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The History of College Fraternities

Howard University Center of Negro Collegiate Fraternal Activities

By definition, a fraternity is a voluntary association of men, with common interests, mutual aspirations, bound together for their mutual advancement and growth. College students have always shown a more or less marked disposition to form themselves into societies. Whether founded upon a national, literary or social basis, such organizations seem to have evolved with the colleges themselves. They are composed of chapters located in the several colleges and usually designated by Greek letters. Because of this latter fact, they were first known as "Greek Letter Societies" or, from their secrecy, "College Secret Societies." Now they are normally called "College Fraternities." Before tracing their origin and growth, it may be well to give a description of their customs and practices.

The name of each fraternity is usually composed of two or three Greek letters, as Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Delta Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma. These letters commonly represent a motto supposed to be unknown to all but the fraternity's members and which indicates freely the gist of the organization. Branches located in the various colleges are affiliated, and are, with one or two exceptions, termed "Chapters."

The chapters receive various names, sometimes of the Greek letters in the order of their establishment, as Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and often with an added Greek letter as an abbreviation of the name of the college or of a motto adopted by the chapter.

Several of the fraternities have adopted the State system, naming the first chapter established in a state the Alpha of that state, the second, the Beta, and so on. When chapters have become so numerous that the letters of the alphabet are exhausted, they are combined, either arbitrarily as Theta Zeta, Beta Chi or by design, as Alpha Sigma Tau.

At present the fraternity system consists of approximately 250 societies with 6000 chapters in 700 colleges. Of this number, approximately 1000 chapters are merely honorary organizations and make little effort, if any, to maintain active social groups. Nearly 2000 of the remaining 5000 are located in college homes of their own provision.

The American society bearing Greek-letter name was founded at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., in 1776. It was called by the Greek letters—Alpha, Beta, Kappa—Philosophia, Bonus, Kubernethes, Philosophy the Guide of Life. This society, secret in its nature, was formed for social and literary purposes and held regular meetings. In December, 1778, it authorized the establishment of branches at Yale and Harvard. The following year it ceased operations due to the confiscation incidental to the Revolutionary War.

The Hilltop will soon begin a series of illustrated articles on the historic castles and buildings of England.

BISHOP MCDOWELL SPEAKS AT VESPER

Wednesday, November 2, Bishop William F. McDowell, presiding head of the Washington Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, was the principal speaker at vespers, Sunday, October 26 at 4:30 p.m. A large and attentive audience was present to greet the distinguished visitor. The speaker delivered a forceful message which will inspire the student body to greater achievement if it will adopt his motto, "I am, I can, I ought, I will."

The School of Religion Holds Convocation

The eighth annual convention of the School of Religion was held in Rand McNally Memorial Chapel, October 29th to 30th under the supervision of Dean D. Butler Pratt. The subject for the convention conference was, "The Christian Ministry." The public and students attended all of the sessions in large numbers. The three noontime chapel exercises were addressed by three of the leading ministers of the country.

On Tuesday, noon, Rev. Robert J. McAlpine, D.D., spoke on the subject; "Playing the Game." On Wednesday, the session was addressed by Dr. William Pickens, Field Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., New York City.

The closing noonday session on Thursday was addressed by Rev. Beverley C. Ratson, D.D., Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tenn. His subject was; "The Spiritual Leadership of Negro Ministers."

The "H" Club held a social in Miner Hall for the visiting athletes on Friday, October 24. A large crowd was present to meet the visitors from West Virginia Institute.
The response of our Alumni to the appeal for the Medical Endowment Fund has been an achievement of which every student has cause to be proud. Our graduates have subscribed, to be paid before July 1, 1926, more than $100,000, of which sixty graduates have pledged $1,000 each. The motive that inspired each one was the same: whether to secure Class A medical education to the race, or to respond to the call of their Alma Mater, whether to the University, or to the American Medical Association, or to the Association of American Colleges, or to the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey, or to our own Alumni. The response of our Alumni is a source of encouragement and inspiration to the boys and girls now at Howard to make big brothers and sisters of our graduate group; to know what they are doing is evidence of the worth of their training received at Howard, such a knowledge must necessarily fire the fervor of their own ambitions; to know what they think in their more mature judgment from their long years of experience; to know how they feel toward Alma Mater as proof of the permanency of what may now seem mere momentary impulses.

