



Omega Phi Delta Fraternity

Vancouver Alumni Chapter

THE ALUMNIFLIER

October 2003

President's Remarks

Greetings Brothers! I'm proud to welcome you to yet another annual newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of all involved, this yearly update has finally become a stable occurrence. There have been many changes this year. The costs of existing as a fraternity continue to rise. In the wake of increasing concerns over liability, insurance costs have risen for the Chapter House and for the fraternity as a whole. Our continued operation as an Alumni Chapter, and our ability to maintain the House depends on your generous contributions. We have 55 years of history as an alumni chapter, and I ask you all to be part of making the next 55 possible. Please review the attached return form, and send along with any donation you see fit. If you plan to attend this year's Christmas Social, we will also be taking donations then as usual.

That said, enjoy this installment of the Alumniflier. I hope to see many of you this December. Thanks go to those who have already donated, and to those who have help put this newsletter together.

Fraternally,
Kevin "Fishbone" Deane-Freeman
President, Vancouver Alumni Chapter

Fraternal Tidings

The following Brothers have finally graduated from University and are now members of our chapter:

- Cameron "Q" Reeves, Mech
- Shaun "Freek" Hodgins, Civil
- Cam "Disco Stu" Cockle, Metals and Materials
- Maciej "Driftwood" Zielinski, Chemical

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Congratulations to Brother Ben Prins and his wife, whose daughter Sasha Noelle was born on November 24th, and to Brother Kevin and Angela Oldknow, who are proud parents of Griffin William Oldknow, born on April 22nd. Congratulations also to Brother Adam and Helen LaRusic, parents of Oscar Timothy LaRusic, born June 3rd.

Congratulations also to Brother Don “Newfie” Nash and Jenny Phillips married on June 7th in Tofino, while Brother Peter “Smerf” Celler recently proposed to, and is now engaged to, his fiancée Tina. Brother Duncan Pitman (Engineering Physics, ‘47) and his wife Joanne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June.

We are pleased to announce that Brother Eric Newell received an Honorary Doctorate at the May Convocation at UBC.

Brother “Big Daddy” Chad Brown has been working in South Korea since May, teaching English to grade school students.

Brother Andrew Happer wrote to inform us that he is now back in school, pursuing on a part-time basis a combined MEng/MBA degree. He says that it will take him at least 5 years to complete.

Treasurer’s Report

Geez, here it is NFL Sunday – Week 1 and I am obliged to report on Alumni Chapter finances before I watch another cheerleader pom pom. Type fast Skip, warp ten!

I guess to sum up our financial situation in one word or less would be “stable.” We’re not bleeding to death but we’re not ready to give up harassing you for money either. As most of you are aware, the Alumni Chapter does not collect dues. However, we do incur expenses throughout the year – National Dues, Society Filing Fee, Chief’s Bursary, supplies, etc. As such, we rely on the generosity of Alumni to cover our basic expenses, about \$600.00 per year.

Here’s the kicker, those expenses are typically covered by the same twenty something Alumni every year. However, some basic grade three arithmetic would indicate that if each Alumnus kicked in saaaaaaaaaaay, oh, \$5.00 per year, we’d have money coming out of our arses. Yes, yes, I know we all have busy lives and blah, blah. Well guess what, you are not alone in that area. Let me remind you that there are a handful of your brothers that seem do more than their fair share maintaining the viability of the Alumni Chapter as well as work, go to PAC meetings, sit on city council committees, take the kids to hockey, swimming, soccer, etc.

So pleeeeeease, if you cannot contribute some time,

slip a fiver in an envelope in aid of this great brotherhood ... better yet, knock yourself out and make it a ten!

Following is a brief summary of each of our portfolios.

Operating Account

This account is used to cover our basic day to day costs as mentioned above. It tends to fluctuate up and down and is totally funded by donation. Any amounts \$20.00 or less are deposited in this account. The current balance is \$172.17.

House Account

This account is revenue neutral. It is used to pay property taxes, utilities and insurance. Any amounts paid from this account are reimbursed by the house from rental revenues. The current balance is \$0.00

Maintenance Account

The purpose of this account is to accrue funds which are intended to offset any future major repairs required to the house. This account is also funded by donation. Any amounts over and above \$20.00 are deposited in this account. The current balance is \$4923.91.

