

New Year, New Challenges

Michael Kuch

Chairman – Board of Trustees

GDP Gamma Alpha #114

GP Rho Alpha #2

(MAPLE, ON) My original intention was to proclaim January as 'Gamma Delta Psi History Month', only to soon reason why dedicate a mere 31 days to something that has been in existence for 130 years?

In its place, I present 2009's first quarterly edition of the Garnet & Silver, with several editorials submitted from Brothers Randy Picardat (Gamma Epsilon), Johnnie H. Smith (Beta Psi) and Lloyd Dunnavant (Gamma Psi – Gamma) to kick start the New Year.

I have returned to the moniker, 'Garnet & Silver', and will do so quarterly (seasonally) with publications scheduled every three months for January (New Year Edition), April (Anniversary Edition), July (Conclave Edition) and October (Special Fall Edition). In the interim (eight) months, I will publish our monthly Newsletter, The Grip.

Why the reason for the change and constant juxtaposition of publications? History, for starters, was the immediate inspiration. The Grip, as reported here several months ago, was introduced by Grand Brother Doug Jamieson in the 1960s under the original banner, 'Inter-Fraternal Grip' (later shortened to 'The Grip' as a means to inexpensively publish current newsworthy events to the general Fraternity body (Chapters), as it continues today although in a markedly different format.

The Garnet & Silver was likely created earlier than the oldest copy – 1907 – I have discovered in the Archives, as a quarterly publication. In the 1960s it became our Annual Publication (Yearbook). There are wonderful issues representing virtually every Era commencing with the 1907 Edition.

It is noteworthy that as the Fraternity's affluence and popularity soared, so did the complexity and sophistication of design. Full-page Advertisements appeared in many of the late 1930s to 1940s issues, many resplendent with Art Deco motifs. I had intended to post samples of them along with the re-printing of period articles written by Fraternity Luminaries such as founding Brother Arthur Henry Jackson and the incomparable Grand Brother Edward J. Stewart (Nü #79); however, a perpetual technical difficulty with my new scanner will cause it to be delayed until next month.

With this Edition, the reader is encouraged to absorb all he can about the many coming events and activities taking place during the next 12 months. You will discover editorials and commentaries unlike the prototypical story lines one is accustomed to reading in a Fraternity journal. Photos and images are mercifully now posted to augment and expound upon text, adding to the reader's enjoyment.

A new and ever evolving Masthead is also featured (at top). I have yet to settle on a consistent font, style or layout for either The Grip or Garnet & Silver, but that too is as history reveals, long been the course de rigueur for Gamma Delta Psi in its many publications.

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Report on the Gamma Delta Psi Coat of Arms

This report is given through the courtesy of L. G. Balfour Company to whom we wish to express our appreciation. For further information in the study of this report on the Gamma Delta Psi coat of arms, the reader may consult any standard book on heraldry in the Public Library by such authors as Burke, Fox-Davies, etc.

There are two parts to every coat of arms design, the technical heraldic description, known as the blazon, and the drawing.

The blazon should so accurately describe the elements that make up the coat of arms that a drawing can be made from it.

BLAZON of GAMMA DELTA PSI FRATERNITY COAT OF ARMS

Arms: A bendlet cotised argent between five crescent moons, two, two and one, and fourteen mullets all of the second.

Crest: On a wreath of the colors a dexter arm embowed vambraced argent with hand holding a torch flamed gules, superimposed on a sinister arm embowed vambraced argent with hand holding a crescent of the first, all resplendent.

Motto. A Latin phrase.

The language used in the blazon is Norman French in origin, and it is necessary that each word and phrase be explained in order that the meaning might be made clear.

GLOSSARY

Arms is the heraldic term representing the coat of arms.

Gules is the heraldic term for red, the color of courage and valor, which is indicated in monotone by equal distant vertical lines.

A **BENDLET** is a diminutive of the bend which extends from the dexter chief diagonally to the sinister base.

The bend as well as the bendlet found its origin in the ancient days when it was necessary to use scaling ladders to storm a besieged fortress.

Inasmuch as this means of offense enabled the besieging forces to rise from the ground to the ramparts, the diagonal bend has stood symbolically for rising or high idealism.

It is fitting, therefore, that the bend or bendlet be used on the coat of arms of Gamma Delta Psi to indicate the nature of the ideals of the organization.

COTISED is a heraldic word meaning that on either side of the ordinary, there are two small lines drawn as guide lines. These guide lines indicate symbolically the necessity of keeping the ideals of the fraternity secret.

ARGENT is an heraldic word indicating silver or white, the color of innocence and purity, also indicating the high idealism of the organization.

