



## Do You Really Want It?

Character is what one sees when people commit to a cause. With the terrorist attack of 9/11 we are seeing how America can pull together to face and defeat evil across the globe. Bin Laden taunted our country and asked if we had what it took. We are meeting that challenge.

Now our Fraternity provides us with a new challenge of our character. I have been pleased by the demonstration of support offered by some of our alumni brothers in creating a new beginning for our Texas Beta Chapter. However, my passion to bring into being this vision of a new Chapter house has also left me frustrated by those brothers who have chosen to remain silent to the call.

So I ask again, "**Do you want Texas Beta to continue?**".

After the events of December 1997 where the chapter vandalized the house they were vacating I made a personal commitment. I intended to either bring this group to a standard of excellence or bury it. Since that point I have spent hundreds of hours preparing letters, making phone calls, organizing events, and telling people why fraternities still have a role in preparing young men.

The hard work of many brothers has started to pay off. Thanks to Cliff Watt and Dan Ruff we now have over \$80,000 in our Endowment Fund account with a total of \$136,000 in our construction fund. The chapter has grown in size to 27 men starting from only eight after 1998. The House Corporation received a \$29,000 grant to establish a modern computer lab. In June of 2002 our group will again travel to Cabo San Lucas for an extended vacation at Jerry Nelson's estate.

We are poised for success but cannot go further without your support. **It is time to draw the line and ask that you identify yourselves!**

Following the lead of our President I want to find out if you stand with me or if your apathy is such that you don't care. If you don't care then I hope you will complete the attached form asking that your name be dropped from the mailing list. If you don't care I would hope to at least not lose \$.34 sending you a letter that you trash. I respect your decision to not get involved but ask that you respect my commitment in asking that you stand up for what you believe in. There is no middle ground on this issue because we are dealing with significant money and time for many people.

The attached form contains an invoice for a "sustaining membership" involving an annual gift of \$100. In order to provide the house corporation with a realistic operational base we need to have 150-200 alumni brothers involved in this project. To date we have approximately 45 brothers who have pledged their support. Please review the form and let me know what your decision is.

Perhaps I remain an idealist who recalls a fraternity experience that is worth recreating. Perhaps I don't appreciate how the chapter was "just something you do in college" and therefore not worth supporting. Or maybe I just need to recognize that some of you don't give a shit about what happens outside of your own small world. Complete the form and help me chart a course of action.

