

The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER 1995-'96

Beta Upsilon Leads On MIT Campus As Well As Among BΘΠ Chapters

Although chilly rains are once again soaking through our coats and sweaters while we cross the Charles River, no doubt a precursor to another of Boston's fine winters, spirits here at Beta Upsilon are as strong as they have ever been in my three years here. Our brotherhood continues to grow stronger, buttressed by the continued academic, athletic, and social successes of our chapter.

Living with 24 of my brothers in the house this past summer convinced me that my term as president would be a smooth one. Led by the efforts of Rush Chairmen Petr Berger '97 and Noah Breslow '97, Beta Upsilon canvassed all of the Northeast with rush parties; indeed, our grasp extended as far as Texas and California this summer. The endeavors of those brothers living in and out of the house were justly rewarded

with a pledge class of 10 men. I have the highest confidence that each will be initiated into our ranks as a contributing, worthy brother who is more than capable of upholding the principles of our fraternity.

When not coordinating rush parties, working, and enjoying life in Boston this summer, the brothers also managed to be amiable hosts to the 20 or so college women living in the main house and annex. Great friendships were established, and we'd like to thank those women who stayed on to help out during rush.

I also had the pleasure of attending the 156th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi in Cincinnati, Ohio. I was heartened by the quality and integrity I found within the fellow Betas I met, many of whom proved to be excellent resources for ways in which we

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A Message...

From The Alumni Association President

For those of you who did not see the fall 1995 issue of The Beta Theta Pi Magazine, we would like to pass on excerpts from the report (page 16) of the district chief of District II, William B. Bagbey Jr.:

"I do not believe there are enough superlatives to adequately describe the [Beta Upsilon] chapter or the brothers. I have always felt that Beta Upsilon was the finest chapter in Beta's broad domain.... I highly encourage other chapters to emulate the standards set by Beta Upsilon."

The Lappin house next door has been purchased by Boston University: we were unable to borrow or raise the \$1 million-plus that we would have needed. MIT itself did not want to get into a bidding war with BU. BU now owns all but seven houses on Bay State Road and has already filed a plan with the redevelopment authority to make Bay State Road a part of the BU campus. Some day soon we must consider the possibility of a major fund-raising effort in anticipation of our inevitable move—probably early in the next century.

We are making progress on the alumni association's largest problem, which is the recruiting of additional officers. We will have some announcements soon.

*Yours in _kai_,
Robert F. Danner '47
President*



Class of 1999 pledges serenade this year's rush women with a stirring rendition of "Beta Sweetheart."

Betas Undertake Numerous Community Service Projects This Year

Community service has always had a special place in the hearts of Betas. While the majority of our volunteer work generally occurs during the second term, this year has seen several projects successfully completed already and a few more planned for December. Right after the end of rush, MIT holds its annual City Days outreach program, consisting of activities for Cambridge school children and heavily dependent on the participation of MIT students, who act as group leaders for the day. This year our entire pledge class and several actives participated, spending an entire day playing various outdoor games with a group of fifth and sixth graders.

In October, the annual Margaret Fuller Haunted House weekend was once again spearheaded by Betas, although this year the event included helping hands from another MIT fraternity. The occasion was a huge success, as many youngsters were entertained and frightened, especially by several uncos-

tumed actives. We hope this traditional Halloween event will be continued by Betas for years to come.

As we go to press, planned community service projects include participation in "The Giving Tree," an annual MIT Christmas project aimed at providing small gifts for needy children, and a day of volunteering at Project Bread, which coordinates several local food shelters. We are also about to begin a weekly group project for the pledge class that involves helping out at Charitoys, a toy store affiliated with the Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston.

In all, it should turn out to be a productive term for community service. If any alumni in the Boston area are aware of organizations needing volunteer help, please feel free to contact our chapter to let us know.

