

# ALPHA DELTAN

PHI KAPPA SIGMA

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## Skulls Pledge Limit Of 22 Freshmen



*New Pledges—kneeling, left to right: Art Wells, Don Boutilier, Rick Rhodenizer, Dave Wolfert, Jim Bizier, Jerry Lambert, Norm Descoteaux, Jim Scott, Dick Leighton, Hod Flint; standing, left to right: Dave Linqvist, Doug Champeon, Steve Mayo, John Day, George Smith, Jim Vamvakias, Wendel Bragg, Ray Totman, Bruce Probert, Dave Fast, Gil Roderick, Bill Hutchinson, Bob Chase, Doug Emery, John Hennings; not shown: Doug Wirta.*

For the fourth consecutive year, Alpha Delta has been among the few fraternities to fill its rushing quota. Despite the limited number of eligible freshmen, our quota of twenty-two men has been filled — twenty-one residents and one non-resident. In addition, we have two married men who were pledged, and two men who were pledged previous to rushing.

After three days of contacting the freshmen in their rooms between 6 and 7 p.m., formal rushing began Thursday, Feb. 17, with a buffet supper and smoker. Approximately 100 freshmen crowded into our spacious living room for their first contact with fraternity life, and a glimpse of the combined talents of Brothers Linnell, Hubbard, Gibbs, and Thurston, who provided the evening's entertainment. This was only a prelude to the gala entertainment which took place during the weekend. Friday was highlighted by a hobo dance.

The assembled congregation in keeping with the theme were in their best tattered clothes.

The following night Maine played Massachusetts, followed by an informal cut-in dance held at the house under the supervision of Jack "hi fi" Laing. The weekend was climaxed by a spirited jam session from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. with a goodly portion of the girls from Balentine Hall in attendance. Monday night the number dwindled to 75 freshmen who moved out in mass with us to see Rhode Island trounce Maine in basketball. The following night saw "Bruiser" Bennett entertaining the boys with his repertoire of slides taken at house functions during the past three years. Wednesday night Les Whitham and his staunch cohort, Mory Bott, provided pizzas for a crew of 90 brothers and rushees. The girls from Pi Beta Phi sorority put a

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## SCHOLARSHIP

A point that is constantly being brought out by those who are forever trying to find fault with fraternities is that one of the problems perpetually facing these organizations is that of scholarship. Many parties not closely connected with the fraternity system pose the question, "Why is it that a fraternity, since it holds the power of selecting its members, should stand below the all-men's average at that particular college in scholarship?" The obvious answer, according to these parties, is that a fraternity, with its multitude of activities and requirements, causes a member to lose sight of the objectives for which he entered college. Fraternity men have to go along with this to a certain degree. There are a number of extra activities involved in fraternity life, but we feel that for the most part these activities set an individual more firmly on the path toward his objective, which is to prepare himself adequately for a successful career. Certainly, we employ selection in gaining new members. But on what basis is the selection made? Definitely not scholarship alone. The all-men's average represents a cross section of the campus. We hold no claim that Phi Kap is such a cross section. We respect men with high point averages, and we are not without them; however, we also realize that there is such a thing as an educated fool. An individual whose sole attribute is to complete daily assignments does not benefit an organization whose efficiency depends on the well-roundedness and cooperation of every member, nor does he do justice to himself. The single responsibility of a dormitory student is to study. Should not a clearer sense of responsibility be derived from running the business of a house, maintaining its physical appearance, and at the same time supporting its social functions?

True, grades should not be sacrificed in order to promote the fraternity's functions. Here at Phi Kap, we feel that adequate measures are taken to prevent this. Study hours go into effect every evening during the week at seven o'clock. There is a scholarship committee to enforce them. In the true sense of brotherhood, all possible attention is given to aiding those having difficulties with studies. An additional incentive to the improvement of scholarship is the Hutchinson Key Award which is presented to the member showing greatest improvement over the course of a semester. This past semester Dave Cole was awarded the Key for an improvement of 1.13 points.

Those who have been at A. D. for three years have seen the house's average both above and below the all-men's average. In fact, the fluctuations have been so regular that it appears averages are more dependent upon the particular abilities of the individuals in the house rather than the influence of fraternity life.

For the Fall semester of 1955, Phi Kap stood only thirteenth of seventeen fraternities with an accumula-



*Reno on the Stillwater*

## Improvements and Repairs

The student body of the University of Maine enjoyed a 5 day between semester vacation. The vacation was given to relieve the frustrations of the many students who had to cram for finals. Many Phi Kaps relieved their frustrations by going home, visiting friends, taking trips, etc. However, a select group of carpenters, painters and plumbers remained on the premises to complete work that had accumulated throughout the semester. These volunteers relieved their inner conflicts by hammering, sawing and painting, and doing whatever their talents permitted. . . a welcomed change from the boredom of classes and studying.

