

The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 1996

Beta Upsilon's Future Looks Bright As Summer Approaches

The future looks bright for Beta Upsilon as we emerge from yet another snowy Boston winter into a glorious spring season. As I write this (March 21), our pledges have just recently been initiated, and the chapter they have joined is as strong as ever. With our united efforts focused on a productive spring, festive summer, and successful fall rush, I feel that this chapter can accomplish just about anything.

IAP was an exciting time to be at Beta Upsilon. Many of the brothers and pledges returned early to attend January classes at MIT, play sports, and take time to relax without the pressures of the term. I had the pleasure of spending part of January visiting Jim "Gestaltermeyer" Falter '95 in his new home state of Hawaii. We spent a couple of days hiking through volcanoes, snorkeling, and examining the local scenery. Upon returning to 119 Bay State Road, I was amazed by both the amount of snow on the ground and the amount of revelry going on in the house. The terrible weather did not dampen brothers' spirits; rather, it seemed to encourage spirits to flow more freely.

As the spring term progresses, many Betas have proved themselves as effective house officers. Pledge Trainer Jacob Grotta '96 has done an excellent job with our freshmen this year, bringing them through their pledge period with tenacity, humor, and a commitment to excellence. Social Chairs Seth Close '96 and James B. Williams '98 have led an exceptional social program. House Managers Drew Mutch '98 and Bryan Morrissey '98 have taken on several ambitious projects, and Drew's repair of the coke machine in the main house has brought a much-needed supply of cold beverages back to Beta. This duo will also be coordinating efforts to repair the annex roof, which has developed some structural problems in recent years. Rush Chairs Brad Elder '97 and Matt Goldman '98 have begun to lay the foundation for fall rush next year, and you can expect to hear much more from them in the future.

Our freshmen have also stepped up to the challenges of house

leadership. Community Service Chair Andrew Wong '99 has been diligent in organizing community service projects for the brothers and pledges, and Summer House Managers Kevin Kennedy '99 and Rob Ziemian '99 have set out to make Beta a great place to be for the summer. Alumni interested in living in the house this summer should contact either of these two young men. The presence of these and other capable house officers has certainly made my time as president significantly easier and more enjoyable.

One interesting development at Beta Upsilon this term has been the installation of Randy Cox (Texas '91) as our chapter adviser. Randy teaches English and coaches the debate team at the prestigious Milton Academy School here in the Boston area. He is a great guy and has proved his worth by surviving several trips to the Rathskeller with Wes Williams '96. Randy already has been a valuable resource for us, and I hope alumni will get a chance to meet him at some point in the future.

As we go to press, this year's alumni party is rapidly approaching. I sincerely hope that many alumni will make it back to the house for an unparalleled good time. Nathan Boyd '96 is organizing some sort of blind date lottery, and there is also a rumor that Dave "Sloth" Alexander '94 will be making an appearance at the party, sporting his traditional bow tie. If free dates and Sloth aren't good enough reasons to get you back to Beta, I don't know what is.

Beta has had a successful year thus far, and I have every confidence that the house will grow even stronger as we move on toward the summer. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please give me a call at 617/267-5333.

Yours in _ kai _ ,
Noah Breslow '97
President

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Beta Upsilon Association

*The annual meeting of the Beta Upsilon Association
will be held at*

*196 Valley Road, Needham, Massachusetts,
on Saturday, June 15, 1996, 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 617/934-5794 for directions and a map. This is a convenient
location right off Route 128.*

A L U M N I N E W S

"Congratulations on your superb scholastic record," writes DON-ALD R. TABER '25. Responding to the report of a new piano and pool table at the Beta house, Don replies, "During my years (1921-'25) we had both at our house at 106 Sewall Avenue in Brookline. Also, we had, and enforced, a rule that no pool, cards, or piano were to be played after 8:00 p.m.!" Best wishes can be sent to Don at 401 E. Linton Blvd., Apt. 519, Delray Beach, FL 33483.

