

# The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

"Worthy of the Highest"

APRIL 1995

## Beta Upsilon Betas Wrap Up Vigorous Year

Beta's spring term began a month earlier than MIT's this year, with most of the brothers and pledges back for IAP and its inherent fun. Members of the house used this free month to relax and catch up on the subtle pleasures in life, yet they still found time to take classes for credit, enter the 6.270 competition, prepare for the upcoming intramural water polo season, or work at their UROPs. At the end of January, the pledges, deftly guided by House Managers Ethan Close '95 and Noah Breslow '97, made numerous improvements to the annex during their work week, which they completed a bit tired but proud of their accom-

plishments. The pledges also organized an excellent Christmas party at the end of last term, complete with a 50-foot Christmas tree and a hilarious skit, which witnessed the happy return of many alumni.

While the seniors continued to make graduation plans and to pursue job interviews, and the juniors and sophomores of the house trudged through their schoolwork, 12 people took time out during spring break to travel down to Puerto Rico at the invitation of Javier Nazario '95. They returned with deep tans and new stories to exchange with those who had spent their breaks elsewhere, like Ben Jordan '95 and Brad Elder '97, who spent their week performing on the West Coast with the Logarithms, MIT's male a cappella singing group. Ben was recently appointed director of the group (much to Brad's chagrin). At the end of March our chapter successfully hosted a district two conclave, and members present that weekend witnessed the initiation of a new Bryant College colony pledge class in our own chapter room.

Our 16 pledges were initiated into the roll books of the Beta Upsilon Chapter three weeks later amid much rejoicing. We welcome these fine young men and trust that they will proudly uphold the Beta tradition. As I write, the actives, new and old, look forward to the alumni party to be held on April 29. Our alumni chair has worked hard to send invitations out early, and thus, we look forward to even more alumni returning to meet the new initiates and share their memories of Beta.

While the chapter maintained its tradition of academic achievement with a 4.3 GPA last term, and yet another Beta, Nathan Boyd '96, was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, the members have found time for plenty of extracurricular activities. Javier Nazario '95 and Petr Berger '97 have been coaching the Wellesley College water polo club this term, 20 members participated in the annual Swim for Sight charity in March to raise money for the Schepens Eye Research Institute, and many Betas were pursuing glory in the Charles and on the field of MIT for varsity teams. To round it out, our new social chairs, brothers Seth Close '96 and Jacob Grotta '96, have ensured that we find time to experience the joys of living in this great college town.

Our chapter is in the midst of an excellent term, one that will, I hope, propel us toward another Sisson Award and, more importantly, an excellent rush this coming fall. Although the competition of rush week has grown more fierce recently, our goals are, as usual, to seek out the best of the incoming freshmen. I'm sure our rush chairs, Petr Berger '97 and Noah Breslow '97, would greatly appreciate the help of alumni this summer, as would the rest of the brothers, as we seek to replace the 14 seniors who will graduate in May. Good luck to them all, and best wishes to all our alumni.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
Marwan Kazimi '96  
Chapter President

### Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Beta Upsilon Association

The annual meeting of the Beta Upsilon Association will be held at 6 Bradford Road, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, on Saturday, June 3, 1995, at 10:00 a.m.

If you do not plan to attend, we request that all members who have paid dues please return the enclosed proxy.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Call 617/235-7814 or 617/934-5794 for directions and a map.

### Alumni Help Sought

Dear Brother Betas:

From the alumni association members' perspective, we continue to report good news about the chapter from all points of view.

The alumni association also continues in excellent condition with the important exception of staffing. After many years of loyal service, Jerry Cole has resigned as treasurer and has been replaced by Mike Feinstein. We are still looking for a replacement for the late Bill McEwen as secretary and have several other openings. We are planning a recruiting drive this spring. We would love to hear from some volunteers.

Bob Danner  
President  
Beta Upsilon  
Association

## Financial Situation Strengthening

With straightening up the house finances a top priority of both Treasurer Petr Berger '97 and newly elected President Marwan Kazimi '96, the financial situation at the house is looking better than ever. Due 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 hope this will carry over into the summer and will help pay for rush.

