

The Snake Skin

EPSILON ETA OF SIGMA NU AT TENNESSEE

JUNE

1824 FRATERNITY DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TENN. 37916

1976

Fellow Alumni,

In recent weeks I have spent a lot of time with the officers of the active chapter of Epsilon Eta. Over the past two years they have done an excellent job in handling a financial crisis that was created by their predecessors. They have had to sacrifice for mistakes made in the past, but I am proud to say they are in a sound financial position now.


The purpose of this letter is three-fold. First of all, to let you know that the chapter is in good shape, not only financially, but also in the manpower that actually makes up the fraternity.

The second is a monetary request. The present house furnishings are ten years old and need to be replaced. I feel that this should be the job of the alumni. Please send a check for \$5 or \$10 or whatever you can spare for this purpose. Then next year when you come back and visit your fraternity, I think you will be proud to be a Sigma Nu.

Thirdly, but most importantly, help recruit for the Chapter. I'm sure many of you know at least one young man who you would like to see as a Brother of Epsilon Eta. Acknowledge this to him and let's see how many pledges we as alumni can recruit.

It is always easy to ignore a request such as this, but just remember how much the Fraternity meant to you while you were active. These young men really do deserve your help!

Fraternally,


Ron Lawson, EH 891
ALUMNI COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Brothers,

As the newly-elected Commander of Epsilon Eta, I would like to introduce myself and tell you a few things about my past. I'm from Loudon, Tenn. (located approximately 30 miles south of Knoxville) and am a third quarter junior majoring in accounting. I have held the offices of Chaplain and Treasurer my two previous years here.

At this time I am pleased to report that the chapter is in sound condition, with respect to both finances and morale. Epsilon Eta is on the upswing on this campus. However, there is still room for improvement in the two aforementioned areas and we can't become complacent.

The area in which we need the most improvement is the chapter size. At the present time our membership is 52 Brothers. However, to operate this chapter at maximum efficiency, we need approximately 80 Brothers. As you can see, fall rush will be extremely important to us. You, as alumni, can play an important role in the success of our rush fall quarter. If any of you know any young man who plans to attend the University of Tennessee this summer or fall, *please notify us* and personally contact the prospect to introduce him to Sigma Nu. Your influence could greatly enhance our chances of a successful rush next year.

I would also like to commend the Brothers of the last few years for bringing the chapter out of debt. Several years ago, the chapter suddenly found itself faced with a \$6,000 debt. The Brothers have sacrificed many social functions in order to satisfy this obligation. As of this moment, Epsilon Eta is in the black and plans to remain there. Congratulations, Brothers!

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To insure the continued stability of our financial situation, we have set some goals for ourselves. First of all, we wish to set aside 10% of our total gross dues for house improvements and minor repairs. This would be placed in an active drawing account for the chapter to use to take care of minor repairs and house improvements. Secondly, we need to start building equity in our House Corporation Fund. At the current time, we have approximately \$200 in this account. The purpose of this fund is to accumulate savings for use in case of major repairs, renovations, or catastrophes. Our goal is to set aside a minimum of \$3,000 per year in this fund and to use alumni donations as the source of funds. (This money can be invested through the National Fraternity at a rate of about 6%.) If every alumnus would send in \$5 or \$10, this would more than satisfy our goal of \$3,000 per year for this House Corporation Fund.

The fraternity house and its furnishings are currently ten years old and there are many minor faults, including furniture, which need to be fixed or replaced. Due to the financial crisis during the past few years, we've been unable to allocate any money for major improvements. The house is in *serious need* of some new furniture.

At this time we are applying for a loan from Sigma Nu National so we can make the necessary house improvements. (The loan for the original house furnishings will be paid up in July.) We plan to make improvements in the following areas:

- (1) replace dining room tables and chairs (10 years old)
- (2) replace draperies for all downstairs windows (10 years old)
- (3) replace hot water heater and increase our hot water capacity
- (4) purchase new sofas for the chapter room (2)
- (5) purchase new lamps for the house
- (6) purchase a good piano
- (7) renovate the bar area to take advantage of unused floor space
- (8) purchase draperies for the chapter room
- (9) correct problems with the plumbing

After consulting several alumni about the loan, to make sure we don't overburden the chapter, we've decided to borrow \$15,000 (the same amount as the original loan). You alumni can help by notifying us if you know of any dealers in furniture, etc. who can give us a break on the cost of any of the items listed above. Also, any contributions toward any of these projects would be greatly appreciated.

I feel that Sigma Nu is beginning to move in the right direction. Our image and relations with other groups on campus have improved, as has our participation in many campus activities. We plan to participate in at least one charity function each quarter, as well as all the fraternity activities.

As stated earlier, our major goals are to establish our House Corporation Fund and to make the necessary house improvements which will not only improve the general conditions and prolong the expected life of the house but also help us tremendously with rush this fall. With your help, Epsilon Eta can once again become the strongest fraternity on the University of Tennessee campus!

