

Dissolved fraternity chapter reorganized

By BARI WINEMILLER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

One of those Greek organizations that folded under the pressure of the anti-establishment movement of the Vietnam War era, Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity is recolonized and rebuilding after a nine year absence from the University.

On July 14, 1970, Sigma Alpha Mu lost its charter and on March 19, 1979, a group of 19 men, the majority of them residents of Mifflin Hall, was officially recognized as a colony fraternity by the Interfraternity Council.

"Technically this is a re-colonization since Sammy was here before," IFC adviser Jeff Fremont said.

As a colony fraternity, Sigma Alpha Mu is on probation for a year and must meet several requirements of both the

IFC and the national fraternity before it will be considered an active and voting chapter, Fremont said.

Sigma Alpha Mu must show stability, alumni support, a constitution, evidence of a planned membership drive and "some reasonable level of behavior" by the end of the one year, Fremont said.

"Stability is the most important thing we must show," Ken Rapp, newly-elected president of Sigma Alpha Mu, said. "If you have 50 guys that don't put forth an effort, then you don't have a thing."

"Right now we're strong and becoming unified," Mark Greenberg, founder and former-president of the group, said.

The history of Sigma Alpha Mu and its recolonization is a history of two dif-

ferent groups. In April 1978, Greenberg and nine friends began organizing Sigma Alpha Mu after Bernard Bronstein recommended Greenberg to Sigma Alpha Mu's national field secretary, Bill Frischman.

The Mifflin group did not enter the Sigma Alpha Mu picture until January of this year when Fremont suggested they talk to Greenberg. Mifflin, a close-knit group of 3rd and 4th floor residents, needed a national and Sigma Alpha Mu needed brothers; six of the original nine had pulled out. Now, only a small minority of the chapter is Jewish, despite Sigma Alpha Mu's Jewish heritage.

The two groups joined forces and have been working as a unit to establish themselves and to achieve their goals.

"We're forming what SAM at Penn State will be," Rapp said. "Instead of

being part of a frat, we are the frat."

"It seemed like a challenge to get involved with Sammy," Bart Hickman, pledge master of the chapter, said. "I didn't think it would be as hard as it is, but things are going well."

Rush is a bit difficult, the chapter officers said, when the fraternity has no house to offer.

However, Ken Botnecht, Sigma Alpha Mu's sole pledge, is joining even without a house.

"First of all, I knew all the guys," Botnecht said. (He lives on third floor Mifflin). "Secondly, I never thought of myself as being part of a frat, but it's kind of interesting to get in on the ground floor and see how a fraternity can grow."

"You've heard of a gentleman's gentleman," Greenberg said. "We want to be a frat's frat someday."

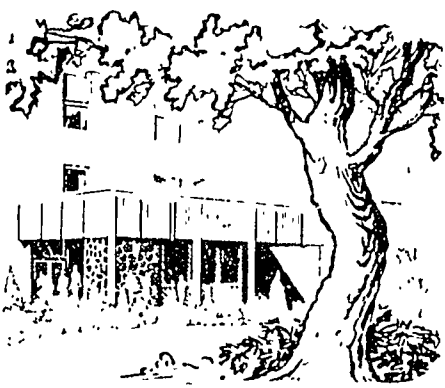


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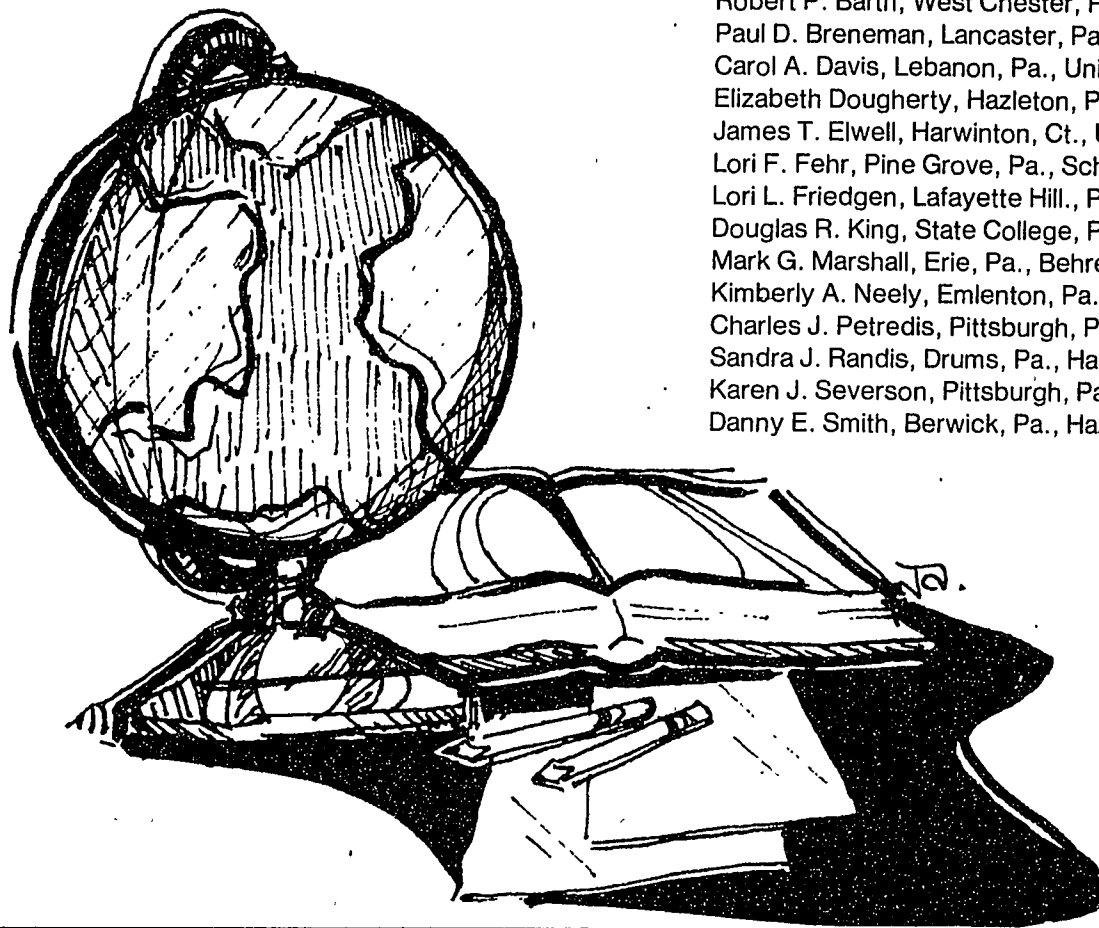
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