As for new additions to the house, we have finally purchased a new sanitizer, replacing the one that had been there for at least the past 10 years. We also have a new refrigeration system for the walk-in, a new freezer for the steward sign-out program, resurrected by Steward Jim Casey '96, and a practically new ceiling for our dining room, as the pledges spent many man-hours during their work week repairing the damage caused by a burst pipe.

Like I said last term, the best news to hear from a financial officer is no news, since, generally, the news that gets repeated is the bad news. There is, however, one interesting tidbit that appears to be going our way. Recent alumni will remember when Boston Edison overcharged us by approximately \$13,000 for the annex electric bill. That was the result of inflated estimated readings on their part. Now we have been overcharged again, because of a broken electric meter. Due to the erroneous metering, we have been paying estimated bills for the last few months, and contrary to past history, they have been underestimating our use rather than overestimating. This should save us a couple thousand dollars for the spring term, which could be used to lower house bills further or perhaps to pay for the early part of summer rush.

In conclusion, we again extend our thanks to the alumni association, which has financed the repairs that were needed and purchased the new appliances for our kitchen.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
Petr Berger '97  
Treasurer

## 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.

## Exciting Rush Anticipated

Once again, we are gearing up for another exciting rush. As rush co-chairmen, we'd like to remind everyone that the success of the hectic fall weekend depends on a foundation of hard work over the summer. Just like last summer, we are planning an extensive schedule of rush events, large and small, covering as much of the United States as possible. This is a good opportunity for prospective pledges to meet brothers as well as alumni. It's critical work, but the stress is lessened by the fact that a good time is had by all.

Time and again, our alumni have proven to be essential to our efforts. Their contributions in the past have included sending in recommendations of incoming freshmen, going to dinner with brothers and freshmen, attending rush parties, hosting rush parties (expenses are paid by the rush budget), and visiting the house during the actual rush

weekend in the fall. Having alumni present adds a richness to the rush experience for freshmen, while also giving alumni a glimpse of potential future Betas.

If you would be interested in any of the activities mentioned above, please drop either one of us a note or give us a call at 617/267-9570. Tentatively, the rush schedule for 1995 begins on Friday evening, August 25. We plan to have a rush party schedule mailed to alumni later this spring.

We are excited and optimistic about the prospect of another successful fall rush. As always, alumni support is greatly appreciated during rush week and over the summer. If you know of any prospective freshmen who you feel would make a contribution to the house, please let us know by sending in the enclosed recommendation card.

Petr Berger '97  
Noah Breslow '97  
Rush Chairmen



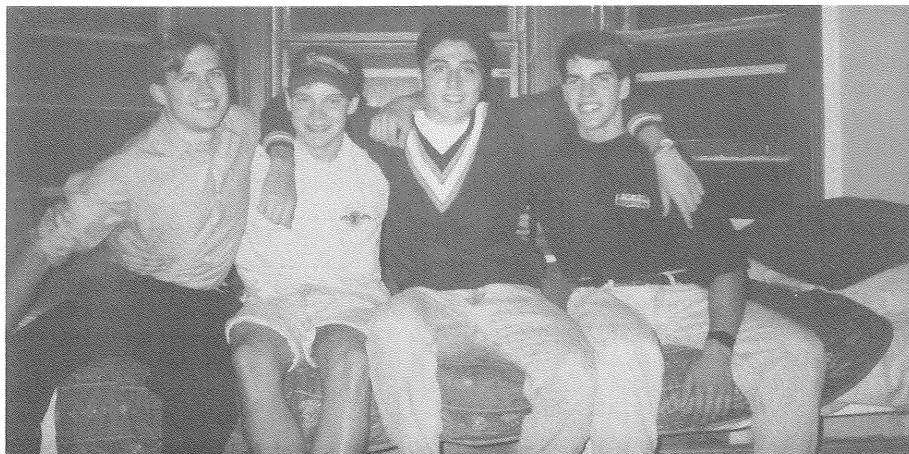
### Parties...

