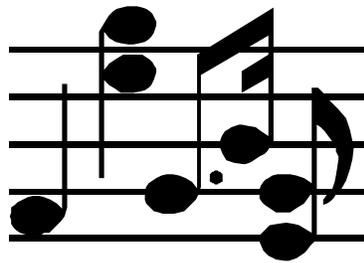


# Midwest Notes



The official newsletter of the Midwest District of  
Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma

Post Convention Edition  
April 2003  
<http://www.kkypbs.org/mwd/>

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## Message From the Editor:

### What I learned on the way to Convention:

By Chris Colvin  
Iota Omega — KKΨ

As we were traveling along I-80 I realized that black smoke trailing from the back of the Suburban is not a good thing. That is especially true when you are the middle of Nebraska. We all know it becomes a thriving metropolis after getting into the western part of the state, full of mechanics and gas stations.... So what did we do? We decided we should probably pull over and check out what the problem is. So as we crawled under the vehicle that was pulled over on the side of the interstate, we looked underneath and saw oil everywhere. It looked as bad as it smelt. John, Candy, Clint and I are not mechanics by any means, but we all agreed that what we saw wasn't a good thing. Well, we decided there wasn't much we could do so we continued on towards the next major city. OK, maybe North Platte isn't a major city but still it is a town. So as we pulled into a gas station we wondered if it was worth all of the effort to get to Greeley.

The answer of course is, YES! As a chapter or as a person there is no reason to try to just do easy things. President Kennedy once said something about doing things not because they are easy, but because they are hard. As a chapter we bid to host Notes and the page so we can contribute to the Midwest district in a positive way. We are working hard to do the best job we possibly can. Our "adventures in mechanics" helped forge the four of us into better team members and brothers by working as a team to overcome our obstacles so we could get to that elusive goal, Greeley.

The Iota Omega District Publications Committee has been hard at work. John Wyman and Rob Morrison have been working diligently on the web site. We've picked up a fourth member for our committee to share

in this endeavor, Dorn. He's been enjoying his retirement from district office by letting us know, who's who, who knows what, and giving us great suggestions on what is needed by the Midwest. I haven't set up a filter on my email to block him yet :) He's been a great resource for us to work with.

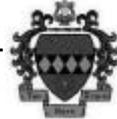
We hope you all like the newer format that we've picked to present Notes in. I'd like to thank Beta Sigma (TBΣ) for their work on North Central's Kadenza. Kadenza is an excellent example of a good publication, and we got some good ideas from it. Please let us know what you think of Notes. MWDNotes@iastate.edu is the committee's address. We'd love to hear your complements and constructive criticism. We are all striving for the highest, and good communications will help us get just a little further on the journey.

On behalf of Dorn, John, and Rob, I'd like to thank everyone who has submitted, and we hope that more submissions will be ready for fall.

Good luck to everyone becoming alumni this spring. I hope to see many of you this summer in Norfolk!

AEA & ITB,

Chris Colvin  
Iota Omega (KKΨ) Active & Alumni  
Iowa State University  
Chapter Historian  
District Publications Committee Chair  
Midwest District Notes Editor



## 2002-2003 KΚΨ President Brian Dorn

### Kappa Kappa Psi, Year in Review

Brothers, it has been an exciting year for the Midwest District. Now that convention has passed, I would just like to take a moment to reflect on everything that happened during my term as President.

Our first encounters this year happened at the first ever Summer Leadership Retreat, held in Maryville, MO by the Kappa Delta chapter. This workshop consisted of three forum/activity sessions that focused on chapter planning, leadership development and active listening. Even though it was a first time program, attendance was quite good (especially considering that there was short notice). I am excited to see how this program continues to grow over the next year.

In September, the officers converged upon Cedar Falls, Iowa for our first fall DO meeting. Here we conducted a membership workshop with the local chapters in addition to our having our business meeting. Those who attended this meeting had a lot to do with some of the scheduling changes to this years convention (so if you thought committees were a good way to start the morning, thank Eta Pi!).

The next district encounter was in Boulder, Colorado at the first fall retreat. The Alpha Iota chapter hosted the retreat in conjunction with a huge band festival. Though I could not attend due to a broken vechile, Jodi Rich made it to Boulder to continue our Membership Education forums that began last year.

