

Garnet +

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Message from the Editor

By now you have no doubt realized the obvious – this month's edition of The Grip – was probably not what you had expected. First, relegated – at least for the moment – is the revered title of our monthly newsletter. In its place, I have substituted the designation, Garnet & Silver. An act of blasphemy, or treason, one may ask? I beg to differ, Brothers.

Simply put, I am following a suggestion offered by none other than Grand Brother James Fermoile. Further in the newsletter – **Emails from the Crescent** – Grand Brother Fermoile provides insight into how The Grip was started. During my website research into the Archives – written History – I soon discovered it was created by then Vice-President Douglas Jamieson (now a Grand Brother), in an effort to encourage better communication between Chapters and the Board of Control. Originally entitled, 'The Inter-National Grip' (later shortened to 'The Grip'), it was typically three or four pages in length, serving as a monthly publication to inform brothers of the latest individual, Chapter, Board and IFC developments.

Second, as promised, this newsletter has grown exponentially, fattening itself – 10 pages – by gorging on a diet of material contributions and a tide of encouragement and support. Brothers, my commendations to you: for listening and acting, and putting the needs of the Fraternity in a position of priority and urgency. However, the April Edition is published at the expense of our fledging website – www.gammadeltapsi.com – which will take considerably more time, effort and resources than originally budgeted. The good news is many of the technical bugs are now sorted out, thanks in no small part to Brother Bill Schmitt for his advice, as well as providing software (CD) for improved graphics and web publishing capabilities. As I have reported earlier, work continues on the website, although the projected launch for completion – optimistically slated for April 13th – will be pushed up several weeks. I am now more prepared and motivated to surpass original expectations for its usage and overall appeal.

This column – **Message from the Editor** – for whatever foreseeable period (where I actively participate as its self-appointed Publisher), will continue to summarize and comment on story lines and features appearing within its pages. While the newsletter is provided at no charge to the Brothers of Gamma – unless you consider the incalculable hours, sore eyes, consternation, etc., sustained by yours truly (it's a labor of love) – further efforts and nominal costs are being absorbed to send out hard copies to Brothers without an email address. Once again, I ask any Brother on the receiving list to forward copies (by email or printed) to any Brother currently not registered with Brother Randy Picardat's Alumni Contact List, which is being updated as quickly as entries are received.

The format, design and editorial commentaries of The Grip / Garnet & Silver will evolve at a pace and complexity akin to the activity and accomplishments of Gamma. Subscribers can look forward to regular issues through the same means of distribution, and eventually, archived copies will be posted on our website for Brothers to peruse.

In this issue, I am most pleased to include the aforementioned contributions of so many Brothers, which are far too numerous to list here, but can be read throughout where credit is given. While virtually unlimited space (memory) is available – as a MS Word document (custom template) – in theory, one can commit as much information as a system or program provides; I must limit contents for reasons of obvious time constraints. Any material sent for use – email – not used presently, will make its presence in subsequent editions.

My regrets on a couple items I had initially planned to include in the April copy, which will be introduced and/or completed in the near future, including the return of the Brewski comic strip and part two of the article 'What Happens in Farm Vegas, Stays in Farm Vegas'. The latter feature is temporarily delayed out of respect for the recent incidents involving Eta Chapter.

Brother Michael Kuch

Founder's Day ☺ 129 Years Later

April 13, 1879. A date so well ingrained into the minds of every young man whom has ever pledged for our Great Fraternity, one might dare say it's mystical. Perhaps, it's odd, but I think of it often. I know it as well or better than most family birthdays, or other significant dates in history, which I think is normal considering the reverence we have historically reserved for it. We repeated it so many times as pledges it became mantra, so how could one possibly dismiss it?

It's at this time of the year, in early Spring, where my thoughts take an annual pilgrimage to wonder what life was like in the late 1800's; in the time Gamma Delta Psi was founded. Ever considered the political, social and economic climate, the challenges and obstacles facing the Founding Four Brothers of Gamma Delta Psi?

