



PRAISE

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.



Brothers,

As we prepare for another Regional Conference Year, I'm hopeful that all of our collegiates are having a smooth transition back to school

along with our Alumni Brothers being reinvigorated for a very productive year.

Since our very successful showing during Conclave LA, I've been reflecting on the greatness of the Southwestern Region. I'm convinced our greatness is rooted in the strong brotherhood that's reflective in our members. As I've been blessed to represent you around the country at various National/Regional meetings, I've always been happy to call the Southwestern Region home...home of esteemed Brothers like Hon. A. Langston Taylor, Hon. Charles I Brown, Hon. Sylvester Davis, Hon. Waymon Ponds, Hon. August Marigny, Hon. Argel Oatis, Bro. JW Mason, Bro. Daryl Anderson, Bro. Keith Pitts, Bro. Gionni Carr (Reigning National Debate Champion), and the Brothers of Delta Nu (Reigning National Step Champion...2 Conclaves in a Row) to name a few. All of those Brothers are examples of the high spirit of Brotherhood that resides within the Southwestern Region...the Greatest Region within Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Please join me congratulating Bro. Cory Major in publishing an excellent *Praise*.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Micheal Cristal
Regional Director

PS Please make sure you take advantage of the Early Bird Registration for the upcoming Regional Conference...complete conference information can be found on the regional webpage...

Are You Paper?

Adapted from *Black Issues in Higher Education* article by Dr. Walter Kimbrough

Some of you might be wondering what "paper" means. In essence, paper was the term created in the late 1980s and early 1990s when Black fraternities and sororities first began to move from pledging to intake. Paper signified a person who completed the intake process without pledging. Essentially, they followed the rules of the national organization as prescribed. Students also used the labels "sign-ons," "microwave" and "skaters."

I began contemplating paper recently. I had a conversation with a student on my campus who was a recent initiate of an organization. The student discussed concerns about being viewed as paper by other students and wanted to know how to deal with it. This same student had witnessed a student on another campus beaten by members of his own fraternity because he was deemed to be paper.

Paper has become a fighting word, in fact, one student said that being called paper was just like a White person calling them *nigger*.

In some cases, the student who is determined to be paper may have paraphernalia physically taken from (and even off of) them. Other times



they are subject to open ridicule. A sorority chapter that was reactivated by the graduate chapter, who selected the candidates and conducted the intake, experienced such ridicule. At their coming-out show, another sorority threw paper at the new members.

Students place such value on pledging, even though the rules prohibit it, that they punish students who actually follow the rules. While they say they value scholarship, leadership and community service, they really value how a person comes into the organization. This means they value lying, deception and breaking the rules—all to avoid being labeled paper. How many times have you heard of members beating a brother or sister, or taking their paraphernalia because they earned a 1.0 GPA the previous semester or because they didn't attend any of the community-service projects?

There has to be a recommitted partnership among colleges and universities, gradu-

ate chapters and regional/national officials of Black fraternal organizations to address this problem. One step has to be removing the thug element that has infiltrated fraternities and sororities. This "gangsta" mentality holds promising students hostage, causing them to sacrifice their morals and values in order to be accepted.

We have to be tough to protect students and our organizations. The numerous injuries and even deaths we've seen in recent year have now fed into a litigious society, and actions viewed as tradition by undergraduates threaten the very existence of our organizations.

Black fraternities and sororities are experiencing a "double consciousness." We cannot stand by and look the other way at the cost of our beloved organizations.

Please note: It is not suggested that any of the brothers pictured above are "paper". Just a good picture, bruhs!

AROUND THE REGION

Tau Iota Sigma hosts annual AAMIA

The Tau Iota Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, Memphis alumni, sponsored its 11th Annual African American Male Image Awards Scholarship Banquet on Friday, November 4, 2005, at the Marriott Hotel on Thousand Oaks. The keynote speaker for the formal affair was the Honorable AC Wharton, mayor of

Shelby County.

The objective of the Image Awards was to recognize African-American men who are doing positive things within the community. Awards were given within the following areas: Business, Religion, Education, Corporate, Arts, and Community Service.

Along with the Image Awards, five \$1,000.00 scholarships were given to deserving African-American males. Since the inception of this program, Tau Iota Sigma has provided \$36,000 worth of scholarships to young men from the Memphis area.

