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The Daily Collegian

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How Would ODK Affect the University?

(This is the last of two editorials about Omicron Delta Kappa, men's leadership honor society.)

Actually, a local chapter of ODK would mean one more men's honorary on campus.

Further significance can best be described about two or three years after the chapter is founded. But until ODK comes on campus—if it does—several major points must be considered.

1. What effect would it have on present honor societies?

2. Does the University need a seventh men's honor group, and would ODK meet this need?

3. What is motivating its organizers and will motives affect the value of the organization?

It seems doubtful that establishment of ODK here would conflict with or reduce the value of present honor societies.

Overlapping is not necessarily a disadvantage. While students often have said we have too many "recognition" groups now, recognition in itself is not detrimental. It is only when group members misuse it that it loses its value. Thus, any loss of value due to a quantity of such groups would reflect on members' attitudes, rather than establishment of the groups.

Likewise, conflict between ODK and the present senior honor group, Lion's Paw, would be a result of members' attitudes only. Both groups assumedly claim the same nature of goals—service and good for the University and recognition of leaders—and because Lion's Paw membership admittedly does not exhaust the supply of student leaders on campus, there is little apparent reason why the two groups could not function as contemporaries.

Whether or not there is an actual need for ODK—or any other additional men's honor society—on campus is not answered so readily. Those organizing it apparently feel there is.

If a great many students are going unrecognized for jobs well done (and since recognition groups are a part of our campus life here) then most likely more groups are needed. It's also

evident that most of the men's hat societies are not fulfilling a maximum of service projects. And since few can deny the value of such projects as intense orientation programs, student-faculty discussion groups, and leadership training programs, it seems ODK would have an open and unchallenged field.

Whether or not the local chapter could or would meet these needs would depend, ultimately, on the membership. Many students have objected to the scholastic requirements of the organization, saying that by demanding an average above a 1.0, the group would be excluding some of the campus' best leaders.

In considering this point, students will have to decide if they think an activities leader should also have a better-than-average scholastic record.

Another rather significant objection that has been voiced against ODK affiliation has been the fear that Mr. Sinclair, who is one of the organizers, is using it as a means to oppose Lion's Paw. In the past, he has been outspoken against the group, making various charges against it on the floor of All-University Cabinet.

But regardless of Mr. Sinclair's possible motives, it is doubtful if ODK's national secretary, members of the administration, and the 20-some students who have helped organize the potential chapter have any but respectable reasons for their support. It is also doubtful if one student, whoever he might be, could create policies not endorsed by a group's national leaders or the administration.

We hope those supporting ODK affiliation and those still in doubt about the wisdom of such action, will divorce as much prejudice as possible from their minds when they consider the matter, and try to view it from the standpoint of whether the University needs ODK.

Should the need be truly found, then we hope further that the formulation of the chapter will qualify in every respect as a leadership honor society.

—Peggy McClain

FMA: Win, Lose or Draw?

(This is the last of two editorials explaining the workings of FMA.)

The Fraternity Marketing Association is looking toward an expansion of its buying program. Its eventual goal is to offer not only more goods for sale but services as well.

Such a program is working successfully at Ohio State, where FMA does a business of over \$1.5 million a year. Not only does FMA offer food and furniture for sale, but services such as plumbing and painting at reasonable discounts.

No one will argue that such an expansion at the University would be beneficial. But such a program will succeed only if fraternities are willing to participate in the program.

At present FMA at the University has only 26 member fraternities. And again, we wonder why.

Here are some of the reasons advanced by fraternities for not joining FMA:

"We're waiting to see how FMA works out." FMA can only be successful if fraternities participate. This "wait and see" attitude can do nothing but hinder it. The more fraternities that participate, the more buying power FMA will have. And the more business carried on through FMA, the larger the discounts dealers will be able to give.

By ordering in larger quantities, dealers can save money on deliveries and will be more willing to pass on savings to fraternities.

Also, the more fraternities that participate, the larger FMA's operating budget will be. This will allow FMA to expand its program both in terms of the number of items it can offer for

sale and physical facilities. FMA is already thinking of maintaining full-time office facilities, which would facilitate its buying program.

Quality isn't so hot."

