

The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 1997

A Promising Year Ahead For Beta Upsilon

The 1996-1997 academic year promises to be a good one for the Beta Upsilon Chapter. As always, brothers returned from the summer invigorated and ready for another year of MIT. While a larger than usual number of brothers left Boston last summer to take jobs elsewhere around the country, the men who stayed at the house managed to give the place a whole new look. Under the inspired leadership of Jeff Rosen '98, brothers spent many hours replacing the wallpaper that had graced the halls since the late '80s. With the replacement of the worn stair carpet on the main house spiral staircase and a successful work week run by House Managers Drew Mutch '98 and Petr Berger '97, the house was again made to look immaculate for the end of the summer. This no doubt contributed to the success of this year's rush, but the real congratulations go to Rush Chairmen Brad Elder '97 and Matt Goldman '98, who spent 30 hours a week or more this summer organizing, exhorting, and threatening their way toward one of the finest rushes in years. Under the tutelage of Pledge Educator Jerry Hughes '97, these 11 outstanding young men are busily working their way toward initiation, and I have full confidence that they will prove themselves to be valuable members of our chapter.

This summer also saw another significant change made to the way the house will run in the future. After 30-plus years at the helm of the Beta Upsilon Alumni Corporation, Bob Danner '47 stepped down at the beginning of the summer. Taking over the position of president was Mike Johnson '80. Mike has already shown himself willing to put a lot of time and effort into the house and has proved himself a valuable resource for us when the time came to deal with shifty contractors and fanatical building inspectors.

As always, the social scene at Beta has been largely successful. Under the guidance of Social Chairmen David Weaver '99 and Jordan Kanter '99, the social program this term has been characterized by low risk and high quality, making both me and the chapter happy. Already the house is filled with antici-

pation of the annual Christmas party, and this year may provide us with a special guest, General Secretary Jerry Blesch, Centre '60. Apparently brother Blesch will be in town to run an alumni adviser conclave with our chapter adviser, Randy Cox, Texas '91, and will in all probability stop by for the curious mix of class and debauchery that has become the Christmas party.

At the end of the summer I was privileged to represent Beta Upsilon at the 157th general convention, held in sunny Palm Desert, California. I was joined by Sophomore Delegate David Weaver '99 for official convention business and Jerry Hughes '97, Phil LaFond '98, and Matt Goldman '98 for the late-night festivities. A good time was had by all, and I was proud to accept the Virginia Tech awards both for our region and for the highest chapter GPA, as well as a runner-up North Dakota award for outstanding chapter newsletters. At the final banquet of Convention, Dave and I sat at the dinner table with Ken Cameron '78, who was the featured speaker for that evening. In a fascinating speech, Colonel Cameron showed pictures and told stories from his space shuttle mission with the space station Mir, and at the end of the evening I was again honored to accept on behalf of the chapter our seventh Virginia Tech award.

As this year progresses, I am becoming ever more convinced that the chapter stands at a very promising juncture. Three outstanding rushes in the past three years have yielded three outstanding classes who have proved themselves willing to keep this house the best on campus and one of the brightest stars in Beta's broad domain. With the election of two very capable rush chairmen, Jeff Dardarian '99 and Jeff Reichbach '99, I see no reason why next year's rush should not be just as successful. As a Beta Upsilon alumnus next year, I believe that I will be able to look back upon this chapter with thanks for what it has given me and pride for what it has become.

Yours in _ kai _,
Petr Berger '97

New Directory Planned

Dear Brothers:

Our Beta alumni corporation is starting to plan a special alumni party for spring 1997 to honor the contributions of dedicated alumni who have helped our chapter stay on course over the years.

We are also planning to publish an updated membership directory to help you keep in touch with fellow Betas. The directory will include your electronic mail address if you have one and would like us to list it.

If you would like to assist in either of these two activities, please feel free to contact me at 508/283-9123 or oasis@shore.net.

Proud to be a Beta.

Yours in _ kai _,

Mike Johnson '80, Alumni President



Brothers and pledges clean the annex basement after flooding from the worst rainstorm in years.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to announce that the chapter's overall financial situation is quite good. While there are a few problems that we are currently dealing with, there is nothing that we cannot overcome in the near future. Unfortunately, the number of brothers in the house is a bit lower than usual, as this year's senior class is rather small. With a good rush next year, however, that will be a concern of the past.

Perhaps the most pressing concern is the failure on the part of two or three actives and recent alumni to bring their housebills current. We are working closely with MIT and the corporation officers to resolve this problem quickly and efficiently, in a manner that is best for all parties involved.

We are also working closely with the alumni corporation officers on several other improvement projects for the main house and annex. Many of these projects have been needing attention, and we appreciate the help the alumni have offered.

