

The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 1999

From Your House Corporation President

Coming To Terms With Changes For MIT's Independent Living Groups

The annual dues letter we sent out last fall made reference to trying to send our first newsletter of the school year by the December holiday season. We had the best of intentions, but the climate at MIT continues to change rapidly, and we're trying very hard, with some success and some frustration, to stay ahead of the curve.

As the year has played itself out, we, as a group of both Beta alumni and, in the bigger picture, MIT alumni, have some decisions to make, decisions that once upon a time were viewed as long-range planning. The timetable for some of this planning is being greatly accelerated, and I want all of us to be more fully informed.

The next newsletter will be published in the first half of the summer in order to give you some detailed background on how you can assist us in the issues we face.

MIT has created a second new position this year in the office of the president. The first was that of chancellor and was filled last summer by Larry Bacow. The latest is that of executive vice president and was filled last fall by a former senior administrator from Cal Tech. MIT is determined to make changes throughout the school and now feels it has critical mass to proceed and implement the recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning.

The announcement last summer by President Vest to house all freshmen on campus in fall 2001 was met with much criticism, in terms of both the decision itself and the process leading up to that decision. The bad press that followed incidents at some living groups no doubt fueled his feeling that changes needed to be made—despite the fact that MIT admits it doesn't understand the support structures in the independent living group system.

However, the major *faux pas* the Institute has made is in leading its alumni to believe that the task force report was the result of extensive outreach to all interested parties, including my peer group, the set of house

corporation trustees representing all living groups. Any objective person reviewing the background for the report would note that we were excluded, and, quite honestly, we are very upset about it.

Last October, Larry approached the provost (senior academic officer) at BU, in the spirit of MIT's need to strengthen relations with that school, to inquire whether BU may be interested in a possible property swap with MIT-affiliated living groups on Bay State Road. His concept was that if BU owned properties closer to the Harvard Bridge, they might be interested in acquiring properties closer to their campus in exchange for these. I learned this after the fact when Sheila Widnall, our faculty adviser, and I talked in early November. She mentioned to me that Larry had asked her for my reaction to that scenario. He didn't want to talk with me directly prior to his meeting with BU because he wanted to be able to say to them that he honestly didn't know how I felt. I told Sheila we are beginning to consider all of our options.

Needless to say, I was irritated, given the face value of the above together with the fact I'm being sued personally by the injured BU police officer who was hurt last summer as a result of the July incident. Larry and I had a chat late one evening soon thereafter at my request. He said he did make it clear to BU that MIT did not own the properties being discussed. Nevertheless, the appearance of the two schools talking about this issue in this climate is outrageous, in my opinion. It's also important to keep in mind that Larry was, I believe, the original director of MIT's real estate development program and clearly knows the three most important words when it comes to real estate: location, location, location. With respect to the suit, Beta's outside counsel has told me our insurance will cover the claim.

Later in November, MIT announced it was holding a residence system redesign contest during the independent activities period in January. Interested people would be en-

couraged to attend a series of afternoon seminars over a four-day period to get a sense of the history of the independent residence system in preparation for people forming teams and constructing their plans for how they would change the system for fall 2001. Vigorous discussion of the ideas was to be encouraged during spring term, and the best ideas will be incorporated into one plan and presented to Larry on September 1, 1999, for his approval.

I took time off from work to listen and participate in the seminars and subsequently form my own one-person team in order to have standing to present my thoughts at the official presentations at the end of January. Eleven teams formed, only three of which, I believe, had any alumni involvement. I concentrated on giving the perspective from a house corporation trustee because my sense was that the other presentations wouldn't address our concerns.

My approach was not to challenge Chuck's decision to require freshmen to live on campus starting in fall term 2001 but instead to focus on allowing them to move into a living group in January, before the spring term starts, and providing the rationale for why that makes the most sense. I personally don't agree with either the decision or the process by which it was reached, but I would rather promote my position than risk being completely ostracized and having the administration adamant on seeing freshmen live on campus during their entire first year.

