[MS-0897.002.009.008]

THE BOULE'

DELTA XI
Est.
JULY 26th, 1997

The oldest of the African American Greek societies, Sigma Pi Phi was founded in 1904 in Philadelphia by a small group of professional men of achievement to provide men of like qualities the opportunity for close fellowship in an atmosphere of mutual respect, intellectual congress and relaxing camaraderie. Sigma Pi Phi has offered membership to men of substantial accomplishment, unquestionable character, distinctive personality, and harmonious interaction with their fellows. Most members have earned advanced degrees and awards for high achievement in their fields. Many are national or international leaders, including men such as W. E. B. DuBois, Henry Minton, Vernon Jordan, John Kenny, Earnest Just, Martin Luther King, Arthur Ashe, and Ron Brown.

In the 1980's, the fraternity broadened its mission from being a primarily social organization to include a vital social action program. In recognition of the responsibility imposed upon the privileged and successful, members of the fraternity are committed, as an organized group of leaders, to contribute their talents and resources to raising the quality of life and level of achievement for all black people. Throughout most of its history, the fraternity avoided publicity, and so few people have been familiar with Sigma Pi Phi, 'simply known as ***The Boule***'. During the 1990's, the fraternity began to allow its impact to be publicly known and felt across the nation in order to advance its social action program.

The crest of the fraternity is modeled after the Grecian Sphinx, having the head of a beautiful woman, the wings of a bird, and the body of a lion, respectively representing power, intelligence, and strength. The local subordinate boule's meet monthly for dinner, fellowship and intellectual stimulation. The Grand Boule' national and regional boule' meetings are held on alternate years biennially. The men of Sigma Pi Phi are called "Archons" for advisers, and the wives are called "Archousae." In mid 1997, there were 3,806 Archons; Delta Xi became the one hundred sixth subordinate boule' on 26 July 1997.