

# The BACK BAY BETA



BOSTON, MA

DECEMBER 1987

Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT

## Information Sought From Alumni For Directory

As a part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Beta Upsilon Chapter, plans have been made to publish a directory of our chapter's living members. The directory, which is projected for completion late this spring, will include the names, classes, and addresses of all living brothers. We also hope to include information about the occupations and business addresses of as many brothers as possible. The directory will also include a geographical breakdown of our membership, which will help brothers locate classmates and Beta friends as they travel.

To make the directory as accurate and complete as possible, we are seeking additional information from our membership. Enclosed with this newsletter is an information postcard. We would appreciate your taking just a few moments to complete this card and drop it in the mail.

When the directory is completed, a copy will be mailed to each brother. We believe the directory will be of great interest to alumni, as it will be an update on the whereabouts of many friends whom you may not have heard from in many years. Please help us make the directory as complete as possible by returning your information today.



*A '50s flashback . . .*

## Rush Week Begins Thriving Semester At Beta

This year many MIT fraternities fell short of their rush week goals. The IFC is organizing a Greek Awareness Week (a second fall rush) to help those houses fill their freshman classes. An excellent summer rush organized by Rush Chairman Scott Stull '88 generated a list of 70 prospects. Fourteen of our 15 bids came from this list. We pledged 13 of those 15—11 by 11:00 Monday morning.

Rush week was just the beginning of a thriving semester for Beta. Our intramural football team moved up to A-league. We beat on the chops (Lambda Chi Alpha), 22-7, in the only game played during a wet autumn season. Betas are represented on many varsity teams this term; they include soccer (2), football, crew, lacrosse, water polo, swimming (2), basketball (3), skiing (2), and wrestling (2). The brothers are also building and operating a haunted house for the Margaret Fuller House of Cambridge for this term's service project. On the social scene, Beta continues to lead the MIT fraternities.

During the Head of the Charles Regatta, Betas from Cornell, Penn, Dartmouth, and Colgate visited our house and had a great time. We look forward to seeing alumni from all classes come back and visit. Stories of your Beta experiences are eagerly awaited by one and all.

Yours in -kai-,  
Bennett J. Silverman  
Chapter President

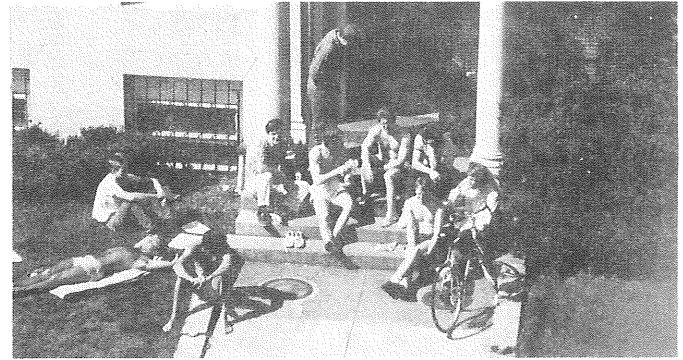
## A Tribute To Dr. Seth R. Brooks

It is with the utmost sadness and regret that Beta Upsilon announces the passing of Dr. Seth R. Brooks (St. Lawrence '22) in the early morning hours of Wednesday, October 7, 1987. Brother Brooks was familiar to most Betas through his article, "Inter Fratres," which appeared in each issue of *The Beta Theta Pi*. However, his devotion to our fraternity and his untiring work on its behalf go much further.

Born in New York City in 1901, Brother Brooks entered St. Lawrence University in upstate New York and was initiated by the Beta Zeta Chapter in 1918. He attended the first of his 50 conventions in 1919, at Swampscott, Massachusetts. After graduating from college he served as chief of Districts II (including  
*(continued on page two)*



On the way to the Dartmouth Beta house are (front) Michael McGovern '89 and (left to right) Michael Rehtin '89, Jeff Fitzgerald '89, Michael Casagrande '89, Steven Ponzio '88, Dan Frankel '89, Michael DeCavalcante '87, Kee Wee '89, Dan O'Shea '89, John Spitzer '89, and Jim Cureton '89.



Outside the Beta house last year during Alumni Weekend are (left to right): Michael DeCavalcante '87 (lying down), Jim Cureton '89, Jason Kipnis '87 (head turned), Mark Buchard '85, William Brennan '86 (standing), Robert Struble '85, Jim Egan '86, Andy Chess '86, Ken Bryan '88, and Mike Rehtin '89.

### Beta Theta Pi Alumni Send In Their News

After 27 years in development engineering at IBM, IRA H. LOHMAN '38 retired in 1979. Since then, he has turned his lifelong hobby of photography into a small business. Wife Louise is of considerable help to him in his venture. Three of their four children live nearby in northern California. The other, along with her three sons, lives in Connecticut. Ira and Louise hope to be back in Boston for their 50th reunions in 1988, and they make their home at 20201 Kilbride Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070.

