



Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

Vancouver Alumni Chapter

THE ALUMNIELIER

March 2002

Dear Alumnus

Greetings, Happy New Year (times two) and welcome to yet another annual newsletter. We're making up for lost time and bringing you one more only 6 months after the last. I think we all just felt sorry for all the postal workers out there who had to hoist bags filled with 7 page newsletters! Of course, as I write this, Brother Ead is probably adding pages 6 and seven to this beast already :) We have a packed calendar by alumni chapter standards, with the AGM, 70th Anniversary, the camping trip and the summer pub crawl coming up all before the normal timing of this letter. It's been a long time since we've had a General Meeting, and it's a sign that we're al that much stronger of late that we can have one. Regular meeting attendance is high enough to make the meetings feel far more like an evening out with the boys than business. But enough of my rambling, on with the exciting content that Edmund Gin has prepared for us.... Cheers!

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Fraternal Tidings

Some of the members who will be joining the Vancouver Alumni from Theta Class of 2002...

- Jeff Breadner (MMPE)
- Chad Brown (MECH)
- Peter Celler (MECH)
- Stephen Ip (MECH)
- Sean Masse (MMPE)
- Alvin Tong (GeoE)

Brother Bert Shore wrote to advise us that Brothers Paul Hookings (Theta '44) and Charlie Lighthall (Theta '40) had passed away. Brother Lighthall was the son of the late Professor Abe Lighthall, the original sponsor of Theta Chapter.

If you have any other information that you would like to have noted in this section of the newsletter, then please let us know (Vancouver@sigphi.org).

Theta Turns 70!

This April marks the 70th Anniversary of the Chartering of Theta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta. While no grand scale celebrations are currently planned, we do hope that you come out and attend the Formal Initiation of this year's Pledge Class, which is scheduled for the morning of March 2nd, 2002, or this year's Annual Fraternity Formal Dinner, which is planned for March 9th, 2002, at the Macaroni Grill in Vancouver's West End. If you are interested in attending the Fraternity Formal, please contact Brother Chad Brown (Theta VP) at chad_b@canada.com or phone (604)224-7235.

Also, if you have any suggestions for an informal gathering to mark our 70th Anniversary, please contact Brothers Kevin Deane-Freeman or Edmund Gin (contact details on the last page of this newsletter).

Christmas Social

The Vancouver Alumni Chapter would like to extend our thanks to Brother Art Rennison and Mamie Angus for graciously hosting the 2001 Christmas Cocktail Party. This year's social brought in approximately \$400 in donations, which goes towards the House Maintenance fund. As well, 55 members and their significant others were in attendance. Old times were shared, and new alumni welcomed - and very little alcohol was spared.

If you are interested in hosting this year's Christmas Social, please contact Brothers Kevin Deane-Freeman or Heiko Epkens (contact details on the last page of this newsletter).

General Meeting of the Chapter

As a result of busy schedules, it appears that we have forgotten the "annual" part of our Annual General Meeting. Oops. As such, we have scheduled the General Meeting to be on Friday March 22nd, 2002, at the Theta Chapter House at 7pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Elections

Elections will be held for the following positions at our General Meeting, March 22nd, 2002: President, Vice-President, Business Manager, Social Coordinator, Secretary, and House Liaison. If you are interested in running for any position, or would like to nominate a candidate for a position, please contact vancouver@sigmaphidelta.org - for position details, please contact Brother Kevin Deane-Freeman or Edmund Gin.

Western Province Report

My name is Darren Farnworth, and I was appointed WPC on January 1, 2002, to fill the void left by Brother Kevin Oldknow. I pledged Theta in '94 and graduated in '98 with a B.A.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. While at school I served as Secretary, Business Manager, Vice President and President of the Fraternity, as well as holding several positions in the Mechanical Engineer Club, Engineering Undergraduate Society, and the Alma Matter Society. I currently work for Salton Fabrication as a Project Engineer, building wood fired thermal energy systems for the forest industry. I still live in Vancouver and can often be found dropping by the Theta House to see how everyone is doing.

