



The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 1992

Many Things Happening In And Around The Beta House

It's springtime again, and things are happening rapidly, as usual, at the Beta house. The seniors are making post-graduation plans, whether it be graduate school—as is the case with most—a job to start a career, or even, in the case of Will Scruggs '92, a summer marriage. Sophomores and juniors are concentrating on classes and their plans for the future. Freshmen are deciding on a major, perhaps the umpteenth one.

There have been many happenings since the last *Back Bay Beta*. A dinner was held in honor of Ken Cameron, pilot of the space shuttle last spring on what has been deemed one of the most successful missions to date. Brother Cameron presented the chapter with a Beta flag he took on the space shuttle with him, which will be proudly flying during the alumni party on May 2. The house presented brother Cameron with a plaque recognizing his great achievement. Brother Cameron's career continues to soar, for he has been selected as commander for STS-56, to launch next March 23.

The Christmas party was a good time, as usual, with the ongoing good-natured arguments about which pledge class had the best skit, decorations, etc.

At the end of January, House Manager James Meneghini '93 ran a very successful pledge work week. In addition to performing much-needed maintenance and repair throughout both houses, the pledges converted a room to accommodate the growing number of people in the house. Thus the old bike room in first rear of the annex has now become a very satisfactory single or double.

Relations continue to go well with the other Beta chapters.

Alumni Needed To Help With Summer Rush Events

Last summer we had over 20 summer rush parties covering a large portion of the United States. These gatherings varied from a Tigers game in Detroit to beach festivities in Fort Lauderdale. An active summer rush has recently become critical for finding a strong pledge class, and last summer's rush gatherings could not have been possible without alumni hosts and guests. If you are interested in attending a summer rush party or hosting a party (at our expense), contact me at 267-3881 or send me a letter with available dates. I plan to have a rush party schedule mailed to alumni later this spring.

The tentative rush schedule for 1992 begins on Friday evening, August 28. Last year we had an outstanding alumni presence, and I hope that more alumni will return to the house this fall. In the meantime, if you have any rush referrals, questions, or general advice concerning rush, contact me. I am anxious to hear what you have to say.

Jay Coulson '94
Rush Chairman

During November, Frank Leibly '93, Christian Hamer '94, Jay Coulson '94, and I attended a leadership conference in Albany, New York. In addition to the usual information gathered during seminars and workshops, we all enjoyed getting to know Betas from all over the Northeast. The Beta colony at the University of Rhode Island continues to do quite well. They initiated two pledge classes this year, roll numbers 919 through 929, and we hope to see them receive their charter at the convention this summer in Washington, DC.

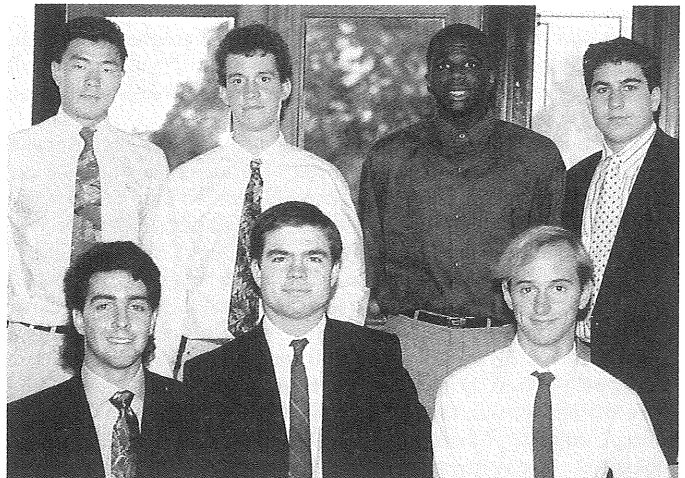
Community relations continue to go well, also. There have been no problems at all, and we have been thanked profusely by various agencies for whom we have done community service, including, most recently, the Swim for Sight, a benefit for eye research. Betas were working 24 hours a day all weekend. Regrettably, Mrs. Lappin has been fairly ill of late. All of us here wish her a full and speedy recovery.

The whole house wishes to send its best to Betas in the armed forces, especially Andrew Obst '91, currently stationed in South Korea, and Kevin Frye '94, who should be finishing basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia, by the time this is published. Good luck, men!

Last, but certainly not least, another pledge program ended on April 4 with the initiation of 18 fine young men, roll numbers 930 through 947. We are launching our next rush, hoping to equal our stunning success last year. As always, referrals from alumni are greatly appreciated.