My plan emphasizes the need to continue with what is right about the current system and advocate encouraging people to make decisions based on informed choice. The current outreach to incoming freshmen during the summer and just prior to start of school would continue, and the independent living groups would be able to host their open houses and encourage freshmen to learn more about them. During Family Weekend in mid-October, freshmen and their parents would

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Coming To Terms With Changes For MIT's Independent Living Groups

(continued from page one)

be encouraged to attend gatherings at the independent living groups so that the parents could meet upperclassmen firsthand, learn about new member education (pledge) programs, tour facilities, and possibly meet alumni. Again, the emphasis would be on informed choice instead of "rush." Bids could be extended by mid-November and accepted by the end of the month. This would allow freshmen (and interested upperclassmen who were pledging) to participate in end-of-year holiday parties and move into the houses before start of spring term. Pledge programs would end before the end of the term, while freshmen are still on pass/no pass, and the cycle for the next incoming class would start.

The migration of students from the dorms to the independent living groups would create vacancies in the dorms for spring term, which some may interpret as creating an unacceptable financial hardship for MIT. Instead, my feeling is these vacancies introduce new flexibilities in the housing system to accommodate the following dynamics:

1. Some fall term overcrowding in the dorms would be lessened;
2. Providing faculty and staff with low-cost overnight rooms to encourage them to stay on campus from time to time in the evening and be more involved in campus life. This is an objective the MIT administration has in the redesign of campus life;
3. Providing high school seniors and their parents with low-cost accommodations during spring term visits to campus to see if MIT is the right school for them;
4. Temporary living arrangements for graduate students returning to MIT mid-academic year and finding themselves locked out of the local housing market;
5. For behavioral reasons, some students (few, we hope, if any) may be informed by their alumni house corporations that they can no longer live in the house and must find housing elsewhere. We've had two serious situations over the past year and a half where this scenario has been a reality. One involved Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) following the tragic death of a freshman, which resulted in the closing of their house; the other was Sigma Phi Epsilon, where 30 students were evicted from their facilities for failure to comply with alcohol regulations and for misrepresenting how they ran their chapter to their alumni.

Collectively, I believe all of the above make sense.

The significance of not allowing freshmen to live in independent living groups for their entire first year vs. allowing them to move in before start of spring term is the effect on our cost structure and financial outlook, chapter and house corporation alike. In our case, it's not clear we should continue to have two physical houses if we are not allowed to house freshmen at all. That is a separate but obviously more complicated discussion we need to have with chapter input.

In other news:

Since August, the chapter has had a live-in resident adviser, Stephanie Gagne, who is a WPI grad and a high school friend of one of the actives, Phil Lafond. She is the only female adviser for an all-male MIT living group.

An alcohol-related incident at AEPi on our street last fall once again brought an MIT fraternity to the Boston Licensing Board. BLB made it clear they may permanently ban all alcohol from MIT fraternities as a condition for receiving a lodging house license. The student was a 17-year-old daughter of a senior administrator at BU who himself was thankful that the MIT students had called for medical assistance and at the same time scolded his daughter for her behavior. BLB seemed less interested in what the father had to say and more interested in sanctioning another MIT fraternity.

One of the Boston living groups is looking for three to five other groups to join with it and move to Cambridge, ideally in time for fall 2001. The concept is they would build new facilities in a quadrangle-type design. I believe the decision this group has made is a healthy one in that that house corporation is dealing directly with the need for long-term planning, as we are starting to. Unfortunately, our confidence in MIT being able to work with us as partners instead of simply making announcements to which we react doesn't easily set the stage for a possible move for anyone to Cambridge, in my opinion.

I established a relationship with a general contractor from MIT's preferred vendor list who has worked with MIT living groups for more than 10 years, to help our house corporation and students deal with the realities that our facilities are aging. We have needed the expertise from someone who shares a longer term outlook with us rather than have students deal with contractors who respond only to specific problems.

We've received several letters from interested and concerned alumni, most of which were supportive of what we've been dealing with, one that simply stated he was going to withhold future financial support from us because at least MIT was doing something about the problem with alcohol and that it looked like I was whining in my fall letter to you. I appreciate his perspective, from a dis-

tance, and note how it further underscores how the outside world views our role and effectiveness in the work we do.