My first duty as WPC was to help Kevin organize and execute the Western Province Retreats - one near Vancouver and one near LA. Attendance was excellent: 100% from Alpha and 85% from Theta; we also had excellent Alumni and AOE attendance in Vancouver. The two retreats were remarkably similar despite the almost 1000 miles separating them. Both were held in what are normally kids camps up in the mountains and the snow (this was a bit more of an adventure for our LA members). Isolated from the worries of the world we had plenty of time to reflect on Brotherhood, the Object and Code of Ethics, plan for rush, throw a few snowballs and play some ultimate in the snow. The men and women in Vancouver spent a great deal of time and Monopoly money at a toilet paper craps table, while the men in LA tried to develop the next new Olympic sport -- toilet seat luge.

Because these retreats were held separately we will be conducting this year's Western Province elections by mail-in ballot. In order to avoid conflicts with Alumni elections in both LA and Vancouver this spring we will be electing our Province Officers once the Actives return to school in the fall. If you are interested in running for a position please let your Chapter Delegate know, or e-mail myself at westernpc@sigmaphidelta.org.

Keep your stick on the ice,

Darren Farnworth
Western Province Councillor, ΣΦΔ
westernpc@sigmaphidelta.org

Annual Camping Trip



...ahhh, nothing quite like stream-cooled beer... ☺

As in previous years, the annual Sigma Phi Delta Camping Trip will be held at 20-Mile Bay, near Sasquatch/Agassiz. It is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of April 26th (the Actives will probably be going up before then). For more details or to arrange rides, please contact the Theta Chapter VP, Brother Chad Brown at chad_b@canada.com, or by phone at 604-224-7235.

Vancouver WP Retreat at the Evan's Lake Forestry Resource Centre January 18th-20th, 2002

...a personal experience, by Edmund Gin...

This year, in a move to save costs and ensure optimal participation, a series of winter Province Retreats were held instead of a summer Joint Province Convention. Owing to the fact that the only other chapter in the Province is just under a day's driving distance away, two separate Western Province Retreats were held: one near Vancouver, and one near Los Angeles. Sadly, I was unable to attend the one in California; however, I did attend the Province Retreat in BC. The following is a brief summary of my experience.

Our weekend started at the House: the bus picked us up there just as darkness was settling. The ladies of Alpha Omega Epsilon Engineering Sorority were invited, and many took up the invitation. Communications Director Brother Alix Minden also flew in from San Francisco to attend.

The bus ride took us only as far as the edge of the gravel road - the rest of the way was travelled on foot. After choosing bunkhouses and a brief lecture by the caretaker, an inter-cabin social broke out, and took over the rest of the night. Many new drinks were created that night, and many did not find their bunk bed until late (some later than others).

The next morning was filled with tutorials. Former Western Province Councillor Brother Kevin Oldknow led a discussion on the Object and the Code of Ethics of the Fraternity, as well as the corresponding Ideals and Objectives of AOE. This was followed by an introspective discussion on why we joined Sigma Phi Delta and the development of a written rush plan, both of which were conducted by current Western Province Councillor Brother Darren Farnworth. After a lunch of veggies and burgers (including a monster burger created by the Alumni Chapter Vice-President, Brother Jan Erik Laursen), and a wrap-up discussion early in the afternoon, the rest of the afternoon was occupied by a series of

"Capture the Beer" games (similar to "Capture the Flag", but with a twist).

The rest of the day consisted of a Casino Night. Various games of chance (and some of skill) were available for play that night. The highlight of the "Casino" was, by far, the Craps table, with much (Monopoly) money changing hands. The night ended with the takeover and attempted takeover of various tables by certain individuals, resulting in a consolidation and final ultimate takeover of the Craps table by one of the ladies of AOE.

After a morning of cleanup and inspections, we assembled for a series of group photos, and then we all hiked down the mile or so of slushy road. The weekend retreat ended with most of us going home exhausted, but all of us with fresh ideas in our heads.