Little is known, and even less remains in our Archives, regarding their early years, of the struggles and tribulations of establishing not a Crescent Club or a Chapter, let alone a neophyte Fraternity that has endured the test of time – wars, depression, anti-fraternal legislation, an ever-changing society plagued with violence, drugs, hate, racism, and loss of morals. We know three of the founders – Brothers Dann, Jones and Jackson – were old friends as young boys, before their time at James Hillhouse High School. The fourth pillar, Brother Wurts, is largely credited with the conception of Gamma Delta Psi, most likely advised by one of his brothers, a Yale Fraternity man.

Alpha Chapter, when founded actually consisted of thirteen members and had an equal number of signatures on the original Charter, met once a week in a corner room on the top floor of their school. Along with the Founding Four, these are the other nine members – who unless you read the written History – will likely never see or hear their names: George Dudley Merrick (5), Joseph Hedley Townsend (6), Henry Willard Medfield (7), Henry Lawrence Smith (8), John Stone Pardee (9), Oliver Thomas Osborne (10), Arthur Bixby Ferguson (11), David Denison Lambert (12), James Bishop Bulford (13).

What do you suppose they discussed? Certainly there was much business-at-hand considering their meek beginnings amounted to scant more than a handful of school mates gathering in a loosely knit social circle. Not all traditions, rituals or symbols of identification were created or established overnight. Many of these elements we know today came over a period of years, and in some cases, decades. Brother Wurts is responsible for the design of the original Fraternity pin, its crescent shape interpreted to represent a new moon, like Gamma bound to grow.

Grand Brother Kevin Stockdale (ΓΔΨ/BA-ΓN + ΓΨ/PA) brought some of this to light briefly during his presentation on the Fraternity History at the Farmville Brother Education Weekend, which got me thinking; maybe I should do my own research into where it is we came from in terms of the birth of our Fraternity, and further assess what we have today, while building a path to future endeavors.

My journey started by looking back in search of the past, which today means the Internet. My search weapon of choice – *Google* – returned a mere 395,000 results, popping up in 0.29 seconds, no less, after simply entering. 'April 13, 1879'.

It came as no surprise to learn the day was a Sunday. I suppose this is where our tradition of holding Sunday meetings started. My search continued by adding 'New Haven' where I discovered several interesting facts related to engineering, technology and science. Grand Brother Stockdale mentioned many of the following facts in his presentation: three years earlier in 1876, Alexander Graham Bell applied for a patent on his telephone apparatus, where it takes two years before Bell's company opens the first telephone exchange at New Haven, Conn. There are 21 subscribers.

There are a host of European and American inventions – hand-cranked phonograph, rudimentary apparatus of motion pictures, electric lamp, photographic film, etc., being turned out in this golden age of modern technology. The common cardboard carton is also mass produced for the first time. The Second Industrial Revolution (1865-1900) describes a later, somewhat less dramatic change which came about in the late 19th century with the widespread availability of electric power, internal-combustion engines, and assembly lines to the already industrialized nations. Several developments within the chemical, electrical, petroleum, and steel industries took place. Mass production of consumer goods also developed at this time.

Continued on page 3

"Our idea was that a Fraternity body small enough to be wieldy of kindred spirits with similar ideals could accomplish something for us and for the school."

Founding Brother Arthur H. Jackson in a letter to Brother William Buchanan, National Secretary in 1941

Founder's Day ☺ 129 Years Later

With an abundance of emerging new technologies, came with it unlimited opportunities for prosperity and wealth. Secret Societies, historically the main stay of the affluent, if not elitists of society, prospered extensively. And so did the ambitions and dreams of our founding four Brothers – Walter Rawlings Dann, Arthur Henry Jackson, Wylie Brantly Jones and Alexander Jay Wurts.

A brief word about the obvious name change from last month's edition of The Grip. Again, I will refer to Fraternity History and a few words from a recent email by Grand Brother Jim Fermoile.

The following is posted from [The History Of Gamma Delta Psi: The 1960's](#): "In an effort to encourage better communications between chapters and the Board of Control, Vice-President (Doug) Jamieson created a monthly publication entitled 'The Inter-National Grip' (later shortened to 'The Grip'). Three or four pages long, it informed Brothers of latest individual, chapter, Board and IFC developments."

