

News



LETTERS

Sigma Nu... And Sororities Too

Editor:

As a member and officer in my sorority, I applaud the bravery of Sigma Nu in deciding to reorganize their chapter (Berkeleyan Sept. 4). However, according to the new definition of "substance-free," Sigma Nu is not alone.

It is my understanding that all of the National Panhellenic Conference sororities represented on campus, all of which own chapter houses, are substance-free.

My sorority does not allow alcohol or drugs inside the chapter house under any circumstances. If there were a fire in our house and a single bottle were found, our insurance policy wouldn't pay a dime.

It has been my experience that the "noise, disruption and peer pressure that exists in many houses" doesn't exist at mine.

Hazing is against the law here, and while I know it still exists, everyone knows the penalties for hazing are stiff.

I have never been hazed and I have never forced anyone to do anything degrading against their will. It goes against everything a sorority or fraternity stands for.

The media may applaud the efforts of this single house because of the "Animal House" stereotype that it refuses to research.

Sororities have had to take action because of it, and I think it's a good thing. But we've been "a fraternity for the '90s," as you put it, for a very long time.

Young women have been coming to my "clean, well-lighted place to study and make friends" since 1914. My mother did in 1966. I pledged in 1993, and I have never regretted it for a moment.

I have grown and been allowed to be myself, and my house has given me leadership opportunities and a very diverse group of women who wish only to succeed in their endeavors and have a little fun along the way.

Eileen O'Neill
Vice President-
Member Development
Alpha Gamma Delta
Omicron Chapter

Faculty Sought For Education Abroad Posts

Faculty are invited to apply for directorship positions in the University's Education Abroad Program for the academic years 1997-98 and 1998-99.

One and two-year appointments will be made for Beijing; Cairo; Bordeaux/Toulouse; Tokyo; Yokohama; Madrid; London; Delhi; Moscow; Budapest and Lund, Sweden.

For further information or to obtain an application packet, contact Kathleen Ranney, Universitywide Office, Education Abroad Program, UCSB, by phone at (805) 893-3677/2748, by fax at (805) 893-2583, or

Bear Fountain Renaissance

Smashed by a Truck Almost Forty Years Ago, Its Myriad Ties to Campus Come to Light on Its Rebuilding

by Fran Marsh

What is a Berkeley vice chancellor doing at Marin Circle on a rainy Sunday morning with a pitcher of water?

He—and scores of other folks with campus ties—have joined 3,000 neighbors to dedicate a North Berkeley fountain.

The Sept. 15 dedication, one of the largest ceremonial events in the history of the city, illustrates both civic pride and the extent of connections between campus and community.

"It's a piece of public art that people can identify with and understand," said Steve Finacom, a planning analyst in Physical and Environmental Planning. "You don't need an artist's explanation to tell you what it is."

The fountain replaced an original, Berkeley's first public piece of art, which was installed in 1911 and lost in the late 1950s when a truck coming down steep Marin Avenue demolished it.

Since then, the circle has presented motorists entering the Northbrae community with an uninviting, weed-choked patch.

The restoration was a grassroots neighborhood effort with more than 1,200 contributors who gave the money to rebuild the fountain and landscape the circle.

"The whole Marin Circle restoration and dedication event was a wonderful celebration of Berkeley with a proper appreciation of positive town/gown connections," Finacom said.

Here are some examples of campus ties, past and present.

□ The original fountain was designed by John Galen Howard, supervising campus architect, who also designed Mining Circle pool.

□ Vice Chancellor Horace Mitchell, invited to be one of four honorary "water bearers," christened the new fountain with water from Mining Circle. Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean, also a campus staff member in Undergraduate Admission and Relations With Schools, accepted the fountain for the city.

□ The fountain's four bear cubs symbolize both the university and the state of California. (The original fountain was put in place when locals were attempting to have the state capitol moved to Berkeley.)

□ By coincidence, the bears on the



GEORGE DRAPER PHOTO

fountain (designed in 1911) closely resemble the Cal Band's "pot belied bear" symbol that appears on Band literature and drums.

□ Sylvia McLaughlin, co-founder of the Save the Bay movement, a water bearer at the ceremony, is the wife of the late Engineering dean and UC Regent Donald McLaughlin. McLaughlin Hall is named after him.

□ Local historian Trish Hawthorne, who spoke about the first fountain, is an alumna, former president of Prytanean alumnae and recipient of

the Alumni Association's Rosalie Stern Award for her community service.

□ The Cal Band, the Golden Overtones and the Senior Men's Octet performed at the dedication along with the Berkeley High School jazz ensemble.

□ The ceremony was partly based on one that former campus Public Ceremonies director Professor Garff Wilson devised for the dedication of Kroeber Plaza fountain emphasizing fun elements like pouring sym-

bolic water into the fountain.

Steve Finacom composed his own verse for the occasion. He attended one of the first public meetings to discuss restoration and, as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, had the pleasure of endorsing the plans.

Dedication Verses

*Athens whispered to our founders
—Town and University—
Urging them to build a city
Ornamented classically.*

*Here on slopes of golden grassland
Where once grizzlies roamed alone
They caught a spring within a fountain
Guarded by four bears of stone.*

*A thousand oaks of rolling hillside,
A thousand home sites with a view
Circled 'round the sparkling fountain
In a Northbrae young and new.*

*Struck down by a truck in traffic
—Broken, spilled, and swept away—
The fountain gleamed only in memory
Until this Dedication Day.*

*This is our own reborn fountain
Drawn from sweet and civic springs
Berkeley need not move a mountain
Towns are built of smaller things.*

—Steve Finacom

GEORGE DRAPER PHOTOS



"Waterbearers" Vice Chancellor Horace Mitchell and Sylvia McLaughlin, spouse of the late Engineering Dean Donald McLaughlin, after whom McLaughlin Hall is named.

Left, top, local historian Trish Hawthorne, '65, has many campus ties, as does Shirley Dean, mayor of the city of Berkeley, below.



Original bear fountain was designed by campus architect John Galen Howard who



The ceremony was partly modeled on one devised by emeritus professor Garff Wilson.