#### A Beta Tradition

*Then:* (left) Complete with white ties and sailor suits, Spud Loesch and Walter Borden entertain two young ladies at the Beta house during a World War II party.

*Now:* (below) A glimpse of the annual Christmas party. President Marwan Kazimi, center, entertains our guests.





(From left to right) Brother Nathan Boyd '96, pledge Tim Kammerer '98, brother Marwan Kazimi '96, and pledge Chris McMillan embrace in the grip of brotherhood.

## Initiation Looms For Pledges

The pledges approach the culmination of their pledge period. There is still much work for them to complete in interviews and community service, but they have renewed their efforts this term while being lavished with encouragement from the chapter. They will soon complete their instruction in the lore of Beta Theta Pi, including a brief study of the history of Beta Upsilon Chapter. Brother Ben Jordan '95, chorister, will be assisting with the perfection of their vocal technique while they sing the songs of our "singing fraternity."

Brother Ethan Close '95, former house manager, reports that the pledges satisfactorily completed their pledge work week over the January break. Minor improvements and repairs were made in both houses, including the construction of a triple-decker loft in the annex.

This term pledges were invited to hold certain offices and provide assistance to other officers in the house. Pledges Nick Tornow and Wade Morehead will be coordinating the community service activities for the entire house. Tim Kammerer has assumed the duties of the athletic chairman and will be handling the organization of intramural activities.

My time as pledge trainer has been an enriching and rewarding experience. My hope has been that these 16 young men will benefit from their time in the house, as I have, and apply the principles upheld by our fraternity during and beyond their active memberships.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
Neil A. Best '95  
Pledge Trainer

## Pledge Work Week Improves House

Pledge work week '95 involved our 16 pledges taking on a few major projects. First, the pledges repaired every broken window and damaged section of drywall in both the main house and the annex. Next, the dining room ceiling was replastered and painted in order to repair damage done when a pipe burst over the winter break. The main house showers were tiled in order to minimize future upkeep, while also providing a more readily cleansed surface. Mortar was replaced and touched up on the back of the main house, and another door was installed in the back entry to further reduce the risk of a break-in. Pledge and wrenchman Chris McMillan '98 also took on the task of repairing the annex coke machine, much to the pleasure of brother Steve Levis '94. Of course, both houses were also thoroughly cleaned.

The house managers are currently preparing the house for the spring egress inspection, which we expect to pass uneventfully. Besides a rather ill-behaved brother door, which either slams shut or refuses to close, all is well in the house managers' domain.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
James Casey '96  
Wesley Williams '96  
House Managers

*Don't Forget!  
Reunion 1995  
June 14 - 18  
Make plans now  
to be there then.*

## ATTENTION ALUMNI...

**DID YOU SEND A  
CONTRIBUTION CHECK  
TO OUR ALUMNI  
RECORDS POST OFFICE  
BOX THIS FALL THAT  
WAS DELAYED OR NEVER  
CASHED?**

It has come to our attention that last fall there was a problem at the Cambridge post office box where we receive our mail. For several weeks during November, mail was not being properly put in our post office box.

The problem was not revealed, though, until several months later, when the post office discovered mail that had been mis-sorted. As a result, some checks sent by alumni were delayed in being deposited. Although we believe that all mail was eventually delivered, we are concerned that some mail might never have reached us, including alumni news and contributions.

If you did send a check during this time period that has not been cashed, we'd really appreciate it if you could send us a note and let us know. Our mailing address is on page two. If a response envelope is enclosed, feel free to use it to send along any information.

## Different Worlds Mix At Beta Upsilon

A lot of times it is hard to believe how different our backgrounds and personalities are here at MIT. Coming from East Los Angeles, I can honestly say that college life makes me feel like a foreigner. I find myself worrying about things here that are completely different from those I worried about back home. I have people looking and talking to me very differently as well. There is so much about East L.A. of which the entire country is mostly unaware. Many people cannot even imagine what kinds of things happen in the inner city. Most people do not realize that there is still a huge problem with "hate." The kind of hate I am referring to is that of Mexicans hating white people. I am not saying that all Mexicans hate white people, but it is a much bigger problem than people think. Being at MIT and living at Beta Theta Pi is changing a lot of my views. It is also making me discover things about myself that I would probably never have known had I stayed in East Los Angeles.