A month later, we met in Jefferson City, Missouri for the second fall retreat. This time, I had a new car and was actually able to make the drive. The brothers and sisters from Lincoln University put on a great retreat featuring a tribute to the founders, a "you to can learn to step" session, and a lock-in at the music building. All who attended came away with great

memories...even if they were of my ability, or lack thereof, to step.

Again, we have great hopes for the future of not only our membership education retreats, but also our alumni hosted retreats. We have spent a good deal of time working with the MWDAA to refocus these programs to ensure that they are giving the actives the best bang for their buck. Your continued input is always greatly appreciated in the planning of future events.

After the Lincoln retreat, the district did not gather again until convention--save for a few chapters that made it to the pre-convention DO meeting in Greeley. Those that did attend had a significant impact on some of the new things we tried at convention. Much brainstorming took place around the Ask Nationals session, as well as the strategic charges given to many of the committees. Though some of these ideas didn't materialize quite as expected, they proved to be a great learning experience for future conventions.

Which brings us to convention. What can I say? It was definately an experience which I will not soon forget. Though not quite in the Rockies, several of us had a great time getting to Greeley. Once we got there, it was non-stop action. With four amazing convention bids (which put other districts' bids to shame) and a crew of officer candidates that was ready to take on the world, we saw some of the most prepared presentations ever. Though the weekend was not without it's bumps in the road (which are sure to happen) many of our new oppourtunities provided great experiences for our members. Four concurrent educational workshops focused on Women in the Fraternity, Chapter Building, Leadership Development, and TBS Membership. I think everyone will agree that this is a part of our convention which will become even stronger in the future.

Well, I guess that's about it for what happened this year. Of course, it does leave out some of the juicy details--but if you come to national convention, I'll share those too! Hey, speaking of national convention. LIVE THE DREAM!

**(Continued Next Page)**



2003-2004 KKΨ President Brett Kisker

Hello Brothers and of the Midwest District!!

Even though the school year is coming to a close, the ball is already rolling for a big year in the Kappa world! Obviously, as the President of the Midwest District of Kappa Kappa Psi, I would love to see every school represented at National Convention this year in Norfolk, VA. This is a fantastic opportunity to not only meet new brothers and grow fraternally, but also a great way to enjoy one of the most beautiful cities in the United States!

Many of the things that your officer corps will be taking part in is a continuation of recently implemented ideas. Among these is the Chapter Calling Program; however, in order for us to call you we have to have some contact information. For this reason, as soon as new officers are elected, please have the new Chapter President write me at bkisker@kkpsi.org with their name, email, and phone number so we can get in touch!

Another continuing idea is the Summer Leadership Retreat. This year, the program is going to be expanded to involve workshops dealing with new and continuing membership education, financing and budgeting, and chapter relations. The retreat is tentatively scheduled for early August, so we ALL will be coming back from Norfolk with new ideas, but early enough to avoid marching band conflicts. Expect to see many more announcements about the event. We'd love to see as many people as possible attend and learn how to improve your chapters!

Midwest DO'ings will continue to be circulated. You should receive your first installment within the next month with an introduction from each of the officers! I feel this is a valuable way for everyone to keep up with what's going on in the bigger picture.

As I said in my campaign speech, I believe that communication is essential to the success of any organization; this is especially true for our brotherhood. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need advice or if you just want to talk about Kappa.

I wish everyone the best of luck, and I'll see every one of you in Norfolk!!!

(Go to National Convention!!!)

Brett Kisker  
KKY Kappa Delta  
MWD President

(Go to National Convention!!!)

**(More Dorn)**

It's not just Michelle's Dream; it's not just my dream; it's everyone's dream--to see every member and to have every chapter represented at National Convention in Norfolk! Save your pennies, it only costs 8 dollars a week for registration if you start today.

All in all, I've had a great year serving as your District President. I thank each and every one of you for allowing me this opportunity. I wish the new council, and that new President (who just so happens to be my little brother) the best of luck with the coming year. Everyone else, be sure to give them a hard time now and then--we need an equivalent to Dorn's Mom for this council.