Aaron Boyd '98
Marwan Kazimi '96
Community Service Chairs

House Boasts Highest GPA For MIT Group In Years

It is a well-known fact that, in addition to having a serious pledge program and a fully developed social life, we at Beta Upsilon are quite serious about our academics as well. After all, attending MIT is an intellectually challenging and, consequently, truly rewarding experience. We at 119 Bay State Road take pride in our long-lasting tradition of academic excellence, which we continue to pursue in a successful manner.

Last term turned out to be very special for us. The continuous striving for perfection was rewarded by our winning the Virginia Tech award—something for which we had been longing for a number of years. The house's cumulative GPA last term (4.6

out of 5.0) was the highest GPA posted by an independent living group at MIT in the last seven years. Brothers in the house were very pleased by this, and, apparently, they had good reason to be.

Our pledge program emphasizes the importance of academics. Any freshman who needs help can always get it. Although MIT has a pass/fail system for its first-year students, failing a class is never an option for a Beta pledge. We are looking forward to this academic year and feel confident that our performance once again will serve as an example for the Greek community.

Alexander Zakharov '96
Vice President

Chapter Finances Improving

Because straightening up the house finances is a top priority of both Treasurer Matt Goldman '98 and newly elected President Nathan Boyd '96, the financial situation at the house is looking much better. Thanks to a more active form of house-bill collection and contributions from local alumni, the house bank account is now well into the black.

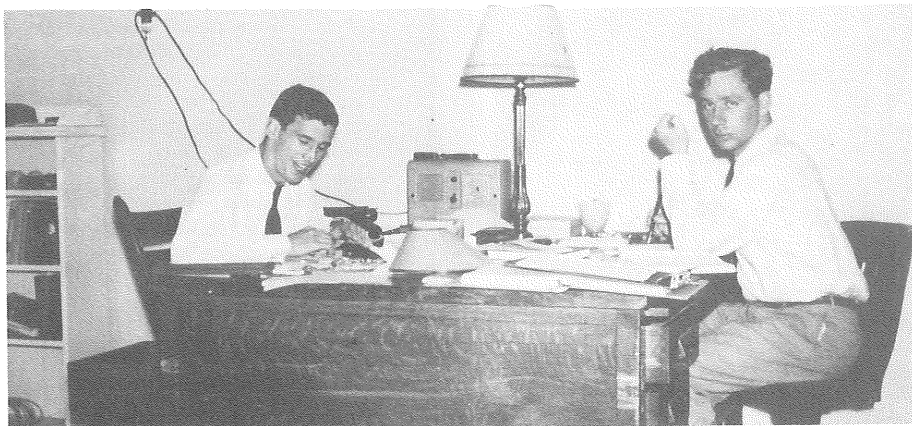
We are still thankful for our new sanitizer, which replaced the one that had been there for at least the past 10 years. Betas are now healthier, and pledges are enjoying cleanups immensely! We also have a new refrigeration system for the walk-in and a new freezer for the steward sign-out program.

The newest addition to the treasury program is a rush fund that will grow throughout the year as alumni pay their debts to the house and Betas make small contributions as part of their housebills. The purpose of the fund is to lessen the impact of rush debts on the first term's finances. Every year we have this same problem in September and October, but we are making sure it doesn't happen again. To add to the problems, MIT has been amazingly slow disbursing financial aid this year, so brothers have had trouble paying housebills so far. However, the tables are turning, and we are back on track now.

Our problems with the annex electric bill continue. Boston Edison seems to think we are running Disney World in our annex, so I consistently receive \$8,000 monthly bills. I am doing my best to ignore them and just pay the real monthly charge.

In conclusion, we again extend our thanks to the alumni association for financing needed repairs and purchasing the new appliances for our kitchen.

Yours in _kai_,
Matthew Goldman '98
Treasurer



Studying hard is certainly not a new tradition at Beta Upsilon!

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 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007. Photos will be returned after use in the newsletter.