The reality is that last May I had envisioned this past year as one in which we, as a group and without needing to be told by an authoritative body like the Boston Licensing Board, would openly discuss whether we should continue to allow alcohol in our facilities at all by going dry voluntarily. I'm sure there are some of you reading this who think this is not possible. It has been frustrating to have the outside world look at fraternities as having no interest in this kind of healthy approach, especially since the house corporation had started talking about it before the incident last July. We and all other groups need to have this kind of discussion, and I think the sooner the better.

One letter made reference to how MIT seems to treat students living in the dorms differently from those living in fraternities. In dorms, the students are treated as individuals. In the living groups, the students are treated as a group.

The Alumni IFC (AIFC) has authored a draft statement to address the need to treat people as individuals, and that statement is published in this newsletter. I expect the house corporations will be voting on it either by the end of the school year or at the start of school next year.

We need to identify someone to serve in the role of chapter counselor, to assist the chapter and provide the support that every chapter needs. The role description used by our general fraternity appears on page four of this newsletter.

To help encourage communications between our alumni and the house corporation, we have established a permanent voice mail telephone number for you to leave us messages on. The number to call is 617/641-8480. One of the house corporation directors will monitor messages left for us.

This service is part of an established international network with several hundred thousand subscribers and works much like electronic mail in terms of ability to send and forward messages to fellow subscribers. We are doing this as an experiment for the next year to see how it works, and I am trying to get other houses to adopt the same system as part of their alumni relations program. Messages can be left 24 hours a day.

We hope all is well with you. Proud to be a Beta.

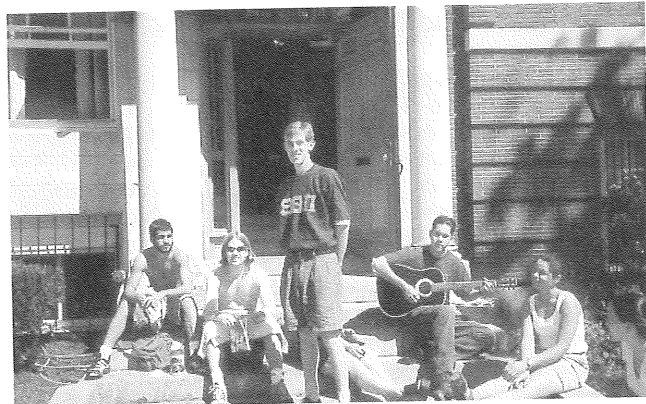
Yours in _kai_,
Mike Johnson '80

remember...

Reunion • June 3-6



*The stoop is
alive
and well
at 119.*



Looking Ahead To The Fall...

As spring progresses, we must begin to focus on next year's rush. Campus Preview Weekend is currently drawing most of the house's attention. This year marks the first time that all potential freshmen are invited, instead of only minorities and women. We are planning to provide an excellent example of a rewarding and enjoyable off-campus living environment.

The 2001 housing decision—namely, that after the fall rush of 2000, all incoming freshmen will be housed on campus—is cause for serious deliberation. The recently elected 2001 committee is currently considering new approaches to rush, pledge class sizes, and the pledge program and what strategies will serve us best in the new system. Maintaining financial stability is of course also a primary goal, and the commit-

tee is working hard to determine the financial impact of each considered strategy.

As for summer rush, we are still planning to have approximately 15 rush parties around the country. As always, alumni support is an essential part of summer rush. We greatly appreciate the considerable support we have received in recent years and hope our alumni will continue to help out this summer. If you have not already received a phone call from one of us, don't be surprised if we invite you to hang out on a weekend to catch up and show a few kids some good times, Beta style.

Yours in _kai_,
Justin Manor '00 and Mehul Shah '01
Rush Chairs

Questions? 267-5333

House And Annex See Dramatic Improvements

Both the main house and annex have been improved dramatically since last term and continue to be improved this term. Pledge work week, in addition to many general repairs, involved repainting the first and second floors of the annex a pleasant combination of green and cream. Although our relationship with a general contractor got off to a shaky start, it seems that things are finally starting to come together. DNA Construction has been working on repairing leaky windows in the main house, installing a new boiler in the main house, and installing heat controls in the annex.

With alumni approval and support, DNA will soon begin massive renovations to the heating systems in both the main house and the annex. They will also replace the door lock system in both houses and may replace most of the windows in the main house. The changes are expected to make both houses considerably warmer and more secure. The house managers look forward to a year of

productive work and improved living conditions for our chapter. The chapter wishes to thank Mike Johnson and the alumni association for all their help and support to make Beta Upsilon a better place to live.