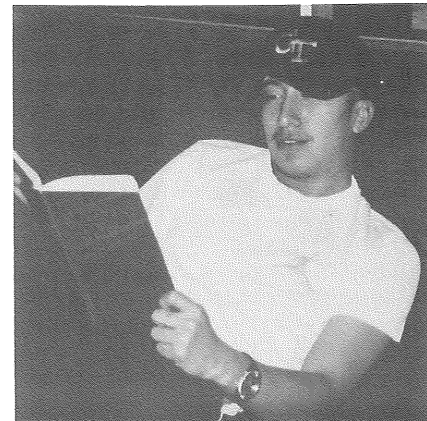
My first week of college was very awkward. Because of football, I was at MIT a week earlier than were most freshmen. We were playing cards when we heard a tire blow out on Memorial Drive. I immediately ducked, thinking that people were shooting at us. Of course, everybody laughed at me, but I could not help it. It was an instinct to duck. As the weeks progressed, I kept asking myself, "Why is everybody talking so strangely? How come almost nobody curses, and how come nobody understands me when I talk?" I always have to repeat myself because nobody understands me the first time. At first, I thought they had accents, but I soon realized that I was clearly the one with an accent.

Here at Beta Theta Pi, I met people with lives that were completely different from mine. I did not even consider myself a gang

member before I got to MIT. But after comparing the lifestyle that my homeboys and I have with the lifestyle of everybody here at Beta, I know that I am. Killin' Sin Rason (killin' without reason) is the name of my gang. I would give my life for any one of them. We were poor, and our lifestyles reflected it. We stole cars and held up liquor stores. We have been on both sides of many drive-by shootings. I am not proud of the things we have done, but most of the time, I just saw it as a way of life.

This is a very different life than that experienced by most brothers here at Beta. I have been smoking and drinking since age 14. Later that year, I shot my first gun. I have been very lucky, though. I have been shot at many times, but I was never hit, and I never went to jail. I worry about other things now. I worry about finishing my problem set and doing well on tests. I don't think about whether or not I'm going to get shot on my way to school anymore. There isn't a fear that the police are going to beat me up like they beat up my homeboy, either.

Before I came to MIT, my homeboys threw a party for me. One of my boys started telling me about the white man. This conversation made me think about a lot of things. He said, "Sleepy, you better not turn into a 'whiteboy' in Boston. The white man is evil. Look at how the white cops and the white government treat us people of color. How many times have we been pulled over for no reason? What happened when the riots broke out? Why didn't the white man do anything when we were destroying our city? Why was there even a trial to see if the white man was guilty of beating up a colored man? Wasn't it obvious? What kind of justice is there for the colored man? You're smart, Sleepy. You know what I'm talking about. The white man stole land from us, and they dare to call us the illegal alien.

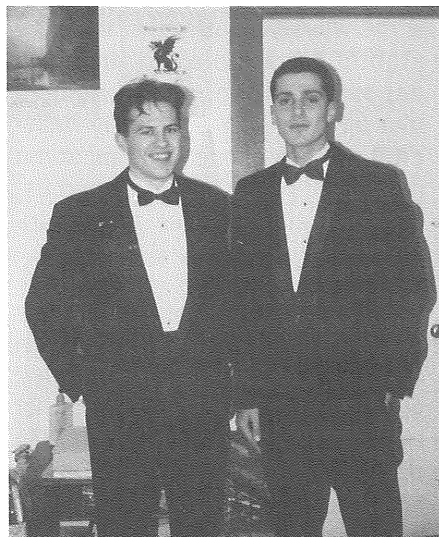


*Pledge Danny Castro '98 learns the lore of Beta Theta Pi.*

How can these pilgrims call us illegal aliens? What about Proposition 187? They threaten to end health care and deprive us of education. What about segregation, Sleepy? Has it truly ended? Don't go to MIT and become the white man that turns his back on us. Instead, go and show the white man that brown skins can do just as well."