The Alumni are aroused to a larger interest and a more constructive cooperation in University development alone with other institutions, and our academic and professional organizations and our educational institutions of the world. This spirit of progress is exercising a potent influence upon our entire University life. Without regarding the mass evidence of the permanency of the University, little time to lose will be left.

CAMPUS STROLLERS
A stranger, suddenly translated from a New England college environment to a locality within sight of the Main Building would be puzzled to decide whether or not the Howard University campus is a picnic ground or a university settlement. Jay-walkers pour in and out at will and keep the long walk and the garden paths nearly the scorned and loathed indifference. Nonchalant young Ro- meo here indolent youthful Juliet with their sly nonsense from day to day. Secret practice by the football teams is hindered because these idlers have nothing to do and nowhere in particular to go. We often wonder how much time these perennial campus strollers devote to their lessons. It is a foregone conclusion, that if they give the proper attention to the main business of the University, little time to lose will be left.

THE TEST
The test of a man is the fight he makes, The test that he daily shows; The way he stands on his feet and takes 

Facing numerous bumps and blows, A coward can sit where there's no need to fear.

When nothing's his progress gain But it takes a man to stand up and 

While some other fellow stars it isn't the victory, after all, But the fight that a brother makes, The man who, driven against the wall, Still stands up erect and takes

The blows of fate with his hand held high, Bleeding, and bruised and pale, is the man who'll win in the by and by.

For he isn't afraid to fall. It's the bumps you get and the jolts you get, And the shocks that your courage stands The hours of sorrow and vain regret, with the pride that escapes your worth.

It isn't the blows you deal, But the blows you take on the good old earth. That show if your stuff is real. —Selected

News in Brief
Reports inform us that the booted order has invaded the sacred confines of Old Nassau and received a "rous- ing welcome" from the Princeton undergraduate body. At another meeting within a stone's throw of our campus, a good parson invoked divine aid to make his district a light-white neighborhood. The parson reasoned that "We are here in defense of our homes. We are suffering mental distress and financial loss by al- lowing Negroes to live among us."

Continuing the reverberated phrase, "If the matter is presented in the face of the colored people, they will be found amenable to justice as usual. " The meeting opened with singing of "America. " Nut said.

The Y.W. girls made a visit to the Old Folks' Home last Sunday where they sang songs, prayed, listened to the aged and the infirm.

AMONG OUR ALUMNI
By Emory B. Smith, '44, 19L, Alumni Correspondent
The Hilltop and The Howard Alumni
During the past five years, many changes and improvements have been intro- duced at Howard, the purpose and effect of which have been to raise the University, to a higher—standard of efficiency. Our entrance require- ments and our academic and profes- sional curricula have steadily advanced until Howard has been accorded recog- nition among the leading educational institutions of the world.

The spirit of progress is existing a potent influence upon our entire University life. Without regarding the mass evidence of the permanency of the University, little time to lose will be left.

THE ALUMNI
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ATHLETICS

LOUIS WATSON

Lous Watson, director of the department of physical education, was instrumental in installing, this year, a four-year course in physical education leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Since he relinquished the duties of directing the department and coaching football, former Coach Watson, has gained fifteen pounds and has developed a "pouch" which would do no justice to a Wall Street broker.

When seen recently at a service station where he was "filling up" his new Hudson, Watson opined: "Life is passing as sweetly and pleasantly as ever."

HOWARD YARNY YELL


Nine Rans Yell

Rah, Rah, Rah.

Team! Team! Team!

Leader-Who

Rabble-Team!

Railroad Yell

His - SSSS Boom - AIR-H Howard! Howard! Howard! Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!

(Beginning slowly and gradually becoming faster)

Ye-O OW (Everyone yells)

Howard! Howard! Howard!

Mrs. Lelia L. Thomas, an undergraduate of the College Department, has recently been appointed as social service worker in the Adjutant General's Office, War Department.

The third annual Howard Women's Dinner will be given in Domestic Science Hall, Friday, November 7 at 8 p.m.

THE BLACK DISPATCH

By M. A. Terrell

NOTE: This column, devoted to the interest of the football squad, will contain amusing and pathetic happenings off and on the gridiron.

R. Miller and Brown tried to play "hide and seek" last week but only "Cute" Cardwell spotted that game and they caught both of them in after hours.

Braden, Oh Braden, don't let "Doc" catch you talking to the ladies during the training period because, boy, he will make that track fit you like a stocking cap.

After we get a taste of West Virginia, today, bring on your Wiberforce.