We are still working to resolve the rather substantial bill with Boston Edison that my predecessor wrote about in a previous issue. It seems that they still do not understand how difficult it is to use nearly \$7,000 worth of electricity in one month. We are making progress, though, and are hoping to resolve that problem in the near future.

In general, everything is going well for the house. We are one of a very few chapters that are in good financial standing with the general fraternity. We are also very proud of the fact that housebills at Beta are among the lowest of the different ILGs at MIT. With careful planning, the house will be in good shape for the future.

Yours in _ kai _,
Ned Patterson '98

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.

Brothers Active In IM, Varsity Athletics

Along with Beta's rich tradition of academic achievement at MIT, our chapter has also continued its active involvement in athletics at both intramural and varsity levels. For the fall term we fielded IM teams in soccer, football, tennis, and ice hockey, where a mixture of success and a few disappointing losses made for exciting seasons. Soccer, led by captain Eric Mudama '96, captured some dazzling victories with a few last-second heroics by Dave Lockwood '96 and budding star James Williams '98, and pledge Randy Graebener '00 led the defense as keeper in a few games and made some stellar saves that proved pivotal in certain victories.

Junior Walter Fischler captained the football team and as quarterback led the spirited squad to a convincing victory in its first game. Jeff Dardarian '99 and Mike Cohen '98, a fellow Beta from Cornell, starred as the team's receivers while Jason Harris '99, Rob Ziemian '99, and Wade Morehead '98 provided the protection for Walter on the offensive line and also acted as the bulk of the defensive line.

Despite various rain-outs for tennis, the season eventually commenced with a flurry of matches with Dave Weaver '99 as captain and Anand Devendran '99 heading the charge as playing most of the first singles and doubles matches. Pledges Jay Bardham '00 and Jon Lubetsky '00 also added considerable experience to the team, having each participated on varsity teams in high school.

Matt Goldman '98 captains this year's ice hockey team. Few games have been played to date, but with former MIT varsity players Phil LaFond '98 and Rob Ziemian playing, the team is touted as one of the top teams in its league.

In addition to IMs, varsity sports also are

a mainstay in the storied athletic tradition here. Randy Graebener just finished off the fall baseball season and plans to continue in the spring. Pledges Rob Tunick '00 and Omer Ozkul '00 are each wrestling during the winter, and Drew Mutch '98 and Ned Patterson are capping a superb sailing season with a regatta in the coming weeks. Jon Bennett '98 will continue to play ice hockey this winter, and Matt Rechtin '99 intends to row through the spring. Alex Rodriguez '00, Steve Lefkowitz '00, Jon Lubetsky '00, and Wade Morehead '98 all plan to run or do the field portion for indoor track and field this winter. Jordan Kanter '99 will also ski again for MIT this coming winter.

Yours in _ kai _,
Matt Rechtin '99



Rob Ziemian '99, Hyung Chang '95, and pledge Aron Qasba '00 cook up some burgers at URI.

BETA *at* URI



Brothers, alumni, pledges, and friends before the house trip to URI this fall.

Rush 1996 Yields 11 Pledges

I am proud to report that after a long, tiring summer, Beta Upsilon has 11 bright, shining pledges. Brad Elder '97 and I spent countless hours preparing for rush by tracking freshmen on our computers, leading expeditions to rush parties all over the country, and inspiring Betas to do their rush calls. I would like to thank all of the actives (including Eric Mudama '96 as the only "alumnus" living in the house) of Beta Upsilon for their invaluable contributions throughout the summer and during rush week. We also appreciate the fact that alumni came to summer rush parties and rush week events. That was especially important this year because the chapter was so small.

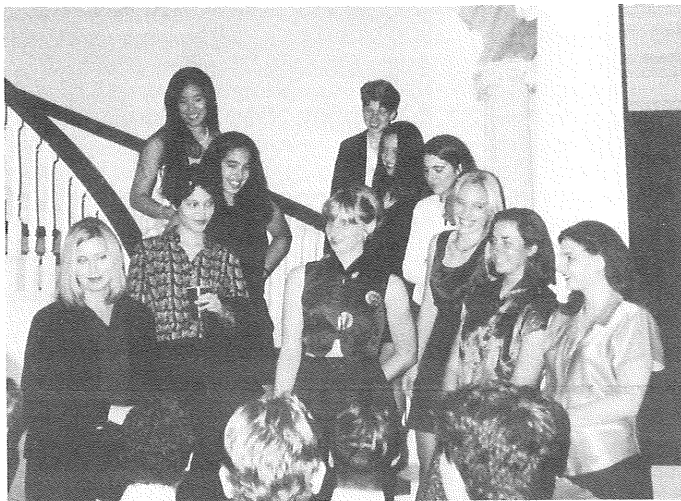
Summer rush '96 will be remembered as a comeback story. At the beginning of June, our situation was all but desirable. The number of women living in the house was extremely low, and so was the number of brothers. As a result, our cash flow was reduced significantly. In addition, it was a struggle to assemble a decent number of people for each rush party. However, following in the footsteps of Pete Berger '97, one of last year's rush chairs, Brad and I kept expenses at a minimum. The final cost of rush was

approximately \$19,000, about \$4,000 less than last year's.

