Vitruvius Prepares for 27th National Convention

STATE COLLEGE, PA. DEC. 1.—This city of 12,000 residents and 16,000 students is pleasantly excited over the approaching 27th National Convention of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity on December 28, 29 and 30, 1960. This excitement is particularly noticeable at 246 South Pugh Street, the home of Vitruvius Chapter of this national architectural college fraternity.

State College is a mountain town, being located in the approximate center of the state and at the northern edge of the Allegheny Mountains. The three counties surrounding State College are predominantly state forest land and Mount Nittany which figures prominently in the vocabulary of Penn State University is a big, sugar-loaf mountain which overlooks the area.

THE TOWN HAS become nationally famous over the years by the story that so-called Nittany lions prowl the streets to the dismay of the residents not to mention the effect on traffic. This story cannot be substantiated at this time although there is a stone lion on campus sculptured by Heinz Warneke which is regarded with some awe by the local people. It is true, however, that deer may be seen on the main streets and the surrounding forests contain bears as well as smaller wild animals and birds.

THE UNIVERSITY was chartered in 1855 as The Farmers High School. In 1873 the name was changed to The Pennsylvania State College and co-eds were admitted. In 1953 Penn State's name was changed to The Pennsylvania State University in recognition of its standing as one of the leading Universities of the country.

State College can be reached by rail at Lewiston (Penna. R.R.) thirty miles distant with a Greyhound Bus connection. Air traffic is uncertain at this time of year. Driving is the recommended course and excellent highways (U.S. 220) reach the area either from Pittsburgh or Bedford on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It looks like it will be quite a show.

Nittany Lion waiting for the light at the corner of Foster and Pugh Streets.

Nittany Lioness just waiting. She looks like she was mighty hungry.
The Convention Program

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. — Nov. 28. Robert F. Calrow, WGA, said today that the subject to be followed at the 27th Convention is "Alpha Rho Chi's Four-Year Program." This program consists of four major aims — 1) More spirit; 2) More chapters; 3) More pledges; 4) More money.

Subjects for discussion will be therefore — "How can we improve our pledging practices? How can we make our chapters more of a factor in the School? What can we do to hold at least 80% of our pledges? How can we become more national in our outlook and operations? Welding the alumni and actives into one national body. Expansion — more chapters; where and how?"

"Everyone of us associated with college campus and fraternity activities," said Calrow, "knows that the fraternity system is under unusual stress today. This is not due to lack of material since all colleges are growing. It is due to the distractions of modern life, early marriages, inadequate preparation for college study, a lackadaisical attitude by the fraternities themselves, a tendency on the part of the fraternity system to remain amateur in the face of professional competition, a failure by the fraternity to evaluate its functions, its responsibilities, its possibilities. These are the reasons why this 27th National Convention is one of the most important Conventions our Fraternity has held in its forty-six-year history."

It is the current opinion throughout the Fraternity that Alpha Rho Chi does have something unusual to offer to the student and the School and with the aid of these upcoming discussions should be better able to improve its position and do those things which will add local and national strength.
Who Was Vitruvius?
by M. Robert Des Marais

The source of this information is VITRUVIUS ON ARCHITECTURE (ten books) edited and translated into English by Frank Granger, D.Lit., A.R.I.B.A., Professor in University College, Nottingham, England, published by the Harvard University Press in 1931. This is one of the Loeb Classical Library books published by Harvard, covering the great classics.

The author says in his preface that we know more about Vitruvius than we do about Shakespeare. His full name was Marcus Vitruvius Pollio. He was born about 80 B.C. and wrote his ten books about 30 B.C. He became Official Architect-Engineer of Emperor Caesar Augustus in the rebuilding of Rome about 24 B.C. He was master of the entire field of architecture including design, engineering, specifications and supervision. The only building we know he designed is the Basilica at Fano, Italy.

His “Ten Books” are a mine of information about the Roman attitude toward architecture and the professional position which the architect held. His Books concerning the education of the architect and his professional duties and responsibilities are almost as applicable today as they were nearly 2000 years ago. He states the triple essence of architecture — constructive strength, practical utility and aesthetic effect.

His Books were the first and most important treatise on architecture to the modern day. They were the standard to the 6th Century and the fall of Rome and were republished first in Latin in 1486 and were a standard throughout the Renaissance.

CHICAGO ALUMNI MEET, GREET, EAT

CHICAGO, Oct. 6 — Fifteen Archi alumni of the Chicago area met at the Columbia Yacht Club here tonight to meet old acquaintances and “fire-up” the Chicagoland group in needed activities.

Pre-dinner activities were followed by dinner and dinner by discussions and election. Marion J. Smith, Anth. ’57, was elected Alumni Architect of the Chicago Alumni Chapter. Brother Smith has been recently appointed Executive Director of the Chicago Chapter, American Institute of Architects. He was Worthy Architect of Anthemios Chapter in his Senior year.

The discussion centered around the project of feeling out the Chicago Institute of Technology campus, students and faculty to see if there is a frame of mind for establishing an Alpha Rho Chi Colony.


