



THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NORMAN · OKLAHOMA

August 6, 1959

Mr. Herbert E. Farmer
Department of Cinema
University of Southern California
Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Herb;

I am looking into a job opening at Montana State College (that's where Jack Stonnell is) and I need a copy of my transcript from USC. Could you (a) get one for me, or have them send it to; Mr. Hardy Berry, Director of Information, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana - and then you or they let me know how much I owe...or (b) let me know who to write at USC and how much to send for the copy.

*Shumway
Lansing Office*

I surely would appreciate your help in this.

I am afraid I won't be at UFPA this year. I had hoped to make it, but several things came up. Doug Menville, Jack Stonnell and I are all having a get together the latter part of the week of the UFPA and there is a lot of work piling up here at the unit. Since Ned is VP he has to be there, and someone has to mind the store.

Also, I would like to talk with you sometime (via letter probably) about the chances of coming back to SC maybe next summer to try and get my thesis done. The big problem would be expenses as I would be on leave-of-absence from wherever I was working at the time.

Thanks,

Milt

Milt Roberts

Motion Pictures

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Campus Memo

To: Mrs. Shumway, Transcript Dept. Registrar's Office

DATE: August 13, 1959

FROM: Shana T. Cruse, Department of Cinema

Would you be so kind as to send the necessary transcript for Milton Roberts of the Cinema Department to:

Mr. Hardy Berry
Director of Information
Montana State College
Bozeman, Montana

If there is a charge of any kind, please contact Mr. Milt Roberts at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. Thank you.

August 13, 1959

Mr. Milton Roberts
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma
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Dear Milt:

Your letter arrived while Herb was out of town. We expect him back around the last week in August. If you are not going to the UPPA Conference, he will no doubt answer your letter when he returns.

I went ahead and requested that your transcript be sent to Mr. Berry at Montana State. So they will get it off as soon as possible. If there is a charge they will let you know.

Lots of luck on the new job.

Sincerely,

Shana T. Cruse
Department Secretary

#1 -

MONTANA STATE COLLEGE
BOZEMAN

FILM AND TELEVISION CENTER

December 7, 1959

Mr. Herbert E. Farmer
Department of Cinema
University of Southern California
Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Herb:

I guess this will come as a surprise to you, but I am now with the Film and TV Center here at Montana State with Jack Stonnell. I took Ed Freed's place.

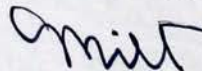
Jack and I have some questions for you regarding the Cinema-TV Club here. It is a fairly active organization, with 18 members this quarter, many of them first-year students. They co-sponsor a film classics type of program with Alpha Psi Omega. In addition, they are planning a club film project.

They are interested in becoming a chapter of DKA, and both Jack and I, as alums of DKA, are anxious to have this come about. I have checked with some material I have on the procedure for membership, but I would like the latest word on this. Would you please send us a letter with all the steps outlined?

I am sure this group would be a credit to the fraternity, and this affiliation would help them gain more recognition on campus, which in turn would lead to a better and better membership.

Give our best regards to all our friends there at SC.

Sincerely,



Milt Roberts

MR/ltc

December 18, 1959

Mr. Milton Roberts
Film and Television Center
Montana State College
Bozeman, Montana

Dear Milt:

It was good to receive your letter of December 7th and to learn that things are going well with you. I have heard that you had left Oklahoma from several sources. Recently, Ned Hockman contacted me still looking for a person to replace you. It's good to know that you are missed.

On the question of DKA National, I am sorry to report that not too much is happening. Frankly, my biggest concern has been to keep the records as much up to date as I can, add the names of new members as they are taken in by the Alpha Chapter, and keep our name in good graces with Balfour, the printer, and our other creditors. It was to this end that I usurped the position of executive secretary without pay, and railroaded Dave Johnson into the position of treasurer. Together, we can transact the primary business of the organization, but neither of us have the time to exert the leadership involved in building and expanding the National organization.

I am still trying to needle a group of loyal, interested individuals from among our alumni roles to resurrect a National organization, call for and engineer an election of new national officers, and establish a program for the future growth and betterment of the organization. My efforts so far have been non-successful, although this is largely due to the fact that I have not been able to apply much pressure in this direction this Fall.

Aside from these problems I have a reservation about the establishment of additional chapters at this time. Although I cannot put my finger directly on the reference in the constitution, I believe that it is the intent of DKA to establish chapters at school which offer a major emphasis in the field of motion pictures. It is quite likely that DKA should consider expanding its sphere of influence to fit into the larger field of communications as this seems to be the current trend in higher education, but I believe that in so doing it would perhaps conflict with several other organizations which exist in the field of radio and television. Although I am personally in favor of this expanding concept for DKA National, I feel that it would be wrong to make any move at this time without properly appraising all of the members, and securing permission through a constitutional law, or by-law amendment as required. This would take more doing than I can consider personally this year.

