

the

# NEW LIGHT

THE VOICE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE BODY OF  
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

June-July-Aug 1997

## FROM THE DESK OF ABBY RAYMOND

I hope that everything is going well in your region and that you and your families are healthy. In this time of great change and movement towards the year 2000, I hope that you are finding plenty of time to organize and stay on top of the struggle of our people.

I am attempting to improve communication in our organization by working with other Brothers to produce a Collegiate Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to highlight outstanding Collegiate Chapters and individual Brothers around the country. Further, this newsletter, which will be unencumbered by political partialities, will also give Brothers an opportunity to express their opinions about current events in our communities and Fraternity.

During my term as your National Second Vice-President, I encountered significant obstacles in publishing a Collegiate Newsletter. Due to our organization's financial problems, obtaining financial support and production assistance for the Colle-

giate Newsletter has been nearly impossible. As true men of Sigma, we have persevered by forming a Collegiate Newsletter Endowment Fund account at the Phi Beta Sigma Credit Union. The purpose of the endowment is to independently fund the newsletter. I will serve as the treasurer.

Brothers, we have decided to decrease our reliance on International Headquarters and autonomously fund our own means of collegiate communication. We need to individually reaffirm our vow to the Mission and Founding Principles of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Too often, we let our personal agendas interfere with the business of launching our organization into the twenty-first century. In order to grow in the direction that our Founding Brothers initially set forth, it is essential that we continue to uphold the Brotherhood through their principles and ideals.

We truly are proud of this first issue. However, the continued success of this endeavor lies upon the shoulders of all collegiate brothers. We need your

time, your talent and your articles! We are also asking you to send contributions and donations to the Collegiate Newsletter Fund. There are many who would say that collegiate brothers are not doing anything for the cause of Sigma- let The New Light be the voice which proves them wrong. Not only are we creating a collegiate forum unsullied by political agendas, but it also an arena for our Brothers to shine. My Brothers, we need to pool our resources in order to continue to generate this Collegiate Newsletter.

Please send all financial contributions to the following address:  
Collegiate Newsletter  
Endowment Fund  
c/o Bro. Eric Gilliam  
Phi Beta Sigma Federal  
Credit Union  
145 Kennedy Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011-5294

Articles can be submitted via e-mail to Kerry Gilliard at [ZPBSTimes@aol.com](mailto:ZPBSTimes@aol.com) or Terrell Campbell at



Brother Abby Raymond  
National 2nd Vice President

[BenoBluPhi@aol.com](mailto:BenoBluPhi@aol.com) or physically mailed to the following address:

Abby Raymond  
440 N Winona Street Apt #220  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

If possible, please provide a picture if your article is an event or service project. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestion, please write me at the above address or contact me at (317) 278-6543 or e-mail at [Alraymon@cord.iupui.edu](mailto:Alraymon@cord.iupui.edu). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Fraternally yours,

Abby Raymond

## THE NEW LIGHT-Pg.2

I am Kerry Gilliard, Co-Editor in Chief for THE NEW LIGHT. It truly has been my pleasure and honor to help with the organization of this newsletter. For too long the undergraduate voice in all greek letter organizations has gone either ignored (producing a level of apathy) or unheard (producing a sense of helplessness among members). This Newsletter is the first step in the undergraduate body-the HEART of Phi Beta Sigma, being heard and voicing our opinions.

Presently, as you see, this newsletter is small. It is my hope as well as that of our Editors and the remaining staff that THE NEW LIGHT will grow and flourish as did our beloved fraternity, which itself began from small and humble beginnings.

There is a line in our beloved fraternity hymn that reads "then when we hear from time to time, 'O, Sigma, what of the day? We'll THUNDER back along the line OUR CAUSE SPEEDS

ON IT'S WAY." Many graduate brothers are presently asking 'O, Collegiates, what of the day?'—what shall we THUNDER back along to the line to them with? What accomplishments, hard work, service and awards have gone unheard from our Collegiate population? This is the purpose of THE NEW LIGHT- this is OUR opportunity to shine. Brothers, I encourage you to raise your voices and let them be heard- not only in this newsletter, but in your chapters, your regions, at

your state and regional conferences and most of all at this very Conclave this year. Too long have we been reactionary in our attitudes toward laws and statutes handed down upon us.