My homeboy's views are not unique. There are many people of both brown and black skin that think in the same way. He made me think a lot about the problems in this country. I don't hate the white man. I hate being poor. I hate going to funerals because my homeboy got shot. I hate seeing my boys in prison. Living at Beta has made me realize that my lifestyle can be better. My children do not have to grow up like I did. No 14-year-old should know how to shoot a gun. KSR will always be part of my family, but here at MIT I have a new "gang," a new family, one that does not kill and does not steal. My new letters are Greek: BΘΠ.

Danny Castro '98



### *Looking Good... A Beta Tradition*

*Now: (far left) Betas continue to rise to any social occasion, as evidenced here by brothers Nathan Boyd '96 and Noah Breslow '97.*

*Then: (left) Russ Law, Bill McEwen, and Art Davis are harmonious in brotherhood during a World War II party in the late '40s.*

## Varsity Members And Intramural Players Excel

The Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi has always been dedicated to athletics, both varsity and intramural. The winter season was no exception, as Betas again strongly contributed to the MIT athletic program. With the help of a talented pledge class and alumni, Beta also fielded several competitive intramural teams.

The story of the year in sports would have to be the tremendous success of the hockey team. Led by pledges John Bennett '98 at center and Phil "The Drill" LaFond '98 at defense, the Engineers finished one of their best seasons, at 9-4-4, with victories over Penn and Division II powerhouse Southern Connecticut. The team ended the season by making it to the semifinals of the Division III club playoffs.

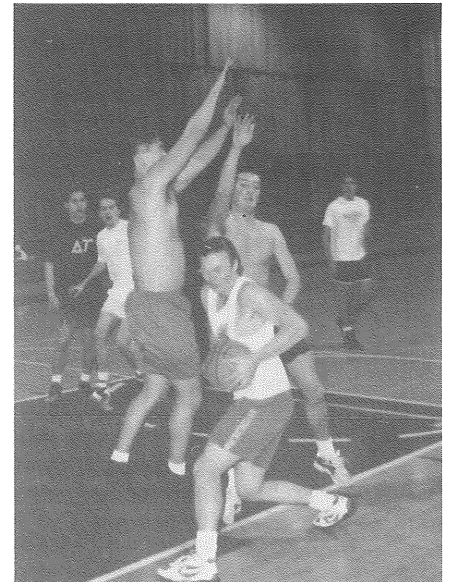


*Pledge John Bennett '98, number 17, always makes his presence known on the ice.*

In basketball, captain Nikki Caruthers '95 and Randy Hyun '95 lit up the court and led the Engineers to a strong final record of 11-11-1. The hard work of Petr Berger '97 and Tim Kammerer '98 in the pool paid off, as both placed in the top 16 and helped relays place in the top eight at the Division III New England Championships. The Engineers finished ninth out of 29 teams. The indoor track team also had a great season, finishing third at the Division III championships. Wade Morehead '98 set personal bests all season long in the shot put and hammer throw and will compete in the Stanford Invitational this spring. Nick Tornow '98 continued his lightweight crew training, spending long hours at the boat house in hopes of "being a total stud in the spring."

The baseball players may be on strike, but Danny Castro '98 certainly is not. He began practicing for the spring season and hopes to start at second base for the Engineers.

Beta Upsilon was also very successful in intramurals this winter. The basketball team started the season off slowly but soon pulled it together. Led by captain Nate Boyd '96, Bruce Krysiak '95, and alumnus Kevin Frye '94, "Beta gold" finished strongly and cruised into the playoffs. The ice hockey team also had a great season, staying undefeated throughout. The stick-handling



*Brother Bruce Krysiak '95 about to power through two defenders.*

ability of Brian Divasta '95, the defense of alumni Dan Moriarity '90 and Chris Barchak '94, the supreme skating ability of James Williams '98, and the goalkeeping of Marshall "Access Denied" Schnabel '95 proved to be an unstoppable combination to all who stepped in their way.