Ethical Fund

This fund is also intended to offset any future major repairs required to the house. The funds in this account are funneled from the Maintenance Account. The concept here is two fold: Although the Maintenance Account does not pay a great return, it does provide easy access to cash in the event of an emergency. The Ethical Fund on the other hand is somewhat less accessible but does give us a better rate of return in a very conservative format. As of our last statement the balance was \$13,165.59.

Before I end my spew, just one last item for your information. As many of you are aware, insurance premiums have been steadily climbing since 9-11. The impact of that event has not gone un-noticed by the house. The insurance premium on the house has increased 65% in the last two years from approximately \$1700.00 per year to \$2800.00 per year. By all accounts, that premium is set to increase for the foreseeable future.

In the past the insurance premium allowed for the replacement of the house, the replacement of some contents and provided liability coverage up to \$1M. This year however, your executive changed the coverage on the house from “replacement cost” to “cash value” based on the most recent assessment of \$75,000.00. The savings on the premium was almost \$2000.00. The \$1M was also maintained.

Aside from many businesses doing the same, the thought was that the \$75,000.00 along with any monies in the Maintenance Account and Ethical Fund would provide for a sizeable down payment from which to build. Additional funds could be raised as a result of a “Rebuild the House” drive. We would also expect the donation of resources and building materials – we are in the engineering business, right?

Respectfully,
Brent A. Dozzi (Skip)

House Liaison Report

Da Hause has been surviving well. We managed to find six people to live here this summer, although only one was an Active. There are currently at least eight

people that will be living at da Hause in September including seven Actives so it should be a good year.

Ian McKechnie, ianmck@interchange.ubc.ca, will be the new House Manager, beginning at the end of August. Although no major repairs are currently needed, I have been developing a list of things for Ian to get started just so he doesn't get lazy. Please direct all enquiries to him from now on.

The roof is still not leaking although we expect to need a replacement roof in a few years. Luckily, we already have most of the funds in place to get a new one.

If anyone out there wonders what has changed with the fwat house over the years (and what hasn't changed) I would encourage you to stop by some time. It is still the happiest place on earth and seasoned alumni with stories of university life the way it used to be are always welcome.

Fraternally,
Shaun "Freek" Hodgins

P.S. If anyone has an old working dryer that they would like to donate to da Hause please let us know.

Please give to the Vancouver Alumni Chapter

Over the past few years, our expenses have gone up while our operating funds have essentially remained the same. As engineers, we know that this is not a sustainable scenario. Please take the time to fill out the slip below and bring it to the Annual Christmas Social (details on reverse), or mail it to:

Brother Brent Dozzi, Treasurer
112 Clearview Drive
Port Moody V3H 2S8

I, Brother _____, would like to donate \$ _____ to the Vancouver Alumni Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta.

Thank you for your support!

(Please note that as we are not a registered charity, we are unable to give out tax receipts)

National Report

Here is a list of what is new with National:

Joint Convention 2005 in Las Vegas

The concept is for a joint convention amongst all engineering fraternities and sororities, in order to pool our resources and attract corporate sponsorship. Each of the six fraternities would hold separate business sessions, however the professional sessions and social activities would be common. It is our hope that such an event would allow us to add more depth to the convention and "Instil a Greater Spirit of Cooperation among Engineering Students and Organizations". This is in no way a precursor to a merger.

Beta Gamma Chapter

The boys at Lamar University in Beaumont Texas were initiated last May. They were able to send a delegate to the convention this summer and he is any way representative of the new chapter they should have no trouble upholding Sigma Phi Delta's good name. And for those of you who are keeping count there is no Beta Beta chapter.

Executive Director

The position which was meant to be a two year experiment will be extended for another two years at a reduced salary. While Bob Featheringham has been

instrumental in supporting us volunteer National officers, we were unable to meet the fundraising and expansion goals required to sustain this position.

National Insurance Policy

Due to the increasing number of court cases filed against Fraternities, there was a proposal put forward at this years convention to adopt a National Insurance Policy. The policy sets out minimum liability insurance requirements for each chapter. This can be either obtained locally or through the National Insurer. This could be a huge hurdle for our American Brethren as the cost could be as much as US\$150 per head. It would appear that our premiums here are significantly less. There will be a mail in ballot vote this fall on whether or not to adopt the policy. Details of the proposal are posted on the web site.