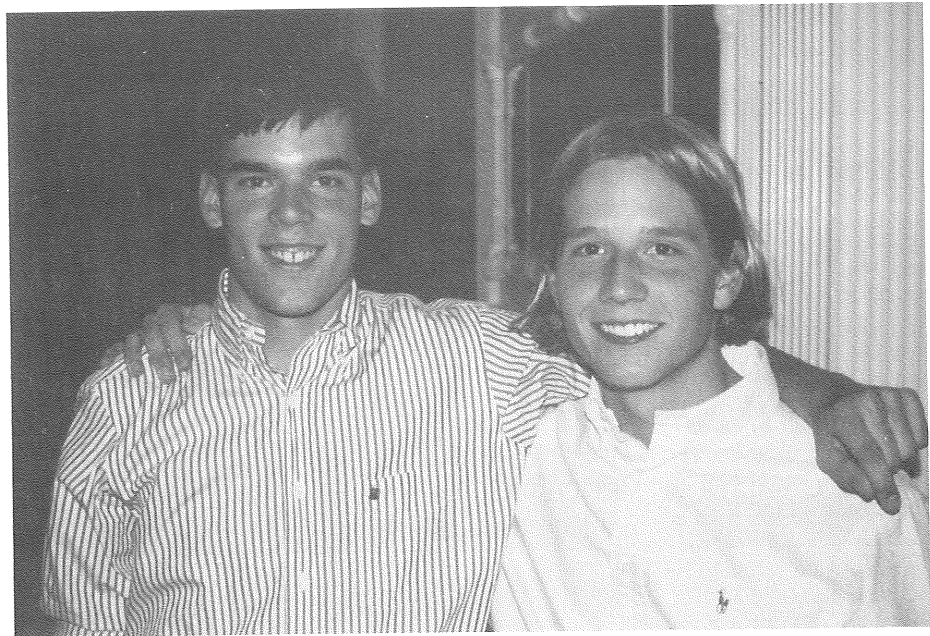
Strong Rush Effort Nets 10 Pledges

The members of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi are proud to declare rush '95 an outstanding success. The new pledges are:

Jeffrey Dardarian ...West Bloomfield, MI
 Anand Devendran.....Chicago, IL
 Jordan KanterPortland, OR
 Kevin KennedyCorpus Christi, TX
 Matthew RechtenMilwaukee, WI
 Jeffrey Reichbach.....Valley Stream, NY
 David Weaver.....Kingston, NY
 Andrew Wong.....El Cerrito, CA
 Robert Ziemian.....Westwood, MA
 Jason HarrisLexington, MA

As always, the success of this rush was due in large part to the support and dedication of our alumni. Special thanks to Mike Rechten '89, Will Scruggs '92, Dave Samuel '94, Alejandro Medina '93, and Mike Miller '95, who all hosted rush parties for us this summer. Also, thanks to all the alumni who made it to the house for the actual rush week. And finally, special thanks to Bob Danner '47, who again made his house on the coast available to us for the Saturday afternoon rush festivities.

The rush chairmen are also very pleased to announce the election of two new rush chairmen, Jim Brad Elder '97 and Matthew Goldman '98. Although you will undoubtedly be hearing from them soon, I would like to take this opportunity on their behalf to ask for information about any high school seniors you know who are thinking about attending MIT. We all know from living here for four years that, even at this point in the academic year, rush for the fol-



Recently elected Rush Chair Brad Elder '97 with his pledge son, Matt Rechten '99.