Okay, okay- you'll read the rest of my "sermon" later in the newsletter. For now, enjoy and CONTRIBUTE to this Newsletter. YOU are the lifes' blood of the organization. It's up to us to keep the organization alive for the 21st Century.



Bro. Kerry Gilliard  
Delta Mu Chapter  
President  
Zeta Phi Beta Sigma  
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My name is Terrell Campbell, Zeta Lambda Chapter. I am also one of the editors for our new collegiate newsletter, THE NEW LIGHT.

As we all know, the life blood of this organization is our collegiate membership. Founded by collegiates, Phi Beta Sigma has maintained a high level of excellence and collegiate members can rightly take some of the credit for that.

As many of you know, as a group we are in grave danger. It is evident that there are many who feel that due to financial losses incurred as a result of

hazing lawsuits, this organization would be better off with out the collegiate membership. In the words of our own National President, Carter Womack, we are a "LIABILITY"! With clear and present danger of the elimination of collegiate chapters, NOW is the time for the collegiate membership of Phi Beta Sigma to make sure that this does not happen.

One of the main issues we as collegiate face is the general lack of communication that exists among us. It is important for each of us to be aware of the events, issues and in general the actions of

our own. One way to assist in the rebuilding and the maintaining of communication among the collegiate membership is THE NEW LIGHT.

The goal of THE NEW LIGHT, the voice of the collegiate membership of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, is to establish, reaffirm and rebuild the voice and the undergraduate membership of Phi Beta Sigma. For many years we have not had the voice nor the power to garner change. My brothers NOW is the time. If you have ever felt that you had no method and had no power to voice your opinion about anything that exists within our orga-

nization, NOW is the time to make yourself heard. This newsletter will be your opportunity to speak your mind. It is your chance to insure that you are heard.

This summer we will hold our Conclave. This is the opportunity for us to make ourselves something other than a "liability". Reclaim the power that is our!! Make each of the candidates for each office deal with OUR issues and agree to what WE want. Combined, we have the power to FORCE change.

Brothers it is my opinion we are currently being given our last chance for change.



With alumni members saying openly that we are "liabilities", it is evident that the possible elimination of collegiate chapters is a REALITY. Brothers, we are being given just enough of the proverbial rope to hang ourselves.

Speak NOW or you WILL forever hold your peace.

Bro. Terrell "Beno" Campbell  
Co-Editor in Chief, THE NEW LIGHT  
Zeta Lambda Chapter  
Hartford, CT

## This Is Brotherhood

Jay Gibbs

Omicron Eta Chapter

California State University, Sacramento

Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma voted to have some undergraduate members be expelled for participating in hazing activities. I sat in the room as a delegate from The Notorious Omicron Eta Chapter, California State University, Sacramento, and wondered if this is brotherhood? It saddened my heart to even hear the recommendation because I knew one of the brothers that they voted to expel. The brother I knew had plans to attend medical school and one day become a successful man of Sigma. Now, regardless of his accomplishments he will never be able to reach his

dream and goal of being recognized as a man of Sigma. He is now an outcast, a blue sheep.

At 23 years of age, a young man who had just graduated from Penn State University, shot a man cold blood. He was sent to jail for the next 24 years to life. I grew up with him all my life and could never imagine him doing such a thing. Every time I visit him, his main concern is me - am I doing positive things with my life and am I working hard at my studies to someday improve my future. I do not know if he really killed the man he was accused of killing or not because I

was so young when it happened and a big hush-hush surrounded the topic in my home. One thing I do know is that I love him and he will always be my brother regardless of mistakes in life. He last name is Gibbs - just like my own. His mother is my mother. His father is my father. We are family and brothers for life.

The member that we are expelling are our family too. They are our brothers also. They know the grip and we know the grip. They have a brand and we have brands, their last name is R The SigmaS and our last name is

RThe Sigma.S Now, I wonder who is going to be able to tell us apart. What have we proven by trying to expel our brothers besides the fact that no brotherhood exists?

