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November, 2000

Newsletter of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association of Pi Kappa Alpha

Parthenon 2000 Offers New Programs to Pledges

In reviewing Parthenon 2000, WVU's initiative to provide more support to the fraternities, an area that stood out as unique and promising was the pledge program. For example, a one-credit orientation class is now required for all fraternity pledges. Although the class description and details are not included in the Parthenon outline, the class presumably sets rules and standards in front of future initiates.

Depending on how the class is taught, it could have merit. Thinking back on my own time spent as a pledge in the early 60s, our orientation centered around the fraternity itself, and related mostly to learning the history of Pi KA and the rules of the house. Parthenon 2000, however, could, and hopefully does, provide an understanding of the Greek system in general and the role that the University plays in that system. It's an opportunity, in other words, to expand understanding outside the tight-knit circle that is formed in the chapter. The class has been implemented into the curriculum.

Also implemented and related to the above are pledge class study halls, educational seminars on hazing, and monthly meetings between University officials and chapter member responsible for educating pledges. WVU's emplasis is clear--avoid problems through early orientation and education of fraternity members.

WVU's Reputation as a Party School Still Stands

As I read the UPI article about the ten biggest party schools in the country, it brought back memories of a Playboy article published some 40 years ago on the same subject. Both articles had placed WVU near the top even though two different generations of students had passed through its halls. It's interesting how time changes your own grasp of this bit of information. As a young 20-year old, there was a feeling of pride, much the same as the feeling we get when our sports teams gain national rankings. In fact, if memory serves, we did what we could to embellish the reputation that we had as a party school. Now, of course, it's a bit different. Witnessing the results of the last party at the fraternity house on Belmar sent off many emotions, but pride wasn't one of them. This was destruction, pure and simple, and if drinking and partying had caused it, then restraints were in order. I wondered when I read the article how this would be seen among the administrators at WVU. I imagined the embarrassment and a discussion on what could be done to change things. No one wants to deny young college students the right to have a good time,but some moderation should be exercised and enforced. Strong alumni groups can be a part of this.