Dues Increase

There was a marginal increase at the active level from US\$90 to US\$100 per member. The alumni dues on the other hand were doubled from US\$200 to US\$400 per chapter. This was done in order to cover the cost of Alumni Chapters, specifically sending delegates to convention.

Darren Farnworth
Western Province Counsellor
westernpc@sigmaphidelta.org

Annual Christmas Social Vancouver Alumni Chapter, Sigma Phi Delta

You are cordially invited to attend the 2003 Christmas Social of Sigma Phi Delta, Vancouver Alumni Chapter, to be held at the home of

Brother Scott and Christa Groves
7870 143A Street
Surrey, BC
Sunday December 7th, 2003
4:00pm - 8:00pm

RSVP: Brother Tyler Borges - 604-617-9222 or tborges@telus.net
More details will be sent out via e-mail and letter mail at a later date

Secretary's Report

Brothers,

Since the last newsletter about a year ago, communication with National has generally been light, with the usual quarterly Executive Director reports, a Star from Grand President Derek Troy, two Castles, Convention documents, and a ballot to charter our first North American double-letter Chapter.

As the school summer holidays were fast approaching, the men at Lamar University in Texas filed their petition to be chartered as our Beta Gamma Chapter. Due to the timing of the petition, a special mail-in ballot with a condensed time limitation was sent out to the Chapters. The short notice and urgency required for the return of the ballots was to ensure that the men of Lamar University, should they be approved by the General Convention, could be in attendance at this year's Convention as Brothers, and not as Colonists. In summary, the exact results are unknown, but the 13 men who petitioned from Lamar University are now Charter Members of Beta Gamma Chapter of our Fraternity.

As in past years, it was a difficult choice as to who to award this year's Chief's Bursary to. There were a few worthy candidates, but only one award, so we had to be especially diligent in making our choice. Congratulations to Brother Hugh Turner, who walked away with this year's award.

This year's Convention is the first one that I was unable to attend since my initiation - however, we sent Brother Jan Laursen, who I believe is a much better delegate for this year's Convention. I trust his report on this year's Convention will be as spectacular as the various stories I have heard about Convention so far.

While Executive Director Bob Featheringham is no longer actively pursuing the whereabouts of lost brothers, I understand that he would appreciate any information that you may have. If you know any information of any brothers who are listed as "lost" or "unknown" in the Cybercastle - located at <http://www.sigmaphidelta.org/> - please feel free to contact Bob at secretary@sigmaphidelta.org with that

information. An up-to-date database is the keystone for timely communication.

Fraternally,
Edmund "Ead" Gin
Vancouver Alumni Chapter Secretary
vancouver@sigmaphidelta.org

Too Old to Party Guy:

Roadtrip Recap

by Jan Erik "KEGGER!!!" Laursen, Vice President and Convention Delegate

So there I was, telling the wife that I had just been railroaded, I mean nominated to be the Alumni Delegate for the 35th Sigma Phi Delta convention. She took one look at me and said that I was too old for that kind of thing. I begged to differ (I do a lot of begging). What did she know anyway? I said that it would be a blast. That didn't change her opinion, but who cares I knew I wasn't to mature for the challenge.

So the day comes when we're to leave, I've taken the day off to get the last few things together and relax until Hooch picks me up so we can get the van before Budget closes. So by the time I get a call from Hooch explaining that he hasn't bought his travel insurance yet and we have 30 minutes before Budget closes I'm a little nervous. 15 minutes later Hooch has insurance but only 15 minutes to make it from Willingdon and Canada Way to the base of the Burrard street bridge. I now become witness to the maniac driver Hooch is and we make it with minutes to spare, through rush hour traffic! I sign my life away (Zero deductible in my name says the insurance) and we're off the Frat House. Crack in his infinite wisdom has once again neglected to tell me he's in town and tries his best to get up to the 'Pepper. I was off all day, call ahead Crack. We pack up and we're off to the US.

At the border crossing with me driving we pass over the passports and driver's licence/birth certificates. We're asked where we are going and in the long run we say we're going to a Fraternity convention. So the guard says "Fraternity..... sounds like a boondoggle".