Hazing should not be tolerated. I think we can all agree to that. My point is that hazing participants should be punished and reprimanded not expelled for life! Suspension for 24 years would not bother me as much if

I knew that the young man would always have a family at home to go to. My brother will always have a family to go home to, if and when, he gets out of jail.

Now the only problem with this story is that I do not actually have a family member in jail. Because I wrote if down that I have a brother in jail, you believed it to be true. Likewise, some of hazing allegations, not confessions mind you, were nothing more than written stories that no-one in authority questioned. The stories were assumed to be true without investigation. This makes me wonder...

Brotherhood is spiritual fellowship that binds us in all activities. Upon this very principle rest the social welfare of each and every member of the Sigma organization.

## THE NEW LIGHT

### Editors

Terrell Campbell  
Zeta Lambda

Kerry Gilliard  
Delta Mu

### Treasurer

Abby Raymond  
Epsilon Iota

Submissions for the next issue are due no later than August 20, 1997.  
e - m a i l :  
ZPBSTimes@aol.com

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June-July-August

### Article Considerations:

1. No longer than 950 words will be accepted.
2. If e-mailed, please

save in TEXT (txt) format.

3. You will be notified if your article will be run.

You may mail your TYPED article to:  
Abby Raymond  
440 N Winona  
Street Apt #220  
Indianapolis, IN  
46202

# Honorary Membership- WHY?

Terrell Campbell  
Zeta Lambda Chapter  
University of Hartford  
Connecticut

As members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., we strive towards the best and expect much of our members. Membership is something that, to me, is very special and not to be taken for anything less than an honor. It is something I hold close to my heart and something I worked very HARD to attain.

Currently there are two ways a person can attain membership in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. There is the Membership Intake Process, which is the "accepted" and standard process for becoming a member. Another way is honorary membership. This is when a person is asked to become a member, yeah it does happen. It is the hope of this brother that the current criteria for deeming a person worthy of membership with in our organization be examined. The existing criteria for which

someone is judged is sketchy at best.

Fundamentally, the idea of having honorary members is a good one. It can be seen as an honor to ask someone whom has been a pillar within our community to become a member. There is an opportunity for the organization to benefit from that person's celebrity status, as well as to create a positive image in the eyes of the public.

Several people have joined our ranks and accepted honorary membership—people like Bros. Blair Underwood, Benjamin Chavis and Walter Turnbull. Our organization offers honorary membership is good, however there needs to be some regulation of how these members are chosen. It needs to be communicated to these brothers that their membership is an honor and something that they should make known.

Tell the world that you are a man of Sigma. SHOUT IT!!!!

It is the opinion of this brother that none of the aforementioned honorary members makes it known that they are men of Sigma. If this is not the case then I stand to be corrected. This is not to say that the entire purpose of having them as members is to bask in the fact that they are our brothers, in fact that is the opposite of what I mean. In my opinion, the fact that they are honorary members says that much is expected of them, quite possibly even more than that of another brother.

These are people who did not express interest in Phi Beta Sigma, but people who were asked to become members. It is my thought that these members should work to live up to the distinguished position that has been bestowed upon them. There is no reason

why an honorary member should become a member and then disappear.

When we consider a person for honorary membership, the fact that they are or are not a celebrity should be irrelevant. It would serve for the better of Phi Beta Sigma to have a person who is in the community doing positive things and not in the public eye. There are many members, past and present who are men of Sigma—people like A. Phillip Randolph, James Weldon Johnson and George Washington Carver. Not only were these men distinguished in their chosen fields but they served this organization a great deal.

It is the hope of this Financial, Active and NON-Honorary member, that the current criteria for honorary membership should be reviewed. We should look not to their superstar status or potential thereof, we

should look at what they have done and what they are doing. To choose a person strictly based on the popularity of their name is to negate what we as an organization of men who are of business and service fundamentally are.

In closing please remember that as brothers we all are striving towards a common goal, the uplifting of our communities youth Phi Beta Sigma. We must choose brothers who are willing to work towards that goal with us. This is to speak to how we choose all of our brothers, not just the honorary ones.

