



PSI



# PARTHENON

ALPHA ZETA DELTA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Remarks From The #1

Things just keep getting better and better here at Alpha Zeta Delta. But before I go into a detailed description of our fantastic fall rush, as well as everything else good that is happening here at the Lodge, I want to first pose a challenge to every Chi Psi reading this article.

Come visit us! Or call us. Or send us a letter. Anything to let us know that you're out there! We're very lonely down here, and we're not very good at Whales' Tails. We need your help. I call on every Chi Psi who ever called his home the Lodge to renew your faith in your brotherhood, dust off your badge, and come be welcomed amongst us as a friend and brother once again. I challenge you to visit us at least once this year. If that's out of the question, to at least communicate with us one time. Here's why...

We're up to 30. With 8 excellent pledges this fall, our membership has finally climbed above the Mendoza line. And with 5 or 6 other solid prospects already for the spring, we have a good chance at starting next year above 30 as well, despite many brothers graduating.

This also marks the first year that the Buell Scholarship has proved to be an invaluable rush tool. We

gave out 3 scholarships at the Awards Banquet on Aug. 28, at which Dave Romoser, ZΔ '65, was the keynote speaker. And for the first time in the history of the Buell Scholarship, all three winners have since pledged. Many other finalists were bid and are considering pledging in the spring. This success comes after a refinement in the interviewing process, and I am confident that we will build on this success next year and continue to pledge many more Buell applicants.

The Lodge itself has become a better place to live this year also. For the first time since moving into the current Lodge, we finally have a food service. We also have an ISDN line installed in the Lodge now, so that the brothers have high-speed internet access. These improvements were made not only to make the Lodge a more comfortable place to live, but to also make it more attractive to rushees in an effort to get more guys living here. With every pledge living in, I'm confident that the Lodge will be close to capacity next year.

Scholastically, our GPA took a slight blow last semester, falling from 2.955 to 2.863. We were ranked 32nd out of 51 fraternities. However, we have two Scholarship

Chairmen this semester who are implementing programs to remedy this situation.

We're making progress, gentlemen. And we're making it faster than you may think. We've all put a lot of hard work into making the Lodge what it is. But we haven't just done it for ourselves. It's for you too.

We also have a home game November 20th (Northwestern). If any of you want to experience Illini Football again, give me a call at (217) 328-3802 and I will get you a ticket with us. Looking ahead, April 8 is the spring Alumni Recognition Dinner. It will be held in the Chicagoland area, so mark your calendars now and be there for that.

Finally, Initiation is Dec. 3-4. If at all possible, please be here for that. Come help us welcome these 8 gentlemen into the brotherhood. I think if you truly want to rejuvenate you Chi Psi juices, this event will do the trick.

Y.I.T.B.,  
Matt Hess, '00

Get on the AZΔ Alumni Mailing List!  
Send email to  
[AZDalumni-subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:AZDalumni-subscribe@onelist.com)

# Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi Educational Foundation

The Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi Educational Foundation, thanks to a generous grant from the alumni following the sale of the Lodge at 912 South Second, now provides much needed assistance to Chi Psi at Illinois. The Foundation offers 3 scholarships to undergraduate members of Chi Psi in recognition of all-around excellence as well as a financial award recognizing the Brother or pledge with the highest GPA each semester.

The Foundation also offers need-based financial assistance to Brothers in good academic standing to ensure that every Brother is able to afford the cost of finishing his college education. In addition, the Foundation makes a generous grant to the Alpha every year to assist with the purchase of computers and other educational technology and to ensure the

Lodge has appropriate facilities for studying and connecting to the University computer network. All of these programs benefit the members of Chi Psi, without a doubt, but they also provide a recruiting edge by placing Chi Psi as a leader among fraternities in providing an environment conducive to academic success.

Another program offered by the Foundation is the Temple Hoyne Buell Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is offered to incoming freshmen as a way of recognizing young men that have demonstrated excellent in the ideals of Chi Psi. It is a great way to give back to the community as well as an excellent way to identify and reach prospective new members that meet the high standards of Chi Psi.

Despite a large endowment

## Spring of 2000 Officers

#1	Glen Scott
#2	Nick Stevens
#3	Eric Prester
#4	Mike Thomas
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### Alumni Corporation Undergraduate Trustees

Glen Scott  
Nick Stevens  
Eric Prester  
Mike Thomas

Matt Hess can be contacted at:  
**217-328-3802**

thanks to the proceeds of the sale of the old Lodge, the Foundation needs your tax-deductible financial support to be able to continue to fund programs like this into the future. Future generations of Chi Psi thank you.