As we enter a term of still increasing IFC regulations and an era of a dry MIT and dry Beta, we have turned our thoughts toward improving community relations. Following up on a suggestion made in a community meeting the chapter hosted this fall, the risk management program has purchased two pagers. These pagers are worn by the risk manager and president in order to allow neighbors to contact the house officers at all times. In addition, they allow brothers to contact the house officers in case of an emergency. Beta Upsilon looks forward to a healthy neighborhood atmosphere in which we may enjoy ourselves without bothering our neighbors.

Yours in _kai_,
Russell Spieler '01

Chapter President Reports

Beta Upsilon Plans For The Future

While the spring semester has been fun and exciting, Beta Upsilon must look ahead to make plans for our future. In anticipation of the changes in freshman housing regulations coming in 2001, the chapter has established a committee to discuss the possibilities for our future. Although nothing is definite yet, we are considering all the possibilities and developing contingency plans to accommodate the likelihood of a second semester, or even sophomore, rush.

We are all proud of our pledges; they helped the semester begin on the right foot with a successful work week, in which our freshmen participated in projects to renovate the annex. Furthermore, they returned from the pledge sneak with stories of pledge bonding and the obligatory trip to another Beta chapter. As the pledges complete one more requirement and the spring semester proceeds, the brothers are all eagerly anticipating initiation, when everyone in the house can call himself a brother.

With Dave Weaver '99 and Rob Tunick '00 heading our social program, we look forward to new and creative ways to enjoy our free time together. Already, our social chairs have been reengineering the social program, by inviting guest bands to play at our traditional Thursday night gatherings and by sponsoring house outings.

As the year draws to a close, the chapter is preparing to say goodbye to our senior brothers. In this year's swan songs we will listen to future graduate students of some of the finest institutions in the country, as well as employees of the best American businesses in fields ranging from financial consulting to chemical engineering research and development. Thanks to all the brothers who have made this house great for the past four years and whose continued accomplishments promise to be a source of pride for us all.

Yours in _kai_,
Steve Lefkowitz '00
President

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.

CHAPTER COUNSELOR GUIDELINES

ROLE OF THE CHAPTER COUNSELOR

The chapter counselor is at the heart of the chapter advising team because he is the person most closely in touch with the individual chapter. Officially appointed by the general secretary, upon the advice and recommendation of the district chief, the chapter counselor is primarily concerned with an individual chapter while simultaneously being a representative of the general fraternity. The primary job of the chapter counselor is to first act as a role model of what it means to be a Beta. He understands the values taught by Beta and the cultivation required in growing young men. He understands what it means to take a diamond in the rough and polish it to perfection. The counselor is a teacher to the active officers of the chapter, the members at large, and a confidant to all members and pledges. He guides the chapter as it strives to gain learning, understanding, caring for one another, responsibility and above all ethics, the standards and ideals of a Beta.

