

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Sophomore year was a joke. I found myself living off campus in a one bedroom apartment in a complex known simply as Campus Apartments. The sophomore approved living facility offered me the comfort of apartment style living and the convenience of being close to campus. Many of the student athletes lived in the apartments. The university owned the complex and student athletes could rent units for half of the normal rate.

Living in Campus Apartments had it's ups and downs. On the upside, I did have my own place. On the downside, I was now responsible for cooking and feeding myself; which meant grocery shopping and additional expenses. I also had to deal with neighbors who were a little more rowdy than your dorm students. On many nights the hallway reeked of marijuana.

Sophomore year brought accomplishments with the swim team. The coach finally started to see me as an asset to the team when I came in 3rd place in a national competition in the women's 50 yards freestyle swim. Third place isn't as good as first place but it was a feat for a school like Carver to have someone place so high in a national competition.

I still aspired to become a member of Beta Gamma Psi, but it didn't consume my life. I concentrated on swimming, my school work, and even did some dating.

I noticed that most of the Beta lines happened in the spring, so in the fall of my sophomore year, I did what I could to let the Beta's know that I was interested. I attended the informal rush. I participated in several of their campus community service projects. I donated food to their food drive, purchased ribbons to raise awareness about breast cancer and I walked in their Sickle Cell Anemia Charity Walk.

At the Sickle Cell Anemia Charity Walk, I noticed a thick sister with a little girl. The woman was probably about a size 16 and she wore her medium length needing a touch up hair in a pony tail. The little girl had to be about 2 or 3 years old. I recognized the mother and child. They lived in family housing across the street from my building. The mother seemed real cool with most of the Beta's. I remember saying to Ashley,

"Isn't that nice, she has a baby and she still wants to pledge Beta."

The girl, whom I later learned was named Tazmyn, usually was with her friend, a girl who wasn't a Beta or her little girl. It never crossed my mind that Tazmyn might actually be a Beta. She was a bit thicker than most of the Beta's and she had a small child. It

wasn't until it started raining at the Beta Sickle Cell Walk that I found out that Tazmyn was a Beta.

"Connie, Connie. Hand me my umbrella out of your bag," Tazmyn called to Connie, the Beta president who was walking ahead of her. Connie handed Tazmyn a purple Beta Gamma Psi umbrella.

That evening after the Sickle Cell Walk was over, I was sitting in front of my apartment building waiting for a pizza to be delivered. As I was waiting, I saw a silver Nissan Altima pull up. I recognized the car and the driver. The driver was the Beta Gamma Psi president Connie and the passengers were the thick woman and her child.

The young woman grabbed her purse and opened up the passenger door to let out her daughter.

"Alright, Connie, thanks for the ride. B-B-B Gamma!" she shouted.

"Hey, are you coming to sorority meeting this week?" Connie asked.

"Girl, if I can get someone to watch Robin," Tazmyn responded. The little girl clung to her mother's leg.

"Girl, you know Robin is our little junior Beta. If you can't find anyone to watch her, just bring her. We really would like you to be more active, especially since we have new members coming in and everything."

At that statement, Connie looked across the street and noticed me waiting for my pizza. She waved, a polite phony wave.

Tazmyn waved and her and her daughter went into the building.

The fall semester was coming to a close and I felt like I had made some headway with the Beta's on campus. Cassidy and I were friendly, not friendly enough to hang out but we would occasionally sit together if we ran into each other at the library. Connie always waved to me when she saw me on campus. Ursula, the mean one, knew who I was and spoke when she felt like it. I was making the most headway with Tazmyn. When we would see each other going into our buildings we would always speak, and regular speaking turned into chit chatting and eventually led to neighborly behavior.

When the spring semester began in January, I was ready to pledge Beta. I knew all their pledge lines had been in the spring for the last few years. I knew the Beta's and I had been going to their events. All I had to do was wait for formal rush. On the downside, swimming season was kicking up and due to getting a C in Human Anatomy my G.P.A. had slipped to 2.99, just a sliver below 3.0; but high enough to pledge Beta.

In February of my sophomore year, I was invited to the Beta Gamma Psi Formal Rush. The formal rush wasn't invitation only, but if you were invited, that was definitely a nod in the right

direction. My invitation came in the form of a phone call from Cassidy.

“Hi Eva, this is Cassidy.”

“Hi,” I said, thinking she was calling about something school related.

“I’m calling today to invite you to the Beta Gamma Psi Spring Formal Rush. Bring a copy of your transcripts, a copy of your report card and a picture ID. We would really like you to come because you have really proven your dedication to your pursuit of Beta Gamma Psi.”