Retiree PRENTISS I. COLE '27 writes, "Can anything dated January 1925 be classified as 'news?' Put the enclosed copy of a 1925 house statement under the category of 'anything else.'" We thought you might enjoy seeing the statement, so we've reproduced it below. Prentiss wonders how current costs compare to this. Sending his best regards to all, Prentiss resides at 2150 Webster St., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Last year DAVID A. KRALL '82 and DAVID A. MILICH '82 formed their own company to develop software for the VAX and IBM PC markets. Two other Betas who have helped them in their venture are STEVEN J. SILBERBERG '83 and LEI H. TUNG '86, both as software programmers. Since all four people involved were Betas, they named the company Beta Systems, Inc. David writes that although starting their own company has been fun, none of them expects to become rich in the venture. He and his wife, Karen (a first-grade teacher), have been married for almost four years, and David's plans were to attend the Harvard Business School this fall. He reports that David Milich is hoping to graduate with his PhD in mechanical engineering from MIT in January. They have also heard from DANIEL L. KRAMER '83, who graduated recently from Harvard Business School and is working in Connecticut, and HAL S. STERN '81, who was awarded a position as an associate professor at Harvard University. The Kralls live at 281 Summer St., Arlington, MA 02174.



### Tribute, continued

Beta Upsilon) and III and then as alumni affairs commissioner of the General Fraternity. At the 1950 convention, Brother Brooks was elected general secretary, a post he held for 10 years. At the 1960 convention, he was elected president of Beta Theta Pi, and he was re-elected in 1963.

Brother Brooks authored *In Beta's Broad Domain*, as well as numerous "Inter Fratres" articles, speeches, and letters "To Any Beta Reader." His devotion to our fraternity was well-known; consequently, he received many invitations to speak before other fraternities and sororities. His influence was recognized by the National Interfraternity Conference, which gave him its Gold Medal Award at its 1966 national convention.

Brother Brooks is also remembered for his distinguished service to his church and community. He served as a minister of the Universalist National Memorial Church for over 40 years and was a well-known citizen in the Washington, D.C., area; he received the Freedom Foundation Award in 1967 for his "Inter Fratres" article entitled "Freedom With."

Beta Theta Pi will dearly miss Brother Seth R. Brooks: his inspiring speeches, his untiring leadership, his extraordinary devotion. Brother Brooks surely ranks with the greatest men of Beta Theta Pi for his work in building up "a good and great fraternity."

BETA UPSILON CHAPTER OF BETA THETA PI	
In account with	<u>P. Cole</u>
For the month of	<u>Jan 1925</u>
Steward Dept. (Board)	\$ 27.60
House Dept. (Room)	21.00
Chapter Dept. (Dues)	6.00
Social Tax	7.25
Building Fund	2.00
Rushing Fund	15.00
Fine for late payment (8%)	
Fine for absence from meeting	
<u>Milk</u>	<u>3.00</u>
<b>Total (this month)</b>	<b>67.35</b>



*Pictured at a Christmas time (1985) gathering in the lounge (fourth rear right of the main house) are, from left to right (front): Kim and Ronald Abarquez '87; (back): David Kramer '88, William Santos '87, Michael Nadolny '88, Michael DeCavalcante '87, Kelly, Ben Silverman '88, Bridget, Andrew Chess '86, Chris Morgan '87, and Tayne.*

## Beta Proudly Announces Pledge Class Of 1991

Facing a continuing decrease in the freshman class and an institute R/O committee striving to change a rush system that has been effective for years, the Betas once again ran a successful rush against a number of odds. However, the IFC rush in general was very poor, forcing some houses to take in boarders and forcing us to consider future rushes very seriously.

The events were much the same as in previous years, with rain forcing the picnic indoors. Although there were no organized events on Friday, freshmen were invited to come over and meet the brothers in a cocktail party atmosphere (observing the regulations of dry rush, no alcohol was served). Our new cook provided an excellent assortment of appetizers throughout the day. Saturday was our annual George's Island trip, which, despite drizzling weather, proved very successful. That night our party attracted an even greater number of freshmen, and by Sunday morning the majority of our bids were extended.

On Monday morning a very tired house was rejuvenated as 11 freshmen pledged before 11:00 a.m. We lost two cross-rushes on Monday night but during our party on Tuesday the remaining two outstanding bids pledged, raising our total to 13. Unfortunately, the 2:00 a.m. circle jerk on the front lawn drew some attention from our neighbors, so we ended the celebration a little earlier than planned.

