City tells OSU fraternities to keep kitchens scrubbed

By Scott Powers
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Fraternities at The Ohio State University are getting a message from the city that moms usually deliver: Keep the kitchen clean.

One fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega at 1892 Indiana Ave., was put on probation by the Columbus Board of Health yesterday.

The board cited many health code violations during the past 15 months, including rodents in the walls and old pork-chop bones under the freezer.

SEVEN CITY inspections between November 1987 and November 1988 found 26 health code violations in the Alpha Tau Omega kitchen.

They included mouse droppings and mouse holes, improperly stored food, moldy food, a leaking garbage disposal unit, missing or broken kitchen equipment, and holes and openings in the walls and floors.

Many of the violations were present at most or all of the inspections, the board was told.

Sanitarian Jim Hartman said the fraternity passed a follow-up inspection earlier this week and can expect several more before November.

Health Commissioner William C. Myers said that if Alpha Tau Omega’s kitchen fails an inspection between now and November, the city will revoke its food-handling license and close the kitchen.

If the kitchen is closed, members will have to eat somewhere else. The fraternity house, itself, will not have to close.

Eric Bell, an OSU senior who is Alpha Tau Omega’s kitchen steward, said there should be no problem keeping the kitchen up to code. Previous problems were hard to control because of a high turnover of cooks and kitchen stewards, he said.

Bell said yesterday that the fraternity has hired a professional exterminator and has taken other steps to end all the violations.

Alpha Tau Omega has 50 residents. OSU’s fraternities and sororities range in size from 15 to 150 members.

Health department officials told the board that similar violations often are discovered at other fraternity houses, though usually not over such an extended period.

As a result, the city and the OSU Office of Greek Affairs yesterday agreed to set up twice-annual sanitation seminars for cooks, kitchen stewards, house managers, and property owners from the university’s 40 off-campus fraternity houses.

Hartman told the board that women in OSU’s 17 sorority houses apparently know how to keep kitchens clean because few violations are found.

Also, all sororities have paid adult residents, but few fraternities do, officials said.

Steven Binns, health code enforcement administrator, said all OSU fraternities should be on alert.

“THIS HAS been a long ongoing problem for us, not only at Alpha Tau Omega but with other fraternities,” he said.

Columbus can regulate fraternity and sorority kitchens as food establishments when they have hired cooks, and almost all do, Binns said.

Ironically, the health department sponsored a sorority and fraternity sanitation workshop yesterday at the same time as the health board’s hearing on Alpha Tau Omega’s violations. Attendance was voluntary, and only 12 houses sent representatives.

Future seminars ordered by the health board also could have voluntary attendance, but with a catch — any fraternity that does not send representatives could be considered to be acting without good faith and might not get any breaks if violations are found, board members suggested.
Frat on probation for health violations

By Katie McClure
Lantern staff writer

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity was put on probation Wednesday by the Columbus Board of Health after violating health code violations.

The board, Wednesday, the board cited many health code violations, including mice and poor temperatures for food storage, leaking garbage, moldy food and holes in the walls and floors.

The fraternity, 100% Indianola Ave., was ordered by the health board to keep the kitchen clean or close it down.

Mark McDonnell, food program supervisor for the Board of Health, said the problem seems to be that they don’t do a good job of cleaning.

He said from November 1987 to November 1988 Alpha Tau Omega’s kitchen received 26 health code violations.

McDonnell said Columbus can regulate fraternity and sorority kitchens as food establishments, as long as the cooks are hired help.

He said the fraternity passed a follow-up inspection earlier this week, but if they fail an inspection between now and November 1989, their food-handling license will be revoked, and the kitchen will be closed down.

“While many have minor violations,” he said. “But if there is any critical violation, like a real food temperature problem, the kitchen will be automatically closed down.

“The strange thing about it is that we have made every attempt to correct this problem so it wouldn’t have to come to this,” he said.

McDonnell said, “We have sent letters to the president of the fraternity, the owner of the house property and the OSU office of Greek Affairs. There just seems to be a lack of concern,” he said.

