

THE BROTHERS OF NEW YORK ALPHA

dedicate this issue of

THE HILLCREST

To Brother

FAIRBAIRN GILKESON '14



Honorary Province Archon and chapter advisor are two of the fraternal titles held by Fairbairn Gilkeson. They have been accorded to him for many of the same reasons that this "Hillcrest" is dedicated to him: for his overwhelming devotion to SAE and the fraternity system in America, for his considerate attention to the ideas, reservations, and aspirations of the Brothers, for his concern in maintaining the fraternal spirit beyond the limits of the University.

It is an uncommon man who can rise above comfortable self-interest to apply himself so strongly and considerately to an ideal. Such a man is Gilk.

THE HILLCREST

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Alfred C. Marrone, *Editor*

William M. Arnold, *Associate Editor*

Editor's Note

As the 1965 year unfolds into its second term, the time has come for a new "Hillcrest" to be published. Keeping this in mind, we felt it would be advantageous, for financial reasons, to include the alumni report in the first pages of the "Hillcrest." This does not, however, supplant the "New York Alpha News", which will continue to be published except in those semesters coinciding with the printing of a new "Hillcrest."

The task of compiling the list of alumni names for this year's "Hillcrest" was made far simpler by the mailing files handled by the Robert Eastman Company, New York Alpha's mailing firm. However, the accuracy and completeness of this report is dependent on the information in their files. If you have any change of address, please send this information to 306 East State Street, Ithaca, New York. This will insure the accuracy of the next "Hillcrest" and will also result in your receiving other notices from the house. Any information concerning alumni activity should be sent to Hillcrest, in care of the Eminent Correspondent.

At this point, on behalf of New York Alpha, I would like to extend an invitation to all alumni to visit Hillcrest during the weekend of October 16, 1965. This past Homecoming was the first with the new addition in use and resulted in the return of a larger group of alumni than ever before. Remember to make reservations as soon as possible as accommodations are difficult to obtain after mid-summer.

Alfred C. Marrone
Editor

E.A.'s Report: Fall, 1964

A report such as this is hard to begin, for the aspects of a fraternity are many in number, but varying in importance, according to the individual. I intend to be brief and to outline those areas which I feel most important.

Finances present a chronic problem to fraternities, but to New York Alpha, they are a source of great pride. Since I have entered this house, our administrations have always effectively and efficiently operated the "business side" of this Fraternity. Under the able guidance of Fairbairn Gilkeson, we have continually operated in the black, and are presently facing another good year. We have incurred major capital expenditures for a new boiler and a new sewer this past term, which, hopefully can be covered by New York Alpha, our landlord. If not, then this may be a problem. Also, our new wing, while a beautiful asset, will, I feel, become a center of financial hardship in the future. While several alumni were more than generous, the percentage of those who pledged anything at all was an absolute disgrace. This chapter will need effective leadership in this area for many years to come. The work initi-

ated by Glenn Andres and Doug Crowe, and now continued by Bill Arnold should be well appreciated by this chapter.

Scholarship is the blight of fraternities in general, an even greater problem at Cornell, and an acute one at New York Alpha. Ranked 33 out of 53 houses at Cornell last year, we have no place to go but up. In a house of our size, it becomes increasingly difficult to cope with this problem. I feel personally that by creating a desirable study atmosphere in the house, we have done almost all that is practically possible. Restricted television hours, enforcement of quiet hours, and the engagement of a qualified non-resident academic advisor have marked our efforts this past term.

The Interfraternity Council at Cornell is one of the most well-organized, influential systems of its type in the country. But its own increasing responsibilities have led it, I believe, to a turning point in its progress. Last term, several houses were faced with financial hardship, mostly owing to inefficient administration of the steward's and treasurer's functions, and turned for help to the United Food Service Company. This professional corporation now controls the kitchens of one half of the fraternities on this campus. In addition, they, for a small additional sum, have taken over the entire bookkeeping system of almost a third of our fraternities. This all has been pushed by the I.F.C. Also, as a "favor" to the I.F.C., this company does, free of charge, all accounting for the I.F.C., so that at the present, even bills for I.F.C. dues are sent on United Food Service stationery. Everyday, the powerful student organization is falling more under the influence, and even control, of this professional organization. I am proud that New York Alpha is able to stand on its own feet, and have made all of these feelings known to I.F.C. officers.

Within three weeks, rushing will be upon us. We already have several assets: our fine physical plant, the All-Sports trophy for intramural athletics last year, some of the most highly respected athletes on campus, several well-known men from other campus activities, and, of course, the name of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

But our success in rushing will not be measured by any of these. It will be measured by one and only one yardstick: the quality of men that adopt our pin. We must try to overcome our individual likes, dislikes, and prejudices, and remember the principles upon which this fraternity was founded, and has so long existed. We must look deeper in rushing, and determine the kind of man that we need to compete effectively on this campus, and to uphold the traditions of this fraternity.

Only through condensing the definitions of quality into some sort of homogeneity, and through pledging a group of men who will be a compatible, forceful, dynamic nucleus upon which to build further this fraternity can we obtain any measure of long-range security for this chapter. It is up to us now to decide what our definition of quality shall be.

