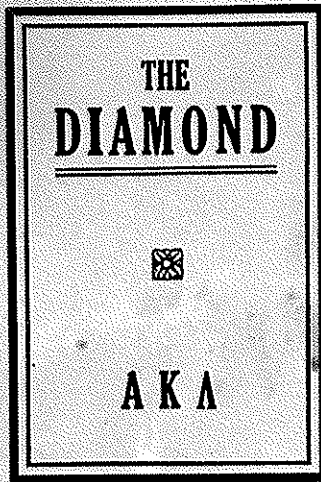


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## The University and the Fraternity

JAMES TURNER ALLEN *A K A*

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“A BAND of brothers feeling a lively interest in the reputation of their chapter, and in the character and conduct of all its members, in their social gatherings, their literary exercises, their mutual personal influence, and above all in the watch and care of the older and wiser over the younger, less mature, and perhaps less studious members, they guard the morals, correct the faults, stir the ambition, cultivate the manners and taste, elevate the scholarship—in a word, form the character, and fashion the life of the membership, and so contribute no unimportant element to the order, decorum, scholarship and culture of the whole college. In fact, they act an important part in the system of self-government and training for the duties of citizenship in a free country.”

These inspiring words of the late Professor Tyler of Amherst—“Old Ty,” as the students affectionately called him—beautifully express the aspirations of the founders of Alpha Kappa Lambda. The ideal is set high, and even if once reached were difficult to maintain. But surely the goal is worth the effort, not only for the sake of the chapter itself but also for that of the larger community of which the chapter is already an integral part.

The Greek-letter fraternity is peculiarly an American institution; and, in all of the older, as in most of the younger, colleges, seems to be immovably rooted. It is interesting to recall that the first college fraternity to acquire national significance was the Phi Beta Kappa, which was founded one hundred forty-five years ago and which during the first sixty years of its existence was a secret society. Then, as now, high standing in scholarship was the chief criterion according to which Phi Beta Kappa selected its members. But the majority of the younger fraternities have been erected upon a different foundation—a foundation to which scholarly endeavor, in some, if not in most, cases, has contributed but an insignificant part.

There are those who earnestly deprecate fraternity life; some even roundly condemn it. And why? Is it not because some chapters have proven false to the high principles of the founders of their order, while others, mayhap, have builded from the beginning upon the shifting sands of social distinction? In such instances criticism is deserved and is often generously bestowed. And yet when rightly conducted, and when guided by such noble principles as those which underlay the foundation of Alpha Kappa Lambda, a fraternity can be one of the most valuable institutions in college life—a home in which the older men stand as elder brothers and as fathers to the younger, a shelter where may grow

Before the altar of our dear desires,  
We place our candles, light them one by one;  
Devout, from dawning day to setting sun,  
Our hopes glow ever with these sacred fires.  
O tell me not, in vain the soul aspires!  
Yet e'er the night of doubt its course has run,  
In tearless agony—all prayers foredone—  
We watch: each candle flickers, and expires.  
We ask, and ask amiss. O gentle Light,  
Illume the path we fellow-travellers go!  
Help us to aid our brother on his way.  
Of earth and time, dispel th' erroneous night;  
Aletheia kai Logos, hail! We know  
We shall some morning greet th' Eternal Day.

—L. S. A'17

and bloom friendships of man for man, as sweet and abiding as that between Jonathan and David. Than this there is nothing more precious in life. It is even as Bacon saith: "No receipt openeth the heart but a true friend, to whom you may impart griefs, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, counsels, and whatsoever lieth upon the heart to oppress it, in a kind of civil shrift or confession." And it is just this nourishing of the individual soul that constitutes the largest potential service of the chapter to its college. For under wise direction, the fraternity can do for its members certain things which class-room and instructor cannot accomplish.