If the kitchen is closed down, the members of the fraternity would have to find another place to eat. The house, where 50 residents live, would not shut down.

Eric Bell, a senior from Columbus majoring in finance, is Alpha Tau Omega’s kitchen steward. He said they are taking the probation seriously, and there should be no problems keeping the kitchen clean for future inspections.

He blames a high turnover rate for some of the past problems. He said the house has had three cooks in the past two years.

Bell said the Columbus Board of Health sent a letter for 1989 listing specific violations from the past year. Some of the violations were because the house didn’t correct the problems exactly as the board wanted, he said.

Wednesday health department officials told the board that although similar health situations are found in other fraternities, they are usually not over such an extended length of time.

McDonnell said the board is watching five or six other fraternities as well, but only one is being watched closely.

“Sororities seem to do a lot better job of cleaning than the fraternities do,” he said.

McDonnell said the city and the OSU Office of Greek Affairs decided Wednesday to set up biannual seminars on sanitation for cooks, kitchen stewards, house managers and property owners for OSU’s fraternity houses.
Fraternities battle to support charity

OSU fraternity men fought to knock out Muscular Dystrophy Thursday night at the Ohio Center.

The event was part of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity's philanthropy to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association and their programs.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association works to find treatments and cures for neuromuscular disorders.

The event raised about $14,000 for the association, said Pat Viglianti, executive director of the Alpha Tau Omega Fite Nite event.

Viglianti said there were about 3,800 people in attendance.

The event consisted of 25 bouts, each lasting three rounds in the ring.

Each fraternity may enter up to three men in the event. The fraternity with the most combined points from the fights wins the event.

Evans Scholars won this year's event.

The fighters are matched by a computer using a formula consisting of 80 percent weight, 15 percent height, and 5 percent amateur fighting experience.

Prior to the event, fighters have the opportunity to train with local professional fighters.

"I started training in late November. I put my heart and soul into it, and I've made a lot of sacrifices. I changed my diet, ran three miles a day, and stopped drinking," said Chris Rosati, a fighter for Delta Tau Delta fraternity and a junior from Centerville majoring in real estate.

"This year was my second and last year to fight. I won last year and lost this year. A 1-1 record is good enough for me," said Matt Huston, a fighter for Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and a senior from Seven Hills majoring in Aviation.

"When the Fite Nite event started in 1977 only about 400 people attended, and it was held in an Ohio Union ballroom," Jeff Donatini, a 1983 OSU graduate and Alpha Tau Omega alumnus, said.

"The fighters are more skilled today than the days when the fight started. You see better fights today," said Greg Barker, '82 OSU graduate and Alpha Tau Omega alumnus.

Dannen Green, an amateur boxer and OSU graduate student, said the Fite Nite event is good because it gives people a chance to learn about a sport not many people know about.

Photos and story by Carole Spencer

Chris Rosati, a junior majoring in Real Estate from Centerville, eyes his opponent across the ring.
Doug Ganit, a sophomore majoring in engineering from Kettering, pulls back to throw an upper cut to the stomach of Paul McMillian, a junior majoring in business from Centerfield.

Shaun Grimshaw, a junior majoring in history from former Detroit Golden Gloves Champ Centerville, listens to his trainer Greg Zilba, a
Rick Saunders, a senior majoring in animal science from Centerville, is named the victor by the referee while Chuck Shultz, a junior majoring in political science from Centerville, reveals his disappointment.

Chris Williamson, a senior majoring in agronomy from Delian and Dave Kless, a junior majoring in criminology from Cleveland battle it out in the final fight of the evening.
Health board shuts down frat’s kitchen
License suspended for OSU’s Alpha Tau Omega

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The kitchen is closed for the men of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity at The Ohio State University.

The Columbus Board of Health yesterday suspended the fraternity’s food service operation license until Jan. 1 because of “flagrant” health code violations.

The fraternity, which has about 50 residents, was “disturbed but not surprised” by the health board’s decision, said fraternity chapter President Bart Deems.

