

The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2002

Alumni Association Update On Strategic Planning

Since we last wrote to you, world events have been at the forefront of everyone's thoughts. For some people, they've been much more personal, with the loss of family, friends, and colleagues. Please accept our sincere condolences if you've been directly affected.

We continue to make progress on figuring out how best to present our options for your review and comment on what to do with our facilities in Boston (repair, renovate, or sell and move to Cambridge) as per the spring 2001 issue of *The Back Bay Beta*. However, our progress has been slower than I personally had hoped to report at this time, due in no small part to also dealing with MIT's decision to require freshmen to live in dorms starting fall 2002.

The major highlights to report follow:

We met with our student Betas as a whole last fall to discuss planning and have continued to include chapter input, as we should, since this needs to be a partnership for our future.

I contacted and met in mid-December with MIT Treasurer Allan Bufferd '59 for two hours of private but candid discussion

▶ See Chancellor Clay's article on the MIT overcrowding problem on page three.

of the various options we as an organization will be considering. It was a productive meeting and set the stage for more in-depth talks with key MIT staff this spring.

MIT Chancellor Phil Clay G'75 attended the February quarterly breakfast meeting of the independent living group (ILG) system trustees, meetings Beta regularly attends and contributes to. His memo on the overcrowding problem, which was recently circulated on campus, was discouraging when initially released, but at the meeting he showed a more open and genuinely friendly approach to working with the ILG trustees than did his predecessor, in my opinion. Clay emphasized that MIT needs the ILG system to be successful and wants to work with individual houses on a case by case basis if necessary to make that happen.

I've continued to maintain open communications with other MIT ILGs and have learned more about building renovation considerations. I was aware that American Dis-

abilities Act (ADA) requirements must be incorporated into renovations once renovation dollars exceed a certain threshold. I was not aware, however, that new seismic requirements are imposed once renovation dollars exceed an even higher threshold. The latter, for example, has prompted one MIT ILG who wanted to put \$2 million into its one house physical plant to take a closer look at the dynamic of moving to Cambridge once they learned that seismic standards would boost their renovation budget to \$6 million.

Clearly, we need a more in-depth understanding of what such requirements are so that they can be properly put in context with our options, but this gives you a sense of the task at hand. We expect and will work hard to provide more details by this summer and encourage you to contact me if you would like to help us sort through what is best for Beta at MIT. Proud to be a Beta.

— kai —

Mike Johnson '80

Clerk, Beta Upsilon Association

MikeJohnson@alum.mit.edu

617/641-8480

Actives Look To Alumni For Support

Greetings to all from 119 Bay State. This fall I took over as president of the chapter from Jesse Gonzales '01, and I am pleased to say that everything is going very well. The house looks excellent after a good work week, and, amazingly, we are keeping up with our cleanups. Many parents and a few alumni have come by, and all have commented on the good condition of the house. We encourage you to check it out.

We look to the alumni for support this year as we face big changes. We all love the system of our two beautiful houses that we have. We would like things to continue as they are, but that can only be achieved with your support as we ease into having fresh-

men live on campus. Do you want a return on your investment? First, you have the appreciation of all the brothers at the house. Moreover, you will have a house that you can be proud to visit for Christmas and alumni parties. All of you had the support of your alumni when you were in school, and we step into your shoes when we graduate. So I encourage you to contact me—or the leaders of the alumni association—to find out how you can help.

At the house, all of the officers and I have been able to devote a good deal of time this year to keeping Beta ahead. We have a great pledge class of 10 thanks to our recruitment chairs Dylan Hirsch-Shell '03

(Continued on page two)

As we go to press, we want to let you know that...

You're Invited!
**To Beta's annual
Alumni
Dinner Party**
**at 6:00 p.m. on
Saturday, May 4,
2002, at the Beta
house.**

Actives Look To Alumni

(Continued from page one)

and Allon Hochbaum '03. House managers Dan Bercovici '04 and Jeff Bridgham '04 have been constantly working on improvements. Our treasurer, Jason Mueller '04, is on top of the finances, and risk managers Isaac Dinner '02 and Mark Brigham '02 have upheld our very tight risk-management policy to prevent any problems. I'd like to list the contributions of every person in the chapter, but that would take up the whole *Back Bay Beta*. I will say, however, that I am very proud to be president of this group of individuals.

In other news, Betas have been excelling both in academics and sports. We continue the recent tradition of representing MIT on the sailing front. Three of the top four skippers on the team are Betas. Also, we have varsity athletes on the football (three), baseball, hockey, tennis, crew, and gymnastics teams. As always, we have continued the strong tradition of IM sports. We greatly encourage any alumni to come and participate. Notices are usually sent out on the e-mail list.