In today's world, many young men arrive at academic institutions without even the basic foundation for these principles. Yet they are eager to learn. And in the right setting, they thirst for the principles that Beta offers. One university president stated, "Fraternities have the ability, through the support of their alumni, to teach the basic values of citizenship, moral conduct, and social consciousness that have made our country so great." The role of the chapter counselor is to guide our young brothers as they strive to achieve these goals.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Of paramount importance is teaching and guiding active members and pledges as they move from being a high school teenager to being a young adult who is prepared to meet the challenges of manhood. Guiding them as they learn the values of caring for each other, sharing, living together as brothers, respecting others' rights and personal property, and accepting responsibility for their actions. The chapter counselor guides the process of building young men of high moral standards and character who not only understand the importance of man's law but the higher laws of ethics and morality. If possible, enlist the help of facilitators and professionals to help in the training process.
- He attends at least one chapter meeting per month while the academic institution is in session. At the chapter meeting, he does not take over. He is there to guide, counsel and answer questions. He should ensure that at the end of the meeting he is asked for his opinion or comments. Above all, he must be fair and impartial. He encourages initiative to develop from within the group. Occasionally, show up for dinner on a regular school night, unannounced.
- He should meet with the officers at least once a month. This can be done the same day he attends the chapter meetings. It is better, however, to have the officer meeting at a different time. During this meeting, he should instruct where he can, providing leadership and guidance. Remember, they are learning to be leaders. They are expected to make mistakes. They want your help. You are teaching them how to lead, how to do their job better, how to learn from their mistakes.
- Should the chapter violate accepted policy, good taste, rules of conduct or ethics, he must have the courage to say so. It is very easy for one strong undergraduate to mislead the others. Frequently, the other undergraduates don't want to follow but don't know how to say no. They are waiting, and you will say NO for them.
- He should attend the housing corporation board meetings. The board should have a place on its agenda for a report from the chapter counselor.
- He should ensure the chapter follows the prescribed ritual for chapter meetings. Specifically, reaffirmation of the *Seven Obligations* should occur at one chapter meeting each month.
- He must ensure that formal initiations are conducted according to the ritual book and encourage actives to make the ceremony the best possible.
- He should meet with each pledge class just after they are pledged, and again just before initiation. At the pre-initiation meeting, bring along a few key alumni. Let them tell the pledges what Beta has meant to them.
- Make sure the chapter sends written invitations to house corporation board members, other alumni, and, above all, Beta fathers when their sons are being initiated.
- He ensures the chapter follows the general fraternity's risk management policies. If possible, get a professional to speak to the chapter on drugs, sex, alcohol, etc. Attend these meetings and lead off with questions if the undergraduates seem embarrassed to start. Be sensitive to a problem in this area. Help the chapter develop good risk management procedures for all social functions where alcohol is served and follow up with spot checks.
- He should assist the district chief in the selection of a financial adviser, recruitment adviser, faculty adviser, and other advisory positions such as career placement and critical skills adviser.
- He should meet with the chapter advising team on a monthly basis to review the chapter's progress.
- He is directly responsible to the district chief and should talk to him at least monthly (even if only by phone).
- In conjunction with the house corporation chairman, he should try to schedule a house corporation board meeting at the chapter at least once each school year. All actives should be invited and officers may be asked to give short reports. If the board meeting is run properly, this is a good teaching tool.
- He should be familiar with Beta songs and encourage singing at dinner, socials, and chapter meetings.
- He needs to have a working knowledge of Beta history, chapter history, the Code of Beta Theta Pi, the ritual for initiation and chapter meetings and the services provided by the general fraternity.
- He should be familiar with the duties of the other members of the chapter advising team who are working with him. The other chapter advisers should provide regular feedback and progress reports to the chapter counselor.
- The chapter counselor should have a copy of the chapter bylaws and house rules and be familiar with them. He should also be familiar with the duties of each chapter office.
- He should try to get to know the undergraduates by name. Knowing their names will go a long way toward breaking down barriers. Remember, positive affirmation does much more than negative reinforcement.
- He should meet with academic institution officials at least once a semester to keep abreast of the school policies and the standing of the chapter in the eyes of the Greek adviser.

The following resources are available through the administrative office:

- The Code of Beta Theta Pi
- Monthly Planner and Reporting Guidelines
- President's Handbook
- Vice President's Handbook
- Risk Management Handbook
- Building Bridges Pledge Education Manual
- Pledge Education Manual
- Scholarship Manual
- Finance Manual
- Ritual Manual
- Rush Manual
- Chapter Newsletter Manual
- Public Relations Manual
- Children's Burn Awareness Resource Handbook
- Chorister's Manual
- Son of the Stars



Alcohol Free? No Problem!

The social program at Beta has traditionally focused on the elimination of all potential risks, while still allowing us to have a good time. Now, since the house is alcohol free, we don't have to worry about that problem. As we slowly change from the traditional "pub night" toward the new "lounge night," we find ourselves focusing on new means of entertainment. Our goal this semester is to have a live band at the house every other Thursday. The music ranges from jazz to rock to classical and attracts a sizable crowd.

We also now have a house DJ: DJ Q. He spins vinyl at our dance parties as well as parties thrown by other houses and sororities. We travel *en masse* to these events and usually end up owning the dance floor. It is also nice to see others stepping up in the face of new social restrictions. Kevin Kennedy '99 headed the charge to an electronica dance party that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

The main problems associated with our events arise from excess noise. We have worked with the neighbors to keep the noise at a reasonable level and have even invested in beepers for both the risk manager and president. If the noise should happen to become excessive, the neighbors simply beep us directly, and this has solved many problems.