The end results were that the chapter room in the downstairs of the new wing was finished in an imitation pine-paneling. Maybe many of you readers have seen the new plaster board with paper finish. It can be bought with the finish of your choice, and ours was pine paneling. The boys squared off the room, and put in the studding plaster board.

Another thing that had to be completed before rushing was the head. This was in need of a face lifting, so as to hide the ugly scars of peeling paint caused by a freeze up during Christmas vacation. A new coat of paint was skillfully applied to the ceiling, floor, walls, showers, radiator and any other object that remained in one place long enough to be painted.

The vacation was ended by a general house cleaning, and a few nights off for the hard workers.

We are now quite proud of a new chapter room and the patch up job on the head. These new wonders should be added to your next tour through Phi Kappa Sigma on the Stillwater.

tive average of 2.31. Fifteen of the seventeen stood above the average of all men, which was 2.28. In spite of the low standing among fraternities, we feel that the improvement over the last semester's 2.24 is definitely a trend in the right direction.



"What? No Rain?"

## Winter Carnival

It finally happened! It must have been a mistake though. Something must have gone wrong up that-a-way — it snowed for Winter Carnival. In fact, we had close to two feet to work with. The snow scampered up into a pile starting five or six days before the judging was to be held, which was Saturday morning, Feb. 10, 1956. The varsity basketball game, Maine vs. Connecticut on Friday afternoon and the Annual Intramural Ball that evening drew heavily from Phi Kap, so the sculpture was completed piece by piece. Fred Newhall and Jim Nicklas, the two men in charge, pulled everyone together to finish the project early Saturday morning. By the way, the sculpture consisted of Pogo and his friends, the alligator and the frog. The finished product was good; however, not as good as our prize winning homecoming display or some of your past Winter Carnival snow piles.

Saturday morning the men's intramural skiing events took place. Mike Donnelly, Bob McKown, and Skip Pullen were entered for the house in downhill and slalom events. Biff Reed and Kelley Elliot were away with the varsity ski team helping to retain the State Ski Trophy for Maine. Biff was outstanding in the cross country and jumping events, whereas Kelley specialized in downhill and slalom.

A new idea for Winter Carnival was instigated on Saturday night — A Skit Night. Each fraternity was asked to present a 5-10 minute humorous skit. An electric applause meter was the judge. Alden Small guided us to an honorable mention out of nine fraternities entered. John Buzzell, Ken Walters, Bob Fuehrer, John Thurston, Bob Hutchinson, and George Bott were the participants in our take-off on a radio quiz program. Foster Shibles was our props (2 to 3 dozen telephones) man. Fred Newhall was one of the two M. C.'s for the night. Tony Linnell was an assistant in charge of the skit night. Following the skits, we drifted from the Ski Tog dance to the house for a large song fest of some 40 couples led by Brothers Linnell and Thurston.

Sunday, after a delicious dinner, some of us attended a jam session in the women's gym which concluded a successful Winter Carnival for '56. Much credit for its success must go to brother Bill Sterritt who was general chairman for the entire weekend.



Phi Kap's dominated a recent State Grange Meeting. Left to right: Sherman Rand '14 (Oxford Paper Co.), State Chairman of "Keep Maine Green"; Austin Wilkins '26, Deputy Forest Commissioner of Maine; Joel Marsh '35, Supervisor of Maine Forest Service; Ed Giddings '33 (Penobscot Development Co.), State Chairman Maine Tree Farm Program.

## Tea Honors Brother Hodgkins

The traditional Alpha's tea was given by the members of the chapter for the newly elected Alpha immediately following the regular house meeting of December 12, 1955, during which the officers for the winter term were elected and installed. The event took place in the kitchen of the chapter house with Brother John Hodgkins as the honored guest. Those members attending heard Mr. Hodgkins set forth a few of his plans for the future, and his proposed policies were received with shouts of approval amid the flourish of tea bags and the spray of lemon peels.

John comes from Farmington, Maine, is a senior, and is majoring in civil engineering. Previous to his election as Alpha, John had held the offices of Beta, Pi, and Upsilon. He succeeds Foster Shibles '56 of Augusta.

Eight juniors and three sophomores fill the other official seats. They are:

- Beta — Herbert Elliott, Jr. '57, South Portland, Maine, physics
- Pi — Robert Gibbs '57, Richmond, Maine, mechanical engineering
- Iota — John Buzzell '57, Groveland, Mass., agricultural engineering
- Upsilon — Robert McKown '58, Wellesley, Mass., engineering physics
- Sigma — Richard Secord '57, Reading, Mass., pre-dental
- Tau — Robert Fuehrer '57, Jamaica, N.Y., chemical engineering
- Thetae — Frank Linnell '57, Peru, Maine, civil engineering
- James Callan '58, Bath, Maine, personnel management
- Epsilon — Robert Hutchinson '57, Augusta, Maine, pre-dental
- Psi (social chairmen) — Fred Newhall '57, Lexington, Mass., speech
- John Laing '58, Buffalo, Minn., business administration

## High Society



Newly elected officers (left to right): Thetae — Pat Callan, "Tonus" Linnell; Upsilon — Bob McKown; Sigma — Dick Secord; Beta — Kelley Elliot; Alpha — John Hodgkins; Pi — Bob Gibbs; Tau — Bob Fuehrer; Iota — John Buzzell.

