



THE

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

FRATERNITY CLOSES ITS DOORS

Allison Bartnick
Staff writer

After 63 active years at Coe College, the Beta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Nu officially disbanded on March 19. A combination of debt and low-membership ultimately led to the decision.

“It came to the point where we found out from Nationals that even if we met all the requirements for the chapter, we could still be closed in April for having the debt,” said Brandon Miller, the most recent President of Sigma Nu, Beta Epsilon. “And also, we’d only have three active members next year [if we weren’t closed].”

Miller said the large amount of debt was caused primarily by irresponsible handling of chapter funds by mem-



Sigma Nu's fourth and final chili cookout in spring of 2016. From left to right: Connor Swanson ('16), Brandon Miller ('18) and Jacob Coble-Frakes ('16).

Photo by Allison Bartnick.

bers in the mid-2000s. According to Miller, the debt owed to Nationals was around \$27,000 in 2008. Through increased dues and many fundraisers, the chapter got it down to about \$17,000 by 2014 and then knocked it down another \$7,000 in the years since, leaving the recently closed chapter’s debt at

around \$10,000. However, with membership so low and the debt draining, it was, according to Miller, “Looking like a ‘no way out of the hole’ situation.”

Although Miller said it was not the decision any of them wanted, Miller believes he and the other members of the recently disbanded chapter

are able to really enjoy spending time with each other more now that the business stress has been alleviated.

Sigma Nu was founded nationally in 1869 by James Frank Hopkins, Greenfield Quarles, and James McIlvaine Riley in opposition to the systemic hazing imposed on underclassmen at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. Dedicated to the belief of strong brotherhood based on honor, the fraternity has initiated over 235,000 members since its founding and currently has over 160 active chapters and colonies on college campuses throughout the United States.

The Beta Epsilon chapter was originally founded in 1891 at Upper Iowa University. However, due to anti-fraternity rules implemented the

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Continued from pg. 1. following year, the Beta Epsilon charter lay dormant until 1954 when it was bestowed on the local fraternity, Delta Phi Epsilon, which had been at Coe since 1901 and was known at the time as the “oldest local fraternity west of the Mississippi.” Thus, on January 16, 1954, Delta Phi Epsilon became the Beta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Nu.

Before disbanding last month, Beta Epsilon had six active members as of 2017 as well as one pledge who unfortunately was not initiated into the chapter prior to its closing. Beta Epsilon was not always this small, with 52 members in its colonizing chapter of 1954. Alumni member David Swartchick ('15), who was an active member in a chapter of about 15 members, liked how in a smaller chapter there was a greater opportunity and expectation for leadership positions and personal growth.

Coe senior and recent Beta Epsilon alumnus, Josh Sikrisamouth, said Sigma Nu helped him become better at interacting with people on both a professional level and a social level. “Sigma Nu was not [an organization] where I could just sit on the sidelines,” he said. Sikrisamouth, who held numerous positions in



*The original Sigma Nu chapter in 1954.
Photo courtesy of the Coe College Acorn.*

the chapter including Treasurer, Scholarship, Social Chairman, and Vice President, is thankful for what his time in Sigma Nu taught him about business and responsibility and also about the importance of making and building connections. For Swartchick, the connections he made were also his most important takeaway from Beta Epsilon. Swartchick saw how the fraternity allowed brothers to gain a business perspective and do something positive with their friendship.

Miller believes that his experience in Sigma Nu motivated him to be a better person and to further appreciate the value of being able to enjoy one's self while also working hard. In both 1961 and 1962, the Beta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Nu won the Gallaher Cup for being the top scholastic Sigma Nu chapter in the country, and became the first chapter to win the award two years in a row. Since then, the

chapter has won numerous awards in both academics and athletics during their 63 years on campus. They have also been known for many events that fell out of practice in recent years, including Turkish Baths, an annual Virgin King Party, a Hayrack ride, and an annual Pledge Dance. Indicating how much Coe policies have changed since his time as a college student, Kurt Friese ('88), current Johnson County Supervisor and alumnus of the Beta Epsilon chapter, told of an all-campus party his chapter's 30+ members hosted in Coe's cafeteria in the fall of 1983, complete with flowing booze and a live reggae band. In his four years of many fun times at Coe, Friese's most memorable moment from his years as an active Sigma Nu was at his Spring formal when, after he announced to his brothers that he and his girlfriend had gotten engaged, they picked him up

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Friday, April 21, 2017

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in celebration and threw him into the pool-- tuxedo and all. His whole chapter later attended his wedding, and after about thirty years together, Friese and his wife, who was a member of Tri-Delta at Coe, are still as happy as ever.