AEA,  
Dorn

Brian Dorn  
KKPsi MWD Immediate Past President  
Kappa Delta, Northwest Missouri State  
Iota Omega, Iowa State



2003-2004 KKΨ Vice President  
Carrie Shuck

There are always those moments that you will forever remember because of either the event or the people you are with. I think that most of my memorable events in the past three years have been because of Kappa and my Brothers.

Through Kappa Kappa Psi I have had the opportunity to travel a great deal and through these journeys experience Brotherhood in many different capacities. From sleeping on a Brother's floor somewhere in Texas, driving back from Lawrence, Kansas with no brakes, and just the daily experiences around the exciting metropolis of Maryville, Missouri have made life exciting, memorable, and a whole lot of fun.

Without this bond of Brotherhood I would not be the person I am today nor, have had the great opportunities through this wonderful organization. Serving this next year as a district officer will allow me not only to experience Brotherhood in another role but also help further the fraternity throughout our district.

Without this bond of Brotherhood I would not be the person I am today nor have had the great opportunities through this wonderful organization. Serving this next year as a district officer will allow me not only to experience Brotherhood in another role but also help further the fraternity throughout our district.

I am very excited about the possibilities for the forthcoming year and look forward to working with many of you throughout the district. A few items I hope to accomplish are to assist Nationals in the formation of a Continuing Membership Education Supplement, and continue to seek potential colonies. I realize the great work and vision my predecessors have accomplished and hope to continue their great work.

As always if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments please feel free to contact me.

AEA,  
Carrie

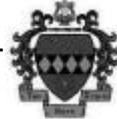
2003-2004 KKΨ Secretary/Treasurer  
Anne Tempel

HEY MIDWEST DISTRICT!

Last weekend, I had the honor of playing organ for the Kappa Delta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University! I had a great time getting to know some of my brothers better, and I had the joy of experiencing another chapter's 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Ritual. I hope that many of you get a chance to visit other chapters this year, so that you can see how enriching this experience is! I look forward to making more visits before the semester is out, and to seeing many of you in Norfolk, VA at the National Convention. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me suggestions concerning workshops on secretarial/treasury duties. I appreciate the comments that I've received, and I hope to receive some more so that I can work hard on these projects this summer. Thank you all, and good luck with finals!

ITB,

Anne Tempel  
Kappa Kappa Psi  
MWD Secretary/Treasurer  
Eta Zeta President  
University of Kansas



## 2003-2004 KKY Member At Large -- Angel Renee' Brondel

It's that time again! The end of the year approaches and you've got a ton to get done including concerts, final projects, and more tests than you want to think about. But there's one more important thing you'll need to get done as a chapter – the Chapter Summary Report! This may feel like your worst nightmare or you may be an old hand at getting this form done. Whatever your situation, I thought I would provide a few tips to make the process easier.

- Have members of your chapter record the details of any event they have planned through the year. They know better than you what went into the events and this can save you a lot of time in the end.
- This one may seem obvious, but have a copy of your Fall Activity Report and past CSRs handy. The information they hold can either be directly transferred to the new report or can serve as a reminder to events you've forgotten.
- The Chapter Summary Report does not need to be a novel, but it does need to give the national offices some idea of what you've done. For each listed activity, provide a sentence or three of description. This allows people unfamiliar with your unique events a way to get the whole picture.
- Don't leave out the small stuff. Just because you provide water to the marching band every day and have for years doesn't make it unworthy of the report. Everything you do, no matter how small is important on some level. This is your chance to shine, use it!
- Type the form if you can. The national offices provide a fill-in Word form at the following location: <http://www.kkytbs.org/forms.html> It can be of great use in making your form neat and easy to fill out.

- Be ready to mail the form during the week before finals if possible. This helps keep time crunches from leading you away from the CSRs completion.
- Get the form finished a week before you need to send it. This gives you the chance to ensure its timely mailing and to allow for difficulty in finding people for signatures.

These are just a few small points that may help you get your report done with less pain and on time. If you find yourself lost or having problems getting the reports done, please feel free to email me ([spivey@umr.edu](mailto:spivey@umr.edu)) or call me (573-647-2527) for help. That's what I'm here for.

I hope this all helps you succeed in your endeavor to finish your year on a good note! I'll leave you with some important information:

WHAT: Chapter Summary Report

WHY: To record and showcase all of the great things your chapter does each year

HOW: With gusto! All of you have worked so hard all year, this is your chance to crow about it!