Have a great summer!

Yours in -kai-,
Erik Abernathy '93



Several of our new initiates. Back row: Randy Hyun, Ethan Close, Nikki Caruthers, and Mike Collins. Front row: Mike Miller, Paul O'Brien, and Kevin Walsh.

Community Service A Tradition

The brothers and pledges of the Beta Upsilon Chapter continued the long tradition of community service this spring by volunteering for two fund-raising activities—Chari-Toys and the Swim for Sight, benefitting the Schepens Eye Research Institute. The Swim for Sight, a continuous 30-hour swimathon, raised over \$130,000 for the continued development of procedures and cures for many diseases that result in impaired sight or blindness. Other projects planned for the rest of the semester include the Milk Run and the Walk for Hunger, both annual projects that raise money for the homeless and underprivileged of Massachusetts. Time permitting, Beta will return to the M. E. Fitzgerald Elementary School in Cambridge, where we will continue renovating and refurbishing the facilities. Beta has been a source of enthusiasm and skilled labor for community service projects throughout the Cambridge and Boston area and will maintain this tradition for many years to come.

Steven Hao '92
Community Service Chairman

Many Brothers Participate In IMs

Successful teams and a great deal of participation characterized Beta's intramural sports program over the fall and winter seasons. Beta teams were very competitive, if not dominant, throughout the first half of the year, with everyone in the house getting into the act.

Beta's football squad, captained by lineman Erik Abernathy '93, showed its muscle on the gridiron this past fall. The team had some problems on the offensive side of the ball, but a tenacious and often overwhelming defense kept the Betas in every game.

The Beta Blast soccer team managed to win a few games in the fall. The team, led by captain Ethan Close '95, showed a surprisingly high level of talent and allowed a lot of brothers and pledges to participate.

Also in the fall, Beta fielded an A-league tennis squad, which fought its way to a respectable 3-3 record. Randy West '93, Randy Hyun '95, and Brian DiVasta '95 played exceptionally well but missed the playoffs by one match.

The winter seasons have been nothing but a plethora of victories for Beta squads. The A-league basketball team, consisting of Jim Kalamas '91, Steve Hao '92, Andrew Heitner '92, Will Scruggs '92, Kevin Frye '94, Jim Falter '95, Bruce Krysiak '95, Javier Nazario '95, Paul O'Brien '95, and Benji Torres '95, finished the regular season a perfect 7-0 and division champions. The hoopsters had a disappointing finish to the season, however, as they were upended in the quarter-final round of the playoffs. With such a young, talented team, however, a league title is not too far down the road.

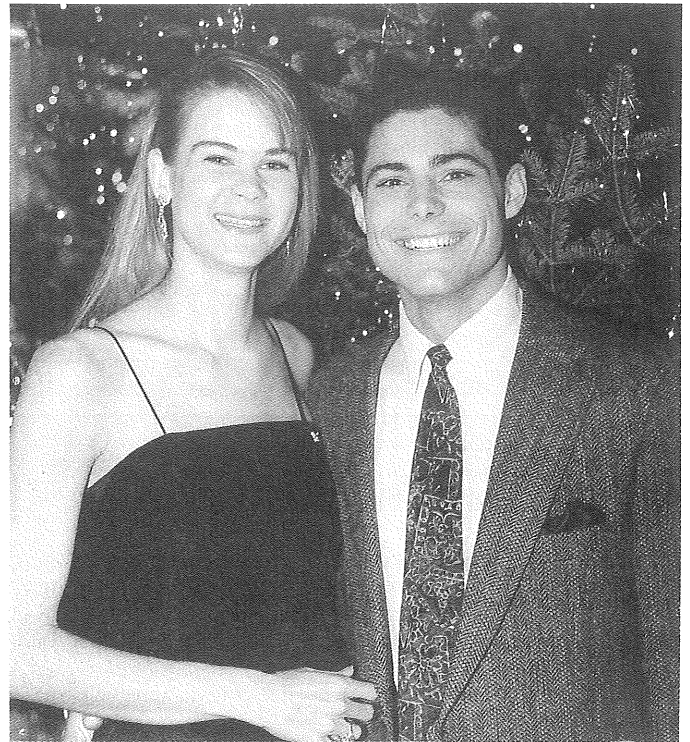
Size was the name of the game for Beta's C-league hoop team. The starting lineup, known as the "half-ton of fun," intimidated and dominated their opponents, as the C-leaguers lost only one game throughout the season.