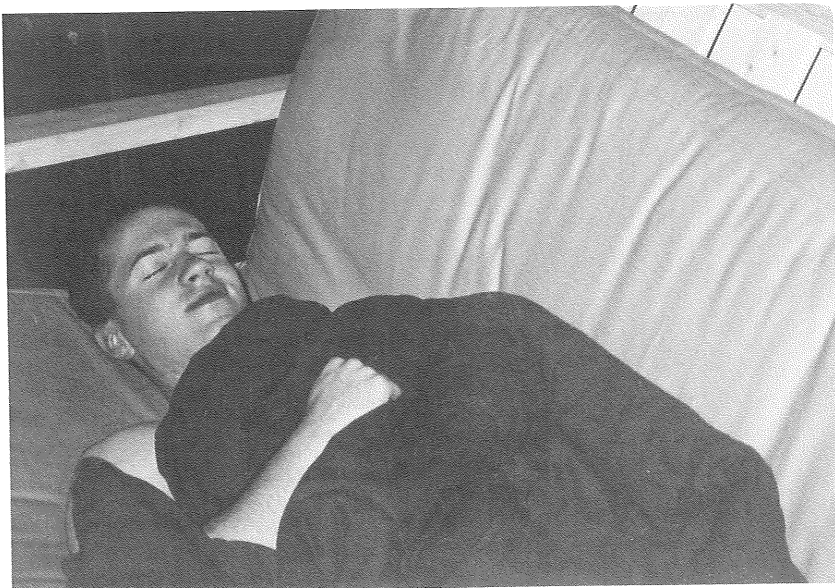
lowing year has already begun—and, with the increasing competitiveness of MIT's rush, every little bit helps. If you have any information about any potential MIT freshmen, please contact Matt Goldman at 617/267-9570.

Finally, thanks again to all alumni who

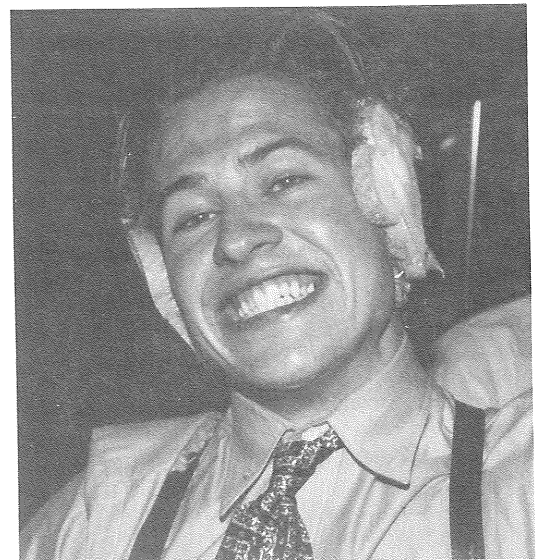
wrote in with referrals, helped out at rush parties, or just stopped by for rush. Your efforts made a big difference, and we hope to see you again next year.

Petr Berger '97
 Noah Breslow '97

“As I prepared to go to college, one of my primary issues was the choice of a living group. I knew I was looking for a place where I could have success in academics while having fun at the same time. As I met more and more of the Betas during the summer and rush, I felt I could find this unique combination at Beta Theta Pi.”
 —Pledge Anand Devendran



Rush Chair Petr Berger '97 catches up on sleep after the last bid is accepted.



President Nathan Boyd '96 shortly after receiving the “power of earwich.”

Betas Send Us Their News From Far And Near

"I will be 89 in October," writes LEONARD A. SCHUTTIG '31 (944 Ships Bell Court, Annapolis, MD 21401). "Health okay, except I developed Parkinson's in 1994 (but am not disabled). Will spend winter in Manila with my son, who is a businessman there." Len has three grandchildren and is hopeful that grandson Brian, now 13, will be an MIT Beta. "I want him to have the wonderful life I have had," writes Len.

Retiree L. WALTER HELMREICH '40 reports that he has been active in scouting and that he was proud to receive the Silver Beaver Award recently. He adds, "In June we were guests of Louise and RICHARD MUTHER '38 for a happy lunch at their club in Kansas City." Also present were IRA H. LOHMAN JR. '38 and his wife. Walt resides at 4 Fair Oaks Parkway, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-3658.

DONN W. BARBER '42 keeps in touch with a number of alums, including JOHN W. LACY '42, JOHN L. CRANDALL '42, and EARLE G. FOOTE '42, "who is still very active in the cattle business, particularly with his son, who has a large ranch in Idaho." Donn hopes to persuade these and other classmates to join him in Cambridge for their 55th reunion in 1997. Want to help? Contact him at 263 McIntosh Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

DONALD P. KAHN '46 reports an address of Imbergstrasse 6, A 5020 Salzburg, AUSTRIA.

