

Is Pledging Passe?

The cycle of pledging seems to many people to have no beginning nor end. As this semester begins new lines have been and will be formed. But will this cycle ever be broken?

Recently, an article on black fraternities and sororities appeared in the November-December issue of Black Collegian, the national magazine of black college students. Many WSSU students found this a most timely article for we had just experienced what has been termed overall "the sorriest pledge period ever." With this in mind, the News Argus polled campus Greeks and members of Social Fellowships to see if pledging is becoming passe.

One fact stood out above all other-Greek organizations along with Social and Service organizations attract individuals because they are organized and offer the black college students the opportunity to work and socialize the brothers and sisters who share common goals and aspirations thus eradicating the feeling of one being "alone." These organizations provide for their members a sense of identity, security, purpose and opportunities for new experiences. In response to the question "why did you pledge", the response almost always reflected these benefits.

"I pledged because I wanted a sense of belonging," says Pamela Lee, a soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Marlyn Edwards, a soror of Delta Sigma Theta, adds, "I looked at the organization and I liked what I

saw. It showed togetherness and I wanted to be a part of it." Rodney Hannah, a neophyte, summed it up by saying, "I always wanted to be an Omega man because of my deep-rooted conceptions about the organization."

Yet, most agreed with Yvonne Harris, a member of Delta Sigma Theta who remarked, "pledging ain't like it used to be." The fall 1974 lines (with certain exceptions) were described as "shaky," "disgusting,"

disheartening" "lax" and downright pitiful! Lematrice Harris, a neophyte of Swing Phi Swing declared, emphatically, "They acted like they didn't care! They simply didn't have a serious attitude toward pledging!"

Patsy Lynch, a charter member of Nu Zeta chapter of Nu Gamma McHumba Social Sisterhood chimed in with, "people are now taking pledging for a game." An Omega man,

McCleave Fisher felt "the pledges wanted to be a part and wanted that sense of belonging, but didn't want to give anything in return. Some felt that this, was due in part to the negative attitudes often verbally expressed by some instructors; others felt that it was due in part to the strict rules and regulations of the administration; while still others felt that the specific organizations made the pledges whatever they were.

Whatever the cause, there was definitely something missing. Along with the vast majority, Laura Liverman a Zeta Phi Beta, felt that the pledges failed to realize that "pledging isn't just a 'get over' to raise one's social standings on campus, but rather an acceptance of responsibility to build up the University and community as a whole."

The pledge period is definitely undergoing changes but when the question, "Is pledging passed?" was posed, the overwhelming majority cast a definite "NO"! Lou Ann Hopper, an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman remarked, "No, pledging's not obsolete-sororities and frats' will simply have to be more select in choosing pledges."

Perry Lackey, an Alpha Phi Alpha says "people still feel the need to belong and for as long as Greek and service organizations fulfill this need, pledging will

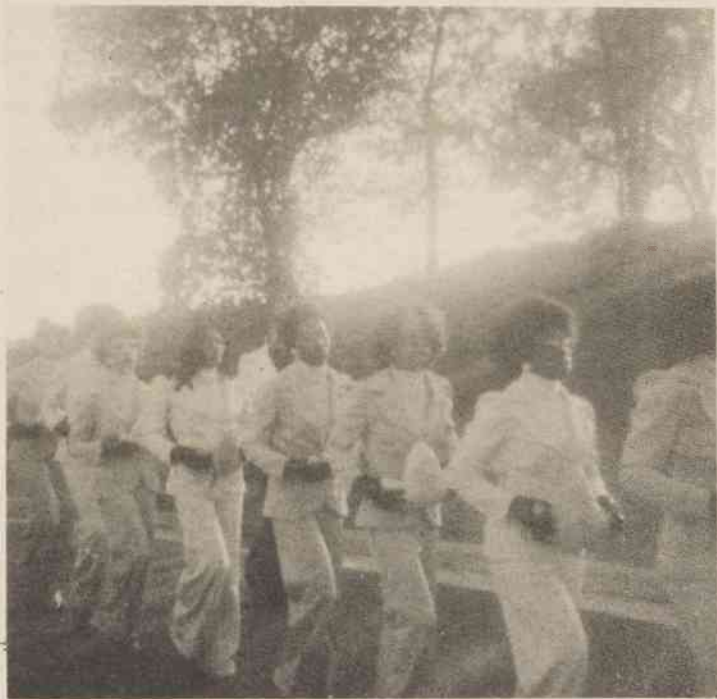
remain relevant. Vernon Pitt, a brother of Groove Phi Groove adds "There are still people left who are strong-minded and determined enough to follow through with their interests and pledge despite what they hear.

A Tau Phi Tau, George Herron feels that "pledging is traditional" whereas Don Ferrell, A Nu Gamma Alpha, speaking to the contrary believes that "More people are looking for a black oriented 'thing' not something patterned after whites."

Although Everette Lewis, president of Zeta Chapter of Nu Gamma Alpha acknowledges that pledging will never be the same; he quickly adds, "If people want pledging to again take on the meaning it once had, then people must stop pledging for namesake alone and look for what's in the organization for the individual."

Maybe Terry McAdoo, an Alpha, has the answer in his comment, "Sororities and Fraternities need to take a backward look and restore the founding principles of the individual organization. Those who take those founding ideals seriously find that instead of becoming passe, pledgeship takes on even more meaning."

Rubie Gibson
Managing Editor



AKA Ivys step during Homecoming '73.

Fine Arts

Deltas Present Works to WSSU

On January 25, in honor of their Founders Day Celebration, the Winston-Salem Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated presented works to Winston-Salem State University. The works were presented during a program held in C.G. O'Kelly Library by Ms. Simona A. Allen, President of the Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, Incorporated.