BETWEEN is a preposition indicating that this ordinary or main charge lies between five crescents two, two, and one and fourteen mullets.

FIVE CRESCENTS TWO, TWO, AND ONE—The crescent charge is used frequently in ancient heraldry to indicate the principals of friendship which are loyalty, integrity, faithfulness, comradeship, and courage.

FOURTEEN MULETS—Mullets are five pointed stars. When a star has more than five points, it is called an estoile and the number of points are given. The fourteen mullets might represent the fourteen original members of the first chapter, or any other suitable symbolism might be assigned to them.

They, like the crescents, are of the second or argent.

WREATH OF THE COLORS is that little six divisional rope-like affair immediately above the shield. This represents the romantic aspect of heraldry, and originated from the custom of a lady giving a knight a piece of her garment.

It is shown here to indicate the reverence that the fraternity holds for American womanhood.

DEXTER ARM EMBOWED indicated a bent arm to the left of the coat of arms as one faces it.

VAMBRACED ARGENT indicates that the arm is in silver armour.

WITH HAND HOLDING A TORCH FLAMED GULES indicates that the hand has a torch that is flamed gules or red which represents life.

SUPERIMPOSED indicates that one ordinary is placed upon another.

SINISTER ARMS EMBOWED VAMBRACED ARGENT indicates that the arm that is superimposed is also clad in silver armour, facing the right side of the shield as one faces it.

WITH HAND HOLDING A CRESCENT OF THE FIRST indicates that this latter hand holds a crescent argent or silver which represents the true spirit of friendship.

ALL RESPLENDENT indicates the rayed effect of the crest.

MOTTO, the meaning of the Latin phrase indicated thereon is revealed only to the initiate, "Gaining ever, failing never."

Originally published in the February 1940 Edition (No 2) of 'The Garnet and Silver', the Coat of Arms described above refers to an earlier version than the more contemporary shield we use today.

In a future issue, I will investigate and explain some of the inaccuracies and misconceptions depicted in our Coat of Arms.

Congratulations, Eta Chapter

Lloyd Dunnivant

Gamma Psi – Gamma Chapter

Dear Eta Brothers,

I want to congratulate you on your anniversary. You have lasted much longer than my chapter. I applaud you for taking the next step to ensure your survival – campus recognition. I commend our elder brothers Randy and Larry for the exceptionally fine job they did supporting Eta in this effort. And of course, I thank Larry for restraining himself in the meeting as I hear there was a large and lovely sent by the administration to distract him.

I am not a Fraternity guru or Gamma Psi expert. As an active brother I could not remember history or even Greek letters. I believe that they think they (administration) have set you up for failure. There is no doubt that they do not really want you on campus. If they did, they would have made it easy and straightforward. They could have simply sent you a letter (we know they can do that) inviting you to follow the steps to become a club. You must beat them by succeeding as a club and winning the support of your peers.

Throw their smug condescension in their faces by building your numbers. There is no reason why you cannot be at 20 or 25 members by the end of the fall semester. I know you are not allowed to hold pledge periods while you are going through this process. You can work around this. Just invite new members to join and make a part of each meeting an education time. The older brothers can help you with this. Here are some thoughts on how you could build your numbers:

Meet with your sister sorority. Tell them that you are going to have a very simple induction process for the next year or so. Because you respect your relationship with them, you want to give their boyfriends and other male friends the first opportunity (and lower pin numbers) to join. Set up a meeting or outing to put that together. Tell them that you will give priority to men they send you if they will give priority to women you send them.

Second, have several membership events where you invite your friends to join while doing something fun. I know you all have a lot of friends who are not members ... I have seen the pictures on Facebook. One example would be to come down to Richmond and do an overnight at Peak Experiences. It is a great in-door climbing facility. They set up overnights all the time. You can find them on my Facebook friends.

Word is there is a community college near you. I know the school does not want them as members, but we can fix that. We can start a Crescent Club there and make them associate members of Eta. This will give you some critical mass for better activities and referrals. Plus, that will increase the chick pool that you have to draw from.

I understand that a summer rush would not be appropriate. But, I have an idea. You could do a beach weekend and invite prospects. Do some training, have some fun, and make them members at the end of the weekend. Invite prospects that you did not get to in the spring, new people you think up, and sorority referrals. You can also go to Facebook and look of the '09 graduating class from your high school or other high schools in your area. See who is going to Longwood and invite them to your beach weekend. Maybe the girls would help ... maybe they would come to the beach.

Then, go at it again in the fall. Hold a number of information/fun events and just do a rotation induction. This will take effort, but if you want your traditions and your history to continue, you will make it happen.

