

◆ For The Staunchest ◆

"Forever With Quality"

Winter 1996/97

An Important Letter to the Alumni

by

Scott Nadeau - Chairman, Alumni Association

Dear Brothers,

The past few months have been a challenging time for our undergraduate chapter. Several rumors and stories have been floating around about the state of Epsilon Gamma, so I thought it was time I write this letter to set the record straight.

For the past couple of years, the fraternity has been becoming bi-polar in nature. The rift can best be described as, "those who want to have fun" vs. "those who want the chapter to be run by the book." These differences in opinion have always existed within EG, but this year they seemed magnified. As a result of these differences, communication between the two factions has been almost non-existent. Many problems evolved from this lack of communication, including a low percentage of dues being collected, a lack of participation in meetings and events, and most of all - a severe drop in chapter moral.

All of the problems came to a head during a chapter meeting in November. Before the meeting had ended, the President and Vice President had resigned. The advisors were informed of the events, and they in turn informed current and past members of the Alumni Board.

On Wednesday November 20th, an emergency meeting was held at CMU to gather information from chapter members and assess the scope and magnitude of the problems. After meeting for several hours, the alumni in attendance agreed on these points:

- A. The entire chapter needs to attend a weekend-long retreat moderated by a professional, to talk out their differences and solve the communication/lack of respect problems.
- B. A more solidified system of dues collection needs to be created and monitored by the chapter treasurer with help from the chapter financial advisor.
- C. The chapter needs to establish core chapter rules and priorities that will not be wavered from.

(Continued on page 2)



DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 5
 - Beta Week Begins.
- January 6 & 7
 - Chapter Camp/Retreat.
- January 10
 - The 'J.'
- January 11
 - Initiation.
- February 2
 - Next Alumni Meeting.
- March 7
 - Spring Deadline for Newsletter.



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Alumni Letter (continued from page 1)

By reading this summary of events, this may not seem like a major problem with the chapter. But, after listening to our young brothers and noticing the lack of Beta Spirit, you get a feeling for the seriousness of these concerns. Something had to be done and the alumni were the appropriate group to help.

Since our meeting, the work has already started at the alumni level. Bob Hempton, as a member of the Housing Corporation plans to re-organize the housing lease signing structure in order to fill the house and have enough money to do repairs each year. The VISA account that was so popular a few years ago is going to be re-activated so that those members who are having trouble coming up with a check can charge their dues.

Paul Deroche has organized a chapter development retreat. He has contacted the National Interfraternity Council and obtained a professional facilitator. (Who by coincidence happens to be a Beta) He has found a location and is now setting the date. The next step involved with the planning stages is raising the money to help off-set the cost to each undergraduate.

We contacted the General Fraternity to donate money -- they declined. The Alumni Association will be donating a large amount, yet more money is needed. So, we are reaching out to you to help with this chapter-saving event. We have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope to make it easy for you to send in some help. In the mean time we are looking at ways to cut costs for the event. The chapter is in a very serious situation, we are counting on you.

We also are interested in hearing about what has been going on in your life!! Please drop us a quick note in the envelope. We'll include your info. in the next newsletter that should be out in April.

It is a very trying time for our chapter. If we work together and contribute in the best way we can, the chapter can get over these problems, and ensure its existence for many years to come. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to call or write. My new address and phone number is:

1432 Kirtland Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 313.994.1438

Take care and have a wonderful holiday season!!

-KAI-

Beta Addresses

- Alumni Association
PO BOX 7364
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-7364
Scott Nadeau - Chairman
- Housing Corporation
555 N. Main Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Bob Hempton - Chairman
- Undergraduate Chapter
University Center Box 46
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
Jeff Wandzel - Chapter Advisor



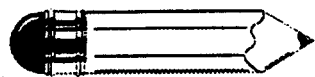
For The Staunchest

'For The Staunchest'
c/o Mark Hess
PO BOX 7364
Bloomfield Hills, MI
48302-7364

We want to hear from you! Drop us a letter at the address above, or mail us your article on disk; IBM format. We would like to publish more articles and pieces written by more alumni. If you have an ideas for a story, or feature, let us know.

Now, more than ever, you have the opportunity to express your support to the chapter. Please take the current chapter issues seriously and attend the Chapter Camp, or mail in your donation today. Every bit of money that is received will help support our great Beta chapter, and ensure it's success for years to come.

-KAI-

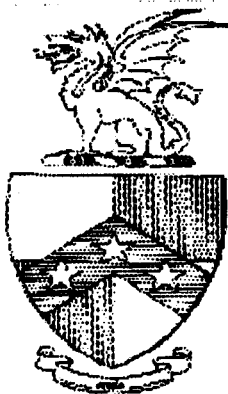


by Mark Hess

Editor's Corner

Welcome to yet another edition of, 'For The Staunchest.' Our apologies for getting this issue out to you so late, but due to circumstances surrounding the chapter, we wanted to deliver current, and accurate information. Please read this issue carefully, and take to heart the issues that surround our chapter. I am sure that with help from the alumni, and our District Chief (Bob Seeber, Jr.) that Epsilon Gamma can pull through the current turmoil and again prosper with fraternal greatness.

There seems to be a bit of confusion regarding addresses of many of Alumni. Because many of us have graduated within the last 5-10 years, our lives tend to be somewhat mobile and not firmly planted in regards to housing. In other words, "WHERE DO YOU LIVE?" If you are reading this article, the newsletter however, we far too much newsletters returned due to incorrect address. Please, if your address has you know of a moved, let us could save postage if we accurate many of our alumni.