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# Brothers Worth Mentioning



## Dr. Alvin J. Mc Neal Academic Scholars

Christopher Carpenter  
Gamma Psi  
Rust College  
Major: Business  
Administration/Accounting  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.43

Ezzard Beane  
Delta Phi  
Mississippi Valley State  
University  
Major: Elementary  
Education  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.94

Eric House  
Delta Phi  
Mississippi Valley State  
University  
Major: HPER  
Cumulative G.P.A - 3.32

Jesse Biles  
Delta Phi  
Mississippi Valley State  
University  
Major: Music Performance  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.73

Tommy Johnson  
Delta Phi  
Mississippi Valley State  
University  
Major: Music Perfor-

mance  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.10

Ben L. Otey  
Gamma Epsilon  
Alabama A&M University  
Major: Logistics  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.23

Eddie Carter  
Gamma Epsilon  
Alabama A&M University  
Major: Social Work  
Cumulative: G.P.A. -  
3.00

Travis Sutherland  
Gamma Epsilon  
Alabama A&M University  
Major: Social Work  
Cumulative: G.P.A. -  
3.45

John Bell  
Iota Zeta  
Morris College  
Major: Biology  
Cumulative: G.P.A. -  
3.60

Walter A. Clark  
Iota Zeta  
Morris College  
Major: Education  
Cumulative G.P.A - 3.54

David Weeks  
Iota Zeta  
Morris College  
Major: Divinity  
Cumulative G.P.A - 4.00

Scott Williams  
Gamma Epsilon  
Alabama A&M University  
Major: Social Work  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.00

## PBS President of the Year Awards

Willie M. Ned III  
Beta Delta  
Texas Southern Univer-  
sity

Maurice A. Jackson  
Delta Alpha  
Winston-Salem State  
University

Resse Walker  
Delta Phi  
Mississippi Valley State  
University

Omicron Delta Kappa  
Society, Inc.  
The National Leadership  
Honor Society

Florida International  
University  
Bro. Adeyemi Iyanoye  
Bro. Arold Norelus

Appalachian State  
University  
Bro. Christopher Bernard  
Townsend

## Phi Beta Sigma Outstanding Stu- dent Leaders

Beta Delta Chapter  
(Texas Southern Univer-  
sity)  
Willie M. Ned III

Iota Zeta Chapter  
(Morris College)  
Frederick Staten  
Willie Brunson  
John Bell  
Dawnwin Allen  
Walter Clark  
Darren Holmes

Delta Phi Chapter  
(Mississippi Valley State  
University)  
Resse Walker  
Jesse Biles  
Ezzard Beane

Kerry Gilliard  
Delta Mu Chapter  
Bowie State University  
Bowie, MD

Pledging versus Intake: A dead horse which has been beaten so much since 1990, that the skeleton is showing. Why are our dues so high? Why is the Intake process the way it is? Why isn't more history taught? I don't want no "paper thin" brothers in my frat!!! Why are the laws of the fraternity set up to discriminate against younger members?

Sound familiar? The common complaints that we all hear day to day and that most of us sat through in our Collegiate Affairs Committees recently in our Regional Conference meetings. We've heard them, we've complained about them-whoopee. Since my crossing the burning sands into the Land of Sigma, I've heard beef on all of these issues from members of ALL greek organizations and frankly, it's making me sick. Not because I'm sick of hearing about it or talking about it (those of you who know me personally know I can write a book at times....), but because all people do is COMPLAIN.

Complaining gets you nothing but more complaints and people who are tired and frustrated about the subject. For example, I've heard just about every "pledging vs. hazing, pledging vs. intake, intake vs. steak and cheese" argument on the face of the planet from both graduate members and undergraduate members alike, but no one is doing anything BUT complaining. To paraphrase one of my beloved brothers, Mark Corneilus, "Brothers got all this mouth, but get real quiet when grad members come around." It is truly my belief that our undergraduate population has legitimate gripes and concerns where the intake process is concerned as well as on a host of other issues that concern undergraduate members. Airing those complaints to each other may be therapeutic, but it does nothing more than turn us into a support group for abused women or a support group for alcoholics. It's good that we hear our own problems and know that brothers in other regions are going through the same tri-

als- but there comes a time when we must stop complaining to each other and take our complaints to the head of the table.

