



THE

TRAVELER

You call this a

PHYSICAL PLANT REPORT?

The preceding year has seen much in the way of improvement to the physical house of Cornell Acacia, both to its exterior and interior. It goes without saying that our concern for this house goes back to the responsibilities we accepted upon our initiation and a deep sense of pride we share for one of the most beautiful fraternity houses on the hill.

The "face lift" began during Spring term initiation back in April of 1976. Spring has always been considered a period of transition and "rebirth" for both nature and pledges alike. As the warming sun of an April morning smiled benevolently upon the heaving, restless earth, already beginning to explode with life, Brother Scott Kenny (Landscape Architecture '78) found an irresistible urge to get the pledges involved in a major landscaping project in front of the house. Slabs of solid slate were broken with simple tools and plenty of human effort (sweat!) to create a new walkway to the mailbox entrance. Then picks and shovels, rakes and calloused hands, cleared the way for the planting of new bushes and shrubbery to be completed during that Spring's initiation. While some brothers and pledges preferred to sink their hands into "the good earth" with Brother Kenny, others tried their skills at interior decorating. Brother Feinberg (Engineering '76) led the eager crew in repainting the commons area of the house, while downstairs the dining room was undergoing a long-awaited metamorphosis. Brothers Bill Utic (Engineering '77) and Tom O'Brien (Architecture '78) oversaw the repainting of the dining room. This was followed up with an attractive gold-on-white patterned wallpaper and new custom-finished draperies for the windows.

The 1976 pledge class, characterized by their tendency to set their goals rather high, opted to creosote all exterior wood trimming on the house as their pledge project. The "high wire" antics of Brothers Fred Skiff (Engineering '79) and Bob Burnham (Arts '79) kept our spirits and morale up while we stood on our 40-foot ladders dripping creosote on our partners below.

In the kitchen several improvements were made including a new screen door, garbage disposal unit, and a masonite wall finish behind the dishwasher/disposal area. Brother Bill Bethke (Engineering '79), our "Mr. Fix-it", has done much in the area of repairs along with our House Manager, Brother Norm LaLancette (Agriculture '79).

A number of improvements to the recreational facilities have also been made or are in the process of being completed. Those most notable include: the refurbishment of the pool table, as a gift of the 1976 Senior Class to the house; having the ping-pong table repaired and refinished; and a juke box on loan from Brother Bethke. Brother Chip Brueckman (ILR '78) our Treasurer and resident piano virtuoso, reports that although our piano has undergone two tunings in less than three months, a crack in the sounding board still presents the need for a complete repair job. A local merchant estimated the cost of fully repairing the piano at about \$1000. A bar sink with two work stations was purchased at a local auction and will be hooked up behind the bar in the recreation room over spring recess. Without a doubt, this will be of immense help to our bartenders in the future.

From shrubbery to bar sinks, from pianos to garbage disposals, capital improvements have always been an important way of showing our concern and respect for our chapter house.

Tom Visconti (Arts '78)

CHECK THIS DATE!

Homecoming 1977
Oct. 29 and 30

Cornell versus Yale

A great time at the House — watch for details about our Homecoming Activities!

Spring Weekend festivities are scheduled for May 6-8, 1977. There will be a pool party Friday night with the traditional picnic Saturday afternoon and a "smooth" band party in the evening. Come and celebrate the end of classes with us!

CORNELL CHAPTER GROWS

The house did well this past Fall under the leadership of Rush Chairman John Gammel (EE '77). With a matter of weeks to initiation, fifteen pledges are studiously working on "particulars" and carefully planning pledge paddles. The 15-member 1977 pledge class includes:

