



Wooglin On Chautauqua

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Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma

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The chapter house at 800 Chautauqua stands as tall as ever despite our fallen pillar cap.

The following is an article which appeared in the *Daily Oklahoman*. It describes the situation concerning hazing allegations against the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the reaction of the greek system at the University of Oklahoma. Having encountered problems with hazing ourselves three years ago, the active members of Beta Theta Pi are particularly sensitive to this issue. We in no way condone the actions which the members of SAE are accused of instigating. Great strides have been taken by the chapter to rid ourselves of the stigma we have borne as the "hazing fraternity." Our new pledge program has been designed as a constructive learning experience and hazing in any shape or form no longer exists at the Gamma Phi chapter. We thank you for your continued support and assure you that the Gamma Phi chapter of Beta Theta Pi will continue its tradition of excellence for the next 83 years.

Fraternity Leader Sees Benefit in Ban

By John Parker
Staff Writer

NORMAN—The ban of a University of Oklahoma fraternity for alleged hazing will help the overall image of other fraternities, the OU interfraternity president said Wednesday.

"It's kind of a signal to the public that we won't put up with it," said Kevin Kuykendall, president of the Interfraternity Council.

And while alleged hazing was the end for Sigma Alpha Epsilon, OU will be faced with its own legacy next semester—an empty house valued at \$2 million.

Kuykendall said the two-year ban of the chapter, one of the largest and oldest of OU's 26 fraternities, has had an emotional effect in the fraternity community.

"Everybody was kind of sad that a house got banned from campus," he said. But the ban was

understandable because of the university's allegations, he said.

OU officials alleged, among other violations, that members forced gin down a pledge's throat and tied him by his arms to a ceiling beam. The chapter president denied the violations.

The chapter's ban was finalized Tuesday when OU president Richard Van Horn rejected an appeal effort by local fraternity members.

National SAE officials had earlier agreed with the university's allegations and refused to back an appeal. The student affairs office banned the chapter Nov. 8.

The presidents of OU's fraternities were to meet Wednesday night to discuss and reinforce the bans in the student and Greek codes against hazing, Kuykendall said.

The presidents also planned to

talk about the risks of allowing hazing, Kuykendall said.

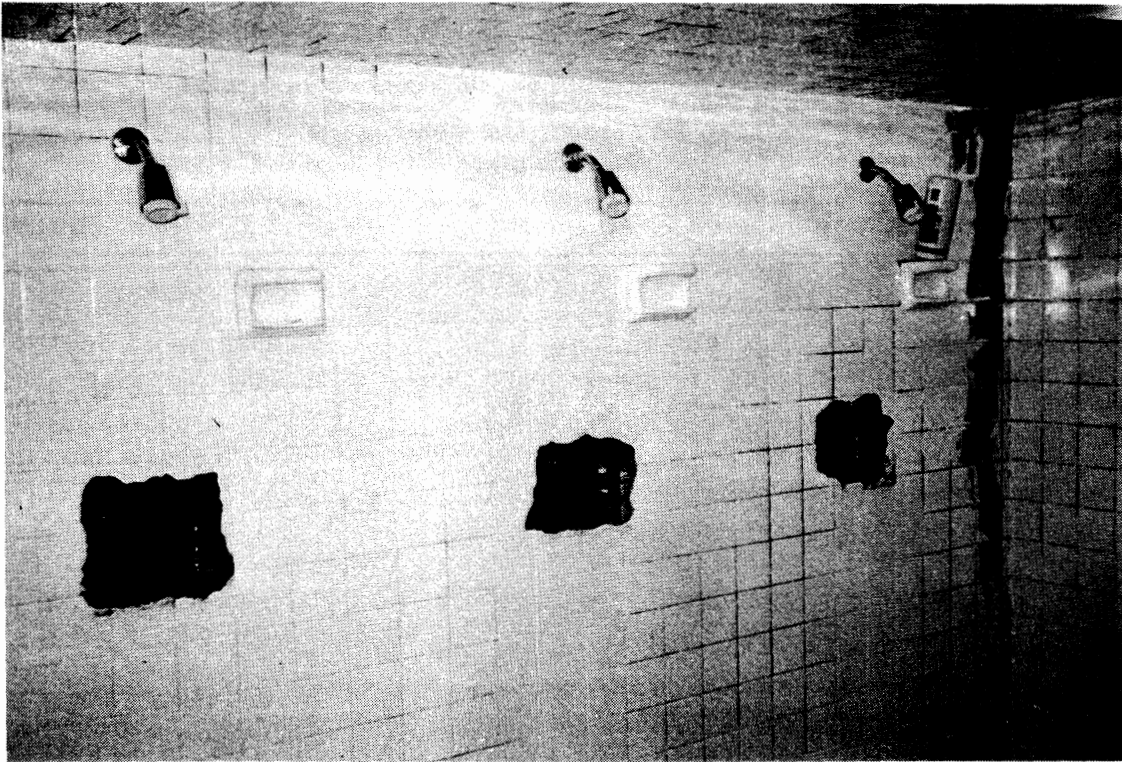
Despite fraternities' stated goals to end hazing, the negative image they have is "almost impossible to change," Kuykendall said.

