



# The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 2001

## Beta Needs Your Continued Support

Dear Alumnus,

**I**t is my honor and duty to write the annual notice encouraging all alumni to pay their annual dues. This is not exactly the kind of task I had envisioned to symbolize alumni association activities, and yet it does that and more. In fact, supporting the alumni association can be directly related to the brotherhood we enjoyed as undergraduates by reducing some of the financial pressure on the current actives and eliminating concerns about the overall physical state of the house. We, the alumni, own the house, and every dollar you contribute relates directly to improved living conditions.

Your dues subsidize house payments, decreasing the rent charged to the actives by over 20 percent, allowing them to reduce housebills so that life in the house can be affordable. Expenses to maintain the house are substantial because of the deferred maintenance of key infrastructure such as heating, windows, roofs, and the infamous copper sheathing. I would like to work on increasing the fraction of the alumni who donate; if 70 percent of all alumni paid dues, we could consider renovating the kitchens and bathrooms to bring them up to today's standards, among other projects.

One current hot topic in MIT fraternities is risk management. There is now a house officer assigned to this area. Risks abound, but with care, they can be avoided. For example, the house is still free of alcohol due to the three-year restriction imposed by the Boston Licensing Board in 1998. We must soon decide whether to continue this practice after the probation has expired. I seek advice and commentary from the members of the alumni association on this matter. We have seen several fraternities receive the "death penalty" because of high-risk activities such as parties and hazing during initiation. Some of you may not know that SAE was the most recent fraternity to lose its housing license. I believe that the Betas recognize the importance of risk management, but we must always be watchful.

Another important topic concerns membership when freshmen are housed solely in on-campus dorms. There are two primary issues: how to recruit and support off-campus pledges and how many actives can our houses sustain. Mike Johnson addresses some related issues on page two.

The very survival of the Beta Upsilon Chapter will depend on how much we, the alumni, care about the chapter. One of our options would be to initiate a capital campaign to provide a cash reserve needed for house improvements and maintenance while rents drop during the transition. Every alumnus should consider his role in the eventual determination of the fate of the Beta Upsilon Chapter. Please consider giving some of your time or increasing your annual donation to the association.

Finally, I close with a reminder of what it means to be a Beta. I recently attended a Beta conclave, an excellent meeting of actives and alumni association officers from several New England chapters. There was a short refresher course on Beta history, Beta signs and symbols, and, most important, Beta principles. I was reminded of the reasons I joined Beta Theta Pi. Later, I found this inspiring quote at the Web site of the General Fraternity (<http://www.betatheta.pi.org>):

*"Being a Beta means many things: respect for tradition, lifelong friendship, devotion to academic excellence, dedication to responsible leadership, commitment to community service and high standards of moral conduct. [...] Founder John Reily Knox described it as, 'What a few men who are united in common purpose and effort are determined to do, can be done. More than that, such associations teach us just how far human friendships can carry us.'"*

Yours in – kai –,  
Herman L. Marshall '78  
[HermanMarshall@alum.mit.edu](mailto:HermanMarshall@alum.mit.edu)

**ALUMNI  
WEEKEND**

*See the enclosed  
flyer for details!*

**MAY 4-6,  
2001**

## Chapter Adjusts To Changes

**T**he chapter came through the recruitment period with a class of 14 pledges, one of the largest on campus. This was the result of great leadership on the part of the recruitment chairs as well as the efforts of the entire chapter.

The structure of MIT's Greek community will be altered during the fall of 2002. Until now, the Greek community at MIT has enjoyed the privilege, uncommon in many other colleges, of recruiting incoming freshmen. However, in the fall semester of 2002 we will lose this privilege. Adjustments are already being made to prepare for this drastic change. The pledge education period is being shortened, and new recruitment strategies are being examined.