“In my opinion, they are laying down the law with this action. They are saying you must maintain a consistent level of cleanliness in your dining areas,” Deems said.

When asked what the fraternity will do for meals, Deems said, “We are going to have our meals catered from now on.”

Alpha Tau Omega, 1892 Indianola Ave., was told to clean up its act in February when the health board placed the fraternity on probation for a number of health code violations.

City health officials received a complaint about recurring sanitation problems at the fraternity from the fire department, which was called to a small fire at the fraternity house Aug. 28.

In an inspection of the fraternity’s kitchen the next day, health officials found various code violations, including: evidence of mice, cockroaches and fruit flies; poisoned stored food in a dry storage area; and a motorcycle stored in the dining area.

In a follow-up inspection Sept. 6, health officials noted a dirty outside trash bin area, broken floors, missing floor tiles and holes in the kitchen walls.

The health department then suspended the fraternity’s food service operation license, pending the ruling by the health board.

The board said the license may be reinstated if the fraternity:
- Submits a written plan of kitchen operation.
- Has all kitchen workers and officers attend a food protection workshop.
- Provides a list of those in charge and their phone numbers.
- Corrects all current violations.
- Removes all food from the kitchen.
- Makes the kitchen available for unannounced monthly inspections.

In addition, the fraternity will be placed on probation for one year upon having its license reinstated. The fraternity must “score 90 or above, with no critical violations” on all inspections during that time. If the fraternity fails to meet standards, it could have its license suspended again or revoked.

Deems said problems cited by the health department already have been corrected.
Fite Nite duked it out for cancer research

By Steve Helwagen
Lantern special assignment reporter

None of the boxers at tonight’s Alpha Tau Omega Fite Nite could be confused with World Champion Buster Douglas, but they will all be fighting for money.

A crowd of about 5,000 is expected tonight at the Ohio Center, 400 N. High St., for the 13th annual Fite Nite.

Event coordinator Tal Richards, a senior from Cincinnati, said the event will feature 29 three-round fights with all proceeds going to the Ohio Cancer Research Associates. He said last year’s event netted $11,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

“This is our main philanthropy project of the year,” Richards said. “We are hoping to donate $12,000 this year.”

“The main problem is expenses. We are trying to cut costs, but what we donate depends on how many people show up. It costs us $3,000 for the Ohio Center and another $1,500 for security, he said.

Richards said the event has been held at the Ohio Union, the Agora (now the Newport Music Hall), the Fairgrounds Coliseum and the Hyatt Regency Ballroom, but the Ohio Center is the ideal place for it.

“We set a record two years ago at the Hyatt Ballroom and were able to donate $15,000, but it was just so crowded there and a lot of people stayed away. Last year was the first year to have it at the Ohio Center and there was a lot more room there,” he said.

“It’s become quite a social event and a big event for our alumni. We expect most of the guys from the fraternities and a lot of the sororities to be there.”

Keith Durst, a senior from Columbus, is directing security for the event. He said the change to the Ohio Center could signal a larger crowd.

“Since we’ve moved we could have as many as 7,000 people there, but we expect 5,000 at a minimum,” he said.

“One way we’re able to help people get there is we have a continual shuttle bus to take people from A.K.A. Fletchers to the Ohio Center,” Durst said.

Durst said the fighters on tonight’s card are members of OSU fraternity houses and are carefully matched.

“Each house is invited to sponsor fighters. The bigger houses or one who have participated for a number of years can have three fighters,” he said. “The smaller houses get two fighters and the newer ones get one. There is no way we can accommodate everyone who wants to fight, so we have to narrow it down like this.”

“The fighters are matched based on height, weight and experience. If they have experience, we don’t want to put them in there with someone who hasn’t fought before,” Durst said. “It wouldn’t be a fair fight.”

Durst said there is varying degree of how much actual training the fighters go into for the fight.

“Some people don’t train. Some guys take it seriously. They go to public gyms and get trainers to help them out,” he said.

Chris Farinacci, a senior from Mayfield Village majoring in mechanical engineering, will fight on tonight’s card. His training regimen speaks for how seriously he is taking the event.