## Alumni Corporation Board of Trustees

#1 Todd Fouts	630-208-6459
#2 Craig Schallmo	708-535-3909
#3 Tim Toner	773-788-0908
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### Trustees:

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Chi Psi National 708-283-1480

Standing in the office one day at school, I overheard two of my African American colleagues describing their time in college. For them, the reason for joining a fraternity or sorority was less a need for fellowship, and more an act of survival. There weren't any Black Student Unions or other 'entitlements' (as I've heard them called by 'friends'). The fraternity gave them something they couldn't get anywhere else. It existed as a sanctuary in a sea of racial indifference. As the wise man said, the opposite of love isn't hate—it's indifference.

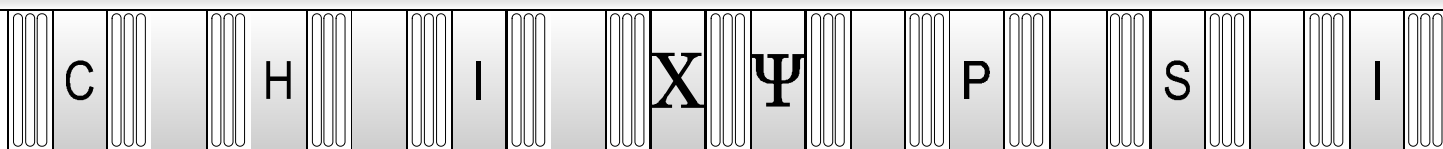
As they continued, one described an event that happened a month before. He was bringing his car to be tuned in preparation for a trip to Michigan. While there, he noticed a woman he had never met before who had the insignia of a sorority he knew quite well on a necklace. They began to chat, and he discovered that she needed to attend a wedding in northern Indiana, but her transmission was history. On the spot, he offered to drive her there himself. She agreed with little hesitation, and they had a great time on the trip.

After they arrived, he asked her why she trusted him, a total stranger. She replied, "Oh, I know your fraternity. They would never let you join unless you were a man of character."

That, my brothers, is what fraternities are all about.

Tim Toner, '92

MY TURN



# A Letter from the President

I love e-mail. It keeps me in touch with the activities at the Lodge better than ever before. Somehow the difference in schedules between college students and alumni make telephone contact rare, and the mail is just too slow. E-mail, on the other hand, is fast, cheap, and convenient. The best part, though, is getting e-mails like the one that came from the #1, Matt Hess, earlier this week.

Matt was just dropping a line with a regular update on what I'm missing in Champaign. The message was, as usual, entitled simply "Stuff," so I had no clue what to expect. After all, "stuff" can be good, bad, neither, or both. This time turned out to be good. Without much fanfare, Matt informed me that rush was going particularly well and there were already seven pledges. To some of you old-timers, this may seem small, but it is already one of the biggest classes in the past ten years. The better news was that we managed to recruit this class without any sacrifice on our high standards for prospective members, and two of the three Buell Scholarship winners were among the seven. To top it off, though, Matt went on to say that there were several bids outstanding and we would likely find ourselves with a double-digit pledge class for the first time since I was a pledge in 1986. I won't wager a guess at the final number, but we'll surely know by the time that this issue of the Parthenon reaches your eyes.

I'm not just excited about promising recruiting numbers. I am truly impressed with the quality of the fraternity experience offered to Chi Psis at Illinois in 1999. The cohesiveness of the Brotherhood is unparalleled on campus, and there is an exceptional commitment to excellence. As an example, for the past several years, Chi Psi has been a leader on campus scholastically. The past year saw a drop in Lodge GPA, but the men responded responsibly by implementing new initiatives, including mandatory study hours, to push Chi Psi back to the top of all fraternities academically—where we should be. It is the little things that make a fraternity great, and Alpha Zeta Delta is doing the little things. Another thing that makes a fraternity great is the in-

volvement of alumni. The strongest Alphas of Chi Psi and the strongest chapters of other fraternities are those with the greatest alumni support. Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi at Illinois is at its strongest point since losing the Lodge at 912 S. Second, but we need more alumni support to help push us into the ranks of the strongest fraternities at Illinois. We are at a crucial turning point right now, with new momentum and quality members, but we are still walking a financial tightrope.

As always, I promise to only ask for financial assistance once a year, and now is the time. Your contribution of \$35 dues (\$20 for the classes of '95-99) will help show the Alpha how much the alumni care. Your contribution will allow the Alumni Corporation to be able to offset the costs of providing support to the undergraduates, including the increasing cost of alumni communications such as the Parthenon. Contributions in excess of the recommended dues level are always greatly appreciated.

Another important way for alumni to ensure the success of the Alpha is by simply being there. Call the Lodge and let the Brothers know that you care. Stop by the Lodge for Initiation

(December 3-4), or whenever. As I said before, it is the little things that make a fraternity great. The undergraduates are doing the little things. Now it is our turn.