Grand Brother Jim Fermoile has informed me (via email: March 12, 2008), after receiving The March 2008 edition of The Grip, that during the day the Board of Control started using The Grip for quick updates during the lean years (of no money). Today, with the opposite true – a strong Trust Fund – and virtually no Fraternity funds invested into this publication, I will take Grand Brother Fermoile's suggestion to heart, and have entitled this periodical the 'Garnet & Silver'. I will revisit the 'The Grip' and 'Garnet & Silver' nomenclature later on as the website is nearing completion.

A final word on Founder's Day: As we are exactly one year away from the 130th Anniversary celebration, our shared goal of making next year's Reunions in both Ontario and Virginia unparalleled successes, depends directly on participation and support of the events. All Brothers receiving a copy of this newsletter are implored to take it upon themselves to pass the good word around the crescent. Use today as a fervent reminder, that Gamma exists at this moment not solely because there are several Brothers relatively active in its revival, but pay homage to the Brothers that have contributed and built our Fraternity through their efforts and commitments from decades earlier. Say the names of the Founding Four, and take to action that April 13th is the date in which to call or search for long lost Brothers. Make a call, write an email. Tell a Brother what Fraternity has meant to you. Ask him the same.

Brother Michael Kuch

Dedication

Walter Rawlings Dann (1) Arthur Henry Jackson (2) Wylie Brantly Jones (3) Alexander Jay Wurts (4)

NIRVANA CHAPTER

Brother William (Bill) Stephens (AΦ #1c)

It is with deep sadness to report another fine Gamma Brother has passed on to Nirvana Chapter. William (Bill) Stephens – more affectionately known as 'Willie' – passed away in his 73rd year on February 15, 2008.

Credited with being one of the founders of Gamma Delta Psi in Canada, Brother Stephens later served as Secretary to (Grand) Brother J.L.S. Fermoile (then President) on the Board of Control during the mid 1950's.

Brother Stephens was also instrumental in establishing Alpha Chi Chapter in Oakville, Ontario. His own Chapter – Alpha Phi – Mimico Secondary School, where he was Charter member #1c and first President, was granted a charter on March 18, 1954.

Courtesy: Grand Brother J.L.S. Fermoile (Alpha Eta #334, Alpha Epsilon #1c); Brother Frank Wilson (Alpha Phi #2c)

Gamma Brothers: Lost + Found?

Over the past decade, and perhaps much longer – with regard to the atrophied condition of Gamma Delta Psi, which it has slowly submitted to – we have lost contact with countless numbers of Brothers. I am as guilty of neglect and failure to maintain contact with many Brothers from my native Gamma Alpha Chapter, that I cannot point the finger at others in good conscience. As time passes, naturally life's priorities and commitments are altered. After a certain amount of time, one wonders what became of such and such Brothers. What happened to them? How did their lives turn out? These are questions I contemplate whenever I gather in Fraternity social circles, or during times such as now when I am piecing together a document.

Aside from employing an Internet search engine, where does one go to reach out and search for so-called lost Brothers? The logical place is start with what you know best – the Fraternity network. No doubt, the web has made locating people through an infinite number of available conduits as easy as a few swift keyboard strokes, but what if your targeted Brother is unsearchable? Some people are so far removed from the cyber grid, locating through the web is virtually impossible. So, turning to the Fraternal Body at large is ideally where most of my queries start and end.

This past month alone, Alumni have pulled together to source out whatever viable means necessary to 'find' Brothers. I made a couple of calls to Brothers located on the web, and placed phone calls to them after last talking or seeing them in no less than 14 years. I am discouraged or disappointed that either one has returned my call? Not in the least. I will forward a copy of this Grip, and another and another, or whatever it takes for them to them me to take a hike or that they get it. Gamma is back, and she's not taking any more 'definite maybe's' as an answer.