Kansas State/Area Meeting

On Oct 15, 2005 at 9:14am, chapters in Kansas and Kansas City Missouri convened for their annual State/Area Meeting at University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. Kansas combined its state meeting with chapters in the Kansas City, MO area due to the close proximity and strong ties to the chapters. Nearly

twenty brothers attended the meeting. Chapters in attendance included: Zeta Omicron (University of Kansas), Lambda Alpha (University of Missouri, Kansas City), Kappa Nu Sigma (Wichita Alumni Chapter), and Alpha Delta Sigma Chapter (Kansas City, MO). Brothers: Dan Leong, State Director of

Kansas, and Thad Hill, Area Director-Kansas City Area, helped to coordinate the meeting. The meeting focused on ways for chapters to increase communication and collaboration internally and with other neighboring chapters. This meeting marked the first visit to the state of Kansas by our Regional Director, Micheal Cristal.

During the meeting, Bro. Cristal reminded and charged brothers to implement the "membership section" of the Perfection Scoop which highlights: 1) What Phi Beta Sigma Offers its Members, 2) What Phi Beta Sigma Expects of its Members, and 3) Ways to Kill an Organization.

Collegiate and Alumni members discussed some of the success & challenges of all three of these aspects during the meeting. It was interesting to see how many chapters had the same

continued on next page

Hunt elected to board of realtors executive office

Conway, AR (10/12/05) — Local real estate professional Greg Hunt of ERA Henley Real Estate in Conway has been elected secretary of the Faulkner County Board of Realtors. Hunt will serve a one-year in his new position which he will begin December 7, 2005.



Hunt, a 4-year real estate veteran. "As secretary of board, I will ensure that homebuyers and sellers continue to receive the quality real estate guidance and ethical solutions they so deserve."

Hunt also serves on the Arkansas Realtors Association Equal Opportunity Committee. This marks the first time in the boards history that an African-American has been elected to a board executive office. Hunt is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and a member of the Lambda Gamma Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., in Conway, where he holds the office of treasurer.

"It's an honor to serve in a position where I can better assist the consumers of Conway and Faulkner Co.," said

AROUND THE REGION

Kansas State/Area meeting, cont.

theme in common yet different ways in resolving an issue when enforcing membership accountability.

Bro. Cristal also outlined the regional plan for growth and attainment of 1200 financial brothers by the 2006 Regional Conference in Memphis. Chapters in Kansas and Kansas City set chapter goals to help aid in that growth plan which included re-

activation of Gamma Nu (Wichita State) and Lambda Alpha (UMKC) and chartering new chapters in Kansas.

Both Undergraduate and Graduate Brothers left the meeting energized in carrying on the "Cause" of Sigma. Bro. Cristal's visit also included some 2007 Regional Conference Planning with the alumni chapter in Kansas City and the Kansas City

Convention's Association. Bro. Cristal jokingly said he would be looking for Hon Bro. Charles I Brown during his trip to Kansas, even though I don't think he found him, but rather the values and ideals set forth by Hon Bro. Brown evident in the Sigmas in Kansas.

Dan Leong, State Director-KS

Mark Your Calendars!!!

The 2006 Regional Conference is scheduled for April 6-9, 2006, in Memphis, Tennessee!

Early Registration (Current – January 31, 2006)

Collegiate \$100.00	Alumni \$150.00	National Officer \$70.00	Guest \$90.00
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Pre-Registration (Feb. 1 – Feb. 28, 2006)

Collegiate \$130.00	Alumni \$180.00	National Officer \$90.00	Guest \$95.00
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On-Site Registration

Collegiate \$160.00	Alumni \$210.00	National Officer \$100.00	Guest \$100.00
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Oratorical/Debate Topics

Debate Topic:

Dr. Ronald F. Ferguson, Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University finds that black parents must share some of the blame for the educational achievement gap between black and white youngsters. Please debate this proponent and opponent side of this finding.

Oratorical Topic:

According to an article published in the Spring 2005 Edition of "The Journal of Black in Higher Education," Black men have fallen severely behind in college enrollment. The article goes on to state that if the trend continues..."within 100 years there will be no black men enrolled in higher education." What strategies can black organizations, including Phi Beta Sigma, implement that could reverse this trend?

Got articles, pictures or suggestions for the Praise?

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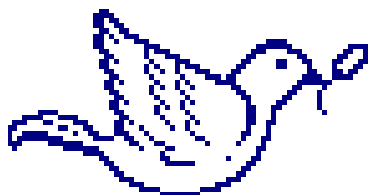
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We're on the web!

www.pbssouthwestern.org

Dedication

This Edition of the
Praise Newsletter is
Dedicated to the
memory of



**Bro. Kenneth
Robinson**

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