WHERE: Sent to the National Office. See the official forms for the address

WHEN Postmarked by **JUNE 1**

I cannot stress enough the importance of this date!

In the Bonds,

Angel Renee' Brondel  
MAL – Midwest District  
Kappa Kappa Psi  
2003-2004



2003 KKΨ District Convention Nominations Committee Chair  
Jodi Krayenhagen -- Iota Omega

### Tough Decisions

We started off Thursday evening with light hearts and excitement brewing for the upcoming weekend. For one in the car, the weekend proposed a superb ending to a long year of hard work, but for the rest of us, it provided the opportunity to meet new people, fulfill our duties, and hopefully have some fun along the way. I was thrilled to be representing my chapter. I also knew that I would be chairing the nominations committee, which made me slightly nervous, but yet excited to be endowed with such a large responsibility. Little did I know what I was in for.

The 650-mile drive proved quite interesting. Who doesn't like a little flair now and then? Thankfully, everyone in the 9-car caravan arrived safe and sound. Seating of the delegates commenced on time, kicking off an eventful weekend. After dinner with some friends, I started reading over my committee information and outlining what needed to be done the next morning. So much to do in so little time!

Committee meetings started bright and early in the morning. Sleep is overrated anyway, right? My goal for the morning was to create a set of questions that would delve into the heart of each office and each candidate. My tactic for doing this was to brainstorm as many questions as possible, constantly encouraging more thought with the theory that no idea is a bad one. With having many questions to choose from, I felt it allowed us to create the highest quality questions possible.

Hours passed us by. Sessions came and went, yet we stayed in our little room to make sure that the job was done right. We wanted to make sure our questions let us, as well as the delegation, understand the candidate and office as best they could. It wasn't until lunch time that we finally had the questions exactly how they should be.

Lunch time wasn't just a break, though. This committee wasn't allowed that. Everyone was given homework to do before we joined in front of the delegation for the interviews. I felt it was important to

know each candidate even before they stepped in front of us, so the assignment was to read each packet of cover letters, resumes, platforms, and references. Four of the six in the committee decided to go to lunch together. While waiting for our food, we each picked through a different packet so we could share our thoughts with each other. Finally we set them down to eat some pizza. That was after four hours of nominations committee work.

The afternoon began with the interview session, which went over very well. We learned a lot about each candidate, which is exactly what we wanted to do. With that drawing to a close, it was time for the committee to again return to their little room to talk. This time, though, the weight we carried was a lot larger. We had to decide who to slate for each office.

Discussion began by going over each person's packet, then their speech and interview. We delved deep into each person's ideas and qualifications. I am very proud to say there was never any fighting, bickering, or even any negative words in our little room, only wonderfully productive discussion. After the eighth hour in nominations committee, we decided to break for ritual and banquet, when we met one more time to make the final decisions. We wanted to make sure we had our heads clear and everything thought through before making a final decision. After one more late hour of discussion, the committee had made its final decision.

I was glad to finally let my committee go have some fun. We had been with each other nearly all day long, and although there was no tension between us, it was time to see some new faces. I am truly grateful to my committee for their supporting attitudes and hard work. All of my brothers are truly wonderful and talented people, and are some of the closest friends I could ever ask for.

After the committee was finished, however, I had to write the final report. I was up until very early in the morning trying to state everything just right. When I



finally did go to bed, the sleep was restless. I knew the next morning was going to be quite eventful, and all eyes were going to be on me.

The rest is history. I was so nervous all morning, but determined to stand up and do my job. I believed, with all my heart, that our decisions were the best for the district, and was prepared to back them up. It wasn't going to be easy for anyone, including me, but I knew it had to be done. As we all know, sometimes tough decisions have to be made. Through everything, I learned that sometimes things require you to put in a lot of time, effort, and heartache...but if it's something you believe in and care about, it's worth any obstacles you may face along the way.