## ALUMNI NOTES

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of the following brothers:

Carrol M. DeWitt '16 — November 30, 1955 in the Veterans Hospital in Togus.

Cecil M. Hilton '17 — December 14, 1955 in Greenville.

Samuel S. Silsby '23 — February 12, 1956.

Phi Kaps back in school this semester:

David W. Ehrenfried '51

Edward R. Pinkham '53

Robert W. Pearson '55

William R. Merrill '56

George R. Butler '53

It is always great to see you grads drop in. We enjoy talking with you guys and hearing what you have been doing. Since we last went to press, Mr. and Mrs. Frank "Reub" Fenno and Mortier "Doc" Harris, all from the class of '55, have dropped in.

## Skulls . . .

(Continued From Page One)

little spice into the evening's entertainment by putting on a twenty-minute skit built around "Fashions of the Future." Dr. Quick, of the Forestry Department, showed slides of primitive techniques of army survival. This rounded out another busy week and once more the weekend was upon us. The interior of Phi Kap took on a new look as dealers and coupiers, with dark eye-shades to protect them from the harsh, glaring lights, bent over their tables. This was our annual Harold's Club Party, which saw over 130 couples in attendance. Norm Clark ('55) was back for the evening and supervised the operation of one of the crap tables. Saturday night saw the house back to normal and a very tired crew of rushees and brothers participated in a night after vic dance. The next day marked the end of another hectic rushing period with the A O Pi girls serving as waitresses for the Sunday noon meal.

A formal pledging ceremony was conducted by Alpha Brother John Hodgkins on Monday, March 5.

Since the last publication, Alpha Delta has been entertaining on a lavish scale. The Skull House's three or four annual big parties, a liberal sprinkling of record dances and the big events on campus, have provided the troops with plenty to do.

After homecoming weekend and the "no girls allowed" parties that followed initiation, Fall House Party time was upon us before we knew it. This was the second annual "Arabian Nights" party, and it proved to be even better than the first one. The house took on an exotic appearance, with an oasis, a mural by Fred Newhall with pictures of all the brothers riding into the sunset on a flying carpet, and costumes that looked as if they had taken months to prepare. The only thing lacking from the elaborate set-up was alumni faces. Bill Sterritt was in charge and deserves a lot of credit for supervising this bangup party. It looks like "Arabian Nights" will be our theme for many Fall Houseparties to come, so all you sheiks round up your harem for next fall.

After Christmas vacation, some of the big events on campus took over for awhile. "Spike" Gowell managed to drag quite a crew up to the Military Ball in January.

Prior to rushing, Phi Kap played host to the members of Chi Omega and A O Pi sororities. After a spaghetti dinner with all the fixings, singing and games were enjoyed by all.

With the "Gangster Party", the "Crazy Mixed-up Party", Spring Houseparties, and all the big spring affairs on campus, ole Alpha Delta will be buzzing all the way to June. The Spring Houseparty is going to be the weekend of May 19, the same outing being planned as last year, a trip to North Haven Island where the clams and lobsters will be hot and waiting for all Phi Kaps.

## Leadership School

This year's Phi Kap leadership school saw five Alpha Deltans present — Ken "Hugo" Walters, Bill Sterritt, "Tony" Linnell, Bob Hutchinson and Bob Fuehrer. Our host, Alpha Chapter, saw to it that there was never a dull moment. Twenty-three chapters were represented in Philadelphia this year, Maine's delegation being the fourth largest. The days were spent discussing various fraternity problems, such as scholarship, handling of finances, social programs, chapter relations with alumni, pledge training and leadership. Many worthwhile ideas were exchanged during scheduled discussions and also during the evenings over a glass of the amber brew. We did get to see some of the City of Brotherly Love and spent one evening at General Headquarters.

Next year's school is to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, in conjunction with the legislative convention. It looks as though we have an even larger group attending. Those attending felt that this was a rewarding experience, and it was too bad that every member of the house did not have the opportunity to attend.

The boys who went to the School wish to express their thanks to Phil Hussey who made a liberal contribution to help defray travel expenses.

John Paul Bibber '48 and his wife and two daughters, Alison 4 and Paula 1½, have settled in their new apartment at 38 High Street, Old Town. John is now City Manager of Old Town.