Taking a lead from the Six Degrees of Separation phenomena, nearly everything – information, communication, media – is near instantaneous in our every shrinking Global Village. And so, Gamma is no different. Where we will ultimately succeed in the bold ambition of rejuvenating and reactivating the tired old bones of this organization is through not only the convenience, availability and wide reaching capabilities of the Internet, but mostly through a collective psyche that combines intelligent, resourcefulness and savvy means to gain answers to our infinite questions.

The challenge we are faced with is unbelievably simple, and almost contrite to orchestrate. However, the caveat confronting us is do we have the grapes – *cojones* – to pull this trick off. Is the Fraternity – as I have sometimes debated – a core of thousands of men, or less impressively, made up of an intimate group of perhaps no more than several dozen (at any given time), which band together for mutual purposes. We all know how the old mantra is sung.

At this time, I call on – challenge, if you prefer, - myself, and you, and any of the untold legions who will eventually be found or find their way back to the doorsteps of Gamma, to pull together on this one. In short, do what you do best. Some of us – through divergent abilities, means and levels of interest – will naturally contribute or accomplish more, but that is not what this is about. It is a pact amongst Brothers, a lifelong pledge above all else, to continue in even the most diminutive of capacities to lend a hand and build Gamma back.

What I ask of all Brothers reading this is to pay forward, not with copious time or material contributions, and certainly not financially. But give to me - to us – your knowledge, the information you possess of where and how to help find Brothers that are no longer in the vicinity of everyday Fraternity. Your returns and rewards, more than the gratitude and appreciation of the Gamma Nation, is the personal reassurance knowing you have done something tangible to restore faith and life back into the Fraternity that has provided you with a lifetime of memories.

Brother Michael Kuch

3RD ANNUAL BETA GAMMA REUNION

Brother Donald Flippin (BΓ #136) writes:

"In 2006, I started a reunion for our chapter held in September and we had 60 people show up. In 2007, we held our second reunion and had about 55 members attend.

This year we will have our 3rd Reunion on September 13 and we expect to have over 80 members attend. Our reunion will be held at Donnie Graves home and we will have our regular pig roast and refreshments.

I am glad to see the work being done for getting the Fraternity going, and being a strong unit for young men to unite with friends and learn about our history and good times for all."

Courtesy: Donald Flippin (BΓ #136) donaldflippin@comcast.net

2ND ANNUAL GAMMA PSI REUNION

Brother Richie Blick is hosting the 2nd Annual Gamma Psi Reunion at his place at Lake Gaston this year on July 12, 2008. More details coming soon.

Courtesy: David Emory demory@ngs.k12.va.us

1ST ANNUAL GAMMA ALPHA REUNION

While preliminary plans are being discussed to stage the much anticipated Gamma Alpha Alumni Reunion later this year, more details should be posted within the next several weeks.

At this point many Chapter Brothers are communicating primarily through email with the purpose of conducting a larger planning meeting to be scheduled later this month.

Gamma Alpha is confident they can attract a majority of their Chapter Roll to gather for a social function, which will serve as a model for other Canadian Chapters to follow.

Like most Alumni throughout the Crescent, Brothers of Gamma Alpha have continued to fraternize well past their period of activity and unfortunate demise of the Chapter.

Many thanks to enthusiasm and initiatives taken by Brother Troy Adams and Bruce Johnstone for their continued efforts in establishing a foundation for Gamma Alpha Alumni.

Courtesy: NLFRTAATGA

The Native League of Former Rexdallians For The Advancement of All Things Gamma Alpha

**GAMMA DELTA PSI 130TH / GAMMA PSI 40TH
ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND**

REUNION SOCIAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009

7 – 11 PM

ALUMNI DANCE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

8 PM – MIDNIGHT

Featuring Live Music by 'The Unnatural's'
& Sound by 'Southwind Sound Productions'

FAMILY PICNIC

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

NOON – 5 PM

All venues and sites to be confirmed, but will be located in the Petersburg, Virginia (Tri-City) area.

Accommodations for any out-of-town guest are planned for the same region.