One tradition from Friese's time in Sigma Nu is a tradition one might miss if not observant. However, if one looks through the Coe year-books at pictures of Sigma Nu from the '70s and '80s, one might notice that in many group photos, one of the figures in the pictures isn't a real person, but rather a cardboard cutout of a smiling old man-- Bernie, the ultimate bro.

"Let's say you didn't have a date to formal-- that's who you would

take!" joked Sikrisamouth, who'd heard about Bernie from other alumni. According to Friese, Bernie's legacy began as a joke, but he eventually became a part of Beta Epsilon culture as "sort of the unofficial mascot."

While the chapter may have had slightly different atmospheres at different points in Coe's history, Sigma Nu has remained an accepting and friendly group throughout the years. According to Friese, Beta Epsilon "felt like a more inclusive chapter."

Sikrisamouth recalled how nervous he was to come out as gay to his brothers, and how much of a relief it was to be completely accepted for who he is.

In addition to maintaining a strong sense of

brotherhood, Beta Epsilon has been involved with numerous philanthropic events. In recent years, the most popular of these has been the annual Chili Cook-Off, an event Swartchick pioneered in 2013, which raised over \$600 for the United Service Organization in its 4th and final year.

In the past, Sigma Nu worked with the March of Dimes and Camp Courageous as well as highway cleanups, and also participated in Border Battle with several other regional Sigma Nu chapters, helping to raise a collective total of \$10,906 for Saint Jude in 2015. For the chapter's last charity event, Beta Epsilon collected over 400 shirts for the Rotary Club, which were to be recycled as diapers for impoverished young children in Guatemala.

Although the Beta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Nu has ceased active status on Coe's campus, the six formerly active members

of the chapter--Bob Kownia, Josh Sikrisamouth, William Keslin, Brandon Miller, John Gardner, and Quinn Bell--are now alumni in good standing because it was not a suspension of the chapter, but rather a voluntary relinquishing of the charter, which Nationals picked up along with the chapter's ritual books. "I'm really proud of the group that was left," said Swartchick. "There's a lot of ambition there. Sometimes you just can't make it all work out."

The recent alumni members can still wear letters; however, they can no longer host events in the name of the chapter.

"We're still Sigma Nus," said Miller, "We're just not part of an active chapter."

Indeed, many of the recent alumni now look forward to possibly helping the chapter recharter at Coe one day, after enough time has passed and the debt has been settled, to continue the tradition of Love, Truth, and Honor, as outlined in their creed.

Chapter members with Cut Menefee in Spring of 2016.

Photo courtesy of Brandon Miller.



Political Speak

Mariah Porter

Iowa Changes Abortion Laws

Iowa Republicans just passed new legislation on Tuesday, April 18 that is now moving to Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to be signed.

The bill cleared a final hurdle in the Iowa Senate, with all Republicans voting in favor and Democrats against.

Under the new legislation women in Iowa seeking abortions will now have to wait three days before being able to get one, while abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy will be banned. The

amended bill will only allow abortions after 20 weeks if the mother is in danger, but not in the case of fetal abnormalities or rape and incest.

According to the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Sen. Mark Costello claims that the waiting period may “save lives.” On the other hand, Sen. Pam Jochum says that the Iowa house is unraveling abortion laws and replacing them with drastic ones. Sen. Joe Bolkcom (D-Iowa City) says that the 72-hour waiting period will only add expenses and other delays.