Seek some guidance from those brothers who are much wiser and more experience than I am. I will tell you that when Larry restarted Gamma Chapter at VCU, he recruited 5 guys and held no pledge period. All five of us stayed active members of the Chapter until we finished at VCU (one transferred the next semester). You can get top quality brothers without a long pledge period.

If you will agree to make the extreme effort to bring in a lot of new members, I will see that we old folk provide a special prize for the person who recruits the most new members between now and the end of fall term.

In the bonds of Brotherhood,

Lloyd

January 17, 2009 Letter to Eta Chapter of Gamma Psi Fraternity from Brother Lloyd Dunnivant (Gamma Alumni)

Thanks, Brothers

Johnnie H. Smith

Beta Psi

A special Email from Brother Johnnie Smith (January 16, 2009)

Brother Mike,

Here are some examples of Brotherhood in my life:

Darrell Sears saw what others missed in me. *Thanks, Brother.*

Larry Bell. Standing at attention in the hot summer sun while he tells me that GDP is better than a woman, in that GDP will never leave me but a woman will. *Thanks, Brother.*

George Henderson planned my first bachelor party. Thanks, Brother.

Wayne Markland collected money at my first wedding reception so we could have a longer honeymoon; a good time was had by all. *Thanks, Brother.*

Tony Zevgolis. Meeting Tony for the first time at A & P in Hopewell; I bagged his order, he gave me a \$2.00 tip. Before you think Tony was cheap, in 1967 I was able to buy 8 gallons of gas and a 6-pack of PBR. *Thanks, Brother.*

Bill Zevgolis. I needed a \$75.00 order to make my quota; he gave me a \$100.00 order. *Thanks, Brother.*

Tim Poe. Just sitting outside his place with a few cold ones, just talking about everything. *Thanks, Brother.*

Gary Swain. He stayed up 36 hours with me while my oldest daughter was born. *Thanks, Brother.*

Jim Walters. A policeman in Petersburg got me out of a tight spot. *Thanks, Brother.*

Jim Walters. A policeman in Virginia Beach got me out of a tight spot. *Thanks AGAIN, Brother.*

Curtis Butterworth helped me with a legal problem. *Thanks, Brother.*

Mayes Mark helped me out when I had a car accident. *Thanks, Brother.*

David Ellis reset my front teeth after softball game. *Thanks, Brother.*

Peter Eliades, while assistant Commonwealth gave me some very good advice. *Thanks, Brother.*

Wayne Markland introduced me to Sissy. *Thanks, Brother.*

Danny Wyatt and **Kevin Stockdale** stopped me from a certain ass kicking. *Thanks, Brothers.*

The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances.

Aristotle

The 'New' Beta Alpha Chapter?

Randy Picardat

GDP – Gamma Epsilon, GP – Beta

Sunday, January 18, 2009

Brother,

Today, Grand Brother Stockdale and I met with two young men in Colonial Heights in hopes of rejuvenating Beta Alpha by bringing together a group of young men from the Tri-City area.

While only two perspective Brothers showed, they showed us a lot of interest and sat patiently with Kevin and myself while we explained the Fraternity, showed old scrapbooks and talked about the future with them.

They indicated that there are more guys interested but did not attend the meeting today. They will have the rest of the group at the next meeting I have with them. We also learned of a few others that may be interested in other localities in the area and I will try and contact them to ensure they are at the next gathering.

I keep referring to them as young men or guys; they do have names, Bud Weyland (son of Tony Weyland, Gamma Psi - Beta Chapter) and Zack Rivera. I only have an e-mail address for Bud, I didn't notice until I got home that Zack's wasn't on the contact sheet, but I have Bud getting it for me.



Bud's e-mail is budbaseball95@yahoo.com

Please drop him an e-mail and welcome him and offer your support, this will go along way to making him feel a part of the Fraternity. As soon as I get Zack's e-mail, I will pass it on for your same consideration.

While two perspective new members doesn't seem like a great deal, since I am sure we have all seen pledge classes that have 10+ pledges, at least it is 2. This is two more future members than we have had in a long time and as I told Kevin today, this all started with only 4 guys with a common interest. These two, with your support and help will soon grow into many more.

I will keep you abreast of further developments, but again please make yourself and the knowledge that you have available to these two fine young men and any that the future present to us.