Courtesy: Randy Picardat (ΓΔΨ/ΒΕ #33; ΓΨ/Β #45 + ΑΑ #11) rpicardat@comcast.net

**GAMMA DELTA PSI / GAMMA PSI
MID-YEAR CONCLAVE**

SEPTEMBER 12 – 14, 2008

WILLIAMSPORT, PA

A detailed itinerary, meeting agenda and accommodation information are TBC by Brother Picardat. Alumni Brothers wishing to confirm their participation, please contact:

Virginia: Randy Picardat rpicardat@comcast.net

Ontario: Michael Kuch michael.kuch@gammadeltapsi.com

Emails from the Crescent

March 29, 2008

Hi, Mike -

Regret delay in replying to your GDP info, but better late than (you know). Very pleased to learn that GDP is on the rebound and being rejuvenated, many thanks to you, Kevin Stockdale and encouragement from JLS Fermoile.

Jim Fermoile was instrumental in getting Alpha Phi Chapter started in Mimico/New Toronto in 1952-53. William 'Bill' Stephens was #1 and our first president. Willie passed to Nirvana Chapter on February 15, 2008. Bill was helpful in getting another chapter (Alpha Chi) started in Oakville, ON.

I am #2 in Alpha Phi, Past President and also served on the IBC for a short while along with Bro. Geoff (Jeff) Smith. Jeff still lives in the Niagara-On-The-Lake area and is now retired from dentistry (as am I). We no longer keep in touch, but I do keep in touch with Bro. Neil 'Buddy' Johnston who lives on Amherst Island near Kingston, ON.

Congratulations on reviving The Grip, Garnet & Silver. What a huge undertaking and I commend you for your determination. I will look for information and letters, etc. from days gone by, but suspect they are misplaced over the years and several moves. Will look forward to seeing the 'new' electronic Grip and info about 130th Anniversary in April 2009, only a year off! What a wonderful occasion to renew old friendships.

I have also sent an e-mail to Kevin Stockdale and to Jim Fermoile. Hope this note finds you and your family in good health and enjoying life.

Anna and I spent February in Myrtle Beach and when we passed the signs for Hopewell and Chester, they brought back many pleasant memories of GDP.

Best regards, and once again, congrats on spearheading the revival of The Grip.

Frank Wilson (Alpha Phi #2C)

Editor's Note: Brother Frank Wilson was elected International President at the 1958 Convention held in Toronto, Ontario

March 19, 2008

Brother Kuch,

It may seem strange for a 56 year old guy to say cool but I'm quite pleased to hear from you.

I moved away and lost touch with all but one of my brothers. Being a member will always remain of my high school high points.

I look forward to seeing the site come online and hearing more about activities.

Brother Bob Miller

Editor's Note: Brother Bob Miller has posted a webpage for Alpha Omega Chapter:
<http://home.nycap.rr.com/millerdelmar/GDPAO.htm>

April 4, 2008

Dear Mike,

... I wanted to write to congratulate you on your continuing efforts to keep GDPFI alive. I recently heard from Kevin Stockdale for the first time in years and have received a great many emails from various Brothers as a result. I told Bob Guthrie about this too, as I'm still in touch with him.

Several Brothers from my chapter, Beta Mu, and I are getting together in Halifax with one our fraternity colleagues from many years ago who lives there. So, informal reunions still do occur among our closest friends, most of whom are GDP Brothers from the 60s.

Best wishes, and hope to see you at one of the events you've been mentioning.

Barry Yeates

Editor's Note: Grand Brother Barry Yeates is the 8th Inductee into the Order of the Grand Crescent

April 1, 2008

Mike,

I feel my best bet is to speak with Ed and Chris first and I will reissue my letter for the Grip. It seems like everything is moving rather quickly. I was, however, unaware the confirmed date for VA – that's excellent news; regardless it would be essential to have something up here around April for the simple fact a lot of people have families now, including myself, and would find it difficult to travel to VA for 3 or 4 days.

As for an active IBC, we haven't met in roughly 7 or 8 years, and it has always been the same issue down here since I think I joined GDP, Mike. No one wants to take a board seat, and it's always been Gamma Eta trying to steer the ship, and yes it had become very trying over the years. Convention after Convention when it came to elections it was always Gamma Eta at the helm.