By the end of July, after rush parties in Boston, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Chicago, and Detroit, our list of "white hot" freshmen was not impressive. I will remember the first weekend of August as the pivotal one. Between a group of us in Los Angeles, a couple of us in the New York/New Jersey area, and Hyung Chang (alumnus) in Florida, we added 11 white hots to our list and greatly improved our spirits. The momentum from that weekend carried us into rush week.

Work week, led by Pete Berger '97 and Drew Mutch '98, was a success and left the main house looking better than I've ever seen it. Additions to the first floor included new couches, a new TV, and a temporary \$5,000 oriental rug. New wallpaper and carpeting for the stairs rounded off the new look. The rest is history. Congratulations to Beta Upsilon and our new pledges as Brad and I pass the torch to Jeff Dardarian '99 and Jeff Reichbach '99, who will lead us into rush '97.

Yours in _ kai _,
Matt Goldman '98



Left: Rush women enjoy pledges' song.

Below: Pledges sing "Beta Sweetheart" to rush women.



A Pledge's Perspective

I came to MIT uncertain about what the future would hold. I was fearing having to spend four years living in a dorm, so I figured I would go see what the fraternities had to offer. On Friday night I joined most of my eventual pledge class, as well as many other freshmen, and boarded the boat. After meeting several of the brothers on the boat and seeing the house, I knew that this was where I wanted to live.

In my two months as a pledge, I have been able to use the interviews to get to know almost everybody in the house. My pledge class uses Friday night pizza to get to know one another, and, in stark contrast to previous classes, we take great pride in making quality pizza and try not to waste any of the ingredients.

The pledge program, to my surprise, is actually enjoyable. Although the meetings may be long, Jerry Hughes '97 is able to keep them interesting, and the songs are fun to learn. Every Sunday, about half the pledges volunteer at Malden Ridge retirement home. Not only does everyone like hearing the same story over and over, but we also have fun filling the "T" with the songs of Beta Theta Pi. We may be bad, but we are definitely loud and have received more compliments than complaints.

I have come to realize that the feelings I got about this house during rush were correct. Beta Theta Pi is the only house I know of where everyone gets along well and the alumni visit the house on a regular basis. I also admire the respect the brothers have for one another. The sense of community present in this house is unmatched on the MIT campus.

Randy Graebener '00

For the Record...

Despite our best efforts, it seems there is always a check in the mail to us when we compile our year-end honor roll of donors. Therefore, we offer our belated thanks to JAMES A. REID '68.

News From Our Alumni

On March 8, 1996, C. YARDLEY CHIT-TICK '22 survived an auto accident with a skidding truck in which his car was totaled. Write to him at home at 31 Old Farm Rd., Ossipee, NH 03864.

After his wife passed away, RICHARD H. SANDERS '34 tried living on his own for a couple of years. He then decided he'd be better off in a retirement community and moved to one near his daughter, Lynn, at 70 W. Lucerne Circle, Apt. 1312, Orlando, FL 32801. He occasionally sees a few MIT grads, but no Betas.

"I can see that my handwriting hasn't improved over the last 50 years," wrote DONN W. BARBER '42 in May, in reference to his newsnote in the spring 1996 issue of *The Back Bay Beta*. "JOHN LACY '42 lives in Needham (not Needlaw), and I have no sister, although my wife has always been called 'Sis.' And we do hope to get up to New England this summer. We just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with six weeks in Florida and a cruise to Bermuda, where we met." Donn was surprised by HARRY DAVIS's ('48) identification of the men in the back-page photo in the winter issue of the newsletter. "All I can say is that we had some great look-alikes in 1939-'40. I would have picked those alums as, left to right, JOHN UPTON '44, JACK PENNINGTON '43, JACK TAYLOR '42, MAURICE EVANS '43, and JACK CRANDALL '42." Send your regards to the Barbers at 263 McIntosh Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

JACOB VAN DYKE '43 keeps entertained with six grandchildren, a new sailplane, and a cattle farm for which his second son is primarily responsible. He resides at 711 Oak Valley, Saint Louis, MO 63131.

