible for us to expand our food service to take care of all of the men in the fraternity complex, we developed what is called the "Puget Sound System" with one very large kitchen in the complex, connected to each fraternity house by a tunnel. The food is prepared in the kitchen and taken to the individual houses in food carts, such as those used by the airlines for food service to planes. It has worked out very well and has saved the initial cost of probably $80,000 to $100,000, if separate kitchens for each of the six houses had been installed.

It was not easy to secure all the necessary land for the six houses across Union Avenue. Finally, we had one man left who remained adamant that he would not allow his house to be purchased by the University, but after about six months of negotiating, he seemed very happy to cooperate. On the southwest corner of the complex, there was a little house owned by a man and his wife who had
moved in as a bride and groom 56 years before. We asked for an option on his home so that we could build one more house, if necessary. He told us he was sure it would come to us, ultimately, but after he and his wife died, his daughter did not seem to follow out his inclination in this matter. In the tunnel that leads to the Phi Delt house, there is a concrete-block area that can be opened, should this land ever be purchased and another fraternity house built.

When the time arrived for the houses to be built, we asked the fraternities to meet together and draw lots for each location. We asked them to design their houses so the architecture would be congenial to the campus architecture but it did not need to conform to the modified Tudor architecture. All of those houses on Union Avenue chose the modified Tudor design. The Phi Delt house on Washington was the only one designed differently but it was still in keeping with the broad general principles and provided good fraternity housing.

Because Mr. Neal made a major contribution to the Phi Delt house, he was very emphatic that it had to be so designed for a housemother. He had had a housemother in his fraternity house many years ago and thought it was one of the outstanding influences in his fraternity life. However, when all of the other houses were designed, they were designed without provision for housemothers, which allowed more housing for men and alleviated the expense of a housemother.
When Mr. Neal died, he left a bequest in the restricted endowment fund of the University to help maintain the Phi Delta house and to provide scholarships for Phi Delta Theta members with any balance in the fund.

It was the plan of the University that each fraternity would continue to live in the house which it had designed and furnished. We had no idea there would be any change in this plan. However, under the new administration, a new interpretation of the 90 per cent occupancy clause was developed. HEW had ruled that it would be perfectly all right for the University to use the housing for fraternity housing, if the same amount of money were charged for dormitory housing all over the campus. Through the years, the University had to provide for 90 per cent occupancy in order for the amortization to be carried out and never once was the question raised by the Federal Government or HEW, because there had never been any default on any part of the long-range bonds which the University had with the Federal Government. On the few occasions when a
In general, the Greek system has been very fine on the campus. It has provided social development as well as academic development. It teaches people how to live together and appreciate others, and affords opportunities for leadership which are so important in a smaller school.

I appreciated the fraternity system when I attended college. The first year I was president of my pledge class; the second year I was pledge trainer; the third year I was house manager and during the fourth year I was president of my fraternity. It know it meant a great deal to me and had a great impact on my life. I have seen it change the lives of hundreds of young people through social development and in the business of learning to live with their fellowmen.

In going over the records, I find that in November 1953 Mr. Kilworth appointed a Fraternity Building Committee chaired by Frank Neal. Mr. Neal was very much interested in this and called a good many committee meetings to discuss various proposals, such as the one to allow the fraternities to build their own houses if they had the money, procedures for raising money, University matching amounts, etc.

The work with the Federal Government was started on the 1st of March, 1961, and was finally completed and accepted on September 1, 1965. The total amount loaned from the government was $937,000 and the rate of interest was 3½ per cent. The final payment will be amortized in the year 2001.

R. Franklin Thompson
August 7, 1978
March 22, 1978

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I am truly sorry for the delay in getting you this information, but I have only just acquired it from our Nationals.

The Phi Zeta Chapter of Delta Delta Delta was incorporated on December 4, 1951 and was established on this campus February 14, 1952.

The committee that was instrumental in bringing Phi Zeta to the University of Puget Sound consisted of the following people:

- Mildred Reed
- Helen Feek
- Mary Moen
- A. J. Swanson
- Betty Swenson
- Trissy Day
- Maureen Wilsley
- Marvel Walter
- Helen Spike
- Florence Sayre
- Lea Thompson
- Marguerite Clearman
- Helen Johnson
- Rea Smith

The national officer in charge at the installation was Ruth Kinnard. She was the National President from 1952-56.