"Give my best to DICK CORBETT '35," writes JEFFERSON FARMER '35. "We met in India during WWII." Jeff reports that WALT MARSHALL '35 has become ill and inactive, just as they were planning to revive their contacts. He is also in contact with KEN FINLAYSON '35. News will reach Jeff at Route 10, Box 500,

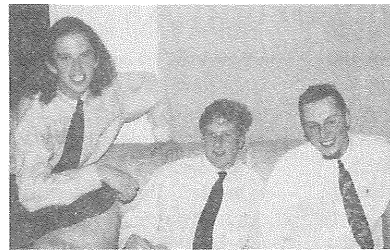
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Social Activities Brighten Beta Upsilon's Calendar

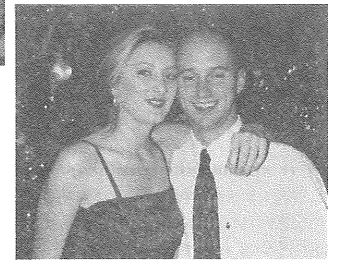
The rush women await a serenade at the annual rush women's dinner.



Brian DiVasta '95, Javier Nazario '95, and their dates traveled from near and far to attend the Christmas party.



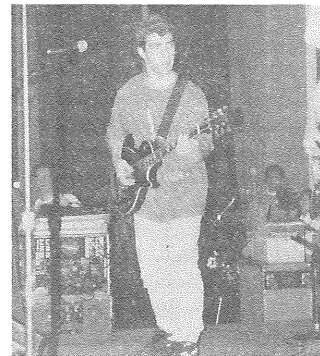
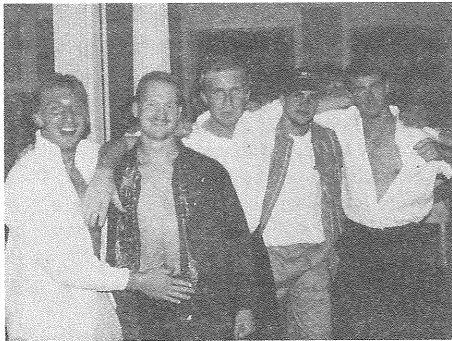
Left to right: Aaron Boyd, Jon Bennett, and Jeff Rosen, all class of '98, take a break at the rush women's dinner.



Recent graduates Kevin Walsh '95 and his girlfriend enjoy the Christmas party.

The Wojo Clan's victorious team at family night.

Left to right: Rob Ziemian '99, Wade Morehead '98, Alex Zakharov '96, Chris McMillan '98, and Drew Mutch '98.



Mike Miller '95 plays the guitar for the house band, Pig 311, in MIT's "battle of the bands."

Pledge Work Week '96: An Impressive Success

Pledge work week 1996 was yet another success under the sage leadership of outgoing House Managers Peter Berger '97 and Chris McMillan '98. Although there were some initial doubts as to the mechanical inclination of our newest pledge class, they impressed everyone, themselves included, with their achievements over the week. Highlights include a new tile floor in the annex basement, a new ceiling in the annex first-floor common area, and renovated annex bathrooms. New sinks on the second and third floor and a renovated toilet and new prefab shower in the second-floor bathroom were quickly connected to 100 feet of new plumbing installed over IAP by newly elected House Manager Drew Mutch '98. In the basement bathroom, Bryan Morrissey '98, the other new house manager, has spent hundreds of hours lovingly hand-crafting a concrete, fiberglass, and ceramic tile shower-to-end-all-showers. The next time you are in the annex, you should stop by and admire his masterpiece.

In the main house, the kitchen was brightened by the installation of new lights, and the walk-in is now better equipped to store milk with a custom-made milk shelving unit. Weary pub dwellers are pleased to use the new pine-log bench made from a remnant of the

Christmas tree by Drew Wong '99 and Bryan Morrissey '98.