This semester began with a community relations meeting where we introduced new members of the community to Beta Theta Pi and also developed better lines of communication with our neighbors. Recently, during MIT's Parents Weekend, we held a small gathering to welcome the parents of the new pledges, which concluded with much success. We believe that the integration of the pledges into our brotherhood is key to maintaining the strong spirit of Beta Theta Pi,

*(continued on page three)*

# Our Strategic Planning Begins...



Many years ago, our Beta brothers at MIT had the foresight to make decisions that subsequently led to the purchase of our two properties on Bay State Road, facilities many have enjoyed and called home. My involvement as a trustee of our house corporation for the past five years, first as president and now as secretary, has made me and the other trustees appreciate the need for realistic long-term planning, especially given the many changes at MIT. You've read about some of my insights and frustrations in previous issues of *The Back Bay Beta*.

In February 2000, we met with the chapter and outlined what I consider 10 options that need to be evaluated as part of a diligent and comprehensive strategic planning process. These options are listed in the table below in no particular order. The chapter, through its 2002 Committee, did some preliminary analysis on its own and gave us some feedback on what the undergraduates would like to see. I have been asked by Herman and have agreed to chair a house corporation committee to try to guide us as an organization to the point where we can make some informed decisions on what to do and when. We look forward to having the chapter actively involved in this process, too.

As you can see, six of these options are various combinations of retaining both of our properties. Two involve selling the annex. One is predicated on relocating to Cambridge. The tenth would be one of last resort but should be considered for completeness, though I'm happy to say that our chapter is strong and spirited.

To properly evaluate these options on a

reasonable but meaningful timetable requires us to establish a process and a context for making decisions. My days in business school prompt me to lean toward Prof. Michael Porter's approach for strategic planning, which is a three-step process. Step one involves doing an environmental assessment—understanding the climate in which you're doing business. Step two involves developing a strategy to be successful within that climate. Step three is to implement the strategy.

The fact that many of you live far away from Massachusetts should not deter you from becoming involved to some degree in this process. I expect my initial steps will be to identify several Betas who can help us pose the questions we need to ask for step one.

Given that the maintenance and/or renovation of our properties involves potentially significant changes to the cost structure of the house corporation and chapter, I would really like to see a good showing of alumni at our Alumni Weekend so that you can see things firsthand and jump-start part of our planning.

For those who can't travel to Massachusetts, I expect we'll have a fairly detailed survey ready for distribution by the end of the school year. Your feedback will be an important factor in guiding our decisions. In the meantime, I encourage you to contact me and offer a few hours of your time to help our organization set the stage for the years ahead.

Proud to be a Beta.

— kai —,

Mike Johnson '80

MikeJohnson@alum.mit.edu

"In October 1999 we moved to Jenners Pond, a retirement community in the same general area where we've lived since 1962," writes DONN W. BARBER '42 (1207 Greenbriar Lane, West Grove, PA 19390 (evdoba@aol.com)). "Winter activities include swimming and walking at the 'Y' around the corner. With warmer weather comes golf—not good, but good enough to have fun with others in my age group." Donn keeps in touch with classmates JOHN LACY '42, JACK CRANDALL '42, and EARLE FOOTE '42.

Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom has awarded the title of Officer of the British Empire to DONALD KAHN '46 "in recognition of the outstanding services which [he] has rendered to our national life as a patron of the arts over many years." Donald writes, "It's just a mild kind of honor—two steps below a knight—but I am glad to have it." Our address for Donald is Imbergstrasse 6, A5020 Salzburg, AUSTRIA.

Lois and GEORGE MOTZENBECKER '49 reside at 2712 Birch Harbor Lane, West Bloomfield, MI 48324. "We both are well," writes George, "and fondly remember our days at the Beta house. Our best to all."

WALTER E. H. MASSEY II '51 makes his home at 1951 Tupper St., Shaughnessy Village, Montreal H3H 1N6, CANADA.

(continued on page four)

Option	Description	Approach	Occupied by
1	Keep two houses in Boston	Scheduled maintenance	Only Betas + adviser live-in
2	Keep two houses in Boston	Scheduled maintenance	Betas + adviser + renters
3	Keep two houses in Boston	Renovate main house only; scheduled maintenance on annex	Only Betas + adviser live-in
4	Keep two houses in Boston	Renovate main house only; scheduled maintenance on annex	Betas + adviser + renters
5	Keep two houses in Boston	Renovate both main house and annex	Only Betas + adviser live-in
6	Keep two houses in Boston	Renovate both main house and annex	Betas + adviser + renters
7	Keep main house; sell annex	Scheduled maintenance	Only Betas + adviser live-in
8	Keep main house; sell annex	Renovate main house	Only Betas + adviser live-in
9	Sell both houses; relocate to Cambridge	Build new facilities on Vassar Street	Only Betas + adviser live-in
10	End Beta Chapter at MIT and sell properties	Go out of business	N/A