Michael James Barr (Engr '80) Buffalo, N.Y.
 George Derby (Physics '80) Jamaica, N.Y.
 Erwin Dale Dreiske (Mech Engr '80) Athens, Texas
 Michael Warren Fried (Arts '80) Queens Village, N.Y.
 Jeffrey Jay Hadrick (Engr '80) Arlington, Ill.
 William Burton Hairston III (Civ Engr '80) Birmingham, Ala.
 Ralph Gary Hay (Engr '80) Alexandria, Va.
 Morris Armand Jette, Jr. (EE '80) North Attleboro, Mass.
 John Thomas Littel (Arts '80) East Islip, N.Y.
 David Francis Moses (Bio '80) Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Michael Morris Pliss (Physics '80) Buffalo, N.Y.
 George Ramos (Fine Arts '79) Leominster, Mass.
 Joseph Michael Schussler (Ag Engr '80) Kingston, N.Y.
 William Roland Ward (At Sci '80) Springfield, Va.
 George Andrew Waskosky (Micro '79) Buffalo, N.Y.

The pledges themselves are an enthusiastic group and seem to be fitting in well with the house and brothers. Under Senior Dean, Bill Utic's (Civ Engr '77) guidance, they are progressing well in learning how the house operates. Each is being thoroughly indoctrinated in the traditions and trivia of Acacia here at Cornell as, for example, they search the library to discover which architect built our chapter house or who donated the "chimes" hanging in the commons foyer.

Initiation is scheduled to begin Thursday evening, April 14 at 9 P.M. and continue until Sunday, April 17 at noon. All alumni are welcome back to join in the festivities.

NEW HOUSE OFFICERS

At the March 27, 1977, meeting of the active chapter, the following brothers were elected to serve terms beginning April 17, 1977:

Venerable Dean Thomas Visconti '78
 Rush Chairman James Manfredi '79
 Senior Dean Chip Brueckman '78
 Junior Dean Jeffrey Spiro '79
 Treasurer Bruce Schneider '78
 House Manager Norman LaLancette '79
 Steward William Bethke '79
 Corresponding Secretary Bradley Meyer '79
 Recording Secretary Robert Burnham '79

ACACIA INVITES ALUMNI BACK!

The annual Corporation meeting for all Acacia fraternity members, alumnus and actives, over the age of 18, will be held on Saturday, April 30, 1977. The time table for the day is as follows:

12:00 - 1:00 P.M.	Lunch is served at the house.
1:00 - 5:00	An opportunity to see the campus (brothers will be available as guides), watch the now infamous Phi Psi 500, or varsity baseball against Army.
5:00 - 6:00	Cocktail hour at the house: an opportunity to tour the house and see the grounds.
6:00 - 7:00	Buffet Dinner
7:00 - 7:45	Slide presentation
7:45	Corporation Meeting

For those of you who need a place to stay, either write or call the house at 607-272-1567 for an information sheet on Ithaca accommodations. The day should be very relaxing and enjoyable. Why not take the time to meet the brothers and visit the house? We'd all like to see you here and we promise a good evening. See you on the 30th!

PARENTS' WEEKEND 1977

All of our alumni are cordially invited to attend the Parents' Weekend festivities on April 23-24. The weekend begins with lunch on Saturday from 11:00 until 1:00. The afternoon is free for tours of the campus and visits to local parks — Taughannock Park is especially beautiful at this time of year. Our 1976 national championship varsity lacrosse team will be playing the University of Pennsylvania at Schoellkopf field at 1 P.M. Tickets will be available at the gate.

The evening's festivities will begin at 5:30 with a cocktail hour sporting a delicious punch prepared by the 1977 pledge class. Background music will be provided by Chip Brueckman '78. The annual awards presentation will take place during dinner, which begins at 6:30. A coffee hour will follow with a slide presentation by Bill Utic '77. This will give you a chance for a candid and probably amusing look at the brothers' life at Acacia.

Promptly at 9:00, all are cordially invited to Acacia Downs for a "Night at the Races". Featuring a springtime decor and a Gatsby atmosphere, the brothers plan a treat that you won't easily forget. Twelve filmed horse races will give you a chance to try your best at win, place or show. There will be an open bar serving traditional favorites as well as our special for the evening, mint juleps. The next morning there will be a brunch from 11:30 to 1:00 to top off the weekend.

