

QUAKERS TO WARHAWKS

Early in our efforts to establish the Phi Chi Epsilon Alumni Association, I called men that were referred to me by other existing Alum Brothers, they would have a name and I would attempt to locate the Brother. In the course of this effort I talked to a Brother who suggested he and a couple of other late 1950's era Phi Chi's were directly responsible for the change in the name of the mascot of Whitewater. I took his information and logged it into the directory list we were accumulating and promptly forgot his name, but not his assertion. Over time I questioned many of our Brothers about this conversation and found no one could confirm or add to the story.

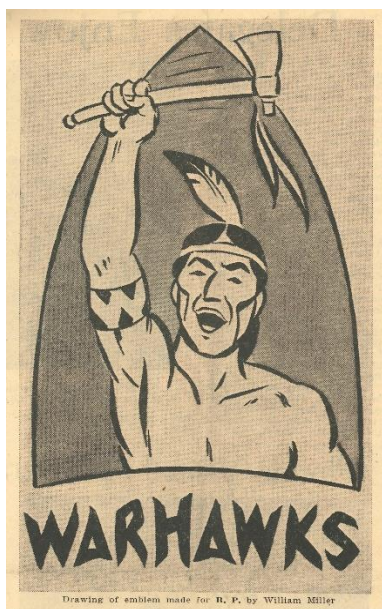
After 14 years of working on gathering up the loose ends of Phi Chi, I decided I would try to validate the story. The comment that remained on my mind, from the earlier conversation, was that he had wished he had retained copies of the Royal Purple that related to this effort. So, this is where the story begins, in the archives of the Whitewater Library. It was a strange and foreign place to me since the only Library I knew was a bar on Main Street east of the river, but that's another 60's era story! The other thread of information I had on this story was an old pledge paddle with the name QUAKERS penned on it with the names of Phi Chi's and others athletes penned on the face.



1958-02-18 Royal Purple

The story begins with an odd twist! The name Quakers was the unofficial nick-name of the athletic teams of Whitewater from the 1920's to 1958. There appears to be a number of similar versions about how the name came about, but we'll go with the one provided by Clarence KACHEL, a family name tied to Phi Chi. Clarence was a 1918 graduate of Whitewater and not a member of Phi Chi Epsilon, the family linkage began with his third cousin, Whitewater and Phi Chi benefactor David Kachel. According to Clarence the 1914 Winnipeg Quakers baseball team used Whitewater for spring training but failed to make the league and became the Whitewater Quakers of the Central State League, which eventually disbanded and their embroidered uniforms were turned over to the school by the team or sporting goods suppliers. Sports editors in Southern Wisconsin used the Quaker name on all Whitewater teams from that period on. Campus publications were more resistant to the nick-name with the Minneiska resisting until the early 1920's and the Royal Purple first used it in 1934, preferring to refer to Whitewater teams as the Purples.

Controversy over the team name roiled under the surface until the February 11, 1958 edition of the Royal Purple (RP) asked **WHAT ABOUT IT?** "Question: Do you think the name "Quakers" should be changed or remain the same and why?", this question posed by Editor James Wolff and Sports Editor Hank Hornburg, both members of Phi Chi Epsilon. Students, professors, coaches and team advisors voiced opinions both for and against "QUINDEE QUAKER"! With sentiment leaning toward something with more "athletic prowess" and offering the Cheerleaders a less passive mascot around which to form cheers, the controversy grew.