I don't really agree that its unacceptable that the IBC is inactive but it came to the point where the board had almost nothing left to work for which is a real shame, because kids are really missing out on brotherhood.

Deep down I think I would like to take a bit of a back seat as well, but I want to get the ball rolling and see what happens. You never know, maybe some brothers would like to help out around here now that there are quite a few years older, it shouldn't be too hard to establish an active IBC with all the brothers up this way. Anyway, Mike, that was a great letter. Thank you. I'll be in touch. It is also my sole intention to bring every living brother together as well. Cheers.

Fraternally,

Kerry Jonathon Decker

IBC Secretary - Gamma Eta Chapter #115

Editor's Note: While it is the Editor's intent is to fully replicate all emails or messages posted in this newsletter, for purposes of space and editorial considerations, some content has been marginally reduced. All text is list verbatim. A spell check tool is used to make corrections, as necessary.

Emails from the Crescent

April 2, 2008

Hello brothers of Gamma!

I am one of the IBC members that has been inactive for such a lengthy period. There is no excuse for this and I would like to move forward. It's not that the IBC was not active, we were. However, there has been such a stagnant period (about 10 years) that change is needed. I can't argue with the facts as they are now today.

In truth, I walked away because I had become disillusioned with the IBC and Gamma itself, for a number of reasons that are probably apparent with a number of you, albeit. I became frustrated with no progress, a *revitalization plan*, but with no one or group of brothers to take on an active role. **That was my narrow understanding at that time, of what kind of Alumni we have in GDP.**

I would like to be an active member of Gamma again in some capacity. Planning needs to be done and action then needs to be taken. We have been planning for years; this was the problem, too much planning. A fresher and more realistic approach to doing this needs to happen, and from what I have been reading in these e-mails there are a lot of good brothers out here (I'll keep the ego rubbing to a minimum, ok Mark!). The polarization of this fraternity has to end, and I wish this to happen and want to be a part of this effort.

As for the history, a few years back, the understanding that the history was to be stored in a central location for everyone to see, in a similar capacity to a museum. This idea was tossed around. In addition, discussions to get photos restored were discussed with the BOT, among other things in reference to investing in GDP expansion kits, paraphernalia etc. Brother Kuch would recall this. You will have to forgive me if my recollection is off the mark, it has been a few years, but this is what I do recall.

I am writing this letter to comment on what is happening, and conciliation is necessary from all sides. Forward progress is something I would like to be part of and leave the past bickering in the past. We are one fraternity and we need to start being just that. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Yours in Bonds,

Brother Chris Burnip
Gamma Eta #132

Editor's Note: Brother Chris Burnip is the last elected Northern Vice-President of the IBC

March 18, 2008

Mike

For someone not conversant with graphic arts you did a great job! Good use of color, space and reverses. Now all you need is news.

My old secretary and one of the founders of Gamma Delta Psi in Canada, William (Bill) Stephens, just died in February.

May I suggest that you might use the original title of our newspaper the Garnet and Silver? We started using The Grip for quick updates during the lean years of no money. I am sure you remember them, right?

Your suggestion of a meeting to celebrate 130/40 sounds great. I assume you know the work involved and the risks.

Fraternally,

JLS Fermoile

Editor's Note: Grand Brother James L S Fermoile is the 1st Inductee into the Order of the Grand Crescent

March 17, 2008

Brother Randy,

This is just a note of thanks to you and Brother Dennis for all the years of keeping the Alumni Breakfast going. Were it not for this, we would really be starting all over again in setting up the celebrations for the coming year. Because of the breakfasts, an organization is already in place for new plans.

Keeping the Fraternal fires burning month after month—year after year is no small task. It would have been easy to understand had you simply bagged out on it. All of Gamma owes the two of you an incredible debt of gratitude.

I think I speak for most when I say *Thank You*.

Fraternally,

Larry

Editor's Note: I received a copy (CC) of Brother Larry Belcher's email to Brother Randy Picardat and Brother Dennis Breckenmaker.

