

# Alpha Phi Omega

National Service Fraternity

A Creed with Action  
by Jim Clark

It is hoped that by this spring the pines will once again see those without blankets afforded the opportunity of a dry resting place. Thanks to the diligent work of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, Wesleyan will again have its "love seats". Stabbed from behind and extreme lack of stability characterized the old ones and the Decree at least thanks this nationally known service fraternity for its initiative and concern.

Alpha Phi Omega subscribes to the standards and ideals of the Boy Scouts of America. While not directly affiliated with that organization, this is one fraternity that at least practices its creed with more than lip service.

The fraternity was started on Dec. 6, 1925 when Frank Reed Horton decided that he wanted to instigate an organization where men could get in fellowship with one another

He had been a Boy Scout and was lucky to have been under good leadership. Mr. Horton wanted to see his college friends participate in the same sort of fellowship he had so deeply enjoyed. The ideals of his former Boy Scout days were perfect, hence the service fraternity that Wesleyan enjoys through its Omicron Rho Chapter, Alpha Phi Omega.

At present, the chapter is ably guided by Tim Miller, with the Decree's beloved editor as Secretary - Treasurer; Larry Jones is Vice-President, Roger Wiring is Recording Secretary and Jim O'Dell as Historian.

Some of the many things that the fraternity has accomplished of note are the following: with the financial help from the Monogram Club, the new Trophy Case was designed and built; recent folk concerts, dances and the ushering of many events like the recent dramatic productions. Typically limited in activity by its budget, the main source of income comes from



the annual U. M. O. C. project.

Membership is easy enough for sincerely interested students and a pledge period is naturally in force. While past B. S. A. membership is not mandatory, the applicant must subscribe to the World wide institution's ideals. The national constitution simply stipulates that the purpose of this fraternity shall be to assemble college men in the fellowship of the Scout Oath and Law and to promote its cardinal principles, that of Leadership, Friendship and Service.

## NEW TEST GAUGE GIVEN

College professors could throw away their conventional true-false and multiple choice tests and the "normal grade distribution curve," even in large classes, if their examinations were designed to measure a student's depth of knowledge instead of his guessing ability.

How this can be done was described recently by Dr. Paul E. Fields, professor of Psychology at the University of Washington. Dr. Fields' system, developed over the past three years in Introductory Psychology classes of more than 350 students, has resulted in significantly improved student achievement. The results are based on 100 different exams given to a total of 2000 different students since 1964.

Although he uses true-false and multiple-choice questions, they are inter-related in a manner that removes the "guessing factor" inherent in most objective examinations. He also has developed a student study guide of sample tests, "Teaching Tests in General Psychology," keyed di-

rectly to the textbook, "Psychology and Life."

In the Fields system, each question consists of five parts: a true-false statement and four related multiple choice matching associations. A student must answer all five parts correctly to receive credit. With this method, guessing just won't work. The odds on getting correct answers by chance alone are 1 to 3125. But, once students learn to use the Teaching Test manual, they develop such good methods of studying the text that they really know the important concepts.

"In the spring of 1967, when the Teaching Tests were used as a study guide, the average student passed 84 per cent of the questions; the top fourth averaged 99 per cent correct, and the bottom fourth of the class averaged 62 per cent correct. This time, 164 out of 369 students were within 66 points (one standard deviation) of a perfect score.

In addition, the average internal consistency coefficient improved from plus.34 in 1964 to plus.59 in 1967, Dr. Fields said. This coefficient measures the precision with which the good and the poor students could be differentiated.

In citing data on the improved student achievement in his classes, Dr. Fields reported: "In 1964, the last time conventional examinations were used, the average student in the class passed 56 per cent of all the questions; the top fourth of the class averaged 72 per cent correct, and the bottom fourth of the class averaged 43 per cent. No student in a class of 362 was within 240 points of a perfect score at the end of the quarter.