## Beta Enjoys Full Social Program

The fall semester was a great one for the Beta social program. Beginning with a large party during rush, the house enjoyed a number of successful parties. The rush party featured the funk band Actual Proof. With a large attendance from both new freshmen and upperclassmen from MIT and surrounding colleges, this party was fun for all who attended. We have the rush chairs to thank for the entertainment and the well-organized event.

Early in the semester we hosted another large party headlining two amazing DJs. High attendance coupled with a lot of house enthusiasm helped make this one of the most fun parties of the semester. The freshmen also stepped up to show their organizational mettle. They helped with both advertisement and setup for the party with surprising effort.

Later in October, as part of the new pledge program, the pledges threw a Halloween party. Their decoration of the house was spectacular. All the walls on the first and second floor were covered in black.



*Phillip Kelleher '04 pledges on the Harvard Bridge.*

Dead bodies littered the house, and traditional jack-o-lanterns were set up outside. The freshmen managed the advertisement, refreshments, and decorations for the party themselves. The highlight was the dining room, which was surrounded by speakers and had black walls with glowing figures, a strobe light, and glowing packing peanuts being blown around by a host of fans. Congratulations to the pledges for pulling off such a successful decorative effort.

Allon Hochbaum '03, Social Chair

## Couch Review: Part II

As promised in the last issue of *The Back Bay Beta*, I'm going to review the annex couch situation—but first a bit of main house couch news:

To start, the first-floor couches (rated 3.75 of 4 throw pillows) were replaced for rush by two futons. Not to fret, however, because the first-floor couches have been moved into the chapter room, where they now serve me well as chorister. When the pledges meet for the chorister meeting, the couches serve as an excellent means of keeping this ragtag group in order. And they have worked, as the pledges have mastered songs such as "Beta Sweetheart," "Wooglin to the Pledge," "Loving Cup," and every pledge's favorite, "Gemma Nostra."

Now for the annex couches. The annex situation is not necessarily similar to the main house, so the comprehensive testing system that I use in the main house doesn't completely apply here. But bear with me, and I'll do my best to relate the wonders and faults of these sitting and sleeping devices.

The best place to start is my room, third front right. The pledge with whom I share the room and I have a sofa bed in the room. This couch is probably the best in the annex, as it is nearly as firm as the couches in the chapter room. It is a good couch-sleeping experience, although it just can't quite live up to the quality of the standard set by the chapter room couches. It receives a 3.5 of 4 throw pillows.

Another third-floor couch with which I am well acquainted is the one in third rear

right. I typically am sitting on this couch doing unified, and if I'm doing work, then I'm not sleeping. Therefore, this couch is not conducive to any sleeping, is therefore a miserable failure, and is lucky to receive a rating of 1.75 throw pillows.

Basement couches are essential in the annex. First, there is the gravity couch. This little gem is very soft and forces its sitters into a highly reclined position. Although I typically am against softness and reclining, this couch pulls it off well and gets 3 throw pillows. Directly across from it is an interesting couch. I remember one night, I crashed on this couch, and it was as comfortable as sleeping on a cloud. Not just a light cirrus cloud, but a heavy-duty comfort cumulonimbus cloud. However, in more recent times, I realize that this couch really is about as hard as sleeping on the floor. It has no back cushioning, and the seat cushioning is also very weak. The sofa is about as bad as the unified couch, but since I still can sleep on it, the couch gets a little sympathy and therefore 1.8 throw pillows.

With almost every couch in the house having been fully rated by a couch expert, it seems that my work is pretty complete. Not to worry: I can still always re-evaluate our couches, and there is always use for a guy on the couch somewhere. So until next time, that's the news from the couch, from The Guy on the Couch.