“It’s time for politicians to stop interfer-



The Iowa Senate. Photo from IowaWatchdog.org

ing in the health care decisions of women and her trusted advisers and her family. Enough is enough,” Bolkcom said.

Sen. Mark Chelgren (R-Ottumwa) said that the 72-hour hold was like a timeshare clause and related a woman wanting to have an abortion of an unwanted pregnancy to buying timeshares.

“No one would buy

a timeshare if they were able to go home and talk to their friends, talk to the neighbors, pray about it and sleep on it and talk to people they trusted,” Chelgren said. “Anyone who wants to get an abortion and has made that decision can do so under this bill... All they have to do is wait 72 hours to make sure that that decision was right, because it’s an irreversible decision.”

Upcoming student recitals!

A composition recital will be on Monday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Daehler-Kitchin Auditorium.

Amanda Huesmann ('17)

Major: Instrumental Music Education

"I started playing piano at the age of seven, so this spring will mark fifteen years of playing experience. Ever since that first lesson, I have never wanted to stop playing! My teacher and I picked the repertoire that would be in this recital last April, so about a year's worth of work has been put into the performance. Many of the pieces were chosen simply because I like them, but others were chosen to create variety in the program and for use in a competition last February. I'm really excited to show the wonderful music I've prepared!"

Recital on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Daehler-Kitchin Auditorium.

Zoe Tien ('18)

Major: Vocal music education

"The recital is a 30 minute voice performance. My love of the voice has been around since childhood, but I began participating in choirs in middle school. I am really looking forward to performing my second to last piece, "Circus" from *Make Me Bad* by Drew Gasparini. As it is a rather... odd musical theatre piece, it really gives me the chance to stretch my limits and try new things. I also think it's a very powerful song, in its own way."

Response to compost suggestions

Tom Wiesler
Guest Writer

I may have recently retired from Dining Services at Coe but I'm still interested in what is happening on campus.

I applaud the composting article in the April 7 *Cosmos* issue and think there are 6 things I could add.

1. The industry wide recognized rate of total food waste-from the field onward, is actually more like 40% vs. 25%. And yet millions of people battle hunger daily.

2. Coe composting efforts have been mentioned in the magazine referenced in the article. In the Dec. 2010 issue of *BioCycle* magazine, I contributed my composting history at Coe in an

article entitled "Recycling Food Waste: 101".

3. I looked into having a compost site on campus, with our garden, around 2005. It was not feasible at the time for 3 reasons-distance from residential neighbors did not meet Planning and Zoning guidelines regarding smell, the College didn't have the equipment big enough to "turn" the mixture and we didn't want to deal with the animals a compost site would attract

4. While Dining Services began with only post consumer waste for compost, pre-consumer waste was added in 2010, with the sign up of a waste tracking system called Lean Path. That system helped Coe get recognized as the statewide Recycler of the Year for

Iowa in 2012. It was also important data to assist with the completion each spring for computing the EPA diversion rate for our department.

5. While composting is a noble idea, that practice is very low on the Food Sustainability Hierarchy. Feeding hungry people and reducing post consumer food waste are much better practices. Since the flood of 2008, excess, safe food has been donated to HACAP for its Greene Square meal site. This program has changed sites a few times and gone from Sodexo delivering to the sites to HACAP coming to campus twice a week to pick up safe food. Coe has been certified a Food Recovery Site since 2014.

Reducing post con-

sumer waste is assisted by student education on taking smaller portions, rewarding no waste customers and changing practices like going tray-less, which was done in 2012.

6. Having a composting station at the PUB has been considered but not implemented for 2 reasons. There are fewer meals served in the PUB than the dining room and many of them are taken "to go" so any waste for compost would be at other locations. The other reason is that there is less inherent waste in a retail environment than an "all you care to eat" scenario like Gage Dining Room. Or you could say, there is a higher incentive to not waste since you paid more directly for a limited amount of food.

Announcement! Marv Levy Coming to Coe

Marv Levy (Class of '50) will be coming to Coe College this Saturday, April 22 to receive the Founder's Medal, a prestigious award given to alumni who show extreme exceptionalism. He will receive it at a ceremony taking place at 9 a.m. in the library, which will be followed by a dedication of Marv Levy Way at noon.