“I’ve been working five days a week since January, going to the gym three or four times a week, running on my own or hitting the heavy bag,” he said.

Farinacci said there was no pressure from his fraternity brothers to compete and that he wanted to do it.

“It was my own decision. I probably should have my head examined for wanting to do it,” he said. “It’s good because only about four or five guys have fought before and everyone is an amateur. Everybody is basically training the same.”

Richards said presale tickets are available at the ATO house, several OSU sororities and at Grinder’s Restaurant. Tickets are $5 presale or $6 at the door.

The doors will open at the Ohio Center at 6:30 p.m. tonight and the fights will start at 7:15 p.m.
Fite Nite raises money for cancer research

By Ron Hansen
Lantern staff writer

Nearly 5,000 students engaged themselves in brutal pleasure while raising money for charity Wednesday by attending the 14th annual Alpha Tau Omega "Fite Nite."

The event, at the Ohio Center, raised about $8,000. The money will be donated to the Ohio Cancer Research Associates, said Wally Paken, event coordinator.

"Fite Nite is the largest greek fund-raising event in the Midwest," organizer Bob Hensman said.

Gerry Pyle, office manager for the Ohio Cancer Research Associates, said the money donated will help fund basic cancer research.

Research by the Ohio Cancer Research Associates includes studying the effect exercise has on cancer victims and the makeup of chromosomes. The organization submits its findings to larger research agencies like the National Cancer Institute, Pyle said.

The event featured 30 fights, consisting of three one-minute rounds. Each fighter wore protective headgear and received boxing lessons before the event.

Disc jockey Mark Dantzler of WNCI supplied the music. Twenty-three OSU fraternities supplied as many as three fighters each. In addition, 18 sororities sent "knockout queens" to sell tickets and announce the rounds.

Phi Kappa Tau was declared the champion fraternity after all three of its fighters won their bouts. It is the fraternity's third championship since the event began in 1977. This ties them with Alpha Tau Omega, also a three-time champion.

Each fraternity chose the fighters it wanted to represent its house. Phi Kappa Tau President Jamie Day said his fraternity held a boxoff, or mini-tournament to choose its representative.

Many of the fighters have been training since the end of autumn quarter, Day said.

Although the fights were intense, the boxers showed little use of boxing technique. Each fight contained its share of flailing fists. Some of the punches did not stop even after the bell had sounded.

Michael Thomas sustained the evening's only serious injury when he dislocated his shoulder.

One of the more entertaining bouts pitted William Barrow against Mike Selby.

After clearly winning the first round, Barrow delivered a right hand in the second round causing Selby's nose to bleed profusely. Barrow was directed by the referee to a neutral corner. Barrow then put up his gloves and appeared ready to fight the official before complying.

After the fight Barrow said, "I didn't want to hurt him. I gave him about 30 hugs. I'm taking Mike out Friday for a beer. I feel so bad for him."

Sometimes charity hurts.
Greeks hope for knockout

By Karin Gross
Lantern staff writer

Fifty-two fraternity members will take to the ring tonight for the 15th annual Alpha Tau Omega Fite Nite at 7 p.m. at the Celeste Center.

"Each fighter is paired with someone in the same weight class," said Ross Cohen, Alpha Tau Omega Fite Nite chairperson. "We also take into consideration a person's height and experience."

Derek Carter, a fighter for Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, has trained for Fite Nite by running, jumping rope and boxing with his roommate.

"Since I can last against my roommate, who won the tough man competition and weighs 20 pounds more than I do, I'm not worried about the fight," Carter said.

"It helps to go down to Thompson Recreation Center and spar with the other participants," said Darren Bok, a fighter for Alpha Sigma Gamma fraternity.

John DiFrangia, a fighter for Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, also trained at Thompson Recreation Center.

"After working out together you know each other's boxing skills, so you don't try to psych each other out," DiFrangia said. "You just go in there and have a good fight, and at the end you're still friends."

Five judges from the Amateur Boxing Federation will score the fighters according to the federation's point system. Participants will fight for three one-minute rounds with one minute breaks in between, Cohen said.