For the first time since it was installed, the alarm system has been working properly—no false alarms—for more than a month now. Unfortunately, such is not the case for much of the plumbing. Many of the original brass pipes in the annex are badly corroded and have been breaking with distressing regularity. The main sewer line in the main house has also been troublesome, with several blockages. We look forward to remedying these problems in the coming months so the house is in good mechanical order for rush next August.

We are also in the process of making two major improvements to the annex structure. A new alley door will eliminate the cold draft previously experienced by basement dwellers and a potential security problem from the failing latch. Four floors up, we are now talking to contractors about laying a new rubber roof over the front of the annex to eliminate leaks in the third front rooms.

Yours in _ kai _ ,
Bryan Morrissey '98
Drew Mutch '98

Exciting Rush Expected For Fall '96

Once again, Beta is preparing for another exciting rush and another new set of pledges. As the school year comes to a close, the rush chairmen would like to remind everyone that a successful rush next fall is dependent upon the work put into rush over the summer. Just like last summer, we are planning a full schedule of rush events that will reach as many areas of the United States as possible. These rush parties and barbecues are excellent chances for brothers and alumni to meet prospective pledges. While these gatherings are a critical factor in the summer rush process, the stress is lessened by the fun atmosphere created by the parties.

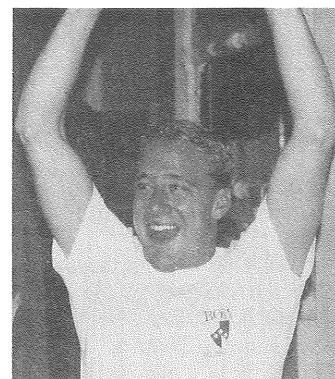
Year after year, alumni have proven essential to our rush efforts. Their contributions in the past have included hosting rush parties (paid for by the rush budget), attending rush events that include parties and dinner with freshmen, sending recommendations for incoming freshmen, and visiting the house during rush weekend at the end of the summer. Their presence is extremely valuable and adds a sense of stability to the hectic rush weekend.

If any alumni would be interested in participating in any of the activities above, please call either Brad Elder or Matt Goldman at 617/536-4269. Rush events will begin the first weekend in July and

continue until the middle of August. The actual rush weekend begins Friday, August 23. We will be mailing a detailed summer schedule to alumni later this term.

This past rush went very well. We are excited about the upcoming summer activities and feel that we can lead the house to another successful rush. As always, any alumni support over the summer and during rush weekend is greatly appreciated. If you know of any prospective freshmen who you feel would make a positive contribution to the house, please let us know by sending a recommendation.

Brad Elder '97
Matt Goldman '98
Rush Chairmen



Jim Casey '96 proclaims himself "The Champion."

House Financial Situation Improves; Roof Renovation Targeted

The Beta Upsilon finances have been a subject of confusion and a battle for the chapter for the better part of the school year. The major cause has been MIT's failure to deliver financial aid in a prompt, efficient manner. However, due to an irate treasurer and the hostile takeover of the MIT financial aid office, our situation is finally improving.

The annex electric bill still torments me every month. Our outstanding balance of just over \$7,000 seems to be reasonable to Boston Edison, although it baffles me. After a couple of phone conversations with them, they are once again "looking into it." Meanwhile, the residents of the annex are prepared for loss of power at any moment.

We are currently looking into renovating the annex roof this

spring, in order to attack at the source the water damage problems that occur throughout the house. Then we would be able to effectively repair rotting ceilings and walls without them being ruined immediately afterward. In general, Betas will be dryer and happier.

Our current goal is to eliminate all outstanding debts to the house and become financially solid to facilitate an effective summer rush. We would like to thank the alumni for their patience with us throughout the first term and for offering their help in the future.