Fraternally,

William Byron Lawson

William B. Lawson, EH 951
COMMANDER

As the newly elected Alumni Contact Officer, I will strive to establish regular communication between the active chapter and the alumni. I will need your help in this effort. Epsilon Eta has not had a strong alumni program for many years. Consequently, the active chapter is not aware of the whereabouts of many alumni. I ask you for your help in updating our records. If you are aware of the addresses of any fellow alumni, please send me this information. Our present records are extremely inaccurate.

It is my intention to send out a newsletter every quarter. Also, plans are being made for a Founder's Day during fall quarter. Information concerning this event will be presented in my next newsletter.

I am looking forward to meeting with you and establishing greater communication between the alumni and the active brothers. During the next year I can assure you that you will hear about the affairs of your fraternity.

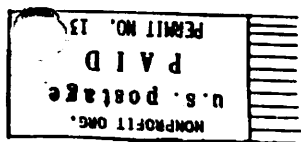
-- Bobby Bailey, EH 994
Alumni Contact

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1976 WHITE ROSE

On April 23rd and 24th Epsilon Eta Chapter along with Theta Chi Chapter at East Tennessee State University participated jointly in the Spring White Rose Formal for 1976. The big weekend took place at Fontana Village Resort in North Carolina. It marked the first time the two chapters have worked together in any activity of this type and it proved to be very successful. The weekend consisted of many activities including a golf tournament and a banquet dinner at which Debbie Peggs was named our new White Rose. We also recognized all Little Sisters. The weekend ended with a band party Saturday night.

Dr. Ikenberry, the Division Commander, was one of several distinguished Sigma Nus in attendance. The Epsilon Eta Alumni Chapter was represented by Steve Arendt, Jim Harvey, and Pat Martin.



SIGMA NU FRATERNITY
Epsilon Eta Chapter
1824 Fraternity Park Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

five out of six years and the overall two of those years. This year the chapter voted to try our hand at something else, to venture into new fields and strive toward new goals. Therefore, Sigma Nu entered Carnicus with the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority in the mixed division.

Neither group had any previous experience in Carnicus, thus making things even harder than they already were. During the six weeks of preparation the group of about thirty people practiced over one hundred hours learning music, choreography, and dialogue. Carnicus is no easy chore. Although hindered by the amount of money allocated by each group and the lack of experience of the participants, Sigma Nu and Kappa Kappa Gamma showed a surprising performance in the finals. A Sigma Nu alumnus who traveled to Knoxville for the show said to me as he left the auditorium, "This is the first time in years that I can walk out of Carnicus proud to be a Sigma Nu." I'm inclined to agree with that remark. And next year, with this experience under our belts and a little more money from the chapter, a Sigma Nu will be able to look at a first place trophy and think how proud he feels!

-- John E. Felton, EH 984
Director

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SIGMA NU WINS HOMECOMING 1975

In the beginning there was Chi Omega. Then there were the Pi Phi's and the KD's. And there will definitely be more when to follow. I'm referring, of course, to that magical time of the year when the Sigma Nus can do no wrong, nor the sorority who happens to be lucky enough to share with Sigma Nu in the glory and thrills of Homecoming. In 1975, the glory and thrill had exceeded even that of earlier years because after two consecutive first place finishes in the house display competition the Nu's were able to achieve the coveted Madge Harrison Grand Homecoming Award. That is the overall first place prize given to that group of individuals who, during the week of Homecoming, turn in superior performances in events such as the window display, banner competition, soap box derby, homecoming carnival, and the house display. In 1975, Brothers Bill Baltz and Woody Morgan put it all together as Co-Chairmen of Homecoming to command the winning drive that put Sigma Nu and Kappa Delta over the top.

Utilizing the theme, "Happy Trails to You," the Sigma Nu house was surrounded by a wooden fort to accentuate the massive General Smokey driving the Tennessee Walker with the Utah Ute in a buckboard wagon on his way back to Indian country. "This is our finest hour," said Brother Baltz as the judges were awed, one after another, with the magnificence of our finest house display yet.

Brother John Felton did a most splendid job with the window display, as he spent many long hours painting an enthusiastic Pony Express rider dusting the trail to deliver the early edition of the *Daily Beacon* describing the massacre at Neyland Stadium. His performance was enough to give Sigma Nu a very strong second place finish in that competition, adding much to our total score.

It would take a fraternity roster to list all the Brothers whose personal efforts were dauntless during Homecoming last year, but one Brother deserves special mention for his companionship and leading ability when the drama was at its greatest. Brother Steve Arendt, a graduate student in Engineering, knows Homecoming better than most people on campus and he directed us when we really didn't quite know where to go. His love for Sigma Nu is unbounded and thanks to him we maintained the momentum needed to enable us to hear our name voiced on the loudspeaker during halftime as the winner of Homecoming, 1975.

-- Scott Dixon, EH 946