In accordance with the federation's sanctions, boxers must wear a mouthpiece, a cup, headgear and 16-ounce boxing gloves. Pre- and post-fight physicals are also required to insure the participants safety, he said.

"The size of the gloves and the equipment used are to prevent injury," Cohen said.

The fraternity has taken out a $1 million insurance policy, and the fighters must sign a release form to free Alpha Tau Omega of any liability, he said.

Budweiser sponsors the event and pays for expenses including ring rental, sanctioning and advertising, Cohen said. All remaining funds from ticket and T-shirt sales are contributed to the Ohio Cancer Research Association.

Last year Phi Kappa Tau fraternity won Fite Nite, and Alpha Tau Omega raised about $10,000 for cancer research, Cohen said.

Tickets are $5 pre-sale and $6 at the door. Shuttle buses will be available to the Ohio State Fairgrounds and will leave Presley's, 1778 N. High St., at 6:30 p.m.
Fight Night stays despite injury

By Christine Mortellaro
Lantern staff writer

While other universities are putting an end to "Fight Night," an Ohio State fraternity is planning to continue its tradition of sponsoring the event.

Several universities cancelled their Alpha Tau Omega Fight Nights after a recent tragedy at Purdue University.

Christopher Smith, a senior at Purdue, underwent brain surgery one day after participating in a nine minute boxing match at Purdue's Fight Night.

Northern Illinois University cancelled its Fight Night two weeks after Smith's injury.

The University of Florida stopped holding the event last year because it feared similar injuries.

Alpha Tau Omega's Fight Night, a 16-year tradition, is a boxing match between different members of houses in the Greek system.

"Right now, it's a go," said Todd Kookan, president of ATO.

The event will never get out of hand like it did at Purdue, said Ken Geduldig, chairman of the event.

Professional referees sanctioned by the United States Amateur Boxing Association will officiate the matches, Geduldig said.

For ATO's Fight Night, all participants are required to wear 16-ounce gloves and head gear during the three one-minute rounds, he said.

Because Fight Night is regulated by USAM, the fraternity is required to take more precautions than in matches not sanctioned by USAM.

All boxers are required to receive a physical exam before and after the fight, and a doctor will be present at the ring, Geduldig said.

Over the past 16 years, the fraternity has donated more than $100,000 from the event's proceeds to various charities, Geduldig said.

Proceeds from the Fight Night in March 1993 will go to the Leukemia Society of America.
Fite Nite loses tough decision to ATO national

By Michael Fitzpatrick
Lantern staff writer

One of Ohio State’s most successful fraternity fund-raising events has been KO’d. Alpha Tau Omega Fite Nite is an event in which fraternity brothers are divided into weight classes and pitted against one another in the ring to promote fraternity unity and raise money for charity. In 15 years at Ohio State, the event raised more than $100,000.

This year, Fite Nite was cancelled by ATO’s national headquarters and lost official recognition from the university, leaving the local chapter frustrated.

The university does not have jurisdiction to cancel a greek event, but when the university does not recognize a philanthropy, the fraternity or sorority must come up with a new one to take its place.

OSU Fite Nite raised more than $4,000 last year for Ohio Cancer Research, but was called into question this year because of a serious Purdue Fite Nite injury, and because the OSU fraternity is currently serving a 60-day probation enacted by ATO nationals.

The suspension was a result of a membership review at the end of Spring Quarter 1992, said Winn Smiley, ATO nationals communications director. Fraternities can not participate in fraternity events while on suspension.

“After review we asked the chapter to ‘show cause’ as to why their charter should not be pulled,” Smiley said. “They were not making satisfactory progress with completing the show cause list.”

The national fraternity informed OSU ATO Jan. 22 that the probation would not be lifted, and gave orders not to proceed with Fite Nite or the local chapter’s charter might be pulled, said Ken Geduldig, ATO executive coordinator for Fite Nite.