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The cohesiveness  
of the Brotherhood  
is unparalleled on  
campus, and there  
is an exceptional  
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excellence.

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I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.  
*Mark Twain (1835-1910)*

Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything  
he learned in school.  
*Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*

Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive;  
easy to govern but impossible to enslave.  
*Henry Peter Brougham, Baron*

# "T he U.S. Brig Somers capsized and sank in a gale off Veracruz, Mexico, on December 8, 1846. It was a fitting end for a ship with a foul history that inadvertently gave birth to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*."

## Caught in the Web

The Curse of the Somers: Billy Budd's Ghost Ship  
<http://chipsihero.com/somers/somersIndex.htm>



"Built as a naval training vessel, the Somers seemed cursed from its 1842 launch. During a torturous 6 month voyage in which demonic Captain Mackenzie ordered 2,265 lashings to the crew with a cat-o-nine tails, 18 year old midshipman Philip Spencer's offhand remark about seizing command resulted in his hanging without a trial, an action that inspired Melville's last novel."

Michael Rogers  
*Library Journal* - July, 1996

The mystery of whether or not a mutiny ever occurred on the US Somers has been a hotly debated issue for more than 150 years. The circumstances leading up to the incident, allegedly led by Midshipman Philip Spencer, and its tragic aftermath are among the strangest in naval history. Conflicting truths and rumors to this day only add to the confusing story."

"Before his death, however, Lt. Gansevoort confided to his cousin, Herman Melville, the truth about the shipboard trial of Philip Spencer. Gansevoort related that after the kangaroo court on board the Somers, he reported to Commander Mackenzie that the officers were unable to reach a verdict as to the guilt or innocence of the accused prisoners ---"

A.B. Feuer  
*NAVAL History* - April, 1994

In 1984, San Francisco undersea explorer George Belcher was asked by Mexican officials to search for historic shipwrecks around the port of Veracruz. His fascinating search began with the discovery of the Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Mexico, issued in 1847. This Mexican War era map contains a small inset of the port of Veracruz with the notation "Loss of U.S. Brig Somers Dec. 8, 1846". George and his brother, Joel, led an expedition team to the area indicated on the map. But success eluded them, and they returned to the U.S. to conduct more research.

Further research revealed in more precise detail the location and depth of the shipwreck. The expedition returned to Veracruz, and on June 2, 1986 in a driving rainstorm, George and

Joel dove directly to the wreck of the Somers.

In May 1987, George and Joel Belcher returned to the Somers site along with a film crew and shipwreck archaeologists Jim Delgado and Dr. Mitchell Marken. Delgado (formerly Maritime Historian for the National Park Service and now Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum) was able to confidently identify the shipwreck as the U.S. Brig Somers while Dr. Marken (formerly of the Institute of Maritime Studies, University of St. Andrews, Scotland and now an archaeology consultant based in Reno, Nevada) completed a preliminary archaeological survey of the shipwreck. Filled with thousands of artifacts, the wreck has been called "a time capsule from its period with everything a U.S. warship in 1846 would have had on it."

Because the Somers has been described as "an archaeologist's dream and one of the only shipwrecks of its time period", George and Joel Belcher have worked to protect the site. In 1990, as a result of their efforts, archaeologists from the U. S. National Parks Service and Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology and History met in Veracruz for the first joint government underwater archaeological expedition undertaken in the Americas. The goodwill and cooperation exhibited by both countries was particularly notable since the wreck represents a ship lost in a bitter war between them. To view some of the artifacts, continue to the next page.

Learn more about the controversial "mutiny" aboard the Somers, the hanging of midshipman Philip Spencer and the court-martial of Captain Alexander Slidell Mackenzie. Watch historians debate the Somers Mutiny Affair, an incident that inspired Herman Melville's novel *Billy Budd* and led to the founding in 1845 of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Take part in an expedition of shipwreck discovery and travel with the Belcher brothers and their team of underwater archaeologists as they explore and map the Somers shipwreck.

Experience the terror of the Somers crew when the Somers heels over in a sudden gale off Veracruz in 1846 during the opening months of the Mexican War. Follow along to learn about the Somers' reputation as a ship haunted by the ghosts of the hanged mutineers. Form your own opinion about Philip Spencer. Was he guilty of mutiny? Or, as most of his Chi Psi fraternity brothers and many others believe, was it murder? This 55 minute, prize winning film blends historical illustrations with live underwater footage and narration by Peter Coyote. The soundtrack features traditional 19th century songs and sea chanties by Victory at Sea. Well suited for either educational or personal use, this film will be a prized addition to your library. Educational versions include a 32 page bound