Matt Saunders '03

## 14 New Brothers Initiated

It is with great pleasure that I complete my term as pledge educator by announcing the initiation of our 14 new brothers on February 18, 2001:

- 1058 Mark Daniel Brigham
- 1059 Daniel Bercovici
- 1060 Bert Dan Lue
- 1061 Jason Erich Mueller
- 1062 Jason Alexander Martinez
- 1063 Samuel Ford Elder
- 1064 Jeffrey Edward Bridgham
- 1065 Cesar Manuel Romero
- 1066 Phillip Mateo Kelleher
- 1067 David George Henry Moore
- 1068 Andrew James Kutas
- 1069 Ethan Samuel Brown
- 1070 Ricardo Alfonso Garcia
- 1071 Jeffrey Edward Aristoff

*May these men bring honor to our chapter  
May they continue down the road started  
long ago  
May they complete our unfinished paths  
And may they start new and worthy trails  
of their own*

Yours forever in – kai –,  
Russ Spieler '01, Pledge Educator

## Chapter Adjusts

*(continued from page one)*

and this gathering not only allowed all of the chapter to meet the parents of the pledges, but it also allowed a chance for the parents to get to know one another.

Administrative leadership has also changed hands in several areas. Mike Johnson '80 declined to continue as president of the alumni association. Fortunately, Mike will still be an officer of the association, switching offices with Herman Marshall '78, who was secretary and is now president. In other areas of administration, Dean of Greek Life Neal Dorow resigned, ending a 12-year career of assisting the Greek community at MIT. Currently, the administration is searching for a replacement—actually, four replacements—to fill his position. As a chapter we are adjusting well to these changes and anticipate strong leadership in the years to come.

We are making plans for a terrific Alumni Weekend on May 5-6, featuring an open house, midday barbecue, and formal dinner on Saturday and brunch sponsored by the alumni association on Sunday. We hope that you will be among the many Beta alumni who return to MIT for the festivities.

Jesse Gonzales '01  
Chapter President

# NEWS

(continued from page four)

After 38 years in academia, J. RAY BOWEN '56 announced in December that he was retiring—"partially at least, as I will have the option of part-time re-employment in the department for another five years. Also, I am helping with the startup of a nascent fuel cell company and am optimistic for the company's prospects, given the impending crisis in the nation's electrical power supply. Priscilla is thankful that these "diversions" keep me busy and out of the house. To celebrate my retirement, Priscilla and I will go on an 'eco-cruise' in the Sea of Cortez over New Year's 2001." For the foreseeable future the Bowens will continue to live in the Pacific Northwest (5324 NE 86th St., Seattle, WA 98115), and Ray hopes that Betas traveling to Seattle will look him up. His e-mail address is bowen@enr.washington.edu.

Writes EDWIN C. BELL '58, "I retired for the second time in October, and my wife, Annette Stiefbold, is retiring in January after a 22-year career with Lockheed-Martin Corporation. We have moved to Coral Gables, Florida (633 Camilo Ave., 33134), and are looking forward to boating, fishing, and improving our conversational Spanish. February will find us in Bonaire and Curacao for two weeks of snorkeling." Ed and Annette took a trip down the Intracoastal Waterway from Maryland to Florida last November, stopping in Titusville, Florida, to enjoy dinner with Susan and JIM BRAMAN '58. E-mail reaches Ed at edwincbell@aol.com.

Having retired in 1999, RICHARD H. OELER '60 had some free time to help telephone classmates prior to their 40th reunion last year. "It was great to chat with so many old friends," writes Dick, who can be reached at oelerde@attglobal.net or at 25 Grey Wing Pointe, Naples, FL 34113.

Write to ROBERT A. MARTINI '61 at hup@uslink.net or at 29856 Sand Beach Dr., Breezy Point, MN 56472.