John Kosta, a service consultant to ATO, said he was under the impression that the probation enacted by the national headquarters had been lifted, and Geduldig was given permission to proceed with Fite Nite.

Geduldig said he thought the probation ended Jan. 15, but safety was really the main topic of conflict to the national chapter, so the fraternity went to extreme measures to avoid a repeat of the events at Purdue.

The measures include: doctors at ringside; professional referees sanctioned by the United States Amateur Boxing Federation; and an ambulance at the site of the event. Purdue’s Fite Nite was not sanctioned by the USABF, Geduldig said.

ATo’s local and national chapters received a letter stating that the university would not recognize Fite Nite as a philanthropy. The letter came from David Strauss, OSU coordinator for Leadership and Group Development in Greek Affairs, and cited the Purdue incident as the reason for the university action.

Geduldig said he was upset because ATO was not consulted about the decision to cancel Fite Nite, and because the letter was sent during winter break to an empty house, leaving the fraternity no time to address university concerns.

“Strauss had contact with our nationals and influenced them by having conversations daily,” he said. “His job is to advise us. I feel that his influence on the national headquarters compelled them to cancel (the event),” he added.

Strauss told the Lantern that he spoke with ATO nationals biweekly, not daily, and discussed chapter issues, including the fraternity’s suspension.

Geduldig said no one benefits from the cancellation and ATO will look into other areas of philanthropy.

This year’s event, which was scheduled for March 3, had already received sponsorship from the Columbus Distributing Company, a letter from the company stated.
Fraternity members uncertain about future of ATO chapter

By Meredith Cleverley
Lantern staff writer

All signs indicate that a closing of the Alpha Tau Omega house is imminent in the fall, but members say they have been left in the dark about all decisions concerning the chapter's closing from the start.

"I had just returned to Columbus when I kept receiving messages on my phone regarding the house being boarded up," said ATO President Todd Kooker.

"They didn't even tell us they were doing it," he said. "Members were told last quarter the reason we had to move out for the summer was for the remodeling of the house and that it was not economical for just a few of the 48 members to be living in for the summer."

Kooker said the ATO fraternity house, 1892 Indiana Ave., was boarded up June 26. He said the chapter will probably lose its charter.

John Kusta, the ATO Housing Corporation president, said the house was sealed up for security reasons.

"There was a problem with people breaking into the house," he said. "All the members were told Spring Quarter if any belongings in the house were left over the summer, it was at their own risk."

Kusta believed the chapter's problems were more on the national level than local.

However, Kooker has yet to be formally informed about his chapter's future from anyone, and many members are still unsure about the closing.

Kooker said the only thing he has received is a letter from the ATO nationals stating they are going to advise the local chapter be revoked.

During the spring of 1992, the chapter had a membership review with alumni and national See ATO / Page two

members, Kooker said.

"I completed all the things on the list except for forming an advisory council, which I was in the process of doing," Kooker said.

"I called nationals, but they never returned my calls," he said.

Anderson believes by suspending the fraternity, more harm was done than good.

"By suspending us, they took away our right to rush. Without that, it's hard to build the house and make it stronger both financially and number wise," Anderson said.

"I feel they (national board and alumni) should have helped us with our rush instead of preventing us from having one," Anderson said.

The ATO National Executive Board said it is unlikely anything can be done to keep the chapter open.

"They (the members) have had several opportunities to reform, themselves in terms of finances, owed and risk management," said Wynn Smiley, the director of communication for the national board. Smiley did not wish to discuss specific reasons as to why the fraternity would most likely close.

"The chapter has been given ample opportunities to reform and has chosen not to," Smiley said.

Kusta said Beta Omega, a non-profit company, is currently selling the house.

"This can only operate as a non-profit organization, so it hopes to sell to a friendly entity, so that if the chapter recognizes, the house can be used for the ATO's again," Kusta said.

Kusta said local alumni may buy the house and operate it for profit, but nothing is definite yet.

David Strauss, coordinator of greek affairs, said the house was welcome back at Ohio State anytime as long as they complied with university guidelines.