### Go To National Convention!

For more information surf on over to:

<http://www.kkytbs.org>

July 20-27, 2003  
Norfolk, Virginia

### 2003-2004 KKΨ And TBΣ Officers

| Position                        | Name                  | Chapter     | Position                        | Name             | Chapter         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>President</b>                | Brett Kisker          | Kappa Delta | <b>President</b>                | Robert Becho     | Delta Xi        |
| <b>Vice President</b>           | Carrie Shuck          | Kappa Delta | <b>VP Membership</b>            | Heath Cartwright | Zeta Delta      |
| <b>Secretary/<br/>Treasurer</b> | Anne Temple           | Eta Zeta    | <b>Secretary/<br/>Treasurer</b> | Erica Hare       | Zeta Delta      |
| <b>Member at<br/>Large</b>      | Angel Brondel         | Delta Gamma | <b>VP Special<br/>Projects</b>  | Amber Robinson   | Delta Xi        |
| <b>Governor</b>                 | Michelle<br>Kincheloe | Alpha Iota  | <b>Historian</b>                | Andrea Gossage   | Zeta Delta      |
| <b>Governor</b>                 | Al Sergel             | Gamma Nu    | <b>Counselor</b>                | Ed Elsea         | Eta Upsilon KKΨ |

Notes information for 2003-2004

Editor: Chris Colvin Colvinc@iastate.edu

Web Page: Brian Dorn, Rob Morrison, John Wyman MWDNotes@iastate.edu

Iota Omega: <http://www.music.iastate.edu/org/kkytbs/kky/>

Midwest District: <http://www.kkytbs.org/mwd/>



Submission from Iowa State University  
Iota Omega -- KKY Theta Xi -- TBΣ

Iota Omega has been very busy this past year. Besides our normal activities that we share with our sisters of Theta Xi, we have been looking towards our chapter's future and learning about its past.

One unique event four of our brothers were able to participate in this year was Iota Kappa's (Boise State) second and third degrees. While a pepband was in Boise for the 2002 Humanitarian Bowl we were invited to help with their first rituals after re-activation.

We decided this year that we would take on the task of rewriting our constitution. We formed a committee who's members put in many long hours over several months, including one marathon meeting that lasted from 8:30pm until 1:20am. The chapter will debate and vote on the new constitution at our next meeting.

Looking back at our past, next year we are hoping to have a great party in March to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year of being a chapter. To honor this important anniversary we will be inviting all of our alumni to Ames to celebrate with us. Also a couple weekends ago we had a get together with some of our alumni. It was a little bit on of a last minute function but we still had a good turn out. It was great to see some of our past members. It provided a good forum for asking questions about how some of our traditions started, as well as quality socializing.

Our chapter is striving to further enhance its continuing education program. A new activity we did this year was to hold a workshop on parliamentary procedure this year. As the chapter has gotten more knowledgeable with parley-pro, our meeting have become more productive.

As this past year has been very productive for us we are hoping to continue that attitude. As we become a stronger chapter we seem to always be striving for higher and higher goals, that is something that we are all proud of.

John Wyman  
Iota Omega Corresponding Secretary

We recently had a visit from the CFR, Carolyn, during our sisterhood week.

We started the year with a new band director, Mathew Smith, and a new addition to our KKY chapter, Brian Dorn. With Mr. Smith, we had the opportunity to travel to Kansas City; Boise, Idaho; Dallas, Texas; and our rival university, Iowa City, Iowa.

Our TBΣ chapter doubled our membership again from last year with 21 new members.

Our chapter has also put emphasis on continuing education. In the previous years, returning members had taken the same quizzes as our new members. This year, we've developed skits, speeches and games to present information about Tau Beta Sigma.

We have new fundraising ideas, along with the old, creating funds for our chapter. These include:

- ❖ corn picking (over \$2,000!) with the chance of detasseling next year
- ❖ pie-in-the-face for band banquet (over \$800)
- ❖ marching band merchandise sales
- ❖ uniform and raincoat cleanings
- ❖ boo-o-grams (Halloween candy bags)
- ❖ val-o-grams (Valentine's Day candy bags)
- ❖ convention merchandise sales

Mindi Beckman -- Theta Xi



Submission from University of Kansas  
Eta Zeta -- KKΨ Zeta Delta -- TBΣ

Dear Midwest District,

The Eta Zeta chapter at the University of Kansas is finally winding down an incredible, activity-filled, productive spring semester! We've managed to start a commissioning project, take on a first-year project in conjunction with our new band director titled the Prairie Wind Festival, and have kept up with concert and jazz band receptions, all while committing ourselves to the steady projects of showing band appreciation, helping the directors with mailings, setting up for concerts, etc. I would like to share a little more about the commissioning project and about Prairie Wind Festival!