The fraternities themselves are the check on quality of FMA goods. FMA members have a choice of dealers from which to buy. If the quality of goods supplied by one dealer is not satisfactory, the fraternity may always switch.

"Who is behind FMA?"

The answer is simple—the member fraternities themselves. Each member has a voice in making FMA policy. The general membership elects a Board of Trustees composed of 12 members: five alumni members, five student members, and two members at large. FMA is administered by this group.

"We can do as well as FMA on prices and discounts."

In some cases, on individual items, this may be true. But as a whole, FMA prices are less than individual prices. And if fraternities would combine to increase buying power, discounts and savings would be higher than they are now.

Another consideration is this: At the present time, some fraternities may be able to equal FMA prices because they have a "deal" with a vendor.

They have a cook or caterer who has connections. For the present, this is fine, but cooks and caterers change, while FMA is a permanent thing.

To sum up: The success of FMA depends on the willingness of fraternities to participate.

—Don Shoemaker

Revisions Committee 'Secrecy': Ridiculous

The closed door policy of the All-University constitutional revisions committee has gone far enough. The committee, or those members responsible for maintaining the policy, are going overboard in keeping progress reports from the student body.

The group has been meeting since the end of November. When it closed its doors to general "audiences" and the press, it promised progress reports to both All-University Cabinet and the Daily Collegian. One progress report was issued—immediately before the end of the fall semester. Committee chairman, John Speer, indicated this week that a second report would be coming Thursday. The report was not given.

The general student body has been prohibited from committee meetings for efficiency's sake—to facilitate discussion and avoid extended haggling over differences. Such desires are quite logical; they are also a typical rationalization for any group which just doesn't want to be bothered, or put on the spot, by outside opinions and advice.

To date, the committee reportedly has made few major changes in the constitution—most have been concerned with reordering. The first major change coming up will be in the court system, which part is under consideration now. The committee has invited to its sessions those student officers immediately concerned with the matter under consideration.

To this point, the committee has used logical procedure. What it IS doing is commendable. But what it is refusing to do is ridiculous.

For instance, committee members are not sworn to secrecy, nor are students "invited" to the meetings. A Collegian reporter is allowed to attend the meetings and "know" what is being done.

Then what is the committee afraid of? Obviously, it is dreading mass reaction to its proceedings and mass opinion that might follow published reports.

The committee seems to ignore the fact that mass opinion put each member in a position to do this revising. Committee work admittedly would be accomplished faster with a minimum of student comment; but then elections, too, would be speedier if candidates didn't have to wait for votes.

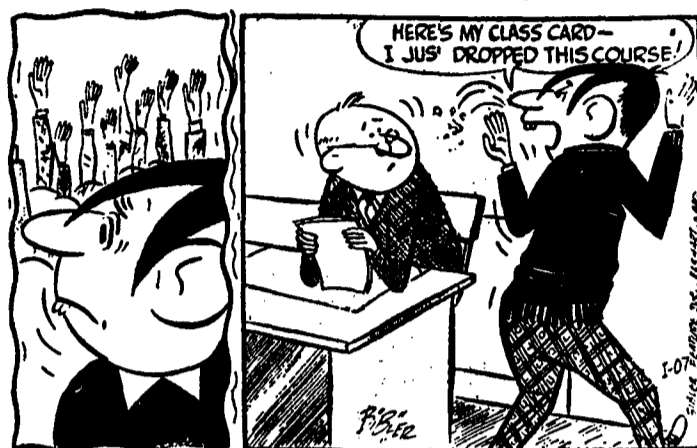
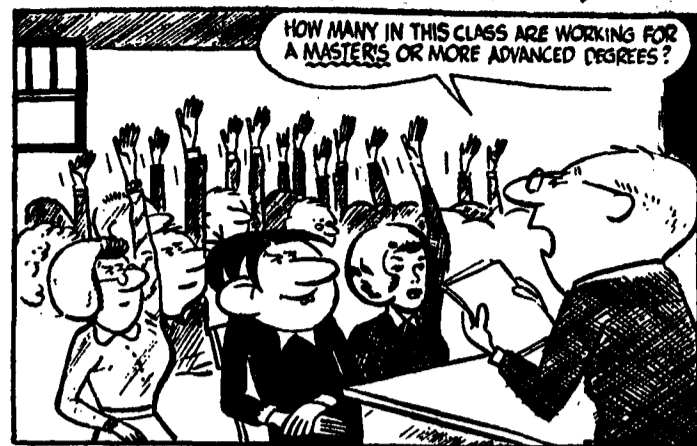
—Peggy McClain

Gazette...