Kooker said the cancellation of the fraternity's annual philanthropy, ATU Fie Nite, was unrelated to the closing of their chapter by the national board.
Frats told to clean up or close
Boozing, hazing not tolerated by national officers

By Alan D. Miller
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

A national college fraternity shook its own foundation in the past year, shutting down an unprecedented 11 chapters for violating rules against hazing and alcohol abuse.

Alpha Tau Omega may be one of the most aggressive about enforcing its "zero-tolerance" policies against hazing and alcohol abuse, but it is not alone.

Fueled in part by a fear of lawsuits, national organizations are braving the outcry of alumni and closing local chapters whose members refuse to shape up.

Morally, they have an obligation to crack down, fraternity leaders say. Legally, they cannot afford the liability of lawsuits by families of pledges injured or harmed in hazing rituals.

Among those chapters closed by Alpha Tau Omega was one at Ohio State University. It was padlocked Aug. 4, 1993.

On Jan. 27, five days after a newly recruited pledge was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning, ATO shut down the Wittenberg University chapter in Springfield. It was one of the oldest chapters in the country, chartered in 1863.

"When we see a chapter that is not willing to cooperate, we don't have time to deal with them," said Wynn Smiley, communications director for ATO in Champaign, Ill.

"The sooner we can close one like that, the better."

"The message is being sent, and we think it's being received: Either step up to the plate or step down," Smiley said.

Last month, ATO sent a short message to its Denison University chapter in Granville: Closed.

Denison University officials and the national fraternity found evidence of hazing. The chapter was put on probation and then suspended.

When chapter leaders agreed in April to become a "substance-free" house in order to stay open, the national office agreed.

The terms of the agreement were violated almost immediately, Smiley said.

The Denison chapter was chartered in 1958. It may reopen someday, but not for at least three or four years, Smiley said.

When all of those who were members of the offending chapter are gone from campus, ATO will try to rebuild chapters.

ATO now has 164 chapters across the nation with 8,500 undergraduate student members and about 100,000 alumni.

Altogether, there are about 400,000 undergraduate men enrolled at 5,500 fraternity chapters on 800 campuses in the United States and Canada. The fraternities have about 5 million alumni, said Jonathan Brant, executive vice president of the National Interfraternity Conference in Indianapolis.

"My perception is that our member fraternities are very involved in a verification plan if they are aware of hazing activity," Brant said. "They are probably more willing than 10 years ago to remove a charter if men are not willing to work in a positive way."

That is never easy, he said, and it is especially difficult for alumni to understand.

CONT'N ON PAGE 2
There is a great deal of emotion involved — a great deal of commitment from a decades-long stream of people who attended that school," Brant said.

"It creates a lot of heartache for alumni in particular, and that's why schools often commit to reopening in three or four years."

The Sigma Chi fraternity chapters at both Ohio University and Miami University are in trouble. They are both on suspension by their national office in Evanston, Ill., and the Miami chapter has been suspended by the university, which means it cannot take in new members for at least a year.

"Across the country, we're not doing anything we haven't been doing all along," said Paul Fermo, director of chapter development. "I think there is more cooperation between universities and nationals. We've been able to work together to help turn our chapters around."

If the Ohio chapters don't shape up, they will be shut down, he said. Sigma Chi has closed four chapters in the past four years.

Beta Theta Pi, which has a chapter facing suspension by Ohio State University, has stepped up its enforcement of rules and regulations, said Erv Johnson, director of communications for the Beta national office in Oxford, Ohio.

"In the past 12 months we have taken a harder stance," Johnson said. "It's just a matter of becoming impatient with the focus some of our chapters have taken. Instead of high academics and cultural activities and brotherhood, they focus on social events based on alcohol."

Many fraternities, such as Beta Theta Pi, are stepping up their education efforts to make sure members and recruits know what is expected of them.

"It's not only a legal issue, but also that we just don't think they are properly focused," Johnson said. "You go to college to study, learn, get good grades and conduct yourself in a proper manner. Drinking when you are not proper age is not part of that, and hazing is outlawed. We're coming down harder and harder on chapters who do those things."