Proudly representing the pledge class of 1991 are: Frank Aguirre, Alex Chachkes, Ken Chay, Mark Cooper, Tuan Elstrom, Roger Israni, Phil Johnson, Jim Kalamas, Cliff Merchant, Andy Obst, John Sell, Chris Sonne, and John Springsteen.

I would like to thank each brother and friend of the house who helped out and made my job run smoothly—especially Mike Nadolny, whose experience as last year's rush chairman was very valuable in guiding me. Special thanks to Joseph Sherrill '57, Steve Yeretsky '59, Andy Levy '83, and the Wichita Falls Alumni Association for recommending freshmen to me.

I hope that future rush chairmen enjoy the same success I did and that their terms will also prove to be one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

Yours in -kai-,  
Scott Stull  
Rush Chairman



*Charlie DiRuzzio '88, Todd Wilson '88, and Mike Nadolny '88 help raise last year's Christmas tree.*

## We Hear From A Beta Pledge

I came to MIT knowing that I wanted to join a fraternity and had several in mind before I even arrived. At the top of this list was Beta Theta Pi. I had talked to Ben Silverman '88 on the phone over the summer, and I knew that Beta would be the first house I would visit during rush. As it turned out, Beta was the *only* house I visited; essentially, I stayed at Beta for all four days of rush. From the first minute I walked through the doors at the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, the brothers made me feel at home. Like the rush booklet said, once I arrived, I did not want to leave.

In the nearly two months since I pledged, the Beta house and the brothers have begun to feel more and more like home. The comfortable, friendly atmosphere here has really helped me in adjusting to life at MIT. Being a freshman at one of the most prestigious schools in the world can often be hectic and scary. Being able to come "home" to Beta allows me to get away from the pressures at school. The brothers here are very helpful and easy to talk to about any problems I might be having. I am currently rooming with three upperclassmen, two of whom are majoring in my prospective field of study, architecture. They have been helpful in recommending courses that I should take and in other such things.

The pledge program here is interesting. Aside from weekly cleanup duties around the house, it's really enjoyable. Learning Beta's history and songs for our weekly pledge meetings is also interesting. Perhaps our most captivating assignment as pledges was to interview all 28 brothers currently living in the house. I recently completed my interviews and had a good time in the process. I really enjoyed talking to all the brothers and learning about their pasts and their plans for the future. Another interesting facet of these interviews was learning facts and trivia about this chapter.

I have also had a good time getting to know all 12 of my pledge brothers. On our recent pledge sneak to the Beta Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at Colgate University, I had the opportunity to get to know my pledge brothers even better. I get along with all of them and am looking forward to living with them for the next four years.

In short, my first two months here at MIT have been much better than I had expected, thanks to the brothers of Beta and my pledge brothers. There are no doubts in my mind that I made the right choice by deciding to pledge Beta. I am very proud to be a Beta pledge, and I eagerly look forward to the day when I will become a full brother and spend the next four years at Beta Theta Pi.

## Beta Theta Pi Alumni Write

After having moved five times in the last three years, MARK P. BOUCHARD '84 hopes that he'll be staying at his current address for awhile. He has a new job designing disk drives for Data General. Mark had a great time bowling with some of the brothers and alumni the night before this year's alumni party, and he also had a chance to talk with RICHARD C. STEINES '84, who has plans to get married sometime in the next year. Write to Mark at 22 Bateman St., Sanford, ME 04073.

As director of engineering for AMFOX (American Fiber Optics Corporation), GARY W. BICKEL '61 is "struggling to make a very small company competitive with the big guys" in the field of multi-mode optical fiber manufacturing. His wife, Ann, is program director for a nonprofit organization, son Geoff is a freshman at the University of California-San Diego, and daughters Kathryn and Sarah are in high school and grade school. Gary looks for news of 1957-'65 Betas in *The Back Bay Beta* and was especially delighted to see responses from HAROLD BRANSON '63, ALEXANDER G. ROSS '61, and RICHARD H. OELER '60. Gary's address is 3761 Holden Circle, Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

ALLAN J. MacLAREN '60 is now working for Tracor Aerospace's advanced system operations as manager of space dayloads. He resides at 1125 McIntosh Creek Dr., San Jose, CA 95120.

Congratulations to retiree JOHN B. "Jack" BREYMAN III '44 on the birth of his first grandchild. He writes, "We are in a new age all right! My daughter, Meg, who had a baby boy (Willie) last July 18th, retained Breyman as her married name—flipped a coin with her husband to determine the last name of the baby and won—so it's Willie Breyman." Get in touch with Jack at 66 Devir St. #306, Malden, MA 02148.