There have only been

seven other recipients of this award in Coe College history: Paul Engle ('31), William Shirer ('25), Dr. F. Gaynor Evans ('31), Dr. S. Donald Stookey ('36), Don Ebinger ('47), Russell Knapp ('30) and William Whipple ('35). *Cosmos* will be covering the event and interviewing Levy, in an article that will appear in next week's issue of the *Cosmos*.



Marv Levy stands by his Hall of Fame bust.
Photo from PhotoFile.

No actual brothel law blocking sorority houses?

Miranda Anderson

Guest writer

There is a common question that arises when someone tours at Coe or many other colleges across the nation: “Are their sorority houses here?” The usual response to this query: “In this state it is illegal for four to six girls to live in a house together as it would be considered a brothel.”

However, based on my research, though I have found legislation forbidding brothels, I have not found a law that states it in such an ambiguous way.

Iowa is one of 49 states that ban brothels. Iowa code 702.4 proclaims that “A brothel is any building, structure, or part thereof, or other place offering shelter or seclusion, which is principally or regularly used for the purpose of prostitution, with the consent or connivance of the owner, tenant, or other person in possession of it.”

After knowing what a brothel is legally defined as, could the

so-called “law” that suggests colleges can’t have sorority houses on campuses just be a myth? After researching the topic and the laws of Iowa and Cedar Rapids, there has not been any circumstantial evidence to prove that there is

for sure was that, like all housing, there is an occupancy rule claiming you cannot have over a certain amount of individuals in a room depending on size of the room.

For many, a sorority can be a great way to

in giving their sororities wings of the floors of Voorhees, but they still feel as if they are missing out.

Ashlyn Moos from Coe College’s chapter of Delta Delta Delta said she wishes there were sorority houses on campus because “it would make our relationships stronger and it would make having our meetings easier because we would have more space.”

Knowing that a brothel is defined as being a house in which a prostitute resides, why are there not sorority houses on more campuses? Many places are in the same mindset as Coe with the unwritten “rule” that more than four girls cannot live in a house within city limits without it being considered a brothel. Will more universities come to terms with the age old “law” and allow their sororities to live in houses with all of their sisters? Only time will tell.



Despite rumors that sorority houses are illegal in Cedar Rapids because of a law stating more than four unrelated women living together in a house would be deemed a brothel, Miranda Anderson was unable to find such a law.

Photo courtesy of Coe College.

actually a law that you cannot have more than four girls living in the same house.

Coe College’s legal advisor, David Hayes, said he is unsure why Coe doesn’t have sorority houses, and is “unaware if there is a rule that prohibits it.” The only thing he did know

make lasting friendships, build a smaller community within a university setting and find opportunities for leadership and service.

However, some girls at Coe feel not being able to live in a sorority house hinders their experience. Some feel that Coe did a great job

Partner violence comes in many forms

Constance Schlitter

Guest writer

Most women in the United States will be victim to an abusive partner, and it is well past time that we discuss how this issue affects women and what we can do to end these situations on a personal and societal level.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, “the majority of intimate partner violence was committed against females (82 percent), compared to males (18 percent).” Within the United States, **2 to 4 million** women each year are assaulted by their partner, as noted by Lundy Bancroft, former co-director of Emerge, America’s first program to aid abusive men.

I am not negating that this issue affects men. However, most of the victims have been females. In this article, I am focusing on women, and the ways in which partner violence has affected them.

Partner violence is often only spoken of as domestic violence. Domestic violence is

Abuse is not simple. It is not easily defined. But it happens, and it **NEEDS** to be spoken about. It is the responsibility of our society as a whole to eradicate this disgusting occurrence. No one should be exposed to this kind of “love.”

defined as “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner,” by the United States Department of Justice. However, when people hear the term “domestic,” people assume this is regarding married couples, yet partner violence can encompass less intimate couples as well.

