

History of the New Breed 19 Pledge Line

The Alpha Phi Alpha Pledge line for the Fall of 1969 at Prairie View A&M College started with a smoker in March 1969 where we were informed about the history of Alpha and great men of Alpha. The Brothers of the Epsilon Iota Extension Chapter from The University of Texas at Austin selected over 40 plus men to make the Sphinx club on May 15-16, 1969. Issac Gouldsby was designated as the Dean of Pledges.

When several of us attended the following summer session (1969), we were informed by several of the Neophytes that they would be conducting History sessions during the summer and that we should attend to learn the history of the Fraternity. The following Sphinxman attended those sessions: James Kirkwood, Paul Buster, David Brewer, George Walton, Henry Kemp, Arthur Ray Wilson, Amos Smith, Julius King, and Sammie Thomas. The history sessions were a "little" more than learning history, it was pledging. Large kitchen spoons with holes in them were the prime tool of the Neophytes.

The 40 plus men went active on September 24, 1969 at 10:30 pm, however we could not wear our Sphinx medallions on campus nor address any Alpha brother openly since we were not officially authorized to pledge on campus (we were underground). Over the next weeks the number dwindled down until it got to 19. The president of the Pledge line, David Brewer was told that we had to come up with a line name. After a lot of discussion and with several names to choose from we came up with the name "New Breed" since we were more flamboyant than any of the current Alpha brothers. David told us we had 19 on line and no one else would quit. Thus, we became the "New Breed 19".

It was sometime in October when the administration officially notified our big brothers that the Fraternity's pledges could pledge openly. We then began to wear our Sphinx medallions and speak to big brothers openly on campus.

We were required to be in the library every night including weekends from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and

we could not speak to any young ladies there or anywhere else on campus. Pledge meetings started at 10:30pm on any night that they said we were having a meeting. We would meet at the Catholic church to get our head straight and then go to Big Brothers Jerry Jones and Sedrick Susberry's house for meetings. We had to make our black cigar boxes, medallions, and boards, we used Sphinxman Henry Kemp's house who lived in Prairie View to manufacture those items, since his father had a band saw and everything, we needed to accomplish the tasks. We also had to wash cars, clean dorm rooms, shine shoes and bring breakfast to the big brothers. Later we were told by the big brothers that we had to develop a step show and conduct it on campus. The only steps we knew were what the Omegas were doing, so we had to come up with our own steps. We were the first Greek Letter social fraternity to pledge openly on campus and the first to put on a step show. We came up with some steps with the help of Sphinxman Chester Burks. Our signature step was the "tighten up," where we condensed our line into a pile and then started to push each Sphinxman into the air and when he came down, they started a step we developed that no one had seen before. We concluded the show with the burning of two-foot-high letters A Phi A, eight feet off the ground. Drove the ladies wild, they had never seen anything like that before.

Our Hell week lasted two weeks, we had many Alpha meals doing those two weeks and participated in "Turn Back Night," which was a very intense night. There were 25 big brothers there that night and each of them were to give us 3 impressions each and the Dean of Pledges got 4 impressions (totaling 76 impressions). We could not sit down the next morning.

The big brothers also cut an "A" in our hair and Mr. Caruthers (the Grad Chapter adviser) and the other members of the Grad Chapter felt that was inappropriate for Alphas, so the big brothers cut all our hair off.

We went over on December 13, 1969 and had a going over party in Houston at the Continental Hotel (no longer exist) with the new initiated brothers from TSU (Delta Theta).

The New Breed 19 line was the last line to pledge under Epsilon Iota Extension chapter from The University of Texas at Austin.

The following Sphinxmen were on the New Breed 19 line and 9 of us pledged for 7 months and 10 pledged for four months:

1. Claude Earl "Smooth" Johnson, Ft Worth, TX -Engineering -Naval ROTC (Marine) (Retired Engineer)
2. Woodrow "Woody" Barlow, Jr., Woodville, TX -Engineering
3. Daniel "Broadway" Taylor, Houston, TX -Biology- Army ROTC, Dentist US Army & Private Practice, Omega Chapter
4. Henry P. Kemp, Prairie View, TX-Engineering -Naval ROTC, Omega Chapter
5. Amos "Rocky" Smith, Beaumont, TX- Business Administration- Army ROTC (Retired)
6. Paul "Porky" Buster, Naples, TX-Engineering (Retired Engineer)
7. David "Rare" Brewer, Orlando, FL – Line President- Biology -Naval ROTC (Retired Navy Vice Admiral)
8. Julius "JuJu" "Dirty Red" King, San Antonio, TX-Electrical Engineering -Naval ROTC (Retired Engineer)
9. Benjamin "Dodo" Durant, Houston, TX -Political Science (Former Judge, Houston, TX)
10. Arthur Ray Wilson, Beaumont, TX-Pre Med, Naval ROTC, (Corporate America – Contracting)
11. Samuel "Wildchild" Thomas, Lubbock, TX- Elementary Education (Retired Educator)
12. George "Boogaloo" Walton, Nacogdoches, TX -Engineering (Retired US Patent Office)
13. Ira Odell "LaLa" Murchison, Dallas, TX – Pre-Med - Army ROTC (Practicing Physician)
14. Theodore Brown, San Antonio, TX –Political Science-Army ROTC, P/R, US Army Omega Chapter
15. James "Cock-Hound" Kirkwood, Houston TX – Mathematics -Army ROTC, P/R (Retired)

Army Colonel)

16. Chester "Sweet Peter" Burks, Jr, Silsbee, TX- Pre-Med - Army ROTC (Retired Physician) , Omega Chapter

17. Daryl Mayfield, Beaumont, TX – Business Administration (Retired Entrepreneur)

18. Jay Dee "D-Bulb," Anderson, Kilgore, TX –Electrical Engineering -Army ROTC, Yearbook Editor, Retired Engineer Omega Chapter

19. Thadis "Sad Sack" Pegues, Tyler, TX -Mathematics -Army ROTC, Omega Chapter