At this time, therefore, when Alpha Kappa Lambda is seeking to enlarge the boundaries of its influence and is even looking eagerly forward to the hour of national recognition; at a time, too, when, the country over, there is a revitalized interest in scholarship among fraternity men and college faculties, were it not well for our chapter to ask again whereunto its purposes tend? The new fraternity which proposes to knock for admission at the doors of other colleges could do nothing wiser, nothing more tactful, than to re-emphasize its unshaken belief in the importance of high scholarship achievement. Colleges do not need and are not seeking additional fraternities as mere social groups. But they will welcome and will heartily support a new fraternity with an high ideal; and this it is within the power of Alpha Kappa Lambda, with its fine scholarly tradition from the days of Los Amigos, to claim. And as a sort of guiding principle of our fraternity life I propose the famous words of Pericles, as reported by Thucydides: "We study elegance with simplicity; we pursue culture without weakness."

## The Junior and the Fraternity

GEORGE LAWRENCE MAXWELL A'17

THE JUNIOR YEAR is perhaps the most crucial of a man's career in college, and especially is this true of the fraternity man. It is during the third year that a man usually finally decides on the lines of work, activities and recreation which he expects to follow to the end of his course. While an underclassman, a student may sample here and there and seek about for the best, but the Junior year is the time for a man to apply what he has learned from the experience of the two previous years. He must choose his major subject and stick to it; he must determine which activities he is best suited to and concentrate on them; and he must determine what his attitude will be toward his fraternity.

Every Junior owes it to himself and to his fraternity to be well established in some activity. The fraternity is judged by its members; and those members who have most influence individually in campus life will also carry the most influence for the fraternity. As a Senior, a fraternity man should be a leader; as a Junior, he must make the preparations necessary to insure his influence during the Senior year.

There is, however, a danger that activities will be carried too far at the expense of scholarship. A man is fighting for his place on the team, on the staff, or wherever his interests may lie; he puts his best into the activity, and his studies often suffer. Fraternity scholarship must be upheld if fraternities are to justify their existence; and Alpha Kappa Lambda scholarship should be upheld above that of all other fraternities.

The Junior fraternity man must determine what his attitude shall be toward his fraternity. He is coming into positions of influence on the campus and in the fraternity, and is brought face to face with the question: Shall the fraternity be an adjunct to my life, equal perhaps to activities and studies, but centering about my own selfish interests? Or shall it be the one thing to which I give my entire service, toward which I contribute, not only in strictly fraternity service, but in my scholarship, my campus activities and my social life? He may be given some relatively unimportant position on a fraternity committee; some campus activity or social engagement calls him to neglect his committee work; and it is too often the fraternity work that suffers. Yet if the Junior is to be the leader in his fraternity during the coming year; if, as is the case in Alpha Kappa Lambda, he is to have a responsible place in the great task of expansion before us, it is essential that he acquaint himself with the details of the fraternity, that he serve well and faithfully in a position of less responsibility before he is given the greater task.

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## Rules and Precedents in a Fraternity

JOHN WESLEY COULTER A'18

THE DISCIPLINE acquired in adjusting one's temper to that of the other members of a common household is of unquestioned value. We have experienced this discipline, if one may call it such, as we sat around the home fireside. We experience it in the college fraternity which is the home of many students during the four years of their undergraduate course. The difference between the two is that the responsibility of the management of the home falls solely upon the parents; while the responsibility of the welfare of the fraternity is divided between the brothers who have chosen to live together and enjoy the mutual social and educational advantages which membership in a Greek-letter organization offers.

Rules and precedents are established in a chapter with the idea of teaching undergraduates social discipline, good business habits, and as an incentive to scholarship. What may at one time be freedom regarding certain actions, may in time develop into recognized precedent. Precedent, in turn, may ultimately become authority for establishing a standing rule.

The inspiration of rules as against precedents varies according to the one governed. The necessity of managing one of your own mates requires tact. Rules, mere rules, much as we sometimes scorn them, do lead man on slowly and securely to a higher plane. He who has learned the Ten Commandments and kept them from his youth up, is very apt to end on the level where it is natural to love goodness with all his heart and his neighbor as himself.