I posted an anonymous forum online, through which victims were given the opportunity to share their experience with partner violence and engage in a healing form of testimony. I was expecting the majority of responses to outline an experience that involved domestic or child abuse. However, the only responses I received were limited to the experience of teenage girls and their

boyfriends.

A woman responded to the forum, sharing an experience she had as a teenager, “Once we were dating, he would put his hands on me and touch me. I’d push his hands off me and tell him no. A few minutes later he’d be back grabbing me, I remember so vividly the way it felt as he fucked me and I stared at the wall.”

This experience illustrates how abuse can go beyond the realm of pure physical abuse.

Abuse can be sexual, emotional, financial—the list goes on. Abuse cannot and should not be viewed as a purely physical attack since abusers often manipulate and humiliate their partners in ways that are not outwardly visible. In extreme forms this abuse can become “gaslighting,” or a situation where the manipulation causes the victim to question their own sanity.

Regardless of gender or age, there are places in our local community that are willing to help you work through this. You can contact Waypoint, a domestic violence victim service, at (319) 365-1458.

Even if you just need someone to talk to, the National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 1-800-799-7233.

Why Coe needs a soccer field

Delena Humble
Sports editor

Coe College has recently undergone a massive renovation when it comes to our athletic facilities, and as a full-time student athlete here, I could not be more excited for them to be finished this upcoming August.

However, despite these new renovations, there are still some things that need to be fixed when it comes to our athletic facilities, especially the fact that the soccer programs here are homeless.

Both the men and

women's soccer teams at Coe have been without their own soccer field since the programs started years ago. Some would say that we already have our own practice space (the football field) but what people fail to realize is that this causes many problems for all sports teams involved in using this space.

For example, because of the limited times available on the football field because so many programs use it, the women's team is forced to practice from 6-8 p.m. Normal-

ly this would not be an issue. However, because of the cafeteria hours, we are forced to miss dinner nearly every day during season.

We also lose valuable practice time because we must move the equipment around the field since the football team can't practice with our goals on their end lines. The soccer programs also lack storage space because the football program has to keep all of their equipment under the stadium. This leaves both soccer programs with one small

closet for our equipment.

All of these issues would be rectified if we simply had our own field space to use when we needed it. Coe even owns a space located right behind the football field that was bought specifically for a soccer field, yet we have failed to build one.

Hopefully once the renovations to Eby and Clark are done, we will be able to get a move on with this project.

If you are interested in helping the soccer programs in making this goal a reality, please email Delena Humble at djhumble@coe.edu.



*The Kohawks return to action on Saturday, April 22 as they head to Wartburg. First pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m.
Photos by Katie Guinane.*

Softball dominates the Spartans

Delena Humble
Sports writer

The 11th-ranked Coe College softball team gained its third doubleheader win in IAC play on April 18, as the Kohawks beat Dubuque 8-3 and 12-0 in just five innings.

In the first game against the Spartans, the Kohawks walked onto the field confident and poised. A pair of miscues from Dubuque in the first inning gave Coe a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Two runs were then added as Hayley Jones ('19) was able to bring Mad-dy Ryan ('19) and Allie O'Brien ('19) across home plate.

Dubuque gained an unfortunate unearned run, yet the Kohawks

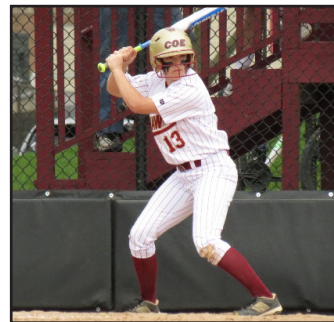
fought back as they had four runs in just three hits, strengthening their lead.

As the opener came to a close, the Coe softball team continued to dominate. They ended the game winning 8-3 with key performances from Jones and Maliah Fligg ('17). With this game, Fligg improved to 14-2 on the year. Fligg gave up only three runs, one of which was earned, on seven hits and three walks while striking out four. The nightcap held even more excitement for the Kohawks as they took the field against Dubuque for the second time.