Retired math professor HARRY F. DAVIS II '48 writes, "JOHN KERN '50 gave his e-mail address awhile back, and when I sent him a message I got a very nice reply. I wish everyone would give e-mail addresses. Mine is hfdavis@wchat.on.ca, and I'll reply to any message the same day." Harry makes his home at 355 Pommel Gate Crescent, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5X7, CANADA.

"Jenifer and I saw two Beta Upsilon classmates on a recent trip to Florida," writes EUGENE D. RICHTER '53 from 3073 Fairfax Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. "We had dinner with Susan and GUNTHER BALZ '53 in Boca Raton and spent two days as guests of Sally and DONALD MILLER '53 at their condo in Largo."

A physicist with Spire Corporation, WARD D. HALVERSON '56 lives at 25 Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

KARL M. DUFF '57 and his wife finished the southern half of California's Pacific Crest Trail in May, bringing their total mileage to about 900 miles in five years. "We'll continue north later this summer and in future years," writes Karl. Karl keeps in touch with PAUL CASSELL, a 1987 pledge who transferred to the University of Virginia. "He married Laura Ott on April 20, 1996. They will continue his ministry on the UVA campus." Karl is still active in land development, politics, writing, and ministry and can be reached at 6112 Wynn Jones Rd., Port Orchard, WA 98366.

When we last heard from EDWIN C. BELL '58, he'd just returned from a two-week trip to Turkey with his wife, Annette. "We found the people to be friendly and helpful, and our interactions with them made us feel welcome in their country. Viewing the ruins at Ephesus, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis, and Perge gave us a sense of wonderment and awe about the accomplishments of Greek and Roman civilizations. Driving a car in the big cities was stressful, but it gave us freedom to explore back roads and byways that would have been missed on a tour." The Bells have been in the DC area for just over a year and are enjoying the change of pace and climate from California. "Annette continues her work in marketing research for Lockheed Martin, while I am working with residential homeowners under my Maryland home improvement contractor license." Their address is 4615 N. Park Ave., #1505, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4505.

Jackie and JAMES W. GIFFIN '64 were looking forward to having their younger son, John, enter MIT's electrical engineering program this fall. Their older son, Doug, is a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley in civil engineering and now works in Salt Lake City. Jim writes, "We can now sit back and enjoy our home on Dunham Lake. We have been blessed." They live at 3276 Briar Hill, Hartland, MI 48353.

After four years, MICHAEL E. FLANAGAN '85 is still working on his fixer-upper at 196 Valley Rd., Needham, MA 02192. When not at his desk at Ciba Corning, he keeps busy with ultimate Frisbee, soccer, and skiing. E-mail him at Michael.Flanagan@cibadiag.com.

WILLIAM H. SANTOS '88 is a project

executive at IBM and resides at 437 Bonnie Court, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

"I just graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine," reports KEE YOUNG WEE '89. "I will be starting a residency in radiology at University Hospitals of Cleveland. My new address is 2733 Hampshire Rd., Apt. 205, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106."

By the time this newsletter goes to press, we expect that DANIEL T. MORIARITY '90 will have tied the knot with Kirsten Thompson of Essex Junction, Vermont. Congratulations can be sent to the newlyweds at 527 Sheldon St., El Segundo, CA 90245. Dan's pleased with his work environment at TRW Space and Electronics in Redondo Beach and writes, "MIT really has a good reputation out here in L.A. I believe people will be expecting a lot from me. And several times supervisors have asked for me to join their project after I finish what I'm doing. MIT rules!"

"I spent the month of July '96 staying at SCOTT STULL's ('88) mountain lodge near Aspen Colorado," explains ANDREW T. OBST '90, a management consultant with A.T. Kearney. "From this remote outpost I fly-fished the trying Pau and Roaring Fork rivers and rafted the Colorado." To learn more of these summer adventures, write to Andy at 6404 Woodland Dr., Dallas, TX 75225.

CHRIS SONNE '91 recently graduated from med school in Houston and was moving to "the new Beta haven of the Bay area. I'll be living with ALEX 'A.J.' MEDINA '92 in his new sweet pad. Besides the old regulars, JOHN 'The Potato' SELL '91, TOM AVIV '91, 'J.D.' BERG '89, JEFF KALT '90, and MIKE 'Nads' NADOLNY '88, we'll be hangin' with prof KEN CHAY '91 of Berkeley economics. Come visit!" Our new address for Chris is 348 Church St., #105, San Francisco, CA 94114.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

ALFRED B. BOOTH '41
February 1, 1996

ZAY B. CURTIS JR. '35, March 18, 1996

ALFRED A. MULLIKEN '32
September 20, 1995

AMASA G. SMITH '29