All in all, the social program is doing very well. It was difficult initially because it was not what we were used to, but we have adapted well and are having a great time.

Yours in _ kai _
Dave Weaver '99
Rob Tunick '00
Social Chairs

A Proposed Resolution By The MIT AIFC:

A Fair And Equal Approach To Alcohol Abuse Control Based Upon Individual Responsibility

The abuse of alcohol among students—binge drinking being the most dramatic example—is a significant problem throughout college culture and at MIT. Its damage to the individual, the living group, families, friends, and the institution itself is unacceptable and avoidable. It must be ended for the benefit of all. MIT has acknowledged that the problem is endemic to students and not to where they live. This being so, we believe that it must be approached at the individual level.

Application of discipline to groups or groups-of-groups cannot correct for the action of individuals. It damages those who are uninvolved and misses opportunities to reach the offenders. Yet those who choose a fraternity or other close-knit group commit themselves to involvement. The strengths arising from this involvement must not be misdirected to destructive activities. They should not be diluted by efforts to protect either the group or its members from the effects of offenses by individuals. True loyalty to the group requires responsible individual action from its members. The group must demand and foster these actions.

MIT students' living sites include dormitories, independent living groups, apartments, and other informal groups. These are subject to varied overriding municipal regulations. They have varied degrees and modes of alumni involvement. They participate in various national associations and campus bodies. Their group attitudes toward alcohol reflect their diversity. The only constant relationship is that of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to its Individual Student. This relationship provides an opportunity and a focus for action.

Thus MIT's application of clear, consistent, and measured actions—both punitive and corrective—toward the individual must be the basis for a comprehensive effort to control alcohol abuse. The AIFC requests that MIT's actions in regard to individual offenses be extended, made visible and institutionalized; that they be applied equally across all living groups both on and off campus; and that they include counseling as well as sanction. We pledge to support these efforts.

The living groups, their alumni/ae, their national organizations and campus groups must also perform their natural roles. Using a common base founded upon individual responsibility we can work to build cultures, based upon diversity and choice, which reject improper alcohol use, provide safe environments and support individual growth. We must also apply and accept group sanctions when required by group behavior. We pledge to undertake these actions.

MIT, its students and alumni/ae constitute a unique community with a culture of problem solving. It must, as a community, apply the same outlook to solve this problem. In thoughtfully crafting a comprehensive approach to the problem of alcohol in its own culture it will also exercise its traditional role of leadership and improve the quality of student life for all.

NEWS

Drop a line to RICHARD H. SANDERS '34 at 303 Sea Anchor Dr., Osprey, FL 34229-9110.

Retiree JAMES R. CRAIG '36 receives mail at RR #8, Holly Stream Condos 1004, Brewster, NY 10509.

If any Betas are headed for L.L. Bean in Freeport, Maine, they're invited to drop in on ROBERT D. PECK '44, who lives nearby (29 Bucknam Point Rd., Yarmouth, ME 04096). Bob's three children are married, and he has five grandchildren.

Please note this new address for JAMES R. MAXWELL '50: 1565 St. David's Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32967.

Retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company since April 1998, JOHN C. ZIMMER JR. '55 makes his home at 640 Beaverbrook Dr., Akron, OH 44333.

ROBERT S. CARLSON '56 can be reached at ABAC International Affairs Office, Huamark 10240, Bangkok, THAILAND.

"I've never been so busy or challenged by new things," writes KARL M. DUFF '57, who has two new grandchildren, a new plastics business, and a forthcoming book on the restoration of marriage. He also breeds and raises horses and cattle, hikes, and is active in politics and boy scouts. Stay in touch with him at 6112 Wynn Jones Rd. E., Port Orchard, WA 98366.