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Herbert Aboff, Edwin Biederman, Earl Cairns, Joan Cannon, Marvin Daley, George Dishong, Burton Federman, Gerald Fried, Robert Galloway, Seymour Goldstein, Barbara Brubawicz, Eugene Hanlon, Andrew Hibler, Robert Kaytes, Virginia Leary, Maurine Leonard, Jacqueline Mulcey, Russell Myers, Robert Novak, Charles Palmer, Richard Pary, Ray Patterson, John Ryan, James Shambach, George Sofia, William Strauss, David Williams, Larry Young.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



Who Came First? Greeks Debate It

By DON SHOEMAKER

Phi Gamma Delta is generally thought of as being the first national fraternity to be established at the University.

But two other national groups are known to have existed on campus prior to the Phi Gamma Delta chapter. However, Phi Gamma Delta has been the fraternity with the longest continuous existence at the University.

Phi Gamma Delta was established on campus Jan. 7, 1888. In 1938, when it celebrated its 50th anniversary, an article, titled "First Fraternity at Penn State" appeared in the May issue of the Alumni News. The article named Phi Gamma Delta as the first national fraternity at the University.

McDonnell Challenges
On June 22 of the same year, Henry B. McDonnell, oldest male graduate of the University, wrote a letter to the editor of the Alumni News, challenging this claim.

In this letter he named Q.T.V., a Latin letter group, as the first national fraternity. A local chapter was established at the University in 1884. McDonnell was a charter member of the local chapter of the fraternity which was established at Amherst College in 1869. At the time the local chapter was established there were six chapters.

Greeks Banned 'til '88
What the letters Q.T.V. stood for is not known. The group was known as a Latin letter society because Greek letter fraternities were banned at the University until 1888.

Actually the first national fraternity on campus was Delta Tau Delta, established in 1872. Because of the ban on fraternities, the chapter only lasted a year. It was re-established in 1912.

Q.T.V. Goes National
In 1891, according to McDonnell, the membership of Q.T.V. "transferred bodily to the Psi chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma."

Actually, the change was not en masse. A few of the members transferred to Beta Theta Pi, which was established at the University October, 1888.

McDonnell cited the slow growth of Q.T.V. as the reason for the change. He said the members felt this might be partly due to the fact that the University was not a Greek letter group.

So Its First
In a later letter, McDonnell said that Phi Kappa Sigma should be called the first fraternity.

If Phi Kappa Sigma forfeited its right of priority by changing from Q.T.V. to Phi Kappa Sigma, then . . . Penn State College should change its seal, as what was established in 1855 was the Farmer's High School.

At the close of his last letter, McDonnell said: "It seems to me

that the only debatable question is, if the Psi chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma, because it was first chartered as Q.T.V., is entitled to claim precedence on that account. The Penn State College was first the Farmers' High School, and claims that date as its origin."

As yet the question has not been answered, but Phi Gamma Delta is still listed by the University as the first fraternity.

Sones Reports On Success Of Orientation

Vernon Sones, general chairman of the 1955 Orientation program, has reported that the reception and orientation of the 400 new students on campus this semester was successful.

Counseling sessions by 40 hat society men and women on Feb. 2 and 3 commenced the spring program. New men students met with counselors and discussed studying, curriculums, registration, the University, and other items designed to aid in adjustment.

Skits were presented to new women students in addition to the counseling by hat society women.

A New Student Mixer on Feb. 4 concluded the program. Over 300 students attended the mixer which was initiated this semester.

A similar but larger program for the fall is now being planned, Sones said.

Camera Club to Meet

The Camera Club will make plans for the organization of a permanent Camera Club on campus at a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in 241 Rec Hall.

The group also will discuss the dark room facilities to be located in Hetzel Union Building.

This Weekend On WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

7:25 Sign On
7:30 Sports Roundup
7:35 Phil Wins
8:15 BBC Features The Rhodes Scholar
8:45 Just for Two
9:30 HI FI Open House
10:30 Thought for the Day