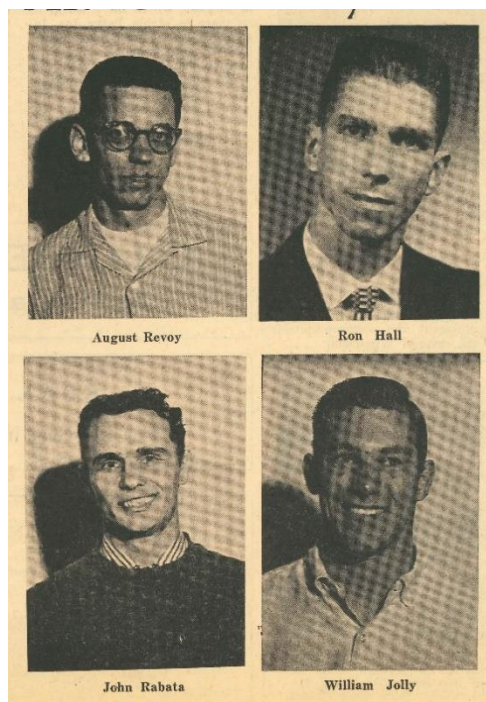


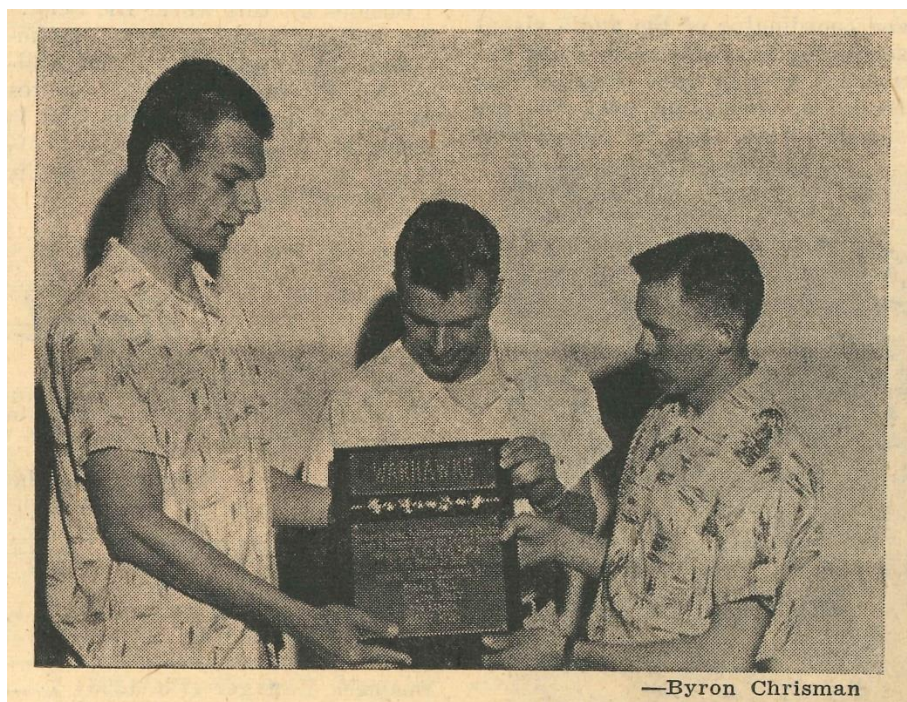
In a short period of 9 weeks the editors of the Royal Purple had brought the issue of an appropriate name/mascot for Whitewater Athletics to a question and a resolution! The Headline of the April 22, 1958 Royal Purple read **“Warhawks Is Announced As WSC Athletic Symbol”**. “The nickname was selected by an eight-member committee of judges who considered nearly 200 entries ...”.

1958-04-22 Royal Purple

“Four WSC students, August Revoy, Jack Rabats, Bill Jolly and **Ron Hall (Phi Chi)** submitted the winning entry and will have their names inscribed on a permanent gold plaque ...”. In a bit of WOW, they also shared in the \$10 cash prize from the Student Council; how many cups of coffee might \$2.50 buy each at the Student Union – in the day?!

1958-04-29 Royal Purple contest winners





—Byron Chrisman

1958-05-13 Royal Purple, Presentation of Plaque

The above might seem to have been concluded, but like the image of the Warhawks mascot over the years, the effort wasn't over for our Editor Phi Chi's and here is "the rest of the story". We can't be sure, but perhaps then WSC President Robert C. Williams was a Quindee fan. Brothers Wolff and Hornburg were invited to President Williams office for a conversation. Unsure of what the topic might be they may have naively thought it a congratulatory visit. What they were informed, in no uncertain terms, by President Williams was that what the Royal Purple had done was illegal, unethical, improper and unprofessional. Actually, charging them with the term "log rolling"! President Williams caught our forward-thinking Brothers in a flaw – "how could they proceed with such a significant enterprise without first obtaining official permission?" As stated by Jim Wolff; "frankly, it never occurred to us." After the "dressing down," President Williams dismissed the men without further punishment. The Warhawks name stood and became generally accepted but to Brother Wolff's knowledge, was never "officially" adopted.

In an effort to hear from the Brother's of the era I posted a request in our BROTHER TO BROTHER news letter asking for comments from men that were there in the era. Brother Richard Kalscheur called and expressed the opinion that he and his cousin Brother Don Kalscheur were both supportive of the effort, he couldn't expand on the general attitude on campus. At this point I recognized the name of the photographer that took the presentation photo, Byron Chrisman, whom I had met in Phoenix at an Alumni gathering sponsored by Chancellor Beverly Kopper and in a conversation with him was disappointed that he also had minimal recollection of the change, but then the answer was there with the vote to change the name to Warhawks. In one last effort I called Brother Jerry Cimarosti (Past President) and found that he was "busy with freshman things", realizing later he was a freshman the fall after the process. The next exposé might be "what are those freshman things"!

I need to thank and acknowledge the help at the UW-Whitewater Special Collection, Area Research Center and Archives of the Anderson Library. Without the attention of Karen Weston, University Archivist this history might have been lost. My personal thanks to Deronica Goldsmith, Archives Assistant for her help locating relevant articles and forwarding the photos used in this narration. I need to thank Brother Jim Wolff for planting the kernel of an idea during our first conversation and for his fresh memory of “The Rest of the Story”; without his personal actions in 1958 and current commentary we might never know the reality of his effort. A further thanks to Byron Chrisman for taking the photo of the Award Presentation that he totally has no recollection of, yet remains a special benefactor of UWW. I hope this story is enjoyed by current students and alumni, especially the men of Phi Chi Epsilon as we near our 100th year on the campus of Whitewater – **GO WARHAWKS!**

Ken Johnson

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