When he wrote recently, WILLIAM G. ROESLER '65 reported news of JON E. BURKHARDT '64. Jon is president of the National Society of Kite Fliers, and William notes that Jon has built some of the most beautiful kites in Washington, D.C. An engineer with Boeing, William makes his home at 539 16th Ave. W., Kirkland, WA 98033.

"Outside of worrying about paying the college bills, nothing much is new," writes WILLIAM H. "Jim" AUSTIN JR. '58. His oldest daughter, Mary, graduated a few years ago from Wellesley; his only son, David, just graduated from Wright State; twins Ann and Jane are in their sophomore year at St. Lawrence; and daughter Becky was to enter Bowdoin this fall. Jim saw GARY L. BLAKELY '58 and his wife, Marilyn, earlier this year when they were visiting Ohio to look at colleges with their son. Jim is an engineering manager for the United States Air Force (aerospace systems division), and he reports an address of 25 Park Rd., Dayton, OH 45419.

Sending us his new address is THOMAS B. LACY '48. Mail for Thomas should now be sent to Gap Mountain Rd., P.O. Box 487, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447.

Retiree HAROLD V. SMITH '47 attended the Tech *Daedalus* presentation in Orlando recently—"only to discover how much outdated a retiree becomes." He lives at 4260 E. Lake Rd., Canandaigua, NY 14424, in the summer, and his winter address is 80 Fiesta Way, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301.

LEWIS BENDER '81 writes of his life in Switzerland. "I ski a lot, speak French all day, and enjoy the climate and the people." He is a product manager for Metalor, and he reports a new address of Rue Louis Bourguet #20, Neuchatel CH-2000, SWITZERLAND.

## THE BACK BAY BETA

Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are always welcome and should be sent to Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0575. Photos will be returned, upon request, after use in the newsletter.

When he wrote recently, DAVID J. LINEMAN '85 reported that he had recently traveled around Europe. He had a chance to play golf in Scotland and also met with ROBERT J. STRUBLE '85 and RAYMOND F. "Ray Dog" BRUNSBURG '86 in Denmark. David comments of Denmark that it's "the only place where the women are more beautiful than Texas." He is a development engineer with Schlumberger, and he invites anyone passing through the Houston area to contact him at 5401 Chimney Rock #1048, Houston, TX 77081.

JAMES STARK DRAPER '62 writes, "The James E. Cunningham 'JC' Memorial Scholarship, MIT's scholarship for women in engineering, is completing its second class of students, Ms. Wendy Power (XVI, '87) and Ruby Li (VI, '87). Our scholars have participated in scholarship luncheons with MIT faculty and graduates where we trade ideas on bettering our support and have a good time. The Beta brothers' support of this unique program has been vital and continues as we extend our support." Write to James at 18 Bellevue St., Newton, MA 02158.

Congratulations to JOHN R. CHISHOLM '84 on his new job. He started work recently as a portfolio manager with Academic Financial Research. His new address is 23 Griggs Place, Allston, MA 02134.

Having recently run a 2:57 marathon in Albany, MICHAEL E. FLANAGAN '85 reports that his time should qualify him for the Boston Marathon in the spring. He attended a party in October held by Karen Wohl '86 and Ellen Epstein '86, which at least 14 Betas attended. Joining the festivities were KENNETH J. SHINE '85, JAMES G. DANNA '84, JOHN P. O'LEARY '84, HAL S. STERN '81, MARK A. GOLDBERG '82, DANIEL L. KRAMER '83, DAVID S. EISEN '83, PATRICK K. FOWLER '83, RONALD ABARQUEZ '87, ANDREW J. CHESS '86, JAMES J. EGAN '86, ROBERT L. LABARRE '83, and MICHAEL L. DeCAVALCANTE '87. Michael has also seen RICHARD C. STEINES '84, LEI H. TUNG '86, TOM W. ROOZE '85, and ANTHONY P. DiPESA JR. '86 and has plans to see DAVID J. LINEMAN '85. Send Michael your news at 10 Willow St., New Providence, NJ 07974.

DAVID EVANS '24 reads every issue of *The Back Bay Beta* and reports that he enjoys them all. He writes, "Bravo," to C. YARDELEY CHITTICK'S '22 report every issue. David can't play tennis anymore, but he still enjoys swimming, gardening, playing with driftwood and shells, and keeping busy with his family. He has seen PHILIP C. NILES '25 and his wife, Kay, and ALDEN CUSHMAN '24 recently. Get in touch with David at 674 Weed St., New Canaan, CT 06840.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

JONATHAN Y. BALLARD '23, June 21, 1987  
 CLARENCE M. CHAFFEE JR. '24, March 28, 1987  
 REGINALD B. COCROFT JR. '39, April 1987  
 EVERETT S. COLDWELL '15, April 23, 1987  
 ALBERT S. KNIGHT JR. '42, November 6, 1986