Editor's Note: Randy has forwarded Zack's mail: zrod138@yahoo.com

The Fraternal Brotherhood Of
Gamma Delta Psi & Gamma Psi
Cordially Invites You To Its
130th & 40th Southern Reunion

Dinner & Social Mixer

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009

Olde Towne Catering Company

Catered Buffet Dinner
All-You-Can-Eat (Menu TBA)
Keg compliments of The Fraternity
Cash Bar for Mixed Drinks
\$25.00 per Person

Semi-Formal Dance

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

Olde Towne Civic Center

8 pm until Midnight
Live Music by 'The Unnaturals'
BYOB (Set-ups Available)
- Advanced Ticket Sales Only -
(No Tickets Sold At Door)
\$15.00 per Person

Gamma Family Picnic

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

White Bank Park (Colonial Heights, VA)

Noon until Dark
Food, Beverage (non-alcoholic),
Music by "Southwind Sound Productions"
Playground for the kids (Young and Old)
\$5.00 per Person / \$10.00 per Family

RSVP by March 15, 2009 (for tickets)
Request via e-mail to rpicardat@comcast.net
Randy Picardat @ (804) 931-8245

The Tao of Brotherhood

Michael Kuch

GDP – Gamma Alpha #114, GP – Rho Alpha #2

Reprinted and edited from the "All Things Gamma" Web Blog (Saturday, November 29, 2008)

To those who understand Brotherhood – the one's that 'Get it' (I honor Brother Larry Belcher with this extraordinarily simple, but poignant phrase) – there is no need to explain. For those who don't, there is little hope.

Defining 'Brotherhood' is akin to explaining what 'Love' is to someone who has never been there. When you're in love, you're lost for words, and when you have never been loved there are no words for something you cannot feel; save for emotional deprivation and emptiness.

No doubt, it calls to mind the most intrinsic of male rituals – Fraternal Bonding. What does it mean?

Soliciting into play the 'Words' of Mr. Noah Webster, he defined it as:

- 1: the quality or state of being brothers
- 2: fellowship, alliance
- 3: an association (as a labor union or monastic society) for a particular purpose
- 4: the whole body of persons engaged in a business or profession

Close perhaps, but really old Noah's definitions are much too finite, sterile even, for my liking. A Google search returned 18,200,000 responses to 'Brotherhood' in 0.22 seconds, no less, not to mention the momentary guilt and dishonor I had thinking I would find the answer on-line.

So what's the definitive meaning of Brotherhood?

Well, for certain there is not just one, and to most it means many different things. The 'Tao of Brotherhood' is something different altogether. At its root, it evokes the essence of Brotherhood, that is, the path or route one travels to find it. Technically, it's neither a destination nor a tangible entity waiting to be discovered.

The Tao of Brotherhood is what you make it, the culmination of your Fraternity Life, the experiences of societal interactions, and to some, spiritual exchanges – bonding – with others.

The price of admission: Where to find Brotherhood?

It's not cheap or found in abundance, especially considering the emotional equity required to nurture it. I tasted it first as a snot-nosed 15 year-old in high school, then a foul-mouthed, belligerent, 135 lb doofus who thought in the 10th grade that he had it all going on. I had three useless attributes: attitude, shoulder length hair and dreams; the first two I should have had cut and the last no clue on how to achieve it. Only those who know where they are can be lost. Me, I was disoriented, disillusioned, and discontent, getting better at it with every passing day.

What was I thinking then?

An average student who hinted at promise but inevitably delivered little in way of true potential; a marginal athlete (I played many school sports, only good enough through barely passable natural ability or lame effort to make the team); popular in my own mind; likeable almost exclusively to myself (and Mom); not especially appreciated by much of the male student body (save for a few equally minded friends and school mates that happened to pledge Fraternity a class before me).

As a Goat, I was saucy, uneven in temperament, and probably should have been blackballed several times, or at least smart enough to quit. Hazing in 1978? I would say highly forgettable, and not recommended as a means of forging the best minds and spirits of young men into leaders.

The journey began, initially as a naïve apprentice Brother, participating at first on the fringe of the Chapter; content just to be allowed – accepted, even – at a party or gatherings most my age only dreamed attending. I will defer any reference to the untold sophomoric antics, which contributed greatly to the grandiose of urban legend that we fortified in these early, heady days. Fraternity is too well characterized by legions of this stuff, and its best left for Chapter History Books over a lager.

By graduation, I felt I had finally earned the privilege – the honor – of being called a Brother. Pledging is only part of the lifelong ascension to Brotherhood, merely a mental and physical examination to ascertain if a candidate is worthy of membership. In reality, pledging infrequently has little to do with actual Brotherhood, aside from the title bestowed upon one. Members – we have thousands of them – I suspect the majority very fine and outstanding men, virtually all I have ever met I am proud to call Brother. While so few others, are well, just different.