The most enjoyable intramural sport, ice hockey, gave Betas a chance to display their talents in the rink. The teams showed a variety of talents, such as the deft scoring touch of Brian DiVasta '95, the tenacious defense of Chris Barchak '94, and the ferocious hitting of Will Scruggs '92. The team is currently 3-1 with one game still remaining.

Back on the varsity scene, pledge Hyung Chang '95, member of both MIT's football and wrestling squads, is showing no sign of slowing down, as he has now joined the MIT lacrosse team. Obviously a versatile athlete, Hyung is bound to do well in this new endeavor.

Looking toward the spring, many more Betas will be participating in varsity athletics, and the house will be fielding intramural teams in softball, ultimate frisbee, octathlon, water polo, and table tennis. It's looking like a bright spring for Beta athletics.

Paul O'Brien '95
Athletic Chairman



Will Scruggs '92 and fiancée Denee Goodhope at the Christmas party. The two plan to be wed on July 10 in Joplin, Missouri.

Senior To Wed After Graduation

Will Scruggs '92 has announced his engagement to Denee Goodhope. The wedding is to take place on July 10 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Joplin, Missouri, the hometown of both bride and bridegroom. Many members of the house plan to be in attendance, with Mike Duffy '92, Steve Hao '92, Andrew Heitner '92, and Alex Virgilio '92 participating in the ceremony.

Will expects to graduate this June with a bachelor's in materials science and engineering. He played for four years on the MIT varsity soccer team, holding the position of captain during his senior year, and has participated in MIT club rugby for the past two years. At the house, Will was elected steward and has held the office of annex dweller for three consecutive years. His father is a Beta from Kansas University.

His lovely bride, Denee, is a former Kansas all-state basketball player. She expects to earn a degree in pharmacology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in June. Her brother is a Beta at UMKC.

Following a honeymoon in Jamaica, the couple plans to move to Dearborn, Michigan, where Will has taken a job with Ford Motor Company. Denee plans to find a job in pharmaceuticals and possibly return to school for a doctorate.

Everyone in the house wishes Will and Denee the best of luck and best wishes for a happy, long, and successful marriage.

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 "A," MA 02139-0575. Photos will be returned after use in the newsletter.

New Bike Room Highlights House Improvements

Pledge work week '92 involved our 18 pledges taking on a few major projects. The most extensive project was the conversion of the annex bike room on the first floor into a two-person room. All of the walls were replaced, new wiring installed, and fresh carpet laid. The room was quite an undertaking for the ambitious pledge class. The first-floor common area of the annex also received a lot of work. All of the woodwork and walls were sanded and painted, and the floor was refinished. To accommodate brothers' bikes, the main house boiler room was thoroughly cleaned and organized. Bike hooks were installed along one wall, accommodating about 25 bikes. These projects, along with general cleaning, were the focus of the week.

Since the beginning of IAP, the Beta house has had a few security breaches through the rear of the main house. Items taken include a bike, a TV set, frozen meat, and aluminum cans. No subjects have been apprehended even though in two instances the violators were met by brothers inside the house. The thieves have entered once through an open kitchen window and twice by breaking the door knob off of the back door. No entries have occurred since the installation of a deadbolt lock on the back door and the locking of the iron gate on the kitchen window.

The house managers are currently preparing the house for the spring egress inspection. The house is faced with a list of improvements proposed by MIT, to be completed by fall '92 for the house to remain institute-approved housing. The institute's cost estimate for the improvements was about \$40,000. Most of the improvements involve repairing the fire alarm system, providing more electrical receptacles, and providing egress. Through wrenchman and house manager efforts, overall costs of the improvements have been, and will be, greatly reduced.

In -kai-,
Jim Meneghini '93
House Manager

From The Archives...



Beta brothers are up to no good as they pass a pledge (?) through a window at the old Kent Street house.

18 New Brothers Initiated

As this year's pledge trainer, I am pleased to announce the initiation of the largest Beta Upsilon pledge class in recent memory, if not of all time. Eighteen stellar young men were added to the roll on April 4, 1992, bringing the present roll number total to 947. The new initiates are:

930	Michael Matthew Collins	New York
931	Paul John O'Brien	Massachusetts
932	Ethan Scott Close	Massachusetts
933	Bruce Robert Krysiak	Ohio
934	Brian Paul DiVasta	Massachusetts
935	James Leon Falter	New York
936	Michael William Miller	Florida
937	Neil Andrew Best	Michigan
938	Benjamin Raines Jordan	Georgia
939	Hyung Suk Chang	Maryland
940	Alan Rafe Cockern	New York
941	Derek Chungtao Lou	Texas
942	Randy Joo Hyun	Oregon
943	Javier Andres Nazario	Puerto Rico
944	Kevin Russert Walsh	Illinois
945	Nikki Leron Caruthers	Arizona
946	Benjamin E. Torres	Puerto Rico
947	Marshall William Schnabel	Washington

Admitted among the ranks is a legacy, Derek Lou. Derek attends Harvard University, but with a high degree of commitment he has overcome this obstacle and become an integral part of the house.