I hope this is what you are looking for and I again apologize for the delay.

Sincerely,

Jean Orrico
Historian, Delta Delta Delta
Ihi Delta Theta Fraternity History

1935 at Iowa University

Fratmen:
D. Miller, Nick Thompson, Donald D. M. Lindsey, Dale Rogers, Wallace Kugler.

Song: Our Army for the Right Boys

Soror: The Scroll

Active members:

Illinois:
Joe, Joeb Peake, Paul Wiggles, Randolph Bease.

Ill. Illinois:
Mike Coonee, Tim Coonee.

Chapter (University Of Iugot Count)
1920

Initiates:
Richard Lane
Richard Sutherland
Franklin Thompson

MEMBERS:

Active: 175
In collegiate: 275

(U.P.O.): Nick Walker, Tim Evans, Rocky Datta, Steve Friedman.

Mike Johnson, Mike Kinh, Grant Giddler, Fred Gross.

Mark Hadley.
February 27, 1978

R. Franklin Thompson  
Suite 2050  
1 Washington Plaza  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Dear Chancellor Thompson:

Please excuse the tardiness of this letter concerning information about the history of Alpha Phi. It took me quite a long time to obtain the information, and then when I did get it, I became ill! But here it is—finally! I contacted Mrs. Paul Perdue (Helen Carson Perdue) to secure all of the local information; thus, should there be any questions, she can be contacted.

Alpha Phi was founded on October 10, 1872 at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, by ten women: Clara Bradley Burdette, Florence Chidester Lukens, Martha Foote Crow, Ida Gilbert Houghton, Jane S. Higham, Kate Hogeboom Gilbert, Elizabeth Grace Hubbell Shults, Rena Michaels Atchison, Louise Shepard Hancock, and Clara Sittser Williams.

The date that Alpha Phi came onto the UPS campus here in Tacoma was October 10, 1953. There were many women instrumental in bringing it here, several of which I will name. Helen Carson Perdue, Marilyn Planje Wolves, Sara Jaeger Miller, Helen Stalwick Reagan, Terry McGowan Kinnaman, and Lita Johnson Chiarovano, to name a few, were collegiate members who were very involved and interested in bringing Alpha Phi to the University of Puget Sound. Marilyn Planje Wolves was past President of Lambda Sigma Chi (the local sorority which became Alpha Phi), and Sara Jaeger Miller was President of Lambda Sigma Chi at the time it became national, and known as Alpha Phi.

Alpha Phi alumnae, many of whom had attended the University of Washington, and had settled in Tacoma, were very important in bringing Alpha Phi here also. A few alumnae members who gave their support were: Margaret Noon Rice, Jean Cooper, Marjorie Campbell Butler, Helen Plummer, and Ann Rogers Wiborg.
As previously mentioned, these are just a few names of many more who were involved in the history of Alpha Phi. It took many years to bring Alpha Phi to this campus, and many individuals and groups were involved—Alpha Phis, Lambda Sigma Chis, and the University of Puget Sound Board of Trustees, to name a few. Again, should any questions arise, please feel free to contact either Mrs. Perdue or myself. I'm glad I could be of some assistance to you! It was a very interesting and educating experience.

Fondly,

Cynthia Castaud
Alpha Phi Collegiate Chapter President
University of Puget Sound
R. Franklin Thompson, Chancellor  
Suite 2050-I Washington Plaza  
Tacoma, Wa.

Dear Chancellor Thompson,

I am very sorry for the delay in returning this information to you.

Chi Omega was founded on April 5, 1895 at the University of Arkansas. The founding was inspired by Dr. Charles Richardson and the original founders were Jobelle Holcomb, Jean Vincenheller, Alice Simonds, and Ina Mae Boles.

Tau Epsilon Chapter was established at the University of Puget Sound on October 17, 1953. It was the fourth National sorority on this campus. It was the Delta Alpha Gamma local sorority before being taken over by Chi Omega. The first woman who tried to bring Chi Omega to the campus but was unsuccessful was Ruth Wollend Robertson in 1952. Later, Dorothy Powell Hunt, President, and Bernadine Budil, an alumna, were essential in bringing Chi Omega to this campus.