In one of three epiphanies I claim in life, two are relatively minor: the ever so clichéd 'Secret of Life', which turns out to be not so mysterious depending on how one interprets its discovery or relevance; Brotherhood, as the second, can only be truly understood by those who genuinely live it.

Brotherhood is not about passing the Grip, clipping a pin to the hollow of your left shoulder, or pulling over 2 or 3 Greek letters to emblazon your arrival as a Gamma. It exists not merely by attitude or performing wonderful deeds, not by touch or any tangible means. Brotherhood is not about the 'self' at all, never has been. Brotherhood is not about you (or me), at least not from our own perspective.

It comes from a place deep within; some will say the heart, others waxing idealistic will claim it's the soul. It is spiritual no doubt, which does not necessarily mean but on occasion can refer to Faith. Refer to the good man, our Grand Brother Danny Wyatt, for more insight on that.

Brotherhood, while shared by many is most often a solo endeavor, a journey to serve for the betterment of something infinitely much greater than the sums of its parts. In a traditional family – as I have alluded to in previous writings – a father's prime roll (feminists indulge me, here) remains providing for and protecting his loved ones. The father, not unlike the mother, innately gives all of themselves so that the family (unit) may first exist – obtain sustenance for basic survival needs.

Fraternity is no different; as inherited caretakers we perform certain custodial tasks to maintain its health and survivability. This simple task is the start to understanding Brotherhood. I refer back to love to clarify. Love has 4 key parts: the giving, the receiving, the sharing, and the part that is unexplainable in either scientific means, or through Faith, which does not require explanation.

Is it Faith that helps define Brotherhood?

In part, I believe this is true. You must first suspend some amount of logic and reason – and all opposition to the very idea of its (Faith) existence – to involve yourself. You need to believe in yourself, believe that what you are doing is not about you, but for the benefit of others.

'Mutual Benefit', while I respect and honor its place in our lineage, implies an ulterior motive. Why must one only do something if it need show a return – a gain or benefit – for him? It reminds me of whenever celebrated a Philanthropist makes a sizeable donation, only to realize a certain amount of notoriety (something named in his honor), or to a lesser extent, someone who wishes to receive a Federal Tax Reduction Credit because he has 'given' to a registered charity.

How about for the benefit of others with the only return knowing (autonomously) that you did what you were supposed to do, and not for expected adoration or anticipated rewards?

Being humble, accepting, and tolerant; to give willingly. To believe you are not merely a 'part' of something, but rather the 'embodiment' of something so magnificent and encompassing that it implores and empowers you to do all you can to give back what you have absorbed and taken as your own.

This should be second nature by now, Brother. It begins with a belief that the decision you made so many years ago at a time of youthful exuberance and great interest in pledging, then to pursue an existence as an active Brother, was not only for the moment or the day or your duration as a student. It was for life. It comes with more rewards, and yes, the occasional caveat, but then – as now years later – The Fraternity found you to join and commit yourself (again) to restore the valor and pride it once so handsomely provided to you.

Fraternity is not for everyone, and I suggest that's a good thing. Chances are if you're reading this you are one of the very few; an exceptional Brother who in some significant manner always has, and always will, be a devoted practitioner.

I admit to having my doubts once a long time ago at a point of life where every element of my existence seemed at odds with every thought. Faith cleared my vision, put me on a path to a form of redemption, which not only directed me forward to a potentially more fulfilling future – the third and only true epiphany – but as importantly, brought me back to a place (and time) of yesteryear where life was about the moment.

It's where friendships beckoned, bonds formed naturally, and Brotherhood was born.

It remains the axis of where the heart intersects with mind, the beauty of the trueness and the spirit of goodness meld. If you know what you are looking for it is where you will discover, at last, The Tao of Brotherhood.

Oh, the third epiphany. It will find you, sooner or later it finds every one, so don't go looking for it, Brother, unless you plan to start inside you heart.

There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist.

Mark Twain

Gamma Delta Psi

& Gamma Psi

130th & 40th NORTHERN REUNION

Oktoberfest Mixer

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009

Venue & Details TBA
(Greater Toronto Area, Ontario)

Alumni Dinner & Dance

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

Venue & Details TBA
(Greater Toronto Area, Ontario)

President Obama was seated next to a little girl on Air Force One during a flight back to Washington. He turned to her and said, "Let's talk. I've heard that flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

The little girl, who had just opened her book, closed it slowly and said to the President, "What would you like to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," said the President. "How about *What Changes I Should Make To America?*" and he smiles.

"OK," she says, "That could be an interesting topic. But let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps of dried grass. Why do you suppose that is?"

The President, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it for a second and finally says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to change America when you don't know shit?"