I am pleased to report that this past Summer and Fall we have been making considerable progress in re-organizing the fiscal procedures of the Cinema Department towards the end of a much better control with a much sounder budgetary procedures. As you know our department has grown for many years without a thorough revaluation of this aspect. The problems attended with this along with some more reconstruction over in the Services area has kept me rather busy for the past five months. When you come back to visit us, you will find many changes, but I do not believe they have interfered with the "spirit" of the place. Is it possible that you and Jack can get down for the 87th SMPTE Convention the first week of May next year? I know that you would prefer to come during the Winter when I read in the paper of temperatures way below zero in Montana.

Again, it was good hearing from you, and I hope that before long we will find a way to get DKA National off the ground and back in business. Please relay my kindest regards to Jack.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert E. Farmer
Director of Services

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**MONTANA STATE COLLEGE
BOZEMAN**

FILM AND TELEVISION CENTER

January 4, 1960

Mr. Herbert E. Farmer
Director of Services
Department of Cinema
University of Southern California
Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Herb:

Jack and I were upset by your letter which indicated an unwillingness on your part to see any expansion of DKA at this time.

First, perhaps you did not understand that we do have a degree program here in what is called "Film and Television". The film courses outnumber the television ones by better than 2 to 1 and that is the area in which we hope to make most of our expansion. You are correct that there are organizations for radio and television, but here the emphasis is on FILM and television.

As a side remark I would like to state that one of the major ills plaguing television today is its close association with radio format and radio techniques (this is pure personal opinion).

I do not feel that there would be any danger of stepping on toes by converting our Cinema-TV club into a chapter of DKA.

I also feel that turning them down at this time would tend to work against the better interests of DKA in the future. What is needed in DKA is a group of loyal, interested people who have a little time to devote to the organization, and perhaps some of these could come from Montana State.

These students are very interested in becoming a chapter of DKA, mainly because of the selling job Jack and I have done and because of their desire to achieve status on campus by affiliation with a national professional fraternity. They are quite likely to drop the idea completely or find a substitute (such as radio and/or TV group) to affiliate with. These courses would be both detrimental to DKA and, I feel, to the group here.

The basic question is; what more must we do? We have an active interested membership. We have a curriculum leading to a major. If the curriculum must be changed strictly to film, that is quite out of our hands, and a narrow attitude on the part of DKA national. It is an attitude that may cost more and more in membership and prestige as more universities set up programs which deal with a combination of communications media rather than exclusively with motion pictures.

None of this is intended as personal criticism of you, Herb. You have done a fine job as executive-secretary-without-pay. It is a job that needs doing, and we all appreciate it. I am concerned with DKA, however. I am concerned with its standing and with its growth. I greatly fear that putting too much of a limitation on it may turn it into what it seems to have become by default, a local rather than a national organization.

I am happy to hear that things are looking up at Cinema. Doug Menville kept me informed while he was still there, but he is now at Fort Lee, Virginia. Ron McManus is back on the coast and out of the Army. I heard from Doug Gallez at Christmas. He is still in APC on Long Island and sent news of several former Cinema people he has come into contact with.

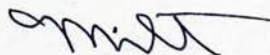
Jack and I would both like very much to come down for the SMPTE convention. It is unlikely that both of us will get to make the trip, but maybe we can swing it. We do have funds for such trips, and there are plans to have one or both of us go to the Calvin Workshop. I probably can't go because I am responsible for filming athletic events and we have basketball games that conflict.

However, this spring would be fine, and I hope we can both come back for a visit and the convention. Jack plans to try to come back for some more work on his eighth quarter leave. I, too, would like to get that thesis finished up on my leave (which will come in the summer of '61). Could you give us any encouraging news on this? Would it be possible to finish that up in a summer there. That is all we need.

I sincerely hope something can be worked out, as our students are quite eager to join DKA and I'd hate to disappoint them.

My best wishes to Dave Johnson, and any of the others who are still around who may remember me. My best to you and your family, too.

Sincerely,



Milt Roberts
Instructor

MR/ltc

January 27, 1960

Mr. Milton Roberts
Montana State College
Bozeman, Montana

Dear Milt:

I was sorry to receive your letter of January 4th and to learn that both you and Jack interpreted my last letter as an unwillingness on my part to see an expansion of DKA. This is the farthest thing from my mind and I guess, that's what I get for attempting to dictate letters on the stenorette machine while I am driving to and from work in the traffic in the city.

To clarify my position, all I say is that I do not feel that I, in an appointed position should assume any such authority and take it upon myself to authorize a move which has far-reaching importance. This is something which should come from the National officers (elected) and this group is just not functioning.

Milt, I don't think there is much of anything you can do from Montana at this time. This has to start by breathing some life into the National organization which about has to happen from the people in this part of the country. I am doing what I can on this this Spring as I know you are anxious to do something concrete for your people.

Please do not take any of my discussions in the last letter about curriculum as having any direct bearing on your problems. This is not for me to say and all I was doing was raising the questions which were bound to come up and the answers and arguments should be ready.

My very best to Jack and all. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert E. Farmer
Director of Services

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