

ABOUT FRATERNITIES

The growth of fraternityism in the state university has been gradual but sure. The first charter was received in 1875 by the Phi Delta Theta men, but owing to opposition and general discouragement, the chapter did not thrive and the charter was recalled. The charter was obtained again in 1883. When the fraternity idea was first broached in the school, it met with considerable opposition. A great many of the students considered the idea a snobbish one. It was thought that the fraternities savored too much of aristocracy and was too much like the east. The west wished to be more democratic. But this opposition was mostly due to a lack of understanding of what a fraternity really meant.

Notwithstanding all opposition, the idea began to grow and now the fraternity spirit has such a strong hold upon the university, that it would be impossible to eradicate it. The university is now very nearly equally divided between the literary society men, or barbarians, and the fraternity men or Greeks. Of course there are a great many students who do not belong to either party, but who are on a neutral ground. These men are the ones that the politicians try to work, during the campaigns in college politics. At the present time there are seven fraternities in the college and five sororities.

The Nebraska Alpha chapter of the Phi Delta Theta was organized first in 1875. The last time in December, 1883. Its colors are blue and white. Its publication is "The Scroll," published at Columbus, O. The rooms are at Tenth and O streets and are most pleasantly located and handsomely furnished. There are six rooms in all with a large room for dancing. In one of the rooms the men have a very fine collection of posters; it is perhaps one of the best in the state. It has fifteen men active at this time. The charter members were: Messrs. Churchill, George Frankforter, Force, Conway McMillan, Fulmer, Coding, Canaday and Anderson.

One of the oldest chapters in the school is the Sigma Chi. It was organized January 11, 1883. It is known as the Alpha Epsilon chapter. Its colors are blue and gold. The pin is in the shape of a cross. Its national publication is the "Sigma Chi Quarterly," published in Chicago. During the thirteen years in which the chapter has been in existence sixty-four men have been members. In that time there have been but two deaths. The rooms are on the Halter block. They are commodious and tastefully furnished. A large smoking room, a fine large reception room where dancing parties may be given and a number of sleeping rooms constitute the domicile. The walls are hung with pictures of the different classes and some individual pictures of former members of the fraternity. At the present time there are sixteen active members in the chapter. The charter members were: Messrs. Clement Chase, Wheeler, Rich, Myron Wheeler, Wood, Lichty, Frank Wheeler and Clark.

The Beta Theta Pi local chapter is known as the Alpha Tau. Its colors are pink and blue. Its magazine is the Beta Theta Pi monthly. Its flower is the carnation. It was organized November 22, 1888. The house is at 1023 H street, and it is one of the finest in the city. It is very nicely furnished, home-like and pleasant. The boys are good entertainers and give enjoyable parties very often. There are nineteen men in the chapter. The charter members were: Messrs. Mathewson, jr.,

Manley, Reese, Platt, Scharmann, Nicholson, Stout and McDonald.

Lambda Pi chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon was organized May 26, 1893. It has always been a vigorous and strong chapter. Its colors are royal purple and old gold. The pin is in the shape of a diamond. The publication is the "Record of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," published at Boston, Mass. The rooms are in the Harris block on N street near Twelfth. They have been very prettily furnished and make a fine home for the boys from out of town. The rooms are so arranged that they may be turned into one large hall for dancing. The walls are decorated with pictures of the fraternity flower, the violet, and groups of the men taken at different years. At the present time there are eighteen active members. The charter members were: Messrs. Willits Sawyer, Bross, Gund, Avery, Houghton, Tefft and Hadley.

The Beta Tau chapter of Delta Tau Delta was organized April 7, 1894. Its colors are purple, gold and white. Its flower is the pansy. Its publication is the "Rainbow" published at Boston. The house is at 435 North Twenty-fifth street. It is a brick house containing fifteen rooms and is furnished elegantly. A grand piano in the front parlor and many pictures and articles of bric-a-brac make the rooms look homelike and comfortable. The fraternity has always been noted for its activity in college politics. The active membership at present is thirteen. The charter members were: Messrs. Whitmore, Strode, Gerrard, Johnson, Brown, Weaver, Wilson, McMullen, J. M. Johnson and Dern.

One of the largest chapters in the city is the Phi Kappa Psi. It was organized March 23, 1895. The local chapter is known as the Nebraska Alpha. Its colors are pink and lavender and the pin is in the shape of a shield. The national publication is called "The Shield" and is a very fine magazine, published at Chicago. Phi Kappa Psi house is at 1134 G street, and is a commodious and pleasant home. There are eleven large rooms and two long halls. The house is old-fashioned and quaint and is just an ideal place for a home for young men. There are innumerable doors, plenty of closets and the wood work is of that ornate sort that was much in vogue when the house was built. The boys have furnished it tastefully and the walls are adorned with pictures of the different groups of men who have belonged to the organization. Twenty men are now active members. Recently a series of Sunday afternoon talks by professors of the university have been inaugurated. They are exclusively for men who belong to the chapter. The charter members were: Messrs. Bentley, Brown, Hildreth, I. M. Bentley, Oberleis, Powers, Kimball, Wilson, Sedgwick, Morrow, Straussman, Suddeth, Barber, Reed, C. Hildreth, Norton, Rowe and Cary.

Besides these organizations there is one other that is called the Sophomore fraternity. It is known as the Theta Nu Epsilon. It was organized June 1, 1895. Its members are taken mostly from the other fraternities. One of the peculiarities of the organization is the fact that the men are initiated sub-rosa at the end of the freshman year but they do not come out until the end of the Sophomore year. It is the most secret of any of the fraternities and is noted for the fearfulness of its initiations. Its pin is significant, a skull with jeweled eyes with crossed keys beneath. There are twenty men in the local chapter. The charter members were: Messrs.

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There is also a fraternity in the school that is composed mostly of men who belong to other fraternities. It is the Phi Delta Phi fraternity. The colors are pearl, blue and claret red. It was organized June 10, 1895. The rooms are at 1327 O street, and are mostly used for study rooms. It is the plan of the fraternity to establish a law library and to that end a good collection of books has been begun. There are fourteen active members. The charter members were: Messrs. Stroman, Mentzer, Pizey, McArthur, Marley, Wing, Neal, Wilson, Raymond, Greene, Johnson and Whipple.

There are five sororities in the college. They are all vigorous and growing. They make themselves felt socially and comprise some of the best students in the school. They have no chapter house as yet but some of them are looking toward that dignity. The sororities are: Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma, Pi Beta Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta.  
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