Write to ROBERT F. DANNER '47 at 48 Seabury Point Rd., Duxbury, MA 02332.

"It was with real pleasure that this morning, while going through my mail, I picked up *The Back Bay Beta*," wrote JOHN C. KERN '50 last May. "The chapter sounds great. Congratulations! Our married daughter will be presenting us with our first grandchild this July, and our son is getting his JD and MBA degrees from the University of Chicago in June. After taking the bar exam in August, he will be full time with McKinsey & Company in Chicago. Our second daughter received her MA in social sciences in Chicago last December and has been job hunting. They've all done their graduate work after several years of other activities, and it's great having them nearby. I'm busy as ever with my foundation work and raising money for the new Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago." Drop John a line via e-mail at jck@kf.win.net or at his home address of 3712 Adams Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60521.

At the end of 1993, JOHN T. SUTTON '55 retired from the Keyes Fibre Company. He writes, "Apart from some consulting work with the company, Kati and I are

enjoying opportunities to catch up on long-neglected projects at our farm, to spend time with our grandchildren, and for me to pursue several railroad interests. We look forward to seeing Back Bay Betas who may come this way." The Suttons live at 488 West Rd., Belgrade, ME 04917.

Professor ROBERT S. CARLSON '56 joined Chaminade University in 1995 after eight years of semiretirement. "My academic focus is Asia," writes Bob, "with a special emphasis on China, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines, where I plan to spend three to six months each year. Life is exciting." Our address for Bob is P.O. Box 8535, Honolulu, HI 96830.

EDWIN C. BELL '58 has moved to 4615 N. Park Ave., #1505, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

"We spent an enjoyable weekend with Nan and J. STANLEY GRAVES '58 last June," reports ELLIS J. BRAMAN '58 (1635 Candle Court, Titusville, FL 32796). "They hosted a Beta Upsilon '58 reunion at their home in Wilmette, Illinois. Barbie and WILLIAM H. AUSTIN JR. '58 drove up from Dayton, Marilynne and GARY L. BLAKELY '58 came in from Radnor, Pennsylvania, and EDWIN C. BELL '58
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Beta Upsilon Leads On MIT Campus As Well As Among BΘΠ Chapters

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at Beta Upsilon can bolster our own chapter's livelihood. Moreover, it was my honor to represent Beta Upsilon as recipient of the Virginia Tech and Sisson awards. The Sisson recognizes outstanding chapters of Beta Theta Pi, while the Virginia Tech singled out Beta Upsilon as having achieved the greatest academic success among all 137 active chapters in Beta Theta Pi's domain.

Indeed, our chapter led not only Beta Theta Pi, but the Greek system at MIT as well: we posted the highest GPA on campus last semester. But don't let this lead you to conclude that our brothers have forsaken other aspects of campus life. To the contrary, we have found that academic success goes hand-in-hand with campus leadership, varsity sports, and exploring New England. Beta Upsilon members have also apparently assumed responsibility for MIT's senior gift. Spearheaded last year by brother Ben Jordan '95, Betas lead the committee as the chairman, committee members, and junior coordinators, shaping yet another aspect of

student life at MIT with the trademark authority of our chapter.

Relations with our neighbors in the Back Bay have gone well (although this is likely a function of the absence of neighbors to the main house on weekends and after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays). While the neighborhood association is becoming increasingly uncompromising in its dealings with Boston fraternities, we have taken a positive stance by attending neighborhood meetings and promptly resolving complaints. Furthermore, the enthusiasm of Community Service Chairmen Marwan Kazimi '96 and Aaron Boyd '98 has propelled our community service effort to a strong start; most brothers perceive their required 20 hours of service as the barest minimum.

I felt that Parents Weekend was again a great success and am sure that every Beta enjoyed meeting his brothers' parents as much as I did. This annual event has proven itself worthy time and time again in that, if nothing else, it serves to relieve concerns and misconceptions about fraternity living at Beta

Upsilon. Our annual Head of the Charles Party, coordinated this year by Social Chairmen Aaron Boyd '98 and Jeffrey Rosen '98, was decidedly a great time, and we welcomed Beta brethren from the University of Rhode Island, Syracuse, Princeton, McGill University, Cornell University, and Bishops College.