With such a large number in a pledge class, one may expect that a division of duties would make the year run fairly smoothly. On the contrary, the large size posed a number of unique difficulties with which the class had to deal. Heading the list was the extreme effort necessary to organize any unified activity. The traditional pledge sneak, Christmas party, and work week all came off very well, but not without some organizational issues first being solved. Other highlights of the year included their group volunteer work with the Chari-Toys Foundation and individual contributions to MIT varsity sports. Among the new class are members of the varsity soccer, basketball, football, lacrosse, water polo, swimming, track, and wrestling teams. With the year's progression and the successful completion of their pledge period, what was seemingly an impossibility at the year's open has become a powerful reality. I believe that the new initiates now find strength in their numbers, and I have every expectation that they will do nothing but contribute to the house's momentum.

Yours in -kai-,
Todd Simson '92
Pledge Trainer

We Hear From Our Alumni

ROBERT S. COOK '30 of 191 Barbour St., Orange, VA 22960, writes, "MIT alums in central Virginia are forming an alumni/ae club. I will be able to meet some new (and possibly Beta) faces there. I am working on my 'architectural' game. It is now concerned with building in ET space. It is a lot of fun and poses unusual problems."

ALFRED B. BOOTH '41 reports the tragic news that his eldest son's home was lost in the fire that swept Berkeley and Oakland Hills this past October. "Geoff was able to flee only minutes before the fire engulfed his home with only the clothes on his back and his car." "Albie" resides at 17 Harding Lane, Westport, CT 06880.

Send congratulations to ROBERT D. PECK '44 and his wife, who celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary this past December.

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...And Even More News

(continued from page three)

Bob is still working part time running his company, but his son, Matt, is really operating the rapidly expanding business. "I am now an 'old pioneer' in the contamination control (cleanroom) industry. In the past year I have been the principle speaker at meetings in Russia, Sweden, Holland, Finland, and Switzerland. This year I will speak in Australia and England." Bob would like to hear from his fellow brothers at 108 Morton Rd., Yarmouth, ME 04096.

HARRY F. DAVIS II '48 reports that his oldest son is working on his PhD in chemistry at Berkeley and his youngest son has a degree in civil engineering and is working in Toronto. A former professor, Harry is now writing full time. "Thanks to TOM LACY '48 for reminding me of things I had forgotten!" Contact Harry at 355 Pommel Gate Circle, Waterloo, Ontario, CANADA N2L 5X7.

A consultant for The Kern Foundation, JOHN C. KERN '50 reports that the foundation is active in such diverse projects as the preservation of ancient palm leaf manuscripts and 19th century political/religious pamphlets in South India. John is also on the grant committee for the MIT Council for the Arts. He "commutes" between Chicago, a ski house in Keystone, Colorado, and a seaside house at Palmas del Mar in Puerto Rico. "I would like to meet your new pledges JAVIER NAZARIO '95 and BEN TORRES '95." John can be reached at 3712 Adams Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60521.

WALTER E. H. MASSEY II '51 of 1951 Tupper St., Shaughnessy Village, Montreal, CANADA H3H 1N6, writes, "These last few years have seen me 're-involved' with Beta. (The spirit never leaves, though my involvement 'rested' for 40 years!) I first was advisor for the McGill colony in Montreal, Quebec, and saw it through to chapterhood. I was then surprised by being made a district chief of new district 38 and took the colony at Bishop's University into chapterhood and shortly after saw the creation of a provisional colony at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, which quickly became a colony. At the last general convention in Tarpon Springs, Florida, they received their charter. We have also realized a new Canadian region, District XXXVIII. It has been a privilege to share in the growth and spreading of our great Beta spirit and principles. Rejoice in your Beta life; it will nourish you forever, if you let it. I'm damn proud to be a Beta!" Walt adds, "A special thanks to Beta Upsilon for hosting our Canadian chapters on many occasions. You have been most helpful and generous in participating directly in their contact with other aspects of Beta's broad domain. You surely lead by example!"