**The Fraternity's Value**

What is the value to its members of a college fraternity— or specifically of our own Fraternity? Active members of Alpha Rho Chi are both human beings and students of architecture— so, you say, in which area do you mean?

We mean in both areas! Why not? Because the specific function of our Fraternity is to contribute to the expansion of the student's abilities both as a person and as an architect.

In a recent interview published in “Horizon” Eero Saarinen (many of us knew his father) says that “the architect’s role is expanding in every direction.” What I believe he means is—and a reading of the interview will show this—that the architect must be a thoroughly equipped man “in every direction”—he must have an amplified education because the requirements of today’s practice require greater skills than those of yesterday’s more placid, less mobile time.

In the study of architecture then is it not true that a broadening of the mind is one of the ways in which Alpha Rho Chi can prepare its members for the “greater opportunities” we talk about in our ritual? I think so.

**The Importance of Rushing**

In the college fraternity today rushing is the most important issue. The survival of the fraternity system as a whole and particularly the survival of the smaller fraternity or the poorly organized fraternity (whoever it may be) or the fraternity which is local rather than national in its viewpoint swings primarily on whether it can maintain its membership.

Many students come to the University today with little or no knowledge of the advantages of fraternities. Many come with a generally inadequate preparation for college which is a main reason for freshman scholastic mortality. Because the fraternities have been reticent in speaking publicly about their ideals and achievements and advantages they have placed themselves on the offensive in certain scholastic areas. We have failed to make it clear that we think students are people before and after they become scholars and that the fraternity, properly administered, contributes to the humanities and to scholarship as well. We believe that students come to college for what once was referred to as an “education” and that this includes not only the acquisition of facts and skills and the training of the mentality but also human graces and disciplines which will ultimately make scholarship usable.

In other words, we need to advertise what it is we have to sell and the benefits which will accrue to the young man who buys what we have to sell. This is a day when this is true in every manifestation of human existence. We may or may not like it but that is the way things are just the same.

We are forced, therefore, to spell out to the rushee why our Fraternity exists, what it can do for him and how he can not afford to pass up the opportunity to join it when that opportunity is offered.

If a battle for survival is experienced in the fraternity system the professional fraternity should have the advantage because it is closer to academic life and has more to offer both to the student and to the school. Presenting these advantages in an intelligent, well-organized and persuasive way is— Rushing!

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Editor The Archi:**

We have from time to time openings on our staff for city planners, engineers and landscape architects. We would appreciate your calling these positions to the attention of other members.

The firm engages in city planning, landscape architecture and civil engineering internationally with most of our projects concentrated in the United States including Hawaii and the Pacific area.

J. Wood, Anth. ’47
Harland, Bartholomew and Associates
317 North Eleventh Street
St. Louis 1, Missouri

**Editor The Archi:**

I have assumed the duties of Director of Design in the Office of the Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Philippines.

Arthur H. Bissel, Poly. ’30
USNS, Navy No. 3002, Box 3
FPO San Francisco, Calif.
Minneapolis Gas Company Establishes Competition at University of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS — Early in 1960, Minneapolis Gas Company announced the establishment of a competition for students of architecture at the University of Minnesota.

The design project was a church complex — church, school and parsonage. It was chosen by the faculty and assigned as a regular class project in the 1960 quarter. From the projects prepared by the third-year students, a panel of three judges from the faculty selected three men to share the award. They are Robert D. Hermanson, John L. Lawler and Robert M. Hysell.

Active in this competition was WGA Robert F. Calrow, Assistant Vice President of the Gas Company. Bob is in charge of Public Relations in this corporation and is known among his many other accomplishments for his work in the design of gas-equipped kitchens, including his own.

Arizona Alumni Organize Alumni Chapter

PHOENIX — On July 8 a group of Alpha Rho Chi alumni met in the Arizona Club for luncheon followed by a formal meeting to form an Arizona Alumni Chapter. One of the major purposes of the meeting was to form a guiding and supporting body in the formation of a chapter of Alpha Rho Chi at Arizona State University at nearby Tempe.

Present were John Brenner, Robert Sexton, Ralph Haver, Stefan Ryciak, Peter Lendrum, Fredrick Weaver and Igor Lobanov, representing four of our chapters.

An official petition form was drawn up and dispatched to the WGA asking that the newly-constituted Arizona Alumni Chapter be recognized. A favorable reply was received speedily thus adding one more alumni body to the Fraternity’s roster.

Indications are that several outstanding students at the School of Architecture are interested in the idea of a chapter of Alpha Rho Chi and the local alumni are encouraged at the welcome which the idea has received on the Arizona State University campus. The new Alumni Chapter hopes to increase its strength by adding the names and support of other Archi alumni resident in the state.

Homecoming at Iktinos — Alumni Meet Khafra

ANN ARBOR — This year's Minnesota game on October 22 was the scene of the annual gala festivities at Iktinos known as Homecoming. In keeping with Michigan tradition the Chapter held open house, dinner and a post-dinner party at the house.

Alumni and their families were welcomed by a Homecoming display put up by the actives in the wee small hours of the morning and by a German Shepherd dog by the un Teutonic name of Khafra.