Yours in _ kai _ ,
Matthew Goldman '98
Chapter Treasurer

Beta Upsilon Welcomes 11 New Men Into The Brotherhood

There was great rejoicing on Bay State Road during the evening of March 16, as 11 young men added their names to the roll book of the Beta Upsilon Chapter. Throughout the past seven months, it has been my pleasure to serve as pledge trainer for this class, and I hope they gained as much from the experience as I did. It was enjoyable to watch them grow as individuals and as a class over the past months, and I can only hope that they will follow on this path over the coming years.

The names and roll numbers of our new brothers are:

- 1005 Jeffrey Michael Dardarian
- 1006 Anand Devendran
- 1007 Robert Paul Ziemian
- 1008 Kevin Paul Kennedy
- 1009 Matthew Steven Rehtin
- 1010 David William Weaver
- 1011 Jeffrey Grant Reichbach
- 1012 Andrew Jaime Wong
- 1013 Jordan Kanter
- 1014 Jason Marc Harris
- 1015 Murray Fishbein

On behalf of the chapter, I would like to thank all of the alumni who have helped bring this class together over the past year; your efforts did not go unnoticed. In the opinion of the entire chapter, these 11 men have exemplified the friendship and responsibility that we

expect from members of this house. I hope that all of you will welcome these 11 men with the same earnestness that we have and that you will take the opportunity to meet them at this year's alumni party or in the upcoming summer rush period.

Yours in _ kai _ ,
Jacob Grotta '96



The pledge class of 1999.

Left to right: Drew Wong, Jeff Reichbach, Anand Devendran, Jeff Dardarian, Jordan Kanter, Matt Rehtin, Dave Weaver, Jason Harris, Rob Ziemian, and Kevin Kennedy.

ALUMNI NEWS

(continued from page one)
Mountain Home, AR 72653-8667.

"Yes, I do keep in touch with several of our '42 alums," writes DONN BARBER '42. He pens that EARLE FOOTE's ('42) wife, Marion, died in late 1994. "Earle has many activities, but he remains in his home in Tacoma." He reports that JOHN LACY's ('42) wife, Barbara, is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease. "John is still at his Needlaw home with lots of support from his three children." Donn and his sister hope to get up to the Boston area this summer. Catch up with him at 263 McIntosh Rd., Westchester, PA 19382.

"My guess re the photo of brothers from the '40s," writes ROBERT D. PECK '44 [about the picture that appeared in *The Back Bay Beta*, page six, winter '95-'96], "is, from left to right, DON KAHN, FRANKLIN LOESCH, HARRY DAVIS, DON AXON, and BILL MCEWEN (or TOM MCEVOY?)" Keep in touch with Bob at RR 1, Box 108, Yarmouth, ME 04096-9709.

WALTER BORDEN III '45 is still working for Habitat for Humanity, with over 25 houses to his credit. "I took a bus trip to the primitive half of New Guinea. Half the time was spent on very arduous mountain terrain and in very primitive company. Until 1938 the natives were still undiscovered and cannibalistic. Even now some wear only penis sheaths." On another topic, Walter became a great-grandfather in both 1994 and 1995. News will reach him at 105 Alder Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522.

On October 30, 1995, DONALD KAHN '46 celebrated the 53rd anniversary of the 1942 Beta Barndance—"still the best party I ever went to!" Keep in touch with him at Imbergstr. 6, A 5020, Salzburg, AUSTRIA.

"It looks to me," writes WILLIAM BRETT '47, "that the alums from the '40s in the last newsletter are DON KAHN and JOHN PENNINGTON. The rest I do not know." Bill continues to commute between New York and Bondville, Vermont, "and have avoided sinking into the slough of Florida." He does a lot of alpine skiing, golf, and tennis during the Vermont summers. "I have taken up fly-fishing in the past few years and just acquired a nine-weight rod for some bone fishing in the Bahamas. This confirms what I suspected all along: not working is better than working." Bill also went on a trip to Medallin and the Pacific Coast of Columbia, "one place where the dugout canoe is still the only mode of transport. (Yamaha outboard equips about 20 percent of them.) Give my best to BOB DANNER '47. I admire and respect the good work he's been doing for the chapter. I have, in a small way, kept up with the world: I am now on the Internet with an e-mail address—wbrett@chelsea.ios.com." Send your regards to Bill at 340 E. 64th St., Apt. 33 B, New York, NY 10021-7505.