The first work presented was "Patterns" a color etching done by Ms. Stephanie E. Pogue of Shelby, North Carolina. The artist has exhibited widely throughout the United States and her works are in many permanent collections.

The second work presented was "Aegina, Greece," an oil by Mr. Samuel J. Brown another North Carolina native who is from Wilmington. Mr. Brown has also exhibited extensively, beginning in 1928. His works have made him the recipient of several awards in national art competition.

Chancellor Williams accepted the works on behalf of WSSU and

remarked that students of today need to involve themselves much more in the area of fine arts.

ASU Art

An exhibition of art by twelve members of the art faculty of Appalachian State University opened February 3 at the Fine Art Gallery of Winston-Salem State University. Works on display include mixed media works such as "Japanese Waterfall" - L.F. Edwards and "Triangle" - Sherry Waterworth. There are two untitled wood and fiber pieces by Marianne Suggs and works in fabrics by Lorraine Force. The multi-media exhibit which will continue through February 21 is free to the public. This exhibit is part of an exchange program coordinated by the WSSU-ASU Urban-Rural Cooperative Program. Members of the WSSU art faculty, Ms. Mitzi Shewmake and Mr. Roland Watts, recently presented an

exhibition of sculpture and wood block prints at ASU. An exchange of WSSU-ASU student art shows or the spring.

Hicks Works Exhibited

On January 19 through January 31, the Lyceum Visual Arts Series brought the works of Mr. Leon Nathaniel Hicks to the Art Gallery located in the Fine Arts Building. This one-man art exhibit included many interesting prints done on a machine including a series entitled "New Faces." Other works in the showing included "Black Boy" and "Inner City."

Mr. Hicks who has studied at several institutions including La Romita School of Art in Italy has received numerous awards for art excellence, particularly in the area of printmaking.

The Gallery, which is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to the public on Monday through Friday, plans to display other art exhibits at various times during the spring semester.

Scott Kennedy Players Perform

As a presentation of the Lyceum Series, the Scott Kennedy Players performed a symphonic drama on Tuesday, January 28 on the campus of Salem College. The drama, entitled "The Rivers of the Black Man," was "conceived, arranged, directed and performed," by Dr. Scott Kennedy and his wife Janie Kennedy. Several Winston-Salem State University students also participated, serving as links within or between the eight segments.

The students provided background music which enhanced the many recitations. They also sang popular Gospel songs in addition to a few current soul songs.

Each of the various segments

represented a different phase in the history of the black man's struggle for equality. The poetry selections performed in each segment were representative of that particular phase of black struggle.

A few of the more well-known poems recited included "A Dream Deferred" representing the determination, dignity and pride aspect of the black struggle, and "We Wear the Mask," illustrating the survival and the mask of freedom of the black man.

The end of the performance required audience participation in the form of chants of "We shall overcome, Amen!" on cue from Dr. Kennedy. This final segment was a tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Mickey Flowers

**Next
Non-Staff
Deadline
Is
February
10**

Health Career Day Planned

The Career Planning and Placement Center is continuing activities started during the spring semester and will offer a few new plans for the spring.

The Pre-Employment Seminars that started in Dillard Hall last semester were moved to Brown Hall during the spring because men seemed reluctant to visit Dillard for this purpose. The seminars will deal with the psychology of the job market and research.

The seminars began January 22 in the lobby of Brown Hall. The seminars will continue as long as there is sufficient interest to warrant the voluntary time of the staff.

The interviewing process with employing agencies is greatly increased during the spring semester as more agencies and students will have more definite plans about their future employment in the world of work.

Individual and group counseling sessions will be continued on a voluntary basis. Students need not have any appointment to visit the staff of the center, however, to make sure the student sees the director

when it is to the student's convenience, he should make an appointment. All appointments are guaranteed and all are honored at the time they are scheduled.

In addition to the basic services offered by the center, an allied Health Career Day is being co-sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Winston-Salem State University. This program scheduled for March 13, is designed to acquaint students with careers in health, regardless of their major concentration at WSSU. All students, irrespective to their majors, should visit with this program to determine if a health related career is for his or her life work.

Art, music education and physical therapy are vital parts of the health field as well as typical occupations such as doctors, nurses and lab technicians. For every major that is offered here at WSSU, there is a health career towards which it can be applied. Other notices will follow as plans are more defined.

By Faiger Blackwell

Burke Conducting Study

William Burke, an Associate Professor of English here at Winston-Salem State University, under the direction of Dr. Lafayette Parker, Academic Dean, and Mrs. Wilma Lassiter, Chairman of the English and Foreign Languages Department, is conducting an examination of the philosophies and curriculum of the university.

The problem of asserting philosophies and approaches has struck name schools such as Berkly and the University of Michigan. Consequently, many of the nation's schools are analyzing their curriculums in an effort to find their weaknesses.

Mr. Burke's study which began in November 1974 and will terminate in May 1975, is centralized around four main objectives:

- ways to reduce the rate of failing students.
- ways to use the faculty

effectively in helping develop more and better curriculums.

-development of a more feasible questionnaire for surveying the various experiences of recent graduates of the university

-revision of the Freshman English Program to include the competency based approach to education.

Under the study (formally entitled "The Cooperative Academic Planning Program of the Institute for Services to Education) the university intends to bring in specialized personnel in each area, but, according to Mr. Burke, "our main concern is realizing our own problems and dealing with them".

Mr. Burke welcomes any comments and questions which should be directed to him in Carolina Hall, room 216.

Nathaniel Barber