About 60 members of SAE living in the house, 730 College Ave., will be forced to leave after this semester, said Larry Naifeh, an OU attorney.

OU officials have not decided what to do with the empty house, which the university owns, he said.

SAE trustees and university officials, however, have agreed that OU will be allowed to use the house for at least three years, Naifeh said.

SAE could start a new chapter after that time and move back into the house, he said.



Thanks to Sapulpa Betas, almost \$4,000 was donated to renovate the showers.

Letter from the President:

Dear fellow Beta

Again the Gamma Phi chapter is having a super year. As always, we still dominate the fraternities in the areas of academics, leadership, and intramurals. This past semester we placed second in grades (second to Kappa Alpha Psi—a fraternity with only seven members and no pledges whereas we have 70 members and 32 pledges). We feel confident that Beta will bring home the scholarship cup to 800 Chautauqua for the Spring '90 semester. As far as leadership goes, we are second to none. The president and vice-president of the student body are Betas as well as ten members of student congress (over 20%) and many other positions of leadership are owned by Betas. The intramural sports that we are the strongest in this semester are basketball, volleyball, and wrestling, and we are predicting success.

Our major goal for the year is to win the Sisson award. This is an award given by the General Fraternity which designates the recipient as one of the outstanding chapters of Beta Theta Pi on a national level. We are also focusing on increasing our pledge retention rate to our goal of 75% or better. Another project of ours is this newsletter. We will attempt to produce it four times a year in order to keep Gamma Phi Betas updated as to the status of our house. We hope you enjoy it.

I would like to thank all of our active alumni for your continued support. I would especially like to thank Bill Reed, who recently retired as chapter advisor, for all of his hard work and endless hours that he spent as our chapter advisor for the past 21 years and Rob Johnson, who recently retired as district chief, for all of his dedication. I would also like to thank and recognize Vaughn Clark as the new chapter advisor and Fred Patrick as the new financial advisor and district chief. And remember, as a Beta you are always welcome at the house and we hope that you will stop by. If I can answer any questions or be of any service in any way please contact me at (405) 360-1257.

Yours in — kai —

Michael LaBrie

Michael LaBrie, President



Thanks to Beta Moms & the new Norman Beta Club, \$7,000 was donated to purchase new tables and chairs.

BETA ALUMNI—ACTIVE NEWS, Norman, Oklahoma SPRING 1990

MARCH 3 AWARDS DINNER AT OU STUDENT UNION FOR BETA ALUMNI

For the 24th time in 33 years, the OU Betas have been awarded the all fraternity scholarship trophy. The 1989 GPA for the OU Beta chapter was just under a 3.00.

All Beta alumni and their Beta sweethearts are invited to attend the March 3 dinner and dance at the OU Student Union. Randy McDaniel, OU Student Congress President and Beta is scheduled to speak on OU and the Betas in the 1990's.

NORMAN BETA CLUB FORMED. Norman Betas Vaughn Clark, John Ritz, Rob Lockard, Mark Miller, Fred Patrick, Jim Lester, Bruce and Ken Schuerman have been meeting weekly since the beginning of the year to plan the Awards Dinner-Dance and to form a monthly luncheon program with Grover "Ozzie" Ozmun, owner-operator of Balfour's on the Campus

Corner and OU '59 Beta, as our local chairman.

LAWTON BETA CLUB TO BE FORMED. Lawton Betas Dr. Charles Graybill, Dr. Vic Williams, Dr. Donald Garrett, Dr. Bill Jolly, Dave Lindley, and Frank Sneed are in the process of forming an alumni association with the express purpose of supporting a local university fraternity that wishes to gain provisional status as a Beta colony at the Annual Beta Convention in California. The Gamma Phi chapter will most likely serve as the sponsoring chapter for the Beta colony at Cameron Univ.

BETA CORPORATION NEEDS A "FEW GOOD MEN." The by-laws of the Beta Corporation of Oklahoma provide that any OU Beta initiate, OU graduate, and annual contributor of at least \$100 to the Beta Building Fund is entitled to membership in the Beta Corp. If you feel you may qualify, please contact Fallis A. Beall, 1000 Alpine, Duncan, OK 73533.

As you may know, the Beta Corporation also elects 20 trustees annually to oversee the Gamma Phi chapter house. At the Annual Meeting of the Beta Corp. on January 14, 1990, President Beall asked for nominations to serve on the Board of Trustees (not to exceed 20 Trustees) and to meet in January, March, May, September and November annually in Norman and to conduct the business of maintaining the Gamma Phi chapter house. The Beta House could be in better shape—the roof leaks and needs to be replaced (est. \$40,000); the dining room needs tables (10) and chairs (76) so pledges can come to the house on Mondays and Wednesdays for dinner with the members; and thanks to the Sapulpa Beta Club six of the 12 showers in the House again work.

The Beta Mom's Association, Jan Jackson of Norman President, has challenged the Beta alums to match the dollar-for-dollar to buy the table and chairs estimated to cost \$7,500.