Professor James Barnes, well-known band composer/arranger at KU has agreed to let the Eta Zeta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi commission a piece for Dr. John Lynch and his Wind Ensemble. The piece will be commissioned expressly for the Wind Ensemble's tour to Japan next year. Hopefully, this will light the fire for more commissioning projects to follow.

Prairie Wind Festival was a large success. This year, Dr. Lynch decided to provide a weekend for high school students to audition, participate, and perform under a well-known guest conductor. Kappa Kappa Psi organized registration, helped with transporting students, provided runner assistance for the band directors, etc. I personally found this experience a valuable one due to the fact that we were introduced to prospective college band members, we were able to make a good impact on students by providing them with assistance and kindness, and we increased our reputation as an honorary band fraternity. The success of this program was so evident; that I have a feeling Prairie Wind Fest will become an annual tradition at KU!

Now at the end of the semester, I'm proud to say on behalf of the Eta Zeta chapter that we are finishing strong and look forward to the future. I'm sure the coming year will allow more opportunities for innovative projects and creative ideas, especially with the addition of our NEW active members! We hope to see you in July at Nationals.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Anne Tempel  
Kappa Kappa Psi  
ETA ZETA President  
MWD Secretary/Treasurer  
University of Kansas

Hello Midwest District,

Eta Zeta Delta chapters at KU are finishing up the year with a bang. The end of the year brings final band concerts so we're busy putting on receptions for our 3 concert bands, we're putting together mailings for the band office, Natural Ties and Jubilee Cafe, just for some of our major service projects. Zeta Delta is also planning on helping Girl Scout troops in the area earn their music badges. We're also going to have social events such as our annual joint retreat and we'll be celebrating our 26th Birthday coming up in May.

We were glad to see all of you at convention and we would also like to congratulate Zeta Delta's 3 new district officers, Heath Cartwright, Erica Hare and Andrea Gossage and Eta Zeta's 1 district officer, Anne Tempel.

Lastly both chapters will be doing separate honorary ceremonies and officer elections this month.

We hope you all have a good summer and we'll see you at retreat and convention next year.

ITB,  
Julia Litton  
Zeta Delta Secretary- on behalf of Eta Zeta Delta



Submission from University of Missouri at Rolla  
Delta Gamma -- KΚΨ Delta Xi -- TΒΣ  
Submitted by Angel Renee' Brondel

Of Spam and Giants, and rocks, and big heads in rocks, and snow, and ...

It was a fine morning, March 22, when 15 intrepid travelers set out to conquer the world. All right, so it was just the Midwest.... Give us our dreams! Anyway, with cars packed to explosion and people secured in their seats, four vehicles set off to chase destiny on Highway 63 north. After miles and miles and miles of never-ending driving, our vehicle had a great idea! "Let's go to Boonville!" we cried. And so our search for glory and wealth commenced..... And so it ended with our party \$5.25 richer and a smile on our beaver's face. We continued on the journey. The parties met at the Wendy's in the unforgettable Odessa strip mall. After satiating our appetites and regaling the others with our tales of wealth and greed and being "21 and over", we once again set forth.

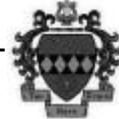
Later we arrived in the state of Iowa! We were excited about the Crossing of borders until we noticed that the welcoming center signs were emblazoned with a question mark. Are we really welcome in Iowa? Should turn back lest we meet some horrid fate at the hands of the Iowegians? Is the sign really telling us about a welcoming center? We fretted with the questions until we reached a new border. Nebraska! We headed for Omaha post haste; lest Iowa change it's mind and call us back. There, the University of Nebraska at Omaha chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi greeted us. We made an emergency trip to Sears to be told that Courtney's vehicle needed a new rim - an item difficult to find on a Saturday night. Sadly, our group split. Some continued in search of food, others in search of a rim...