The inspiration of established precedent is often very helpful in carrying out the duties of a fraternity. Yet custom may be a tyrant. To be governed by the idea that what fitted the past must necessarily fit the present, what guided our grandfathers should lead us, is not always wise.

The proper government of a chapter is a strict one with the power in the hands of the upper classmen, especially the Seniors, who are in turn held accountable to alumni who are in direct contact with the fraternity. Such a condition ensures the success of a chapter, and the effect on the undergraduates is highly beneficial.

Age, wealth or numbers are not criterions of fraternities. The result which the fraternity works out in the lives of its individual members is what counts. And the influence of a fraternity is not only confined to its members, but whether good, bad or indifferent, it is felt on the campus of every college where such an organization exists.

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## The Freshman and His Fraternity

ROLLAND ARCHIBALD WAY A'19

OUR WORLD is a world of divisions, of factions. Whether it be in social or in political life, in the synod or in the council chamber, it is inevitable that cliques and parties will be formed. The university being in, and essentially a part of the world, we are not surprised to find similar conditions existing, exemplified in the Greek-letter societies. Our desire would be to have the college world an absolute unit, knowing nothing of such divisions, but as long as society remains constituted as it is, we can only suggest that the fraternity policy be made democratic and altruistic.

The Freshman coming into the fraternity should recognize this principle. He must at the outset realize that his first duty is toward moral and civic righteousness, and only inasmuch as his fraternity policy is positively in accordance with this principle, can it lay any claim to his allegiance.

We would not wish to be understood as believing that fraternity life should not be taken seriously. The warmth of fellowship between men of similar tastes and purposes, mutual esteem, and a pervading spirit of sympathy, helpfulness and generosity—all tend to make life in a fraternity highly enjoyable and inspiring. Each Freshman should study to make his fraternity the best one on the campus, and his chapter the leader in the national organization.

On the other hand, the fraternity should not be taken too seriously. It is to be remembered that there are other fraternities and fraternity men. Wisdom will not die with us. Much that is noteworthy in the world has been accomplished not only by men who wore no Greek pins at all, but also by those who wore a different one from our own.

Though it is quite natural that our warmest friends will be found among our fraternity brothers, do not stop here. Have a large number of acquaintances and some friends outside of the "charmed circle." One of the chief ends of a college education is to enable us to recognize a good man when we see him; and by admitting such a one into our confidence, we shall be proving the dictum: "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise."

Lastly, do not allow the organization to overshadow or dwarf the individual. Let our personality assert itself. Never consent to trickery or chicanery for the presumed good of the order, but make our fraternity ideal, God and His righteousness; and when in the darkest hours this glorious goal seems almost to fade from sight, let our voice ring out encouragement, saying: "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

## Afterward

'Twas not so many years ago—

I climbed these stairs by twos and threes,  
Young man; but now, grown old and slow  
I use a cane, and when I go,  
I feel I've lost my youthful ease.

The library had closed, and I

Walked briskly down some campus path,  
While fellow-students passing by

Discussed athletics, girls, and "math."  
The night was gray and cold, and yet  
It breathed of life that knows no chill:  
Intense, compelling in its thrill.

The fragrance of a cigarette—

An ukulele and a song—

A passing "co-ed's" laughing face—

A hand-clasp at a parting place—

A last "good-night, Bob, and so-long!"

Once home I raced upstairs, and then

My own room windows opened wide.

I sat and peered awhile outside

Ere turning to my books again.

Far out into the night I gazed;

The street-sounds slowly died away;

I heard my neighbor's window raised.

My thoughts, far-drifting, where, I cannot say;

That was so long ago.

But this I know:

My entire being seemed to be

A note in some supreme and silent harmony.

Oh, yes. Pray pardon me, my friend,

I reminisce more than I mean to do.

(Unlike youth, memories have no end)—

You wish to go, for you've a class at two.