Dr. Fields reported that the most frequently earned score in each of his last 24 examinations was a perfect score. Because of this exceptional student achievement, he "threw the normal distribution curve out the window." He now assigns grades starting from "perfection," rather than from "class average." He believes that when normal curves of achievement are found in college classes, they may be due to the use of poor quality examinations on students who are lacking in motivation.

Dr. Fields also revealed that he gives 12 in-depth exams during a 10-week quarter to several hundred students. They can be hand-scored quickly and objectively with keyed answer sheets.

## Genius In Midiskirt- A Poet In Boots....

By Ann Gucker

"I want to be a fisherman."

Already being an expert photographer-poet, Milani intends to add deep sea fishing to her sphere of interests.

Nancy Milani, sophomore, born in Bermuda, presently residing in Farmington, Connecticut; soon to have home base in San Francisco.

The basic facts about Milani the Person don't begin to reveal Milani the Individual.

Milani is a complex network of various ingredients, like any other person. Yet she is not Any Other Person. Talk to her and you discover a unique being who strives to relate to everyone, and does a pretty good job of it, too.

You see the girl who loves people, who laughs and cries for the whole world.

The value of Stratford to Milani is that "it's a challenge to stay alive" here. This is the last school she would have chosen to attend and the last type of people she would have chosen to live with. Yet, if she had not come here, she never would have known these people or have learned to love them. It has been a challenge, met with reward.

"Manners are fine, until they become conditioned responses and are no longer sincere." To so many, including Milani, who can look at southern hospitality without being caught up in it, that is what southern hospitality has become - a conditioned response, a habitual gesture - all

meaning nothing.

In talking about people, Milani's favorite topic, she said, "I think what's so sad is that people see the differences between themselves and others, not what they have in common - they don't try to love each other.

Instead, everyone plays God and cuts each other down." She went on to observe that people here are so conscious of themselves that their main interest becomes what others are thinking of them.

Milani's favorite possessions - her sword, her flute, her pirate ship, her camera, and her concertina (a type of accordian).

Milani's photographs look like those of a professional - when asked how long she's been working in photography, she answered that she'd just started this year.

She has her own darkroom here at school in Iris - it's called "Nancy's Electric Room," due

to some minor (?) electrical problem. Much of Milani's poetry is accompanied by photographs - not just pictures, but reflections of moods and emotions and truths.

Some of Milani's favorite entertainers include Richie Havens,

Dave von Ronk, Kenny Burrell, Jimmy Smith and especially Liz-ard Man.

In literature, Yeats, Dylan Thomas and James Baldwin rank high in her estimation; in art, her choice is Mark Chagall.

One last favorite possession of Milani's is her baby blue lunchbox with flowers painted on it. When asked what in the world she did with it, she answered, "I pack lunches in it and go on picnics."

Only Milani could get away with it! And maybe that's because she's NOT so conscious of herself, because she loves people and people love her for what they have in common with one another.

Look for the kid with the Midi skirt and boots, or a leather jacket with cameras hanging around her neck - she's worth looking for.

This article is a reprint from THE STRATFORD TRAVELER, the student newspaper of Stratford College.



Dare to be different!!!

### COLLEGE STUDENT'S POETRY ANTHOLOGY

The NATIONAL POETRY PRESS

announces its

SPRING COMPETITION

The closing date for the submission of manuscripts by College Students is  
APRIL TENTH.

ANY STUDENT attending either junior or senior college is eligible to submit his verse. There is no limitation as to form or theme. Shorter works are preferred by the Board of Judges, because of space limitations.

Each poem must be TYPED or PRINTED on a separate sheet, and must bear the NAME and HOME ADDRESS of the student, and the COLLEGE ADDRESS as well.

MANUSCRIPTS should be sent to the OFFICE OF THE PRESS

NATIONAL POETRY PRESS

3210 Selby Avenue

Los Angeles, Calif.  
90034