We are still working on the Epsilon Gamma Web Page, which should be operational within weeks. Certainly, we will be writing more about this when it does appear on the Internet. One suggestion is conducting 'Virtual Alumni Meetings' on the Internet. This would be possible by establishing a 'Chat Room' where Epsilon Gamma Alumni could conduct online meetings. What a great way to build communication between alumni.

-KAI-

Homecoming '96

by Matt Brauer

Homecoming! Time to see old friends and make some new ones. Time to get back to your roots and relive some old memories. For those of you who were there, you know CMU Homecoming '96 was all this and more.

In it's apparent systematic effort to 'chill' Greek life, and over concerned about liability, the University prohibited all fraternities and sororities from renting, or parking in the tents outside Kelly/Shorts Stadium. Several loopholes and alternatives were discussed among the alumni, actives, and other Greek organizations, and we eventually agreed we would have a 'larger' time at the house.

And large it was - complete with our own private tent on the front lawn, a large grill toasting up burgers and hot dogs, and of course, the fine adult beverage we have all grown to love that washed it all down: brewsky! It was a warm, sunny Fall day, as we all gathered for the days festivities.

After our time spent at the corner of Main and May, it was off to The Pub. The usual camaraderie continued for many hours at this fine establishment as brothers frolicked in the fraternal mist of brotherhood. (Wow, the editor was responsible for that last sentence and it must be worth at least 2 quarters) By the way, a special kudos to Dave Dennis who traveled all the way from Japan to attend Homecoming.

The evening continued back at the house for a huge open party involving many of the Greek organizations. The actives through a splendid party, with a DJ, and good planning. A great time was had by all.

-KAI-

Hope to see you at Homecoming '97.

GO BETA

The Financial Page

by Bob Hempton

Financial Donation Clubs

Alumni Club (up to \$50)

Scott McQuillan
Jeff Heck
Joel Hoppa
Matt Baad
Chris Makowski
Dave Hasenleder
Steve Siler

Staunchest Club (up to \$100)

Mike McDermott

Diamond Club (over \$100)

Bryan Hix
Ken Breen
Oren Lane
Jamie Riley
Ted Gronda
Bob Seeber Sr.
Paul DeRoche

Brother Beta's,

I am particularly troubled by the lack of donations this fundraising drive. We had so much success last year and we need to top that amount of \$2,500 to get us in great shape for the coming years. In order to continue our newsletters quarterly, we must raise in excess of \$1,500 just to break even. We need each and every brother to donate to make this a reality.

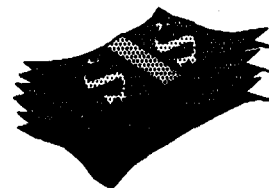
We are planning to send out an individual mailing to ask every brother to contribute to help us keep printing the newsletters. This should reach each of you in early November.

Four brothers have donated greater than \$150 to date and will be getting their BETA hats shortly. I will continue this challenge to any other brothers who give this donation amount or greater by year end 1996. I will personally donate a hat to each person who qualifies.

Please feel free to contact me if anyone would like to assist in the fundraising drive as we can use all the help we can get. As usual, contact me as well with any comments or suggestions.

-KAI-

Robert Hempton



An Open Letter to the Alumni Regarding the Chapter Retreat

Dear Beta Brother,

I'm writing you a very important letter. You may or may not have heard that Epsilon Gamma has been having some problems. These problems range from common things such as apathy to very serious problems such as substance abuse and hazing. The problems have caused other problems such as poor dues collection, problems in the pledge program, and a near complete communication breakdown (half the E-board quit).

Problems such as these are not uncommon in chapters, in fact it was inevitable to happen to ours eventually. What is important is what we, as alumni, do to support the chapter so that we may see the next Ten Year Anniversary.

The Alumni Association has put together an all-chapter retreat with a professional fraternity consultant. We have rented a camp for two days on January 6 & 7 (the undergrads start class again on January 8). The consultant is from the National Interfraternity Council in Indiana and he specializes in such retreats (he's also a Beta). The goal of this retreat is to help the guys get together and work out their problems with the guidance of those who know what works.

You can help in two ways:

1. COME TO THE RETREAT! I realize that you work for a living and that it's difficult to go away on weekdays but several alumni have already agreed to go.
2. HELP US PAY FOR IT! We told you that we would only raise funds once per year, in August. You may have noticed that it's December and most of you haven't been asked. Think of this as an opportunity to make your usual annual contribution and help the chapter out of a bind in one sweep.

If you have any questions, you may call someone on the Alumni Board. I have enclosed an envelope for your support.

Yours in -kai-



Paul M. DeRoche
Epsilon Gamma 97

THE LAST PAGE



Please fill out 'The Last Page' and mail to the Alumni Association

NAME _____ ROLL NUMBER _____ BIRTHDATE _____

WIFE _____ KIDS _____

OCCUPATION _____ COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ FAX _____

BETA NETWORK INFORMATION _____

COMMENTS _____

Please support the Alumni Association & Chapter - Mail your donation in today!

_____ \$25.00

_____ \$50.00

_____ \$100.00

_____ Other

For The Staunchest

Epsilon Gamma Alumni Association
PO BOX 7364
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-7364