Yet stay—upon that window-sill

There was (indeed there may be still)

A knife-carved legend to be seen:

My spectacles—there, yes, quite clear

The letters are if one stand near:

"L. S." and "U. C. '17."

## A Senior's Viewpoint

OLIVER PRINCE SMITH A'16

AT TIMES when the fellows gather around the open grate, and when the feeling of good-fellowship is at its best, there comes momentarily to some of us a feeling of depression. Perhaps it is a realization that at least in a tangible way this good fellowship will be lost to us before long; but with this thought comes the reassurance that the fraternity is not a physical creation that is limited by the four walls of the fraternity house, or by the atmosphere of the university. The fraternity exists wherever the spirit of the fraternity exists; and cannot each member of Alpha Kappa Lambda take with him the spirit of Aletheia kai Logos when he goes out into the world?

That which is worth having is well worth working for. We know the worth of our fraternity, and it calls for service. One receives bountifully of the good of Alpha Kappa Lambda in the four years he is in college, and since he has freely received, surely he should freely give. One should never allow himself to become a debtor to the fraternity in that service to which he has pledged himself in accepting our motto.

Naturally, the classes coming into the fraternity year by year look to those above to show them for what Alpha Kappa Lambda stands. Therefore the Senior's responsibility is great in the guidance of those who will take his place. The college public also judges the fraternity by its membership, and naturally looks to the upper classes as the logical representatives, for they have felt longest the touch of fraternity affiliation.

Of perhaps more personal consideration, are the friendships that are being crystallized in the chapter house in the last year of college. In our Freshman year we made friends, but without any clear insight into their real worth. Ours was more acceptance than selection. We were thrown together, therefore became Freshmen friends. In the Sophomore year, this friendship takes on more of the spirit of good-fellowship. Having surmounted the difficulties of the first year, the Sophomore seems to enjoy a short respite before beginning the more serious work of the Junior year. Therefore his friendships are of a more care-free nature. The Sophomore is learning that there are great opportunities for enjoyment of which his newness had deprived him in his Freshman year; and this attitude is reflected in his choice of friends. To the Junior comes the realization that he must prepare himself to go out into the world; and he begins the really serious preparation for his life work. His attitude toward his studies is reflected in his attitude toward his associates. He is drawn to men of types that are congenial, and cultivates their acquaintance. When the Junior be-

comes a Senior, with the prospect of separation, these friends he had begun to cultivate in his Junior year appear to him in their true worth.

In his admiration of the best types, both in and outside of the fraternity, the Senior can be a potent influence in guiding the younger men in the forming of their friendships; for the Freshman finds himself forced to make new acquaintances when he reaches the university, and as some of these are destined to develop into friendships which will influence his whole life, it is essential that he should choose them well.



SOME university undergraduates count themselves as so many grains of corn in a bushel, and blame their luck because, like some of the more prominent of their fellow students, they have not had the good fortune to be "popped."

J. W. C. A'18.

## Editorial Paragraphs

To many non-organization men a fraternity pin is but a key, which opens mysteriously the many doors of social and political advancement in college circles. It is unfortunate that these men see only this shallow reason for our membership in a Greek-letter society. However, it is indeed more serious that we have allowed the ideal of the fraternity to degenerate, in the minds of some, from organizations of friendship and service, symbolized by the emblems which we wear, to mere cliques based upon past and potential personal achievement.

A wonderful privilege is given to the men of Alpha Kappa Lambda. We have become the builders of a fraternity. The plans, the mechanics, the spirit, the future are all dependent on our efforts. As we build, we must build well and permanently. But let us remember that the building of a fraternity should serve only for the building of men. Constructive traditions, fraternity spirit, college democracy, are indispensable means in this development; yet many college men lapse into the error of mistaking them for ends. We must not let the facts of every-day campus life obscure our vision of the essential truth upon which a genuine fraternity is built.