When we last heard from A. JAMES ROWAN '57, he and Rita had just enjoyed a visit from FRITZ HERMINGHAUS '57. "Fritz (a.k.a. John) is now retired from his entrepreneurial activities and is building his own airplane. It was also a great pleasure to see DICK McLAUGHLIN '58 in Charleston, South Carolina, where I was lecturing. He and his lovely bride drove over from Frapp Island—paradise, I am told—and we had a spectacular evening feasting on local marine produce. As for yours truly, Rita and I are happily ensconced in New York City on the East Side (415 E. 52nd St., New York, NY 10022), repairing on weekends to the Hudson River Valley, to our 18th century house on 130 acres. We collect antiques, have restored the house (which is on the national register), and garden (mostly Rita)." Jim adds that he recalls his years at 119 with great affection and sends best wishes to the current undergraduate brothers.

After nearly three decades with Air Products, RICHARD H. OELER '60 was looking forward to retiring this year. He and Elaine will spend the cooler months in Florida and the warmer ones in Pennsylvania and will travel a bit to visit their kids and grandkids, who are scattered from San Francisco to Zurich. Write to Dick at 4861 Sydney Close, Macungie, PA 18062-9516 or oelerde@aol.com.

ROBERT A. GRANT '64 lives at 1030 Homestead Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94598, and his e-mail address is rgrant@aol.com.

Send mail to KENNETH D. CAMERON '78 in care of SAAB Auto, Suite 3-220, 3044 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202-3091 (kdcam74@ibm.net).

We have a new address for MICHAEL G. FEINSTEIN '82: 14 Sweeney Ridge Rd., Bedford, MA 01730-1298.

JORGE A. BRACER '85 resides at 77 Bulkley Ave., #5, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Stay in touch with MARTIN J. ST. GEORGE '86 at 3330 N. Vernon St., Arlington, VA 22207.

JASON D. KIPNIS '87 works for Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP, in Menlo Park, California, and can be reached by e-mail at jkipnis@wgmsvo.com. He lives at 366 Mercy St., Mountain View, CA 94041.

Write to KENDALL R. BRYAN '88 at P.O. Box 1965, Midland, MI 48641-1965.

Our address for BENNETT J. SILVERMAN '88 is 9016 Churchill Circle, Niles, IL 60714.

"I recently enjoyed a 'pre-tournament' euchre fiesta at JIM CUERTON's ('90) home in San Francisco," pens JOHN E. SELL '91. "On hand were CHRIS SONNE '91, SCOTT STULL '88, 'Crash,' TOM AVIV '91, KEN CHAY '91, and ALEX MEDINA '92." A development manager at IBM, John lives at 4051 Halkins Dr., San Jose, CA 95124.

HYUNG CHANG '95 recently started working for a startup company in Austin called Intelligent Reasoning Systems, Inc. (<http://www.irsinc.com>). He writes, "In my new position as field support engineer, I will be traveling a lot, and have seen a bunch of Betas in San Francisco already." When not on

Treasurer's Report

Despite struggling slightly after a stressful and expensive rush this year, the house has come back strong financially for the start of the second semester. All actives living in the house are current for this year, and we have even made some headway in recovering back debt owed by recent alums. Keep that money coming! If any alumni have questions about the status of their back debt or how to pay it off, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at ahogue@mit.edu.

This recent success in debt collection has allowed us to start saving up a small nest egg toward this summer's rush budget. Without summer residents, the house has also been looking into other ways to generate revenue using the two houses over the summer. Jesse Gonzales '01 and I have been investigating the possibility of selling storage space for students in the area who go home for the summer.

In closing, I would just like to add my congratulations to Alumni Treasurer Mike Feinstein on being selected as Beta of the Week, as well as being featured on the back cover of the most recent *Beta Theta Pi Magazine* for his dedication to the house long after graduation. His commitment and service have helped me many a time in keeping the house's finances on the right track, and this recognition is well deserved.

Yours in _ kai _,
Andrew Hogue '01
Treasurer

1997-'98 DONOR UPDATE

We'd like to thank
GEORGE E. MOTZENBECKER '49, whose check arrived shortly after we published our honor roll of donors last summer.

the road, he can be found at 3210 John Campbell's Trail, Austin, TX 78735 (hschang@alum.mit.edu).

Send greetings to EDWIN L. SPRAGUE '96 at 55 Park Dr., #5, Boston, MA 02215.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

DAVID M. COOPER '36
MARCUS W. KEYES '28,
November 28, 1997

JOHN Y. TAYLOR, September 23, 1998
BENJAMIN B. WHITE '57, April 5, 1998