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Editorial or material contribution for The Grip / Garnet & Silver is due on the 7th Day of the month for inclusion into the current month's issue. Inconspicuous by its absence are photographs. This publication is largely one dimensional and flat without an inclusion of photos or other relics, which may be scanned and posted. I am in need of anything suitable to print related to Gamma.

This month's inaugural presentation of GAMMA BIO features a candid interview with Bro. Larry Belcher (ΓΨ-Β & Γ) by Bro. Lloyd Dunnivant (ΓΨ-Γ).
Lloyd searches for the truth behind the enigma known simply as Larry - *The Man, The Myth, The Makah of Mojo, The Maharajah of Mild ...*



A Visit with Larry Belcher

by Lloyd Dunnivant

Gamma Chapter of Gamma Psi was just being reactivated when I joined. For that reason, we had a shortened pledge period. So when I was walking to Larry Belcher's apartment to go to the induction, I had a lot of questions about my new brothers. Larry's apartment was close to campus, convenient to the school dining hall (I did not know how convenient). I enjoyed my walk to my future fraternity life. The closer I got to Larry's address, the more I noticed that something was not right. There was a disturbance in the street. Maybe fifty people were gathered, yelling and screaming. A block closer and I realized that the crowd was filled with women. They were all women. Then I noticed they were standing in front of Larry's building. It was not a crowd of fifty women, but only four. Four sizable, agitated ladies.

Larry had opened his window to let in the spring breeze and somehow attracted the attention of these Large and Lovelies. I watched with my hand on the door knob as they screamed for him to come out and join them for some ice cream and a special treat. Larry was hanging out the window trying to yell at the girls to leave, but he could not hide his smirky pleasure at their attention. Finally Frank Hosier, Gamma Chapter's first president, pulled Larry in and told the ladies to carry their ample butts away, even it took two loads. It was so sad to see Larry's long face pressed against the glass as he watched the ladies and his raised expectations migrated south.

That was my first exposure to Larry raw and uncensored. He is complex man who knows what he wants and is not afraid to go get it. Whatever his passion, Gamma Psi, Rat Pack music, ugly ties, Star Trek trading cards (Kirk only), or Large and Lovelies, Larry is fearless, shameless, and relentless.

Larry's loves permeate every aspect of his life. Take his admiration for women of substance. The girth of Larry's admiration filters down to his day to day actions. In college Larry drove a Chevy Citation. A strange choice for a hound like Larry, but not when one realizes it was a short, plump car with an enormous hatch in the rear (to put more junk in the trunk). He drank those little, fat, green beers called Mickey's Big Mouth. Full Moons, just guess what a full moon does to him. Larry even prefers chunky peanut butter.

I have shared all this to help the reader understand why I chose the questions I used to interview Larry. To grasp his passion for Gamma Psi, one must see it as part of full figured drive for life. I sat down to interview Larry in one of his favorite hangouts, happy hour at Donut King. It was hard to keep his attention.

Q - Larry, what was the spark that got you involved with starting Gamma Psi International?

A - Joining Gamma Psi at Richard Bland College in 1981 was an awesome experience. Gamma Psi was a leading organization on campus and we as members served in dozens of college offices. Not only was I accepted by Brothers of a strong campus group but I was shown and I took time to understand what a bigger and more extensive Fraternity Gamma was. Gamma Psi was always presented to me as part of a bigger and older organization (Gamma Delta Psi) with a great history. Not only that, but with Conventions being held every year, I was able to meet some of the Brothers who made that history. Larry said a lot more on this subject, but unfortunately I fell asleep.

Q - What inspired you to reactivate Gamma Chapter?

A - The best part about being in a Fraternity is that you have your own "Rat Pack". The people you become brothers with really make being in a Fraternity worth joining. When I got to VCU, I missed my Fraternity. When I took a look around the Greek landscape, I really didn't see any national fraternity doing anything any better that Gamma Psi could do it. In fact, many weren't nearly as good at things. Man for man, I knew we were better. I knew Rick Tutwiler from Bland, also Brian Taylor, then I met Lloyd Dunnivant (who was College Republican Chairman and knew his way around the campus organization scene) and the rest is history.