RICHARD C. WILLIAMSON '61 writes that it was great to see Barb and MIKE MONSLER '64 when they came through Boston for daughter Karin's graduation from the Sloan School. Joining the celebration were FRED LUCONI '64, DICK CARPENTER '64 and his wife, and Ann and MEAD WYMAN '62. When the Williamsons' daughter, Meagan, got married in August 1998, Ann and GARY BICKEL '61 came for the festivities—and the Williamsons were happy to make the trip in reverse for the wedding of Gary and Ann's daughter, Katy, in

Los Alamitos, California. "Speaking of weddings, we journeyed to Lake Tahoe in 1997 for the wedding of Andrew, son of Carol and BRIAN WHITE '61. Their daughter Hillary is getting married here in Sudbury on our 39th wedding anniversary—September 2, 2000." Send best wishes to the Williamsons at 21 Pendleton Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 (williamson@ll.mit.edu).

Please note this new address for KEITH GLICK '62: 2732 La Strada Grande, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

Since 1994, LESLIE M. BORING '64 has been helping Middle East investors, developers, and landowners to organize real estate development planning and management solutions for large area land sites. He writes, "My work has largely been in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt but also as far flung as Indonesia. All this has meant extended periods away from home, so when our son, Nicolas, left France last year for graduate law school at William and Mary, my wife, Annie, and I decided to pack our furniture, rent an apartment for our daughter, Anne (just entering University of Paris), put our house west of Paris up for rent, and move to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. I formed an association with a well-known Saudi architect, and we have provided real estate development planning and management services largely for the organization and planning of shopping centers and seaside residential and resort projects." Now Leslie's busy planning an upscale extension of a shopping center in Bahrain, where he can be reached in care of Seef Properties, P.O. Box 20084, Manama, BAHRAIN (LMBoring@compuserve.com).

"Our oldest child, Brian, graduated from Princeton with a BA in philosophy," writes WILLIAM T. STEWART '69, "while Amy is a senior at Bucknell with a management major and Army ROTC. I continue to pursue the dream of good golf, but a handicap of three seems to be a plateau." "Stewey" still runs Stewart Glapat, a materials handling family business, and lives at 2775 Martin Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701. E-mail reaches him at bstewart@adjustoveyor.com.

Ann Marie and EDWARD W. RICH '72 and their three children have moved to Corning, New York, where Ed is vice president and treasurer of Corning Incorporated. Our new address for Ed is P.O. Box 1388, Corning, NY 14830 (edrich@alum.mit.edu). Ed enjoyed seeing KEN STONE '72 and DAN NADLER '72 when they stopped by with their families not long ago, and he reports

that they are both doing well.

JERRY L. COLE '78 has relocated from Massachusetts to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania (102 Steeplechase Circle, 19468), for a new position with Iron Mountain. "When I started, the company had \$10 million," writes Jerry. "This year we will do \$1 billion. Please stop by if you are in the area." Send e-mail to Jerry at jerrycole@aol.com.

The past year was a busy one for MIT research scientist (and Beta Alumni President) HERMAN L. MARSHALL '78. He writes, "We launched our X-ray satellite on the space shuttle, now called the Chandra X-ray Observatory, in July 1999. It has been working very well, and that means I've had a lot of data from neutron stars to black holes to quasars. Look for our press releases!" He and Jenny have two sons, Eric (9) and Keith (5), and were looking forward to celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary with a week-long trip to Cancun. To find out how it went, write to HermanMarshall@alum.mit.edu or to 5 Whipple Rd., Lexington, MA 02420.

Drop a line to PAUL D. TERWILLIGER '82 at P.O. Box 1460, Grantham, NH 03753 (pault@gsinet.net).

JASON D. KIPNIS '87 has been elected to the partnership of Weil, Gotshal and Manges and now runs the intellectual property counseling group in the firm's Silicon Valley office. Write to him at jkipnis@wgmsvo.com or at 366 Mercy St., Mountain View, CA 94041.

Congratulations to JOHN J. SCHWAGER '88 and his wife on the birth of their second daughter, Sophia Jeannette, on March 16! As if that weren't enough change in John's life, he also started a new job with Kurt Salmon Associates in April. Send greetings to John at 3221 Chinquapin Court, Marietta, GA 30066 or at john.j.schwager@alum.mit.edu.

R. SCOTT STULL '88 has moved to 5353-I Columbia Rd., Columbia, MD 21044.

JEFFREY D. BERG '89 reports a new address of 2321 Eastview Court, San Ramon, CA 94583 (tsunamijdb@home.com).

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of  
JOHN P. DELANO '34