Tau Lambda to be Theta Chapter **Local at University of British Columbia to be Installed Latter Part of Month, Making Sigma Phi Delta International**

...from the April 1932 edition of the Castle...

Early in January, 1929, Jack Cummings and Frank Gordon of Science '32 discussed the possibility of forming a local social engineering fraternity on the campus of the University of British Columbia. They interested 8 other men in the project and a meeting was held shortly afterwards, the following men being present: Kenneth Bews, Science '31; Steve Carre, Science '32; Ernie Carswell, Science '32; George Creighton, Science '32; Phil Emery, Science '32; Frank Gordon, Science '32; Max Green, Science '32; Verne Read, Science '32; Alan Webster, Science '32; Jack Cummings, Science '32.

The formation of such a fraternity was agreed upon and it was decided that the necessary steps be taken for its inauguration. A temporary executive was elected consisting of Max Green, Steve Carre and Jack Cummings. At a second meeting a constitution which had been drawn up during the interim was passed and the name Tau Lambda chosen. Official recognition was granted by the Interfraternity

Council on February 14, 1929. The first meeting of Tau Lambda Fraternity was held February 21, 1929, at which an executive was elected as follows: Jack Cummings, president; Max Green, Secretary; Steve Carre, treasurer; Ernie Carswell, interfraternity council representative.

Alan Webster submitted a design for the official badge which was accepted by the meeting. It was decided that Mr. A. B. Lighthall, professor of civil engineering at the university, be asked to accept the position of honorary president which he did. Regular weekly meetings were held during the remainder of the term, one new man being pledged, H. A. S. West, Science '32. The same executive was elected to carry on the next year.

Session of 1929-30 – During the session twelve men were initiated and two pledged. The question of a fraternity house was studied and one was rented into which the fraternity moved September, 1930. Social activities included a formal and informal party, as well as several banquets.

Session of 1930-31 – During this session the executive was: Henry Givins, president and interfraternity council representative; Art Saunders, vice-president and house manager; Robert Halet, secretary; Irving Smith, treasurer; Kenneth Bews, historian. The year opened with fourteen active members including seven in the house. Seven men were initiated and three pledged. The original policy of social engineering was maintained after considerable argument in favour of petitioning an international social.

Session of 1931-1932 – So far this year six men have been initiated and three pledged. The executive for this session is: A. J. Saunders, president and interfraternity council representative; T. W. Somerton, vice-president and house manager; W. Wood, secretary; D. J. MacLaurin, treasurer; E. R. Carswell, historian; R. Wilson, corresponding secretary.

Now that They Own the Gold, Why Do Canadians Have Such Deep Pockets and Short Hands, or is it Just Theta Alumni?

*By Brother Bob Featheringham, Executive Director
National Office, Sigma Phi Delta*

$\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ embarked on a major fundraising drive in December 2001. The goal is to raise \$20,000 (US) for the Fraternity's important expansion and other programs.

The costs attendant to a viable expansion program add up quickly. For example, we will install our first non-North American Chapter this spring at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. Flights for the initiating team (Grand President Derek Troy, Grand Vice President Keith Hileman, and Omega Brother Golam Bokhtier (the sponsor)) will take lots of bucks. Also, Keith and Brother Andy Hoshock just made a quick trip to Texas where there is intense interest in a $\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ Chapter at the University of Texas-Arlington. The immediacy of the issue precluded getting 21-day advanced booking tickets. And so it goes.

I placed a fundraising progress report in the spring Castle, which will be going to print next week, and it shows that of the chapters with alumni (not Psi or Omega), Theta's donations are second lowest of Active Chapters, at \$525 (Cdn). I doubt at that level of giving we could purchase a ticket from Vancouver to Victoria, let alone Bangladesh.

I hope the Alumni there will share more of their Country's newly found spirit of gold with the Fraternity, eh?

Mail cheques to me:

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I hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, then please feel free to contact me.

Edmund "Ead" Gin, Alumni Chapter Secretary
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