Finally, I would like to inform the alumni who were not already aware that Beta Upsilon has returned to a chapter in good standing with Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity. It was decided at last summer's general convention (which Mark and I attended) that we had improved our risk management and had learned from our mistakes. While all the current actives were not around at the time, rest assured we will not repeat the things that caused us to go on probation.

Thanks for the support of all alumni, and we really do want you to come by anytime, not just for the Christmas or the alumni party. Also, feel free to call or e-mail if you want to discuss anything.

Yours in - kai -,
Brian Savery 1048
briguy03@mit.edu
617/536-1303

House Managers Make Strides

While the fight of the house managers is a never-ending battle, I believe this term we have gained some ground. Jeff Bridgham, my partner in house-managing crime, and I have continually led the Beta forces into battle against the little problems that arise weekly, whether they involve plumbing, electrical, or anything else that gets thrown our way.

This term we have encountered a few major problems including large leaks, the loss of the walk-in refrigerator, and the ongoing problem with the oil spill cleanup. Our main responsibility this term has been to replace the refrigerator. For those who have seen our walk-in refrigerator, you know it is not in the best condition. Over the

years it has crashed several times, and a lot of food has spoiled. Repair costs are high.

After talking with our chef, Jim, and Mike Johnson from our alumni association, we decided to replace the unit a large industrial reach-in refrigerator. The process of dismantling the walk-in and replacing the floor underneath was surprisingly quick. The new reach-in has been able to efficiently keep food fresh and save floor space, which has been a great help to Jim and the pledges during pizza nights.

Future projects include more renovations on the kitchen, pub, and, of course, annex.

- kai -
Dan Bercovici 1059

Sailing Coach Enjoys Life At Beta

Things are going well at the house. The new fridge is working out, as are the new laundry facilities. The new pledge class made it through their initiation week in good spirits, although a little tired by the end of it.

Anyway, here's a bit about me. I grew up in the land of the 62-cent dollar in a little university town, Kingston, Ontario, on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. My father was a professor at Queen's University and both my brothers (and sisters-in-law) attended Queen's. Naturally, I also graduated from Queen's with a BSc in mechanical engineering in 1997. Twenty-three years was a long time to spend in a small town of 60,000 that is also home to seven penitentiaries. Upon graduation, I moved to Toronto where I began my engineering career at Hatch Consulting Engineers. I worked on many projects in the metals processing industry with a focus on heat transfer and cooling water system design.

My true passion in life has always been sailing. During the Christmas of 1999, only five months away from getting my PEng

designation, I resigned from Hatch to pursue my Olympic sailing dream. I embarked on a five-month campaign to represent Canada in the single-handed Laser class at Sydney. Although I did not make the team, my best friend and training partner did and brought me to Sydney for the month of September to help him prepare for the game.

The day I returned from Sydney, I made my way down to Cambridge to start work as the sailing coach at MIT. I'm loving my "new life" down here, and I've been overwhelmed by the wonderful people I've met at MIT and the tremendous opportunities given to a small town kid from Canada. I've especially enjoyed living with the Betas, and it's great to see such a diverse collection of characters (of course, I mean this in a good way) getting along so well and helping one another out.

Regards,
Mike Kalin
MIT Varsity Sailing Coach and
Beta's Resident Adviser
mkalin@mit.edu

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.



Remember This?

The home of MIT's most famous party—the Beta barn dance.

Chancellor Addresses MIT Overcrowding Issue

I am writing to share with you an issue that is both a problem and an opportunity. I want to explain how we reached this point and present the options we have for the school year 2002-2003 and beyond. Crowding in campus housing presents this dichotomy. While crowding is a problem for obvious reasons, the opening of more than 1,100 beds on campus next year is the opportunity.

Presently we have 140 more undergraduate students than we have uncrowded residence hall rooms to accommodate them. This will be true even with the additions of Simmons Hall. While this may not seem like a large number, you will quickly realize that the students who are affected by crowding include not only the 140 students but also all of the students who room with them. The total number of students who are in crowded rooms exceeds 400! In addition, all of the students in the affected residence halls suffer the loss of lounges, study rooms, and other spaces meant for community use.

Our undergraduate students have been extraordinarily patient under these circumstances. Our faculty, colleagues, parents, and students consider this to be an intolerable situation, which needs to be addressed. I agree.