The responsibility of a fraternity man does not cease at graduation; and as an alumnus his chief duties are not the writing of occasional letters or the paying of an assessment. He has been trained by his four-years' membership, and is now ready for a position of national leadership. We should do away with the old distinction of active and alumni members. All are active, and the term "alumnus" means only that the brother, in graduating from his college and in quitting the local chapter of his fraternity, has enlarged the field of his activity. In all matters, the alumnus should hold himself ready for any service which is beyond the reach of the individual chapters.

The realization that there exist other fraternities is truly essential to the growth of any organization. To Banta's Greek Letter Exchange we owe in this respect a debt of gratitude; and to our members, we recommend it as a means of strengthening and cementing our broader fraternal interests.

The many conventions of the Greek-letter societies held so recently on our coast have meant much to the men of our organization. We have been impressed by the broadness and value of it

all. The seriousness of problems, the necessity of true fellowship, and the vastness of the whole fraternity movement have made us eager for that day when we, too, shall sit in conclave, and shall participate in the interfraternity conference. Because of this contact with other Greeks, we men of Alpha Kappa Lambda have caught a truer and wider vision of the national fraternity.

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Every now and then each fraternity man should take a personal inventory of his worth in the organization. Is the chapter better or worse because of my association with it? In Alpha Kappa Lambda, organized as we are on constructive Christian standards, we must take care that our efforts are positive, not negative in nature. As in life, so here, our keynote should be service, not narrow personal service, but a broad altruistic spirit of doing something for the other fellow. Whether we are asked to serve as a national director or to serve on a menial committee of some chapter, our motive should always be the same—the good of the order. It is more of the self-sacrificing spirit our fraternity is demanding. The man who says "I haven't the time," and the man who says "I haven't the ability" are only too often those men who should say "I haven't the love of my fraternity deep in my heart." It isn't so much the need of leaders which the Greek-letter societies are feeling today. Rather it is the art of loyal following which has been lost. Let us fellows remember that each day we have a chance to broaden or lessen the influence of Alpha Kappa Lambda. Each word, each action, each thought, reflects upon the organization to which a man belongs. As members, we must be willing sometimes to lead and oftentimes to follow; and to do it not only for Alpha Kappa Lambda, but because of those things for which we stand: "Aletheia kai Logos."

—H. A. D. A'16.

## On Interfraternity Relations

KNOWLES AUGUSTUS RYERSON A'16

FRATERNITIES serve many purposes. Within the fraternity itself during college and in after life, many duties and obligations present themselves. Beyond these there are well recognized duties toward the institution within which they find themselves, and because of which, fraternities are able to exist. The maintenance of college traditions, college discipline, college standards, and scholarship depend upon close co-operation between the student body and the faculty. This co-operation is brought about through the harmonious and unified action of the groups within the college or university, of which groups, the fraternities are the most potent and prominent. Working as individual organizations against each other, fraternities can accomplish but little; petty rivalries, jealousies, and misunderstandings too easily creep in. A sympathetic understanding and acquaintance with each other is the basis upon which effective co-operation can be fostered. Not enough attention has been paid to the possible means of attaining this basis of mutual helpfulness and appreciation. Conferences, athletic contests, and social gatherings such as dinners and dances are all factors in bringing about interfraternity co-operation.

There are still other roads leading toward the same goal. It little matters how it is reached, just so it is attained. In these days, when fraternities are being attacked from within and without university circles, it behooves them to show their worth at every opportunity. The united effort of all Greek letter organizations of any institution directed toward the upholding of the best that the institution stands for, is bound to have its favorable effect. Fraternities are under fire; their actions and motives are carefully scrutinized. Here as elsewhere, unity of purpose and unity of action are imperative; they must stand together. In the working out of the present problems confronting them, there will also be other benefits besides that of justification in the public eye. In the working together for that which is beyond the limits of any one organization, there will be found developing a new mutual interest and friendliness among all fraternities which cannot help but make for a broader, finer fraternal life for each man.