Q - I noticed that the demise of Gamma Chapter coincided closely with your leaving Richmond. Could the short supply of Large and Lovelies caused by your quick exit have anything to do with the downfall of Gamma chapter or is there another reason?

A - Without going into a long detailed answer (for once), I will say that we could have been better at screening and picking the members who replaced us. This really must be the top priority of any Chapter.

(Continued on Page 10)

Curves

Q - Why do you find Large and Lovely women so irresistible?

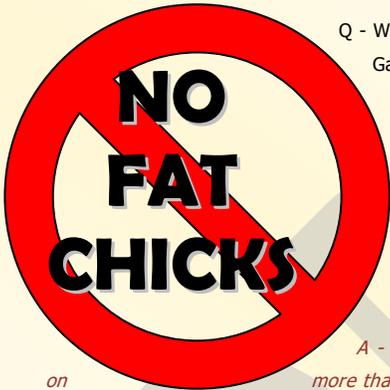
A - *Curves, I love curves!* At this point Larry winked at a substantial redhead at a corner booth and had the donut guy take her a Bismarck.

Q - Your wife is lovely, but she is not large. Has that caused you any marital problems?

A - *I think I'll let Caralee answer that one: "Lloyd, do you think you or Mike could ask Larry to stop bringing home pizzas, pasta, and chocolate cake? He puts a mint on my pillow every night."* Love is never having to say you're skinny.

Q - You have often said that you see yourself as Captain Kirk, why?

A - *Dixon started it but I thought it made me sound cool. Every time I needed to charge up the guys with a pep talk, Marc would say, "Here comes another Captain Kirk speech!" The Cast of Star Trek XII, Return of the Crescent: Capt. James T. Kirk (Larry Belcher); Mr. Spock (Lloyd Dunnivant); Dr. McCoy (Marc Dixon); Mr. Scott (Rick Tutwiler); Mr. Chekov (Brian Taylor); Lt. Uhura (Marianne Smith); Klingon Empire (Kappa Sigma); The Romulans (Sigma Phi Epsilon); Khan (Scott Harris); Red Shirts who get killed right off (Richard Bordelon and Chris LaCivita); and Special Guest Star - Mike Kuch - as Capt. Christopher Pike. What, no Green Chicks?*



Q - We know what you consider the ideal size for a Gamma Psi girl friend, what do you consider the ideal size for a chapter?

A- *15 active members provide a group that an individual can easily get to know and become friends with while being enough to provide continuity in the Chapter. Brother Wyatt always said that he wouldn't want to be in a Fraternity if he needed a yearbook to remember who his Brothers were. Maybe 16 if the new guy has a fat sister.*

Q - If you could go back in time and change one thing for the Fraternity, what would it be?

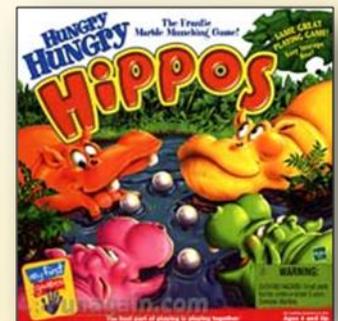
A - *Gamma Chapter could have put off running pledge classes until we had more members. I'm sure we passed on more than one good Brother because he did not want to pledge. We could have screened a few guys some other way. Another thing would have been to take your advice and turn the International President's job over to Brother Cobb sooner than I did. It would have made a big difference.*

Q- I remember that you were a big board game fan. Your two favorites were *Dream Date (Wide-Screen Edition)* and *Hungry, Hungry Hippo*. What games do you think are good for chapters these days?

A - *Never liked board games. Never.* So, the *Hungry, Hungry Hippo* was not a game?

Q - Taking out the fact that Fraternity life brought you bodacious quantities of 'Gia-Normous' lady love, do you regret the tremendous amounts of time and energy you put into Gamma Psi over the years? Why?

A - *I don't regret one moment of the time I spent with Gamma Psi—it helped make me who I am. I also hope some young guys can benefit from being in Gamma in the future—in Farmville, it looks like they will.* Larry mists up a bit here and had Scotty beam him up.



This month's

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