Wilberforce is to be the football goal after all.

"Bo" Lister is so stupid that he thinks the mouth of the Mississippi has run dry.

Lockem Smith went into a jealous rage when he heard that Edgar Long was wearing silk pajamas at Freewill.

"Who hit me with that horseshoe?" asked Lockem as he fainted away.

Payne still hangs out with the "fay" boys. He was a waiter at Georgetown University last Sunday.

Who is it now, Braden, Evelyn or Mildred? We are giving to a party soon and would like to know.

"Aft" left breakfast early Thursday in order to take Polly for a walk.

R. Miller wrote home that he had received three "cutes" in classes. He received a first "aig" set by return mail.

Why don't you stop nibbling on Capt. Dokes, "Prof Robinson"?

Cotton Campbell, have your guest meet you on the campus instead of my office. And when you do, say "Cotton, this is the happiest day of my life," declared Edgar Long at Freedmen's Hospital last Sunday.

Social & Personal

Will who attend the Old Maid's Convention this year? The same ones who have attended for the past three years I hear you say.

Archie V... did not mean any offense last Wednesday. Old flames will kindle.

Anita Turpeau's religious crusaders are stealing thunder from the Salvation Army.

Mary C. and Clarence P.

Went to see a show:

Ask them what the picture was.

And neither one will know.

H. B. has all of the names of the fraternity pledges in order to make the rounds with the forthcoming social functions.

Marc and Susie love and sport,

Till we wonder where they're at.

Miss Perry lends the Milan Haa girls over the ralph in the first dance of the season tonight.

HOWARD-WEST VA. INSTITUTE GAME ENDS IN SCORELESS TIE

(Continued from page 1)

4 yards. McLean missed first down by 2 inches.

Howard kicked off behind his own goal line, Turner pointed to his 26-yard line. Howard negotiated right tackle for 4 yards, then three more. A forward pass by Turner was broken up by Bradley. McLean kicked to quarter end. Turned on 2-yard line. Turner kicked to 10 yards. McLean blocked a kick and the ball was recovered by Howard on his 45-yard line. A fake kick failed.

Dedocked kicked to Gough. Cardwell was stopped at the line; Branch made 4 yards on an off-tackle play. Turner kicked to Howard's 24-yard line where McLean fumbled. The ball was recovered by Gaithers for West Virginia.

Cardwell was stopped in his tracks.

A fumble recovered by West Va. lost 10 yards. Miller blocked a kick and the ball was recovered by Howard on her 36-yard line.

Second Quarter

Dedocked fumbled on a line play. West Va., recovered on 40-yard line. A fake kick lost 16 yards. Another fake play failed to gain. Turner kicked to McLean who ran ball back 25 yards. Payne skirted left end for 5 yards. A second attempt was broken up. Dedocked kicked to West Va.'s 25-yard line. Cardwell failed to gain. Turner kicked to Payne who returned the ball 5 yards. McLean made 5 yards on a cross back. A delayed back made no gain.

Dedocked kicked to 25-yard line. West Va. free kicked to Payne on Howard's 20-yard line. Payne ran back 10 yards. Howard was penalized 5 yards for off-side play. Dedocked gained 8 yards. Branden added 2 more. Dedocked kicked to Gough who was downed in his tracks by Long. Branden got 2 yards. Turner kicked to Gough who was downed on Howard's 36-yard line. Braden made 7 yards on off-tackle play. Payne squirmed through the Miss Alice's line for 7 yards, Dedocked was thrown for a loss behind the line by Riggs. Brooks substituted for Smith.

Third Quarter

Cardwell was put in play on 20-yard line. West Va., penalized 5 yards. McLean made 5-yard gain, then 3 more. Howard penalized 15 yards for rough tackle. Payne recovered 4 yards. Howard lost 10 yards on an end run. Dedocked kicked to 43-yard line; ball was fumbled by Gough and recovered by Howard.

Dedocked tried center for 2 yards;


Payne was fumbled on line play by West Va.; failed; gain; 2 yards; two more; another fumble recovered by Payne.

McLean added 7 yards. Payne added 18 more; Dedocked dived through line for 4 yards. Turner no more making it first down. Ball in Howard's possession.