For the next hour we're trying to figure out what a boondoggle is, but ultimately we're just happy to cross the border smoothly.

After many beverages, card playing and pitstops, PK gets the idea that we're not having enough fun and decides that we need to get some tobacco chew to really get things going. Kodiak, the stuff with plenty of fibreglass to score your lip for the better absorption rate. We all get at it except Hooch and in no time the van is spinning (in my head at least). Nicotine is quite the buzz. So now we're onto Hooch to get into the action. He says he's immune to the stuff and it doesn't do anything for him. We try to feed him the whole tin so he decides that a pinch will do. 20 minutes later, Hooch is asking for us to pull the van over NOW. Luckily there is an empty chip bag that conveniently becomes the in flight barf bag (this becomes one of the roadtrip rules we jotted down on the way. See BJ for full rule list). We pull over and Hooch lets it really rip while PK is snapping pictures of the whole ordeal. I gotta see those yet!

More driving and we finally get to Fargo ND ~24 hours later, home of Epsilon Chapter. The doors open at the Chapter house with the usual beverage containers spilling out. We sit down with Luke, an Active, shoot the shit, drink beer and plan to go rafting the next day.

So there we are doing 100mph in a 50 zone coming up on a town in Minnesota where this creek is (Hooch is driving, imagine that). At a stoplight we are greeted by not one but 2 cop cars requesting us to conversate with them. Well as soon as the one cop sticks his head in the window, he smells all the beverage containers on the ground and requests everyone to get out of the van. Luke is shitting a load. He's so nervous he can barely light a smoke. Ask us about the details but to make this short we're off to pay \$167.50 ticket or Hooch goes to jail. Tough decision. We drive into town and take some pictures of Hooch outside the jailhouse.

Rafting was a blast. They even give you a tube for your cooler to float down the river with. Unfortunately our cooler wasn't big enough so we wound up running out before the float was over. Speaking with some lovelies, they were happy to help

me out with my lack of beer and help me out. Coors light you say, better than no beer I guess. Just as this beer was running out, my luck continued as another beer floated up to me from nowhere. Life was good. I also lost my beer cosy helping the fine looking big chested young lady into her tube. We found out she was only 15 later. Yikes!

That night was spent drinking and smoking and jamming in the upstairs loft. PK has some video clips of the night too. Most entertaining! We also hit the local pub down the street where we found out that if you order 4 pitchers; you get the 5th for free. So there we were, it's closing time with 7 pitchers on the table. Can you say chugalug!

The next day we're off to Brookings SD and the home of Phi Chapter and Jim's Tap. Not before commandeering Epsilon's rip-off trophy for the 3 hour ride. We spent the day and early evening drinking before heading to Jim's tap to go around the world, will all the big cans to keep it interesting. Played some darts in which I was some hot as I nearly wrapped the score. I was not the favourite for making everyone look so shitty. Sucks to be them eh! Halfway through we go for some Italian food next door and another pitcher of beer. Stuffed, we make it back and try to finish off at Jim's. Hooch is so full that he has to "make some space" to get the last beers down. Now that's a trooper.

The next morning is some more drinking and we finally get out of town with some informal rip-off trophies. They did tell us that the real one was lost so we improvised! 9 hours later we get to the Delta house at about 1:30 am. As we're trying to get into the front door knocking loudly I head around the building a find that the fire exit door isn't locked. We head in this way yelling, "Burglars, we've come to steal everything" over and over heading upstairs as we go. We come across a tall blond fella whose name escapes me (it's late when I'm writing this) wondering who we are. Theta is all we say and it's time to drink all over. We're told that banging on the chapter prez's door is the cool thing to do so off we go to make as much noise as we can waking him up. Apparently he knows better and stays in his room. They have this gas raid

siren from WW1 that makes a very annoying sound and we try this on the prez too. Still nothing. Back to drinking. Chicken bone is the next Delta guy we meet that night. We wind up crashing in the Dorm on the 3rd floor and stayed there for the rest of the trip.

The next day people start to show up and later that night we liberated a couch from its lonely existence and the next we get a pool table! These last days are meetings and hanging with the other frat guys. The first night everyone was there we brought out all of our rip-off trophies to sit on and regale in our adventures. Another we hit the night clubs in town. We were always the last ones up every night. Theta Rocks!