This time is **NOW**.

I'm talking about taking your complaints in a **structured and ordered fashion**, to our National President, Our First National Vice President (whom I personally have found to be MORE than willing to listen to the needs of collegiates), our Executive Director, Our Second National Vice President (who is our voice on the general board), our Regional Directors, our local graduate chapters, state directors, advisors and all others in authority who need to hear our needs. I'm talking about taking a **PRO-ACTIVE** (as opposed to **REACTIVE**) role in the planning and location of our conferences, the pledging/intake, instruction and initiation of our new members, the implementation of new laws and procedures in our organizations and more. Don't just come with complaints, come with **SOLUTIONS**.

It begins with getting our chapter brothers not only **financial but active** (and there is a difference). Are you a brother or just a member? Do you contribute or do you just belong? Whether or not you realize it, undergraduate members comprise the largest voting block for the fraternity. Soror Leslie Rhines Joseph, National Third Anti-Basileus for Zeta Phi Beta, wrote me and told me that Undergraduate Zetas comprise **FIVE TIMES** the voting block for the body of the organization than graduate members do. If this is true of our sisters, it **DAMN** sure is true for us. If you aren't financial, you don't have a voice in the fraternity. You become a man sitting in the outside the door, mumbling and complaining to yourself about your problems and the problems inside the room and not doing a thing to solve the problem.

By the same token, being financial is **NOT** enough. We must also be **ACTIVE** in our local (campus) and graduate chapters. Go sit in on your advising

chapter's meetings and participate. Give suggestions and advice on issues which affect your chapter- after all, it is your chapter!! What man lets someone else decide what goes on in his home besides a child? But if you are a man, you are not a child. So act like it and get active in the frat. Financial but not active equates to a man sitting in the back of the meeting once again complaining to himself- no one hears his voice. Sit in the front where you can be seen and speak loudly and clearly. Articulate your views. You'd be surprised how many people will have your back (and I learned this firsthand recently at my graduate chapters' meeting).

My brothers, the time is right for the undergraduate body of Sigma to serve notice to those who don't have our best interests at heart. When you vote on your new officers this upcoming Conclave, look at those who have the interests not only of the fraternity, but of the undergraduate body at heart. It's sad to say

that some of the people running for office would like to take away the power that you and I have in the fraternity at this time as undergraduates. These things we must stand against- and if we don't stand as a united body, we will fall together, like it or not.

In a similar vein, there is a proposal before the NPHC to abolish undergraduate intake in all the organizations. Think about this article and you tell me what we need to do.

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## FROM OUR READERS

Greetings to all of our new readers- which is basically everyone reading!! Welcome, once again, to the New Light. We, the Editors and Staff of the New light, sincerely hope that you've enjoyed this first issue. We're planning on expanding, so that we can better service the remainder of the Collegiate body as well as the Fraternity in general.

Right now, we'd also like to thank all the people who contributed to this Newsletter as well- both financially, editorially, and with just your support in general. This Newsletter would not be in your hands now without YOUR support- we need brothers to write, we need brothers with expertise in desktop publishing, we need brothers to advertise their businesses and services in here and more. In other words, we need YOU to be active in the shaping of the future of this newsletter.

Well, I won't talk everyone to death- comments, criticisms, questions, suggestions and concerns? Mail them to us!! Our address is listed on page three. We'd LOVE to hear feedback about the quality of work being produced (we also need something to fill this page with).

With that said, be on the lookout for the next issue- it's gonna be PHAT-er!!

Fraternally,  
The Staff of the New Light

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# G.O.M.A.B.

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*coming next issue...*

From our sistas!!!

MORE Informative Articles!!

The Conclave Report!!

Question and Answer!!

From Our Readers!!

And much, much more.....

*Look for THE NEW LIGHT to hit the web soon- visit the Zeta Phi Beta Sigma Times Website*

*for details! - <http://members.aol.com/zpbstimes> or <http://zpbstimes.base.org>*



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