

April 13, 1954

Mr. Larry Courtney, Acting Secretary,
National Headquarters, D.K.A. Fraternity,
3518 University Avenue,
Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Brother Courtney,

Your letter dated March 16, has been received and was greatly appreciated by all of us interested in DKA here at Boston University. We appreciate the fact that the National Executive Council has decided to provide us with the charter which has been forthcoming since Beta Chapter was begun five years ago. Our problems have been similar to yours inasmuch as the records of Beta Chapter have been kept by the respective officers at their homes.

Once Beta Chapter is officially recognized and actively reinstated, you can rest assured that all the records will be kept in the Motion Picture Department at Boston University.

The following information is being sent to you as you requested, for the purpose of making out the Charter and for use in the next DKA News Letter.

Beta Chapter was installed in September of 1949, as a result of a great deal of groundwork by Ed Peltier who was unanimously elected its first President.

The list of the Charter Members is as follows:

Euclid J. Peltier - - President
Norman C. Locke - - Vice-President
Ronald Kaas - - Secretary
Walter K. Rhoads - - Treasurer

Robert Berman
Edward C. Bryant
Courtland Ellis
Ronald Freedman
Paul V. Gallagher
Elisha H. Johnson
Victor Heurlin

Joseph F. Ryan
John Sewell
Sherman Speth
Tom B. Tischoff
Donald W. Volkman
Douglas A. Wood

Faculty Advisor:
Ross Patton
Harrison S. Fisk
Honorary Members:
Joseph Rothberg
Jerry T. Ballantine

The history of Beta Chapter is not as impressive as we would like it to be. However, in our first years we were able to obtain as guest lecturers Mr. Jackie Cooper, Mr. Eddie Albert, and other people connected with the Motion Picture industry in and around Boston.

In these first years we were fortunate to have as an instructor in script writing, Miss Dorothy Speare, whose untimely death was a shock to all of us at Boston University. Miss Speare ^{was} the script writer for the film "One Night Of Love", and other Hollywood films.

Mr. Elliot Paul also served as an instructor in one of our motion picture writing courses.

During the summer of 1951, Mr. Ross Patton, who had been our faculty advisor, left Boston University to take a position as a director of films in the Audio-Visual Department in Colonial Williamsburg.

Mr. Homer J. Dietmeier entered the University in September of 1951 and has directed the Motion Picture Department and acted as faculty advisor to Beta Chapter since that time. Mr. Dietmeier's background includes a period of study at Northwestern University from which he received his Master's Degree in Theatre Arts. He was costume and scene designer for the film "Julius Caesar", directed by Dave Bradley, and also played a minor role in the film. He also served as writer-director for Paragon Pictures, Chicago, immediately before assuming his duties at Boston University.

From 1951 until present writing, contact between the National Chapter and Beta Chapter has been poor, and as a result there have been sporadic, but fruitless efforts to maintain an active participation in activities related to the Motion Picture Industry.

A few years ago Mr. Jack Chertok was appointed to the Board of Visitors at the school, and from time to time we are privileged to hear him speak.

It may be of interest to other members in our organization to know that during the summer of 1952 several students, under the direction of Mr. Dietmeier, and under the sponsorship of the Massachusetts Tuberculosis association, made a film, "Case History", which has been well received by the National TB Association and other organizations connected with the rehabilitation of tubercular patients.

During the summer of 1953, students in the Motion Picture Department, produced an original film, "The Stranger from the City", which is in its final stages of production, and is being entered in the Screen Producers Guild contest which is being held in May.

The information you requested regarding the addresses and whereabouts of former members is very incomplete. The best that I can do for you at present is this:

Ed Peltier- Audio-Visual Dept., Boston Public Library
Norman C. Locke- WWOR-TV, Worcester, Mass.
Walter K. Rhoads- WDEL-TV, Wilmington, Delaware
Robert Berman- WBZ-TV, Boston, Mass.
Edward C. Bryant, Audio-Visual Dept., Bos. Univ. School of Education
Courtland Ellis-U.S. Army
Ronald Freedman- U.S. Army

Elisha Johnson- Ansco Laboratories, Binghamton, N.Y.
Vistor Heurlin- U.S.A.F.
Joseph F. Ryan, Bos. Univ. Motion Picture Dept.
Sherman Speth- U. S. Army, Signal Corps, Germany
Tom B. Tischoff- Capt. U.S.A.F. -c/o P.M. San Francisco
Donald W. Volkman- WBZ-TV, Boston, Mass.
Douglas Wood- U.S.A.F.

The above information is not positively accurate, but at the present time it is the only information we have regarding the majority of the students. Some of the students who were at Boston University last year are now in school at USC and have transferred their membership to the appropriate chapter. They are Harold Coffin, Albert Rose, Isigani Pastor, and Richard Shore. The students who have left here in the past have not kept us informed as to what they are doing so we can give no further information. However, I feel that once Beta Chapter is active again, we can contact the graduates of the Motion Picture Department and obtain an accurate and up-to-date record of their activity.

I hope that the information in this letter has been of some help to you and the National Chapter and I hope that we will be hearing from you in the very near future. We would appreciate it if you would send us a copy of the Constitution which we can keep here in the Motion Picture Department and any other information which might be valuable to us in organizing Beta Chapter again.

Thank you,

Joseph F. Ryan
Joseph F. Ryan, Inst.
Motion Picture Dept.