The newly-elected officers of this chapter are most capable and earnest men. Let us all strive to give them the support they deserve, and to lift this house into the position on this campus which it rightfully commands.

I thank you all for this experience. It has been educational and, I am sure, memorable.

Respectfully submitted,
John L. Sharpe, E.A.
Fall 1964

Send *Address Changes* to our Publications Office, 306 East State Street, Ithaca, New York. DO NOT SEND TO THE CHAPTER.

SAE's On The Hill

As rushing was completed a few weeks ago, it became obvious to the brothers that a fraternity must have a strong participation in school activities if it is to maintain a reputation of being a brotherhood of "top men." Social contact, campus reputation, and development of an individual as a leader and a member of the college society are the principal benefits derived from such participation.

Going into rush this year, New York Alpha again showed itself to be one of the leading houses in campus activities, extending into every corner of Cornell life. From seventeen members in various honoraries to the Big Red Bear for the past three years, SAE's have shown their willingness to lead others. Three dorm counselors and eight Orientation counselors plus three dorm officers have kept us in contact with the Freshmen, while others have withstood vigorous selection interviews for such positions as IFC Junior Representative and members of the Cornell in Honduras Project.

If you ask a New York Alpha to cite the one area where we have developed the most since the last Hillcrest, without doubt he will say athletics.

Starting with football, the king of college sports, we have our strongest reputation. A senior, three juniors, and four sophomores make up a stalwart group of four starters, a kick-off specialist, and five lettermen. Our pledge class has three Freshmen ball players, including one of the co-captains. The little brothers of the varsity, the 150's, finds a strong group of five men, including both of next year's co-captains.

Another strong representation is found on the varsity swimming team where three of our brothers are current record holders. Lacrosse and track find nine and three men respectively, while three of our pledges are making a bid to carry on Cornell's crew traditions. Rounding off the above list, forty-two brothers are participating in fifteen varsity or freshmen sports.

Perhaps even more impressive than our varsity participation was this past year's successful effort in winning Cornell's Interfraternity All-Sports Trophy. Team work, abundant participation, and individual effort earmarked a long drive which resulted in a new record for points scored and several new trophies for our collection. House spirit and prestige on the hill were both boosted as a result of this effort.

Just a few weeks ago, the chapter was proud to learn that our academic rank has jumped from thirty-third to nineteenth this past semester. The academic chairman has been working to create a proper academic atmosphere by inviting members to speak to the brothers after Wednesday night dinner. This program has been well received by both the brothers and our guests. Continued advances in academics along with our habitual prominence in campus activities have marked the past year's progress since the last "Hillcrest." With the house's present effort to excell in all its endeavors, SAE shall retain its name in the same high position for many years to come.

The Building Fund

As I write this letter to you I am sitting in Hillcrest's new library. Several brothers are studying at the two round oak tables while others are casually perusing the day's newspapers and magazines. A pledge and his date walk by on the other side of the glass trophy case which securely holds the mementoes of past and present victories. The EA is speaking privately with the members of the Inter-Fraternity Council in the Executive Suite, which formerly served as the library. In a few minutes the dinner bell will be

sounded and we'll all walk to the spacious dining room with its quarry tiles, wrought iron chandeliers, and oak tables. The dozen seniors who now live in will be seated at the head table discussing the party we'll be having tonight. After dinner we'll move the furniture out to prepare for the onslaught of the band and dates.

From these comments I think that you may have an impression of the influence that the addition to Hillcrest has had. The study, dining, and recreational facilities which we now have are unmatched at Fraternities at Cornell. And the effect has not only been psychological—it has not only been in the realm of prestige—it has been expressed in real terms. For example SAE has finally entered into the academic elite by taking 19th place out of 53 in the grade rating of Cornell's fraternities, a giant step forward from its position in recent years.

Twelve more men may now live in the house as a result of the construction. Again, in real terms, this means that many seniors and juniors may live in, granting to the underclassmen their leadership and experience.

It took the initiative of two brothers, Doug Crowe and Glenn Andres to build the wing. Initial support from the alumni seemed to warrant the execution of their plans. Plans were drawn up and approved by the Association's Board of Directors and Chapter Advisor Fairbairn Gilkeson. The campaign for funds was launched and construction was begun. In the early days the final picture looked good.

But now, as one looks over the figures, there can only be a feeling of disappointment. Of the 900 living alumni, only 25% have made pledges to the fund. Their individual support has been strong, and has been an indication of their devotion to the house, but by mere accounting, we can see that this is not enough.

With a mortgage of over one hundred thousand dollars, this forty thousand pledged simply is not enough. To cite an example, from the 73 members of the classes of 1932-1937, 10 have pledged their aid in the only fund drive which the fraternity has ever had. Again, of the 37 men in the classes from 1924-1926, 2 have indicated their support.

The support of all the brothers is urgently needed. Actives in the house have shown their concern by pledging over three thousand dollars, voluntarily, in addition to the normal house bill.

We hope that all of you will be able in the near future to visit us and to strengthen fraternal ties here at Hillcrest, and to see the fine advancements being made in your fraternity.

Fraternally and sincerely,
Bill Arnold