As president of a house deeply committed to making the most out of all we do, I am honored and excited to witness the many accomplishments of our brothers and pledges. Because this is my senior year, this fall has given me a chance to reflect upon the development and unity of my own pledge class. Beta Upsilon has given me and my pledge brothers much, and I believe we have given equally of ourselves. I am looking forward to what will undoubtedly be a memorable semester and hope to see many of our esteemed alumni at this December's Christmas party.

Yours in _ kai _
Nathan Boyd '96
President



Tokeem Talbot '98 (left) and Aaron Boyd '98 (right).

119 Bay State Road Gets Pool Table, New Baby Grand

As the winter months approach, heat and security are the main concerns of the house. The traditional pre-rush gutting of the main house, led by Wes Williams '96, produced many improvements, as brothers put in up to 12 hours a day fixing and cleaning. One significant new addition is a pool table on the first floor. Thanks to Bob Danner and the alumni for agreeing to purchase this new form of diversion for us. Rest assured that it has been well received, seeing about 10 hours of use a day. We hope that last term's outstanding house GPA, an MIT fraternity record, will not suffer as a result. Other new additions include a new baby grand piano and new couches in the chapter room.

Come January, it will be the pledges' turn to rehabilitate the annex. In light of the amazing amount of "psych" shown by the pledges thus far this year, the brotherhood is anticipating a very productive work week. Both brothers and pledges have been suggesting projects for them to undertake during IAP, and we are always open to any suggestions for possible improvements from alumni or parents. Please contact Petr Berger at 617/267-3881 with any comments.

Petr Berger '97
Chris McMuffin '98

Brothers Participate In Varsity And IM Sports

As the school year rolls along, Beta brothers and pledges find ways to utilize their bodies as well as their minds.

For instance, Danny Castro has solidified his role as "the man" at defensive back for the MIT football team, having started every game so far. He is accompanied by Bryan Morrissey on the team.

Jonathan Bennett tallied two assists in the hockey team's first game of the year.

Also on the team are Phil Lafond and pledge Robert Ziemian.

In IM action, the soccer team moved up to A-league this year after last season's stirring B-league championship run, and the team has played well at 4-1 going into the playoffs.

Tokeem Talbot
Athletic Chair



Phil "The Drill" Lafond '98 comes off the ice after another victory.

VARSITY ATHLETES AT BETA UPSILON

Hockey

Jonathan Bennett '98 - forward
Robert Ziemian '99 - forward
Philip Lafond '98 - defense

Football

Danny Castro - defensive back
Bryan Morrissey - linebacker

Soccer

David Lockwood '96 - forward

Track

Wade Morehead '98 - shot/hammer

Sailing

Ned Patterson '98 - crew
Drew Mutch '98 - skipper

Beta Alumni Keep Us Informed Of Their Activities

(continued from page four)

introduced the newest BU '58 Beta sweetheart, Annette. Many a fond memory of 119 Bay State Road was recalled as we continued the strong bond developed as pledges."

While at MIT for their 30th reunion, Elaine and RICHARD H. OELER '60 enjoyed a visit to the Beta house—"notwithstanding the fact that we entered through a window in the library (two were locked; one wasn't). We had an enjoyable chat with several of the brothers who were barricaded inside and a delightful visit to the rooftop deck. Upon finding the front door locked, I was prepared to apply my skills from the 1950s and scale the wall by the (former) Lappin building, but Elaine wouldn't let me." He adds, "All these goings-on rekindled my very positive feelings about Beta and the Beta house." Dick is vice president of Air Products & Chemicals in Allentown, and he and Elaine reside at 4861 Sydney Close, Macungie, PA 18062.