Fourth Quarter

Dedocked punted left guard for 3 yards; Branden added two more. Another line play failed. Payne attempted to break which was successful. It was West Va.'s ball on their 22-yard line. Miller tackled Lowry behind line for loss. Turner kicked to Payne who returned ball to midfield. Payne failed to gain on off-tackle play. Turner kicked to Howard's 25-yard line. West Va. made fair catch and accepted a free kick. Turner returned ball to midfield. Braden got 2 yards off tackle. Dedocked repeated 2 more; McLean added first down again. Branden added 3 more; Dedocked gained 2 yards.

On the next four plays Howard lost ball on downs. West Va. scores 5 yards on shift play. A second shift failed to gain. Turner kicked to Howard's 35-yard line. McLean gained 3 yards for Howard just before the referee's whistle blew.

The line-up:

Howard D.C. West Va. (G)

Gallows Dokes (T) Preston

Rives Bresch (T) Riggs

Miller L.G. Saunders

Smith (G) L.T.

Cook Campbell (G) Turner

Braydon R.H. Gough

McLean (G) H.L. Lowry

Dedocked (G) Branch


The line-up:

Howard - Dedocked - McLean

Gallows - Dokes - Bresch

Miller - L.G. - Smith

Cook - Campbell - Braydon

McLean - H.L. - Lowry

Dedocked - Branch


Thursday night, November 7.

At V.N.I.I. 11, Hampton 8

Lincoln 6 Union 6.

The Pestalozzi-Froebel Society held a wide awake meeting Saturday morning. The subject was an open discussion of education among Negroes. J. Cohn rendered a beautifully prepared reading selection. Miss Ollie Williams sang very commendably.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Alma Mater.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY VESPER SERVICE

Fall Quarter, 1924

Nov. 2 - Bishop John Hart, D.D., Baltimore, Md.


Nov. 16 - Rev. George P. Dudley, D.D., Recter of St. Stephens Church, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 23 - Miss Musical Vesper Service, by the Vested Choir.

Polly is searching eagerly for another heart to break.

Dear Miss Y... Please don't hold hands so much. Give Miss L... a chance.

WANTED: A sweetheart weighing at least 200 pounds. Apply to J. T. Black.

None of our coeds must expect credits in painting, judging by their faces.

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THE HILLTOP

THE HISTORY OF COLLEGE FRATERNITIES

(Continued from page 1)

War, then raging in the vicinity of Westminister, Maryland, in the autumn of 1910, it took the name of Alpha of Connecticut. Membership was limited to the two upper classes. It soon lost whatever of its initial prestige it had existed in the original organization. The Harvard chapter, called the Alpha of Massachusetts was established in June 1781 and the two chapters united in 1782 to form the Alpha of New Hampshire at Dartmouth. Its subsequent chapters are all named upon the state system. It is now a purely honorary society.

Another class of societies had arisen at different colleges. These were more or less a literary fraternity. They bore such names as Hermosian, Adelphian. Some of them were secret and some were not. Their exercises consisted of debates, the reading and discussion of papers on literary subjects and activities. Since their work was mainly educational, they were sponsored by the faculties. But students took a little interest in their proceedings except at the time of literary contests or when elections were about to take place. Sometimes rivalries were fierce and bitterly contested. In fact, their object was training and drill in composition and oratory. They afforded no social advantages.

Such were the societies existing in the college when in the autumn of 1825, the Kappa Alpha Society was founded at Union College by John Hunter and other members of the class of '26. After this date fraternity societies were established in almost every college in the country.

The better fraternities move very slowly in the granting of chapters. Petitioners find that they have to wait, sometimes for years at the same time, until their chapters' patronage and personal interest gain proper recognition. Much of this inertia is traced to an exaggerated conservation, which has contributed to the rapid and successful growth of younger fraternities.

In recent years, however, only seniors were admitted to membership but the sharp rivalry for desirable men soon pushed the Underclassmen into the junior classes and later to the lower groups, until at some colleges the Underclassmen formed a new chapter. The general rule, however, is that members shall be drawn from the four upper classes. At Yale, the chapter of the general fraternities for many years were merely Underclassmen and, as at Dartmouth, for a long time, though members were pledged they were not admitted until the sophomore year. As colleges usually open about the middle of September for freshmen, most chapters then last until Christmas when each chapter has successfully selected desired candidates.

Many fraternities elect and initiate women who are not college men. Those fraternities that elect women in this sense, the term is applied to all who are not elected or initiated into the fraternities, while an undergraduate student.