The chapter looks forward to the spring seasons of both varsity and intramural sports. The varsity sports include baseball, track, crew, and sailing; and the intramurals include water polo, volleyball, and softball.

Tim Kammerer '98  
Athletic Chairman

## MIT Alumni Drive Highlights Community Service

This past term has been a busy one for the members of Beta Upsilon Chapter, both in and out of school. As always, however, the brothers and pledges have found time to donate their time and talent to several local charitable organizations.

This year, the biggest community service event has been the MIT Alumni Association fund drive. By calling Betas and other alumni of MIT, a large sum of money was raised to pay for scholarships and other MIT projects. Wade Morehead '98 and Marwan Kazimi '96 were among several Betas to win awards for their efforts in the drive.

Several pledges also gave time to aid in the Red Cross blood drive. By helping with the flow of donors, they allowed the drive

to proceed flawlessly. From serving refreshments to those who had donated to setting up donor tables, the volunteers ran the blood drive for the whole day. In addition, two seniors, Jim Falter and Marshall Schnabel, have been tutoring children at Charlestown Elementary School on an individual basis. By tutoring kids for an hour a week, they have been helping students through those rough elementary days. They both plan to continue to donate their time until graduation. Danny Castro '98, James Williams '98, and Wade Morehead '98 have also been helping out in the Big Brother program. This organization pairs volunteers up with deserving children.

Coming up, Swim for Sight and the March of Dimes Walk for Hunger promise

to be boosted by strong Beta support. Through continuing devotion to these and other programs, the house has begun to build a strong reputation for helping out the community. Groups like the March of Dimes, the Red Cross, and Project Bread have written personally to thank the house for its commitment. By supporting these groups every year, we become important braces for the success of their events. Together, the house and these programs can provide badly needed services to the Boston and Cambridge communities.

Nick Tornow '98  
Wade Morehead '98  
Community Service  
Chairmen

# ALUMNI WRITE IN FROM ALL OVER

CROCKETT A. HARRISON '26 affiliated with Beta Upsilon Chapter to help replace the original 1926 graduating class. When "Dave" initially transferred from Fulton College, where his membership in Beta Theta Pi started, the MIT chapter "did not seem to have much interest in transfers from country colleges." During his first three years at MIT, he maintained minimal contact with the house. However, by the end of the first semester of the year 1925-1926, "the chapter was in bad shape and became alarmed. They did not have a single member of their pledge class for that year [the entire class of 1922 had either failed or dropped out], and the only members scheduled for graduation in 1926 were two transfers.... The house was so short of members that they were having difficulty meeting basic expenses. At that time, I affiliated to give them a third graduating member and moved to the chapter house to help with costs." Now at 93 years old, Crockett is putting his farm up for sale, before he moves into a retirement community. His current address is 1305 Center St. Ext., Grove City, PA 16127.

A recent move to Florida gives RICHARD H. SANDERS '34 a new address: 70 W. Lucerne Circle, #1312, Orlando, FL 32801.

GENE "Rick" RICHTER '53 was impressed by the last mailing that reported the class of '56's high percentage of contributors. He remembers them as a super pledge class and can't forget their names because he was president of the house when they were initiated, and he had to memorize them all. Rick and his wife, Jennifer Perry Richter, Wellesley '57, had a fine visit with DON MILLER '53 and Sally last September in Largo, Florida. The Richters live at 3073 Fairfax Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

Acoustical consultant RON McKAY '54 had quite a time last year. It began with a major earthquake centered a few miles from his Los Angeles home at 5811 Kentland Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367. The year then evolved into his busiest and most rewarding business year ever. After a 1994 vacation in Mexico, and holidays with family in Chicago, it's off to Japan in 1995 to deliver a paper on auditorium acoustics, with a side trip planned to Okinawa to visit his son and grandson.

J. RAY BOWEN '56 has been dean of engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle for 14 years and expects to complete one more year as dean. He has

five grandchildren, with another one expected as he wrote his news note. His address is 5324 NE 86, Seattle, WA 98115.