Time passed and we were allowed to join the food search secure in the knowledge that steel rims do not need to be replaced! But where shall we stay? Stories of a barn passed among us. "A barn," we exclaimed, "A real barn!?" But alas, the cows had chosen this location for the birthing of their young, stupid cows. And so we set forth to the campus with plans of staying in the practice rooms of the music building. While this seemed a solid plan, we were soon proven wrong when Amber and Charles were nearly assaulted

and beheaded by a raging security guard! (OK, so he wasn't raging as much as he was loud, and he didn't exactly assault them, but he did confuse them and wake them up, which could be considered assault in some places, and he didn't really have anything to behead them with, but if the music stand in front of the door had fallen just right, one of them could have gotten a nasty bruise on their head) But lady luck was with us and our host was familiar with the head of said security. So we were duly chastised and allowed to remain until 7am. We acquired a singing reindeer.

The next morning, we continued on to Cedar Falls! Oooooo! But as we had feared, Iowa's hold on us was strong and we were forced to sing the I80 through Iowa song for hours and hours. With intermittent lulls at the World's largest anatomically correct Bull, the Corn Palace, a Jackalope, and some gas stations, we drove to our destination. UNI was nice, the people rocked, they fed us food at Fazolis. We were unable to stay long, so we opted for dinner at a fine dining establishment with our Kappa and Tau Beta friends. While there, we made some friends and sang for the restaurant. Our dinner culminated with the giving of the "Midwest's Most Notorious Fazolis" award and pictures in the parking lot. We added to our reindeer loot a blonde fro.

All good trips must have a period of rest. We chose our next resting spot in the most funnest place in the whole world ever, ever, ever - Nic Matlage's house!!!! Yea!!! Nic's mom and dad and sisters are totally awesome and she has cute doggies and lots of floor space and donuts and we loved it there! Like, really, I'm not exaggerating. Ask anyone. It rocked (like in a musical, cool sense, not in a geological sense). So we slept and ate donuts and watched the news and checked email and hugged Nic and said our thank yous and then we were off, minus one traveler. Our intrepidness was weakened, but with hard work and sacrifice we were able to continue.



On to the Spam museum! Oo. I would have had more o's, but the Spam museum was closed for the season. The gift shop however was open and we spent years in there looking at all sorts of Spam stuff. There were shirts and hats and spoons and clocks and floor mats and hair thingies and a Spam train and workers and us and a floor and walls and a ceiling and a cash register and.... I should stop. So we collected some rocks and took pictures of ourselves and of the security guard holding our mascots and we decided we were hungry. Our first choice of restaurants was closed, so we went to the "Other Place". It was actually "insert name of some guy here's Other Place" but I don't remember the guy's name. Anyway, we feasted on Spam burgers and fries and salads and things and set forth once again.

Next, we stopped to gawk at the Jolly Green Giant, also in Minnesota. He was huge, as advertised, and green, also as advertised. We're not sure about how Jolly he is given his lack of pants, but whatever. So we took pictures and observed the wooden farmers in questionable activities and hopped back in the car for the long drive to nowhere. Specifically, we headed to Kadoka South Dakota and the Best Western. Max Tholine thought this sounded eerily familiar (no, not because Max is eerie, because the Best Western in Kadoka was eerie) so he called his mom. She confirmed the eeriness by telling him of a trip long ago in which they stayed... Gasp! In the same Best Western in the same Kadoka South Dakota! Apparently, the rooms were small and the place sleazy. Hmm... We arrived to find that although the place was not that sleazy, it did smell like poop outside. So we slept and set forth on our next adventure.

We had only some three and a half hours to drive and all day to do it, so We split our group into it's component vehicular parts and headed out. Our vehicle had a full day planned. We began to see our plans fall apart when we discovered that much of South Dakota is closed for the season. The mystery point, mini-golf, the wild animal park, the alligator zoo, the petting zoo, everything! Well, everything except Mount Rushmore. So we went there, as planned. We found another group and tried to call to them to no avail. So Mello (aka, Matt Shelton), brilliant man that he is, came up with a scheme. We would use the irresistible "Hey Band!" and force them to call back. We counted down and messed up. So we

counted down again and let loose with a "Hey Band!" that would have made even LeAnn cry with pride. And we were rewarded with a "Hey What!" that shook even the most stable of visitors to the core. Only a little later, we heard that phrase that melts the heart of every band member across the world... "I love band!" the mountain cried! We knew it - national monuments love us too! Our hearts swelled with pride as we continued on our journey to a cave. Oh, but the caves are closed for the season. Darn!