The history of college fraternities has grown with much judicial decisions. It has been judicially determined that any student at an institution not under public control, is bound to obey its rules and regulations, including rules against membership in secret societies. The Supreme Court of Illinois decided this in 1866, in the case of a student at Wheaton College. In violation of the college rules against fraternities, E. Hartley Pretz, a student at Wheaton, joined the Good Templars. On his suspension by the faculty, his father applied for monadnock the college to reinstate him. The court decided that the faculty had the right to refuse to admit to faculty regulations "not inconsistent with the law and good morals.

The legislatures of three states have passed acts to prohibit the existence of fraternities in state institutions, namely, South Carolina 1897, Arkansas 1901; Mississippi 1921. In South Carolina and Mississippi the acts became effective. All chapters at the University of South Carolina and the University of Mississippi were forced to suspend. The attorney general of Arkansas gave his opinion that while the intent of the legislature to exclude fraternities, the only penalty provided by the act was that no members of a fraternity should receive any class honors or distinctions conferred by the university by individuals or hold rank above second-lieutenant in the cadet fraternities. Fraternities have continued to exist at the University of Arkansas, the members placing a higher valuation on the advantages of fraternity life than on the honors mentioned.

With the exception of the University of South Carolina and the city of Mississippi, there are now few male co-educational schools of importance that prohibit fraternities. Among the last, most important are Princeton and Oberlin. Today, 20,000 new members are being added to the rosters of fraternity 

Turning to the history of college fraternities among Negroes, about the same conditions are prevalent. If we omit the Boulé, a fraternity composed of professional men, the first college fraternity among Negroes was the Alpha Phi Alpha. This fraternity was organized in March, 1906 at Cornell University. From one chapter, with about ten members, the fraternity has grown into a nationally charted organization with forty-five chapters and a membership of more than twenty-seven hundred. Boulé chapter is located at Howard University.

On January 5, 1914 at the University of Indiana was founded Kappa Psi fraternity. This became a national organization incorporated under the laws of Indiana in February of the same year and now has twenty-three undergraduate and fifteen alumni chapters. The object and ideal of this fraternity is to assist in accomplishing both in college and in the future, a place of useful work and honor for its members. It is located at Howard University.

Omega Psi Phi fraternity was established at Howard University in 1910. It has grown by less than bounds until today it has secured an enviable position among Negro college fraternities and has a roll comprising of forty-eight functioning chapters. The cornerstone of this fraternity are the Brotherhood, Scholarship, Temperance, and Uplift.

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity was founded at Howard University, January 9, 1914, by a group of men who believed that an organization revolving around the standard of "Culture for service and service for humanity" would be another unique chapter in the modern development of the Negro youth.

Among Our Alumni

(Continued from page 2)

Log Cabin Sweets
Home Made Candies & Ice Cream
West 2571
1006 22nd Street
North 6111

Wm. W. Whipp
Prescription Druggist
7th and T. St., N. W.
Washington, D.C.

DELICATESSEN

Cigars, News Stand, Student Supplies
AMBROGI, Prop.
Corner 3rd and E. I. Ave.

Reynolds' Pharmacy
Drugs, Toilet Articles, Sundries, Candies and School Supplies
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Students' Headquarters for the New Things in Men's Wear and Hats

QUALITY FIRST

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6th at T. St., N. W.

JACK'S

TH E STUDENTS' FRIEND

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Printing of the Better Class

MURPHY BUILDING
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Pauline C. Hanks, President
Florence I. Washington, Vice-President
Bernice P. Chism, Secretary-Treasurer

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The Trio Beauty Parlor

Electrical Equipment,
Work Guaranteed

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G. B. REID

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All Popular Music, Music Studies,
Phonographs, Records, Piano Rolls
C. G. Conn Instruments—Easy Terms

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Bandana Café
Special Rates to Students
917 U Street, N.W.
Phone, North 6638

FRIE~D

Waffle-Coffee Shoppe

"HOWARD UP"

Howard Tonsorial Parlor
Clark Hall,
Walton, Student Mgr.

THURSTON'S
QUALITY CAFE

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Branch Luncheteria
Upstairs in University Dining Hall

Howard Hand Laundry
First Class Work Guaranteed
G. WILLIAMS, Prop.
2045 Ga. Avenue

Freddie—Mother, when was Geo.
Washington born?
Mother—February 22.
Freddie—And Abraham Lincoln?
Mother—February 12.
Freddie—Isn't that funny, mother, that both of these men were born on holi-
days?