Although the summer’s remodeling program saw the demolition of the chapter’s darkroom a check from Mrs. Purcell, mother of George Purcell will be used in reconstructing it. The room will be dedicated to the memory of her son who was killed during the war — in thanks to her continued interest in the Fraternity.

Last Spring saw many of the actives at work on the Third Annual College of Architecture and Design’s Open House. Lee Welsh was one of the general chairmen. Last Spring also saw Alpha Rho Chi cooperate with Henderson House, a women’s co-op, in producing a Michi-Gras display consisting of Bucky Fuller geodetic domes.

Convention Information Goes to Chapters

Complete instructions and forms for reports and delegate functions have been forwarded to active chapters from the Worthy Grand Architect's office.

Also an edition (Volume One, Number Three) of the Vitruvian, a publication by Vitruvius alumni on behalf of the alumni and active chapters has been released. It contains interesting and valuable information for delegates and guests.
Anthemios Man Plays Key Role on Seadragon Journey

URBANA, ILL. — An Anthemios man played a key role in September in the ending of a 400-year search for the elusive Northwest Passage.

James T. Strong, Anth. '44, son of Truman J. Strong, Anth. '17, is an executive officer on board the atomic-powered submarine Seadragon, which completed a history-making submerged passage from the East Coast to Alaska, via the North Pole.

Last December Strong ("Duke") participated in the commissioning ceremonies of his son's submarine and was on board her for two submerged days when it dived deeper than the 300 feet reported on her North Pole passage.

In appreciation he designed and had cast a very handsome commissioning plaque with parchment prints which were accepted with gratitude by Seadragon's commanding officer, LCDR George P. Steele.

From Illinois James Strong went to Annapolis graduating in 1947. He was assigned to submarine duty a year later and is now a Lieutenant Commander. Special postal covers were prepared for mailing from the ship in Nome.

This is the design made for USS Seadragon by T. J. Strong for the plaque.

Mnesicles Chapter Does Many Things

MINNEAPOLIS — Many activities are being pursued by members of Mnesicles Chapter. Football parking has been profitable and the Open House after the game with coffee and cookies has been enjoyable.

The Chapter has a crew of racing fans around the house and one of the programs put on featured a movie on the Elkhart Lake Races in Wisconsin. The sound of twenty-five sportscars taking off makes quite a roar in the living room so they say.

A film on the art of Japan was presented for more sedate people. A Homecoming Party was also held on October 15th.

The Chapter has fifteen active members and eight pledges.

ALPHA RHO CHI MEDAL DISTRIBUTION FOR 1960

Alabama Polytechnic Inst. John K. Mott
Arkansas, Univ. of James Hugh Johnston
Auburn University Richard C. Millet
California, Univ. of James Phillips Goldman
Carnegie Inst. of Tech. Alexander Steven Prokos
Catholic Univ. of America Clifford E. Myers
Cincinnati, Univ. of Raymond Watson Griffin
Clemson College Jack Verle Matasson
Colorado, University of Frank B. Hollenbeck
Columbia University Martin Sylvan Lehman
Cornell University
Detroit, University of John S. Peterman
Florida, University of David Isadore Smotrich
Georgia Institute of Tech. Elizabeth Hunter Aubry
Harvard University William Nicholas Patterson
Howard University Alfred T. Swenson
Illinois, Inst. of Tech. Fred Derr Moyer
Illinois, University of H. Kennard Bussard, Jr.
Iowa State College Jerry K. Eaxline
Kansas State College John Henry Pap
Kansas, University of Gustave M. Solomons, Jr.
Mass. Inst. of Tech. Peter Sayer
Miami University Kent David Johnson
Michigan, University of Duane E. Thorbeck
Minnesota, University of Marvin Ellis Holtz
Montana State College Nebraska, University of
N. C. State College Jeff John Vandenber
N. D. State College James McMillin Stevenson
Notre Dame, Univ. of Vernon Hunter
Ohio State University Michael D. Kelly
Oklahoma State Univ. Sydney J. Collins
Oklahoma, University of Albert Lee Reynolds
Pennsylvania State Univ. James Donald Carr
Pennsylvania, Univ. of Lester L. Boyer, Jr.
Rensselaer Poly. Inst. Edward E. Kirkbride
Pratt Institute Paul F. Noll
Rice Institute George Luis Cedeno
R. I. School of Design Joseph E. Blount
Southern California, U. of Frank Takadeno Sata
Syracuse University
Texas, A & M College Jeff John Vandenber
Texas Technical College James McMillin Stevenson
Texas, University of Vernon Hunter
Tulane University Michael D. Kelly
Utah, University of Sydney J. Collins
Virginia Poly. Inst. Albert Lee Reynolds
Virginia, Univ. of James Donald Carr
Washington State College Paul F. Noll
Washington University Joseph E. Blount
Washington, University of Frank Takadeno Sata
Western Reserve Univ. Jeff John Vandenber
Yale University James Barnes Baker
BRASS LETTERS ON THE FRONT DOOR OF THE VITRUVIUS CHAPTER HOUSE