

The Flood

... continued from reverse side
me that the basement was flooding.

“How bad is it?” I asked as we walked through the kitchen.

“There’s water shooting out of the walls.” The winter had been unusually cold. We didn’t get any huge avalanches of snow, but whatever fell kept piling up instead of melting. Now that the temperatures had dropped the earth was saturated and the field outside Seymour had already become a lake. Fire codes regulations mean the basement can’t be used for anything but storage. Thinking of all our material possessions I went down the steps at the back of the house expecting five feet of water.

Water was indeed shooting out of the leftside wall between the cracks in the brick but the quick work of my brothers had kept

the water level down to a couple of inches. Already down there Alex Enyart and Alex Kemmsies were moving amps and electronic equipment, Andrew Sheehan was starting up the shopvac while Brian Jhong and Andrew Kama were dust panning water into buckets, Penny Stein and Devyn Mares were sopping up water with towels. They were packing the cracks with oil based sculpting clay and when that ran out, play dough. They had created a perimeter of towels to keep the water from getting to other areas of the house.

We worked for hours, saving the composites, moving boxes and stored electronic equipment, carrying bucket after bucket of water outside. Brothers abandoned their finals to help and right up to the end of the night I was still getting calls from brothers living outside of the house if we needed extra hands.

The next day even candidates like Forrest Allen showed up to catalog and trash what did get ruined. The only thing of any value that was lost was David Nolan’s futon mattress which he willingly sacrificed to hold back water so other brother’s belongings could survive.

I smile and nod when I’m told that we were lucky that we didn’t suffer any real damage; The TKE house for instance did get five feet of water in their basement, The Wallace Lounge game room was almost completely destroyed and still remains closed in certain areas, many other buildings on campus suffered at least partial flooding.

But I know there was nothing singular or trivial about this. The roster has changed over my four years but what’s always been consistent is that a Sigma Nu would walk through a thunderstorm and stop a flood to help a brother in need.

Marshal’s Report

by Will Yeager (‘07, DTh1194)

My how time flies. It seems like only yesterday, we were talking about what events we were going to do for the formal recruitment period. We were discussing the details of Recruitment violations, what constitutes a violation, and what the repercussions for them were. We were planning, assigning, and working.

We’re still working, just on different things now. All fraternities have new members and Sigma Nu’s are mine to teach, as this year’s Marshal. I undoubtedly went through some of the same things that Marshals in years past have gone through –

the sense of trepidation – “Am I good enough?” “Will we get along?” “Will the candidate class work as a whole together?”

The candidate period is right around the half-way point, so it’s a good time to reflect. When it comes to education, there’re any number of things that can go wrong – fortunately, we’ve avoided the vast majority of them. The candidate class as a whole is a strong, cohesive unit that enjoys each others’ company. They’ve integrated well into the rest of the chapter and from what I’ve seen and heard, they are having a great time. Our first retreat happened almost three months ago and it was a wonderful experience. There was education, bonding, and no small amount of fun.

What to look forward to in the future?

There’s another candidate retreat sometime in mid-March to early April (depending on weather). There’s the Initiation ceremony on the fifth of May. Hopefully members of the new candidate class will decide to take up leadership positions within the house and immerse themselves fully in all areas of chapter operations. I, personally, am eagerly looking forward to the time when we decide who’s living in the house for the next year. There’s strong interest from the candidates, and it would make me happy to see a full house.

I’m proud of the current candidate class. I’m also glad that I was chosen to be Marshal and to lead them through their period of candidacy. Hopefully, they will continue to be exemplars of love, honor, and truth.

New Fraternity Members

- Beta Theta Pi9
- Phi Gamma Delta15
- Sigma Chi14
- Sigma Nu11
- Tau Kappa Epsilon18

Alumni Reminders

- Activation:
Saturday May 5
- Alumni Work Weekend:
Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9

Undergraduate Editorial Crew

- Eric Langston (‘07, DTh 1187)
- Simon Lepkin (‘09, DTh 1209)

Contributing Writers

- Sean McKittrick (‘07, DTh 1190)
- Will Yeager (‘07, DTh 1194)

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