Engineer JAMES S. DRAPER '62 informs us that his company, KTAADN, is working on a patented lightning prediction system for NASA and various earth remote sensing projects. He also has news of various alumni: "WILLIAM I. KOCH '62 just brought the first (almost) women's America's Cup team within an ace of being the cup defender. Come to think of it, DAVID H. KOCH '62 just bought Jackie's Manhattan digs.... HARRY B. LEE JR. '57 spent several wonderful days with us in Newton after Jane and I had visited Barbara and Harry earlier in San Diego." He adds, "This year I look forward to completing the interior fittings of our second log cabin—yes, from the trees up—at our camp way back in Maine." The Drapers have a daughter, Allison, who is an editor at Grove Press, and a son, Stark, now in grad school at MIT, and they make their home at



The Beta Theta Pi house at 241 Kent Street, Brookline.

18 Bellevue St., Newton, MA 02158.

"Jackie and I are enjoying living on a clear lake in Hartland, Michigan," writes bank executive JAMES W. GIFFIN '64. "Our son Doug just completed his master's degree in civil engineering at UC Berkeley. He will live in Salt Lake City. John will be a senior at Hartland High with interests in computers, drama, reading, and tennis." The Giffins' address is 3276 Briar Hill Rd., Hartland, MI 48353.

Writes WENDELL G. IVERSON '69, "After eight years in Melbourne, Australia, with Melbourne University, two years in Zurich, Switzerland, at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and 16 years in St. Louis with Anheuser-Busch and Washington University of St. Louis, we are on the move again...this time to the Netherlands and to Heineken!" Making the move with Wendell are wife Pamela, children Kate (16) and John (12), and dog curly. We don't yet have their home address, but mail can be sent to them in care of Heineken, Burgemeester Smeetsweg 1, 2382 PH Zoeterwoude, THE NETHERLANDS (phone 31 71 45 70 46). Wendell adds, "We are looking for a visitor-friendly house, so during your travels, stop in. The beer is on us!"

J. DAVID WARGO

'75 recently moved from Boston to New York City, where he started his own investment banking firm. He resides at 800 Fifth Ave., #33F, New York, NY 10021.

We have a new address for STEPHEN L. BEELER '77: 48874 Hillcrest Court W., Plymouth, MI 48170.

MICHAEL G. FEINSTEIN '82 can now be reached at 3 Harvard Dr., Bedford, MA 01730.

"I have moved to the last outpost of suburban Chicago civilization," writes KENDALL R. BRYAN '88, who lives at 510 N. Fox River St., Plainfield, IL 60544. "Beyond my backyard, corn grows all the way to Iowa." Ken runs an epoxy manufacturing plant for Dow Chemical.

Contact JOHN J. SCHWAGER '88 at 3779 Ross Mills Rd., Falconer, NY 14733.

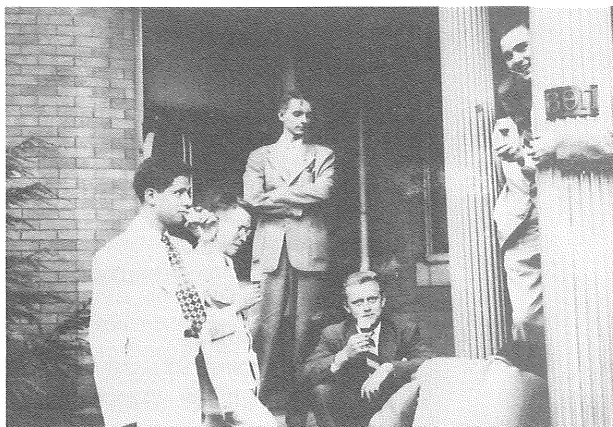
BENNETT J. SILVERMAN '88 lives at 100 Tippeton Dr., Madison, AL 35758.

Attorney MICHAEL D. "Mad Mike" RECHTIN JR. '89 reports a new address of 1648 N. Bissell St., Chicago, IL 60614.

REGINALD HUGHES JR. '92 also wrote to inform us of his new address: P.O. Box 502456, St. Thomas, VI 00805.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of J. HENRY GUNNING '28



Can you name these alums from the 1940s?