Our intention had been to sleep at the lovely Mustang Motel in Wyoming, but they had electrical problems so we were sent to the Ramada Inn. Oooo! The rooms were cheap so we splurged and got four rooms instead of two. Oh joy! Anyway, the next morning was a morning for laundry. We discovered that Max is allergic to the one thing Courtney is not. We think there's a plot in there somewhere but it was too early to bother finding it. They'll probably take over the world someday because of this inattention to details, but oh well. Anyway, we played some rousing games like Sorry and Skip Bo until we at last could fold our clothes. Note to all of you: White socks all look the same when they come out of the dryer. Do not mix your socks if you value them or at least if you care about getting your own back! With socks separated and clothes repacked; we caucused at Hardees to decide the next path.

With some difference of opinion over whether Montana snow was really that bothersome (it is, read on), we chose to split our group into two. One half would conquer the mountains of Montana and the other would conquer the tourist traps of the Midwest. We would rejoin in Greeley and share in our plunder! And so we set off for Montana. It turns out that as long as you avoid going under overpasses, you'll be fine in Montana. We got a little sleet, some light snow, but nothing we couldn't handle until we passed under a particular overpass. Then BOOM! Snow everywhere! On the car, on the grass, on the cows, on the horses, on the road - it was everywhere. Can't do it, must change drivers! And so we did. I still think that if we could have somehow gone OVER the overpass, we wouldn't have passed through the rip in the whether continuum and we would have continued into sunny weather, but that's me. We stopped at a gas station to let the plows get ahead of us and were immediately warned by everyone that we shouldn't



stop long or we'd be snowed in. Argh! So we continued. Mello has a nice account of our terrifying journey. It includes my favorite line: "We see horses and sing." You should read it. We sent our love to you all if it makes you feel any better.

Snow, snow, snow, snow, snow, snow....

And we arrived in Bozeman! After a bunch of wrong turns, we arrived in Bozeman and were greeted by the Kappa chapter there. We got to see their convention bid and the rooms they'll use for the bid and their condos (yes, a condo... don't we all want one?) and their really cool practice rooms. They don't go all the way to the ceiling. It's like they're some kind of huge building blocks that were put there and made into practice rooms. Very neat looking. We finally said our goodbyes with promises of seeing them all at convention and continued on our way, lest more snow stopped us. Montana really does have Big Sky, by the way. We decided that it was because of the altitude getting us closer to the clouds, thus making them seem huge in comparison to wussy Missouri clouds. Although we did, for a moment consider the curvature of the atmosphere playing with the visual senses, but then we quit being so nerdy and moored at some passing cows. Oh, and we stopped and let the young'ns who wanted to spend a dollar on video poker. It takes forever to lose a dollar!

We drove a long, long way and made it to Greeley in the middle of the night. We decided to choose a hotel, but we got lost. Then we turned around, then we turned around again, then we got lost in a Wells Fargo parking lot and turned around again. Just for fun sometime, get in the car Jason Detring is driving and suggest turning around. He'll probably scream. It's pretty funny. Anyway, we finally find a row of hotels and stop to find a room. "Oh, were all full and so is everyone else!" Can't be, we think so we try another. Same thing, but this time the lady at the desk is nice enough to call around to find us a hotel. Hooray for Motel 6! So we set off to find this hotel and, guess what? We got lost and had to turn around <insert Jason screaming!> So we get there and we sleep.

The next morning was full of convention preparedness stuff of some sort. Oh, and Chinese food. I'll leave all the convention stuff to someone else and skip to the going home part. Really the only exciting part was hunting for the Giant Prairie Dog. We know it was there but we couldn't see it. So we thought we'd found it and went careening down this dark road. Don't do that. Roads like that turn to dirt suddenly and without warning. Anyway, we got closer and closer and closer to our prey, hoping to sneak up on it and take its picture. But it wasn't a prairie dog. It was a grain refinery. We took fuzzy pictures anyway, so if you see them, humor us by going "Ooo, what a cool prairie dog!" It'll make us feel good.

So here we are home. Everyone is safe and sound. Well, not sound really, but we sure put on a good show of sanity. If you enjoyed our stories, then you should consider having us visit you or planning a road trip with us. We like road trips. We might oblige!