Last year, JON A. ALDRICH '60 and a business partner started a management consulting business focussing on channels, sales, distribution, and customer service operations for manufacturing and distribution businesses, especially in the high tech, computer, and electronic arena. Jon's home address is 9 Lancaster St., Cambridge, MA 02140.

Another note from a member of the University of Washington faculty: GREG BROWN '62 is a professor of medicine who is beginning a five-year, \$3 million NIH study of appropriate treatment for patients with low HDL cholesterol. He and his wife, Sherri, are also trying "to decipher the mysteries of infant satisfaction." His daughter, Siena Morgan, was born on December 6, 1994. She's the first baby for both parents, and she is both "a great bundle of joy and a constant puzzle." The family lives at 3201 Evergreen Point Rd., Bellevue, WA 98004, and frequently sees BILL ROESLER '84, who recently returned to the Pacific Northwest.

RICHARD HORITTOR '62 enjoys seeing his classmates, KEITH GLICK '62, GREG BROWN '62, and G. MEADE WYMAN '62, fairly often. Richard has three grandchildren, ages 1, 4, and 7. Twice a year, he visits MIT when he recruits for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (Caltech NASA). He resides at 1270 Lida St., Pasadena, CA 91103-2337.

WILLIAM T. STEWART '69 recently started a school, the Thomas Jefferson Academic Enrichment Center, in Zanesville, Ohio. It serves about 100 preschoolers during regular school hours, 110 K-6 children after school for enrichment, and about 30 in grades 7-12 in the evening. It's run as a service-oriented, non-bureaucratic enterprise, where the faculty clean the place and do the billing, etc. "Time will tell if we are doing something special." The home address is 2775 Martin Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701.

Astronaut KEN CAMERON '71 reports that things are going well in Houston, where he gets his mail (NASA code CB, JSC Houston, TX 77058). He recently completed a six-month assignment in Russia as NASA's operations director at the Cosmonaut Training Center near Moscow and has now been assigned the commander of STS-74. "We launch in *Atlantis* from

Kennedy Space Center on 26 October '95, carrying a docking module that we will add to the Russian space station *Mir*. We'll spend a few days on *Mir*, transferring cargo and performing various experiments, then return to Florida. I hope some Betas can make it to the launch!"

Janet and PAUL HOCHFELD '72 adopted a five-week-old baby last July. "He's handsome, husky, charming, and delightful (most of the time). His birth mother is Chinese, and his birth father is Tibetan. He's been a great source of joy and a wonderful addition to the family. My other babies range in height from two feet to 10 feet: two and a half acres of black walnut trees (approximately 500) that I germinated from seed. This winter we will be putting in three acres of fir trees. It's been great fun to watch 'the farm' mature. Professionally, little has changed. Janet teaches yoga. I continue to work in the emergency department, having recently become medical director because when the previous one stepped down, the other emergency physicians stepped *back* faster than I did." Paul lives at 8105 Nashville Rd., Eddyville, OR 97343.

Since word has gotten out about the Malibu beach house of ROBERT SCOTT STULL '88, he's had a number of Beta visitors. "Most recently, ANDY OBST '90 and KEN BRYAN '88 re-enacted their favorite *Bay Watch* scenes, and JOHN SCHWAGER '88 introduced his two-year-old twins, Damian and Regan, to sand castle building." Anyone wanting to take advantage of the good life can drop by at 812 Sharding Yew Way, Malibu, CA 91469.

MIKE BOWERS '92 and JOHN E. SELL '91 work in the same department at IBM where they support automatically produced hard drives. John recently spent Thanksgiving Day with ALEX MEDINA '92, TOM AVIV '91, MIKE BOWERS, and ALEX VIGILLIO '92 at Alex and Tom's house in Los Altos. "Since IBM is transferring our production offshore in 1995, Mike and I may be looking for new jobs!" For now, John lives at 678 Mary Evelyn Dr., San Jose, CA 95123.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

Theodore J. Gundlach '40  
Howard L. Rich '29  
John H. Rogers '66