A LOOK AT THE ACACIA CORPORATION

The 1976-77 school year has been a very active one for the Acacia Corporation Board of Directors. Three new faces have been added to the Board to bring its number up to full strength. Several important decisions have also been made regarding alumni relations and chapter house repairs and renovations.

The new members appointed by the Board of Directors to fill unexpired terms are Alexander Cheney, Tom O'Brien, and Eden Slegr. They join Ernest Schauffler, Arthur Kulp, Don Payne, and James Showacre. (A short biographical sketch follows this article.) One of the most important areas which the Corporation must deal with is that of alumni relations, and this year the Corporation took several steps to strengthen them. The first of these, and probably the most important, was the dropping of the Stewart Howe Agency as the alumni records keepers, and publisher of this newsletter. The Board of Directors had been considering this move for some time but no other alternative had been presented that was acceptable for dealing with record keeping and the *Traveller*. This past fall, working along with the active chapter, the entire idea of record keeping and newsletter publishing was re-examined and evaluated. Out of this evaluation came the inspiration for several basic changes in the entire area of alumni relations.

Basically, these changes are described as follows. The Corresponding Secretary of the active chapter was made the Board of Director's representative. His duties are to edit and publish the *Traveller*; answer, or forward to the proper person for answering, any alumni mail that is received; and to act as the Corporation's agent when dealing with whatever outside source the Corporation chooses to have to do its alumni record keeping. The format of the *Traveller* was left up to the secretary, but the Board of Directors recommended that the format be "cleaned up" and made more attractive and easier to read.

The Corporation conducted a search of the various agencies to be found in the area which were capable of carrying out the record keeping duties necessary to maintain accurate and up-to-date information on our alumni. The decision was made to use the Student Management Corporation (SMC) for this function. SMC is a non-profit corporation set up to assist fraternities and sororities in such areas as food buying and financial services. Though they have no previous experience in this area of alumni relations, the Board of Directors felt that by working with them, we could develop a program that was tailored to our needs. SMC is also going to assist in some of the mechanical aspects of printing the *Traveller*. On the whole, the Corporation Board of Directors felt that this new system will help promote better alumni relations by making it easier for us to communicate with you and for you to communicate with other alumni.

In the area of the chapter house renovations and repairs, the Board of Directors made several important decisions this year. Funds have been voted for a new roof to be put on the wing. More insulation will be added as well as some changes in the drainage pattern. Funds have also been allo-

cated for some landscaping to be done around the chapter house. This work will be done under the supervision of one of the active members of the chapter who is a graduate of the Niagara School of Parks and is currently enrolled in the Landscape Architecture program here at Cornell, Scott Kenny.

The next big event for the Corporation will be the annual meeting to be held April 30, starting with cocktails at 5 P.M. at the chapter house. Part of this meeting will be devoted to election of two members to serve on the Board of Directors. A buffet dinner and slide show will round out the evening. The brothers of the active chapter will serve as hosts. Meal cost will be very minimal. Please plan to attend this meeting. Active brothers will be available to serve as guides for those who have not been back to Cornell for awhile. The evening promises to be quite enjoyable for all concerned. We hope to see you there!

Tom O'Brien (Arch '78)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO'S WHO

ERNEST SCHAUFFLER ('48): Currently the President of the Board of Directors. He works for Cornell University as a 4-H Extension specialist in Ornamental Horticulture.

ALEXANDER CHENEY (Arts '40): Currently the Vice President of the Board of Directors. In the past he has served as Secretary/Treasurer and as President of the Board. He works as the Assistant to the Director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

ARTHUR KULP (Arts '42): Currently the Secretary of the Board of Directors. He works for Cornell University as a Librarian in Olin Library.

DONALD PAYNE (Ag '55): Currently the Alumni Relations Officer of the Board of Directors. He works for the New York State Electric and Gas Company at their headquarters in Dryden, New York. The recent energy crisis has meant that Don is commuting to Washington, D.C. constantly in an effort to work out some of the local energy problems.

JAMES SHOWACRE (Eng '50): Currently the Treasurer of the Acacia Corporation. He works for Cornell University in their division of Management Systems Analysis. He also serves as defensive coach for the Cornell University lightweight football team.