The Kohawks dominated the entire game, scoring 12 runs on just 12 hits with the help of four

errors from the Spartans. Madi Miller ('19) got the tempo of the game going as she hit her second home run of the season to left center, driving in Mallory McArtor ('17) for the early lead over Dubuque.

McArtor was able to steal second in the second inning and later scored on the same play after multiple errors from the Spartans pitching mound came her way. With one out in the inning, O'Brien doubled to left center to plate Miller.



Coe ended the game during the third inning, scoring six runs on only four hits.

The 11th-ranked Kohawks (27-6, 9-3 IAC) return to action on Saturday, April 22 as they head to Wartburg (19-11, 7-3 IAC).

First pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m. in Waverly. Kohawks are believed to have the upper hand heading into this game.

The Kohawks' 11-ranked softball team beat Dubuque 8-3 and 12-0 in just five innings on April 18. Photos by Katie Guinane.



Women's Tennis

- On Saturday 04/15, the Kohawks defeated Wisconsin-Oshkosh 7-2.
- Next match: Saturday 04/22, St. Norbert College (4 p.m.)

Women's Track and Field

- On Saturday 04/15, the Kohawks competed in the Jim Duncan Invite and there was no team score.
- Next meet: Saturday 04/22, Rittgers Invite (9:30 a.m.)

Women's Softball

- On Tuesday 04/18, the Kohawks defeated University

Sports Reports

Delena Humble

of Dubuque 8-3 and 12-0.

- Next game: Saturday 04/22, at Wartburg College (1 p.m.)

Men's Baseball

- On Tuesday 04/18, the Kohawks defeated Monmouth College 10-1 and lost 7-5 against Monmouth College.
- Next game: Friday 04/21, at Simpson College (6 p.m.)

Men's Tennis

- On Thursday 04/13, the Kohawks defeated University of Dubuque 9-0 and defeated Simpson College 9-0.
- Next match: Saturday 04/22, Luther College (1 p.m.)

Men's Track and Field

- On Saturday 04/15, the Kohawks competed in the Jim Duncan Invite and there was no team score.
- Next meet: Saturday 04/22, Rittgers Invite (9:30 a.m.)

Market Talk

Question of the Week Michael Lachocki

Do investments get taxed?

There are many kinds of accounts you can open that enable you to trade securities, and how you get taxed depends on the type of account. One of the most common is a brokerage account. A brokerage account lets you buy and sell securities but if you are investing for retirement it isn't the smartest option, as you will end up paying more taxes than you need to. To start, if you don't have a before-tax income higher than the minimum taxable amount in a year then you don't have to pay taxes on investment profits for that year. Income refers to all money you made during a year from investments to a job. For example, if the minimum taxable amount is \$10,000

and you cumulatively make \$9,000 from your job and investment profits you don't have to pay taxes on your investments for that year. However, if you make more than the minimum taxable amount one year you will have to pay taxes on your investment profits.

Assuming you make more than the minimum taxable amount, a brokerage account will affect your taxes if you realize a gain or a loss. When you sell a security you "realize" the gain or loss incurred and it will affect your taxes. While you are holding a security it is known as an unrealized gain or loss depending on if you're making or losing money on the initial

investment. When you realize a gain you must pay taxes on the profits and if you realize a loss you get to write off the amount you lost on your taxes. With any kind of account, you don't have to pay taxes on unrealized gains, but you also don't get to write off your unrealized losses. So you can play around with investing for a small cost if you don't make enough in a year to get taxed. The only other costs of investing are a small commission fee charged per trade and any losses you might take.

Next week I will talk about how to avoid paying taxes again when saving for retirement.

WEEKLY SUDOKU

Submit your completed sudoku to the *Cosmos* email to be entered into our monthly drawing to have your photo published.

5	8					2		9
		2			9		8	
	9			8		4	1	
8	2				5			
7	6		2	1	8		5	3
			7				2	8
	3	9		5			4	
	4		3			5		
6		7					3	2

Sudoku courtesy of www.websudoku.com

Coming next week

Don't miss the last issue of the *Cosmos* 2016-17 academic year! We will be introducing the new editors for the 2017-18 school year, so stay tuned!