Tau Epsilon Chapter is honored to be included in your history of the University of Puget Sound. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Sue Slade, President
Dear Doc "T"

It was a pleasure to meet you and listen to you speak at our chapter's thirtieth anniversary. It made me realize even more what a great thing the Fraternity system is and Kappa Sigma in particular.

In reference to your letter, Kappa Sigma was once a local with the name Sigma Zeta Epsilon. The Zetes originated from a literary society. The Zetes were the first local Fraternity to go "national" basically because of the work of two people, Dean Anderson and you, Doc "T". Dean was initiated into Kappa Sigma by the Beta-Psi Chapter at the University of Washington. At the time he was working for Pacific Northwest Bell and you called him up needing some old telephone poles for a parking lot at C.P.S. Dean replied "If you let National Fraternities come to C.P.S. and have Kappa Sigma be the first National to be there, you can have all the old telephone poles you want." Doc "T" replied "Well Dean, there are college rules against the locals joining a National Fraternity." "Well change them" Dean replied.

It just so happened that three Kappa Sigma's were on the Board of Trustees of the College and C.P.S. and Doc "T" got their telephone poles and Kappa Sigma was the first Fraternity on this campus. But at the reunion you read a letter from Dean Anderson explaining the story and no one could tell it better than Dean could.

Aside from hearing the story as a pledge in Kappa Sigma, I also had the pleasure of having Dean Anderson sit at my table during the Worthy Grand Master nominating luncheon at our Biannual Grand Conclave, in St. Louis last summer. He gave me a first hand account of the story. Dean served as Worthy Grand Master of Kappa Sigma Fraternity from 1961-1963. His current address is 2030 Vallejo, San Francisco, California 94123.

The Zetes became Kappa Sigma on February 10, 1948 and the Charter was signed February 13, 1948. I am enclosing a list of our Charter members.
1. Gordon D. Alcorn
   Clayton Edward Anderson
   Wells Anderson
   Robert Caleb Ball
   Lloyd Paul Blanusa
   Donald Warren Briggs
   Arthur Elaine Comfort, Jr.
   Henry Cramer
   Bernard Lorenzo Crowell

10. Donald Allen Danielson
    Jess Dawkins
    Arthur Joseph Demers, Jr.
    John A. Drake
    Leslie C. Erickson
    Austin Orrin Fengler
    Alfred Ferrel Gahri
    Frank Gillihan
    Donald Hugh Gilsdorf
    Lester Daniel Gilsdorf

20. William Hall Grover
    Louis Oakes Grant
    Warren Kennedy Greedy
    Charles Alfred Green
    William Raymond Gregory
    Joseph Winley Hudson
    Garry Lee Hurny
    John Dunton Hungerford
    James Nordland Jenson
    Kenneth Samuel Kennell

30. Brian Rowe Kepka
    Kenneth Thomas Langlow
    Stanley Clarence Langlow
    Byron Irwin Larsen
    Marland Leland Larson
    Jack Henry Lowney
    Ernest Wayne Mann
    Van S. McKenny, Jr.
    Jack Robert McMillan
    Robert Leonard Medlock

40. Eugene Millikan
    Robert David Morrison
    Carl Wilhard Niemi
Charter Members (cont'd)

43. Dennis O'Connor
   Frank Dewey Osborne
   William Lee Richey, Jr.
   Robert Charles Robbins
   George Mardis Robinson
   Richard Wayne Robinson
   Thomas Ruffin

50. Martin Alexander Sangster
    Donald Wayne Semmern
    Donal Duane Sherfy
    Lloyd Moritz Silver
    Marvin Dexter Silver
    Joseph Sim
    Earl Abijah Smith
    William F. Sparks
    John Joseph Spencer
    Robert Dean Sprenger

60. Morris Frederick Summers
    Thomas Allen Swayze
    Darrell Elmer Swenson
    Govenor Teats
    Denton Norris Thomsen
    James Harding VanCamp
    Carrol Harding Walter
    Charles L. Walton
    Stanton Warburton
    Richard Kirk Wasson

70. Paul Sam Whitcomb
    Ralph William Wilbert
    George Everett Williams
    Howard John Williams, Jr.

74. Louis Wohlman