EDEN SLEGR (Hotel '74): A new face on the Board of Directors. He works as the Director of the Student Management Corporation.

TOM O'BRIEN (Arch '78): Another new face on the Board. He served as Venerable Dean of the active chapter last year.

THE TRAVELLER is published by the actives to keep you informed. Let us know what you are interested in: suggestions, news, photos, are *always* welcomed. Please direct all communications to:

Acacia Fraternity
c/o SMC - Alumni Service
16 Willard Straight Hall
Ithaca, N.Y. 14853

ALUMNI NEWS

DAVE HOWER, '52, writes: "Last May I was transferred from Pennsylvania to Australia for two to three years as Director of Manufacturing for Richardson-Merrell, Ltd for Australia and New Zealand. The plant is in Villawood, in the Sydney area. My wife, Lorna, and 3 children, Mark, 16; Anne, 12; and Kay, 10, moved to Sydney in July. Our address is 25 Cliff Avenue, Peakhurst, N.S.W. 2210, Australia. If anyone gets to Sydney please call 536958 - we have a large house (at least by Australian standards) and would love company.

* * *

AL BERGER, '69, writes: "My current job at Antelope Valley College is only part-time and I am still hunting for a full-time teaching job. I am also nearing completion of my doctoral dissertation after working on it for 4 years." Al would like to hear from DICK MCMORTRY, '68, and DAVE THOMPSON, '69. Why don't you guys drop him a line? His address is 3740 Westwood Blvd., No. 4, Los Angeles, California, 90034.

* * *

ERNIE BRACKETT, '24, writes: "Last April my wife and I took a trip to the Orient to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We visited Hawaii, Thailand, Bali, Java, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. I spent the month of October in Caracas, Venezuela, drafting proforma contract forms which the government there will use in establishing a new automobile industry in Venezuela. I am general counsel for Don Sowle Associates, Inc., a management consulting firm" (2820 Northampton St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015)

* * *

"R.T." RITTERSHAUSEN, '21, tells us that he visited KEN GILLETTE several times recently. Ken has had cataract problems but is in good spirits. (R.T. - 87 Clinton Avenue, Nyack, New York, 10960)

ERIC HUMPHREYS, '74, is getting married on April 16 to Adrian Chapman. He says right now he's attempting to beat HOWIE ZWIEFEL'S record for years spent obtaining a Master of Engineering degree. (4550 Bradley Blvd., No. 1, Chevy Chase, Md. 20015)

* * *

"WILLIE" WILLITS, '26, tells us that he and his wife Mildred moved to a complete care retirement community three years ago. It is a Quaker-sponsored establishment whose slogan is "a carefree way of life", and it has proved to be just that. He says they both are very happy there. (Medford Leas, Apt 265, Medford, N.J., 08055)

* * *

DICK GRIEST is now the Quality Control Engineer for General Electric's Pacemaker operations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He says to look for G.E.'s announcement that they will no longer be in the pacemaker business - the profits aren't worth the risks. (300 W. Edgerton Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53207)

* * *

ROGER SOLOWAY, '57, tells us that he and his wife, Marilyn, have three fine sons: Andrew, 13; David, 11; and Russell, 6. He is a full-time Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania while seeing patients as a gastroenterologist. Says Roger, "It took reading the April issue of the *Traveller* to realize that PAUL GOLDBERG was a Cornell Acacian, Cornell Med. Graduate and member of the Department of Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. We see each other frequently to keep up the parallels - he is also interested in gastroenterology." (320 Saybrook Rd, Villanova, Pa. 19085)

* * *

"JOE" MILLER, '51, wants to know "if the hogs got BOB HOWE"? Can anyone answer him? If they can, tell us too! (Schultzville Rd., Clinton Corners, NY 12514)

Acacia Fraternity

c/o SMC - Alumni Service
16 Willard Straight Hall
Ithaca, N.Y. 14853

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ithaca, N.Y. 14853
Permit No. 527

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