One night of note is the strip club. It took seemingly forever to get there but nothing but scantily dressed women when we got there. All the girls are available for 'private' dances (a section in the back with stools to sit on as they grind away on you) and most make it onto the stage where for \$1 they'll use whatever body part available to retrieve it (use your imagination). Private dances are something like \$20 and after working at the studio I really have done all this before except.... So there I was minding my own business chatting with Bacon, Spock and BJ just outside the "private area" when this very attractive blond decides it's my night and she gives me a free-bee just before close. I asked for Spock to hold my beer and off she went right there where I was sitting. He didn't know what to think of this and placed my beer down beside me and tried to ignore the events. We all headed back to the Delta house after that with some extra entertainment in tow. Once again up the latest. Theta Rocks!

The last night was the Formal and that was also an interesting night too. We sat ourselves at the table closest to the bar (thinking ahead) and began to be ourselves. Delta had some 75th anniversary presentations and some more formal stuff. Once the DJ took over he said, "I want all the guys who never wants the party to end. The guy who's the last one up" I didn't care what he said after that 'cause I was already headed over. I stood there for a bit before Bailer was hailed up and an Alumni Delta guy. The DJ pointed at the Delta guy who got some cheers, Bailer was next and got more cheers. Then it came to be my

turn. The whole place erupts with "KEGGER, KEGGER, KEGGER..." chants. At that point I was the Party Guy.

So it just goes to show you. You're never too old to be a party guy.

We left at ~5am for the 40hour driving marathon back to Vancouver.

PS there's a lot more to say, but just ask about it sometime.

Social Coordinator Report

Dear Brothers:

This past year has been a pretty good year on the social front. Our past Christmas Social was a great success. Many thanks to our Chapter President Brother Kevin "Fishbone" Deane-Freeman for hosting. Thanks go out as well to all those who attended.

Keeping with the social-professional nature of our fraternity, our monthly meetings are now consistently drawing a fair number of people. The meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at Champ's Pub in the Radisson Hotel in Burnaby at 7:00pm. These meetings are not only a good place to keep up with fraternity issues and concerns but also to keep in touch with fellow alumni. This is exemplified by a good number of individuals who attend on a regular basis yet have no official position or capacity in the chapter. Their participation not only makes the meetings more fun but they also contribute greatly to discussion of issues and add strength to the chapter. My thanks go out to these brothers; you know who you are.

Lastly, the latest Alumni Pub Crawl (4th Annual) was yet another success. We again successfully navigated our way (with the help of some very dedicated designated drivers) across the North Shore stopping at every pub along the way. A new set of stories were generated so I believe we will be hearing a number of instances of "So there I was on the Alumni Pub Crawl..." over the next year. Thanks yet again to

Brother Justin Malcolm for opening up his home to the lot of us so we could spend the night in Deep Cove just walking distance from the last stop.

Coming up fairly soon (it creeps up on all of us) is the Christmas Social. This event will take place in early December. Exact time and place is announced on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Fraternally,
Tyler "Duck" Borges
Minister of Health & Social Services
a.k.a. Social Coordinator

Upcoming events

Saturday October 11th - Chief's Birthday
Theta Chapter House
Dinner at 6:00pm SHARP!

Tuesday October 14th - Chapter Meeting
Champs Sports Pub, Burnaby
Meeting starts at 7:00pm

Saturday October 25th - Formal Pledging
Theta Chapter House
Ceremony begins around 10am

Sunday December 7th - Christmas Social
At the Home of Brother Scott and Christa Groves
See page 4 for more details

Contact Info & Final Remarks

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112 Clearview Drive
Port Moody, BC V3H 2S8
604-461-4814

House Liaison: Shaun Hodgins
4586 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6R 1V5
604-866-0467 (c)

Well gentlemen, here it is - another edition of the now (hopefully) annual newsletter. As you might have noticed, I have tweaked the layout somewhat - this is because I do not have the fonts or even the same programs that were used to create previous editions. Nonetheless, I hope you have all found this to be informative and interesting. If you have anything you would like to see in future editions, please contact us at vancouver@sigmaphidelta.org

Fraternally,
Edmund "Ead" Gin, Chapter Secretary
Vancouver Alumni Chapter, Sigma Phi Delta