Reporting a change of address is LOUIS J. LEE '52: 2116 New Bedford Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573.

RONALD L. McKAY '54 has opened a new firm, McKay Covant Brook, Inc., consultants in acoustics and audiovisual systems. Ron and wife Sally are the proud grandparents of Kevin, born to their son, Ken, and his wife, Angie, at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines just before Mount Pinatubo blew its top. Send your hellos to Ron at 5811 Kentland Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

"I missed my annual holiday rendezvous with BOB McDONALD '56 in Hawaii as I went 3,000 miles north to be a visiting professor in Fairbanks, Alaska," pens ROBERT S. CARLSON '56 from P.O. Box 8535, Honolulu, HI 96830. "I am looking forward to this year's stint visiting Assumption Business Administration College in Bangkok."

Write to BRUCE A. JOHNSON '60 at 818 N. Teton, #3, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

"Our family is spread across the country," reports JAMES S. DRAPER '62. "Daughter Allison works at Athaneum Press in

Manhattan, Stark is studying East Europe and physics at Stanford, and I have just completed our second log cabin—designed by Jane—in Maine." Drop a line to "Pox" at 18 Bellevue St., Newton, MA 02158. "MEAD WYMAN '62 is leading our 30th reunion in June 1991, which I am excited to help with. Everyone join us!"

RICHARD A. CARPENTER '64 pens, "After merging Index Technology with Sage Software to form Intersolv in March 1991, I stayed on for six months to help facilitate the transition. I am now in the midst of a 'sabbatical,' concentrating on studying a variety of emerging areas in computer and software technology while maximizing time on the ski slopes. I have also almost completed an addition/renovation on my home at 25 Marion St., Hingham, MA 02043. Amy is a freshman at UVM, while Doug and Dave are in 11th and seventh grades here in Hingham."

"I was happy to hear that the house was visited by Colonel KEN CAMERON '78," pens CHARLES E. CALHOUN III '74 from 106 Harmon Ave., Pelham, NY 10803. "I was successful in talking him into giving a talk at the Pelham schools. He was a big hit with the kids. Who knows? He may have sparked another 'high flyer.'"

KENNETH B. SCHWARTZ '76 writes, "The big news of the past year has been the purchase of 10 acres of unbelievably beautiful land near Arches National Park and Moab, Utah, with pledge brother ERIC RAEFSKY '76. We hope to drill a well, plant an orchard, and get out there on a semi-permanent basis as soon as the kids (Nicholas, 8, and Jamie, 1) are grown." A scientist at Raychem, Ken invites brothers to contact him at 909 W. Cardinal Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Drop a note to DAVID J. LINEMAN '85 at 5401 Chimney Rock, #730, Houston, TX 77081.

We hear from CHARLES DiRUZZIO JR. '88: "Last August I went to Jamaica and married a beautiful blond stewardess. In September I left Torrington Company for Accurate Bushing, where I am chief product engineer. This career change relocated us to Newark, New Jersey, where I see great potential for my one-man band featuring the electric guitar, drum machine, foot tambourine, and Dylan-like vocals and lyrics. A final note for those who would remember: in order to hold down expenses and still look good, I am still driving the big, green Pontiac." Charlie can be contacted in care of Accurate Bushing, 443 North Ave., Garwood, NJ 07027.

"All will be glad to know that my bachelor's and master's are under my belt and it's onward to my PhD," reports STEPHEN J. PONZIO '88 from 54 Fayette St., #3, Cambridge, MA 02139. "Alumni and actives are welcome to visit me at the Laboratory for Computer Science in Technology Square."

"I was recently hired into a full-time position at CSX and am really enjoying the challenges of my job as an economic analyst," pens MICHAEL P. McGOVERN '89 from 11848 Pegasus Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32223. "I also like being able to run, bike, and swim in the relatively warm weather here."

MICHAEL D. RECHTIN JR. '89 is finishing up his last year at the University of Notre Dame Law School and has accepted a job with the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moor, Van Dusen & Freeman as an associate. "I will be working in their Grand Rapids, Michigan, office and will start sometime after August 1992." "Mad Mike" can currently be reached at 2304 Coachman Trail, South Bend, IN 46637.

DECEASED

We regret to inform you of the death of the following alumni:

THEODORE C. MULLER '26, November 1990
CHARLES E. QUICK '33, October 26, 1990