We heard from HARRY DAVIS '48 regarding the '40s alums photo. "From left to right: DONALD KAHN, president 'Spud' LOESCH, JIM AXTELL (This fellow was a pledge at the time, and I can't recall whether or not he was ever initiated before he got drafted), DON AXON, and TOM MARKEY. Incidentally, I took the photograph." Harry is now a retired professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo, but he still writes books. "My older son is a chemistry professor at Cornell, and my younger son is a professional engineer in Toronto. Active members visiting Waterloo can stay at my place. I'm living alone in a big house, one-hour drive west from Toronto." Drop Floyd a line at 355 Pommel Gate Cres, Waterloo, Ontario,

CANADA N2L 5X7.

Good news abounds from ARTHUR A. WASSERMAN '51. His son, Jamie, was married to Susan Ploszay, and they are now established in a nearby apartment. Both work in the financial services industry. Son Robert and his wife, JoAnne, have settled in a home in Glendale. "We recently enjoyed a superb holiday dinner with them there, along with Jamie and Sue. Robert and JoAnne continue to conduct their thriving business in digital lithography from their home." Art and Sheila took a number of trips during the year. In April they went to Maryland. Art attended a conference on distance learning. Sheila had a reunion with a long-lost cousin. June found them in Orlando, where Art went to a meeting of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, for which he is chair of the global business committee. In July, the Wassermans spent a week in the woods of Ellison Bay, Door County, Wisconsin. Art brought his cello and joined 19 other string players in working on a variety of pieces from Mozart to Borodin, with a concert for the local townsfolk on the final evening. October had Art and Sheila touring the world of the Du Ponts in the Brandywine Valley of Delaware and Maryland, while December found them visiting Art's sister, Sylvia, in Lake Worth, Florida. When not traveling out-of-state, Art continues to work as associate dean and chair of the business and management division at Cardinal Stritch College. For fun he also plays with a local community orchestra, as well as his own ensemble, called Art's Fine Quartet. Sheila enjoys a part-time legal career. She splits her time between work at the Milwaukee's Children's Court Center and working with a young colleague doing estate planning, wills, trusts, etc. Best wishes can be sent to the Wassermans at 422 E. Ravine Baye Rd., Bayside, WI 53217.

Reporting a new address is WILLIAM H. AUSTIN JR. '58: 1 Shorter Circle, Rome, GA 30165.

Elaine and RICHARD H. OELER '60 enjoyed the 35th reunion last June. "Particularly our visit to the Beta house and chat with several of the brothers. I seem to miss GERRY HURST '60 every time I visit the Wharton School. TOM GERRITY '64 serves as dean there." Dick recently took a new position of vice president of energy and materials at Air Products and Chemicals, a job that has world-wide travel requirements. "Quite a big change after 30-plus years as a business unit general manager!" Write to Dick at 4861 Sydney Close, Macungie, PA 18062.

Residing at a new address is ERIC M. DEJONG '67: 9100 Duarte #135, San Gabriel, CA 91775.

LEWIS H. BENDER '81 is working for a biopharmaceutical company with a novel technology to create oral dosage forms of injectable drugs. "Our technology may some day create an oral form of insulin. The company's first product, an oral form of heparin, is in clinical trials." Get in touch with Lew at 43 Ledgwood Rd., Redding, CT 06896.

DECEASED

We regret to inform you of the death of
DAVID M. HOUSTON '23



THE BACK BAY BETA

Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are 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.