This crowding is not a self-correcting problem. If we take no action, the problem will worsen as the students who are presently here continue to experience crowding and additional students place even more pressure on the system. A worsening of the problem would undermine all our plans to enhance the community.

How did we reach this point? There are several factors that have come together. We reached this point because with the exception of Simmons Hall, which will be added this coming year, we have not added housing for undergraduates in more than 20 years (Next House in 1981.) While we have not expanded the undergraduate population, the freshman class has fluctuated at around 1,000 for more than 20 years.

In the last two years, however, we have hit a capacity wall. We had slight over-enrollments among freshmen. Fifty extra first-year students in the last two years are generating extra pressure. In addition, we also had 30 to 40 transfer students each year. These are not large numbers, but they add to the pressure.

At the same time, we have lost some supply of beds available to undergraduates. Two FSILGs have closed in recent years, and rush has been lower in each of the last two years. In the meantime, the small number of students who might opt for off-campus living has been reduced because of the high rents and limited supply in Cambridge. In short, small shifts in supply and demand have combined to produce crowding.

The prognosis going forward is that this problem will likely become more serious and, therefore, more intolerable unless we take some action. ... We want to manage the housing resources to advance our community goals and not just avoid the ugly problem of too many students and too few rooms.

The prognosis going forward is that this problem will likely become more serious and, therefore, more intolerable unless we take some action. I will address what we will do to eliminate crowding and manage enrollment. We want to do more. We want to manage the housing resources to advance our community goals and not just avoid the ugly problem of too many students and too few rooms. There are several options. They include:

1. Reduce the undergraduate population
2. Buy or lease additional housing
3. Continue crowding
4. Reassign part of the new supply being added for graduate students to house undergraduates

These are all difficult options. None can be defended alone nor without regard to the effect on the institute goals and student life. Making a five percent reduction in admissions for at least the next two to three years might eliminate crowding, but has other negative consequences for class composition and equity. No great university can rule out taking some transfers students. The undergraduate population is already shrinking as a percent of the entire student body, and undergraduate numbers are currently at an appropriate level (1,000), not counting the slight over-enrollment in the last two years. We will eliminate over-enrollment that would not address current crowding.

The second option is to buy or lease already constructed housing. This would provide a means of meeting the housing needs on short order. The problem is that this is not a viable option, because there are no such housing opportunities available. Our staff has searched this year and in years past for available structures to purchase. Notwithstanding the high cost of real estate that would be close or convenient for students, the absolute scarcity precludes this as a reliable strategy for now or in the near future. Low quality or remote sites cannot be considered, given our campus and community life goals.

A third option is that we could continue crowding. By doing nothing (other than managing future enrollment) we would expect crowding to continue for three years

at least. This is not much of an accomplishment.

The final option would be to use some portion of the supply of housing designated for graduate students—about 150 beds. This year we added 130 beds on Albany Street, and next year we will add 750 beds on Sidney and Pacific streets. In recent years we have added Edgerton House and Green House to others from an earlier time. This option would solve the problem of crowding.

Considering all options, I am presently inclined to recommend that we use a fraction of the housing intended for graduate students and reassign the beds to undergraduates. This is a temporary solution, but it will have to remain in place for the next three to five years when a combination of economic conditions and a long backlog of prior commitments make it impossible to consider to new residential construction.

This step will come as a disappointment to graduate students who have been looking forward to the added on-campus housing. Instead of graduate students getting nearly 900 beds this year and next, they would get about 750 beds. This small reduction has to be looked at in context. We have added one dorm for undergraduates in nearly 20 years. In the same period, we had added many halls for graduate students—Green, Albany Street, and Edgerton for example. We are taking a small reduction in an increasing response to graduate student needs.

To make this work and to be fair requires some corollary action. First, we have to proceed with our plans for residential programming and support to the graduates and undergraduates on campus life. FSILGs play a role and will need to be strengthened so that we preserve their role and maximize rush. We have to reverse the most recent fall off in rush totals. We will have a plan to help FSILGs do this.

Finally, in the administration, we have to cap new student enrollment at 1,000 and not allow this to drift upward. If we stem the decline in the occupancy of the FSILGs and contain the enrollment of transfer students, we will be able to contain the risks for future demands on graduate inventory.

During the next several weeks, I look forward to receiving comments on this issue and our options. I also welcome ideas for how to implement this plan to make it a winning proposition for all elements of the campus. I urge appropriate committees, students, and faculty to weigh these issues and get your comments to me or Deans Benedict or Colbert. We are happy to discuss the issues raised in this article.

Professor Phillip L. Clay G'75
MIT Chancellor

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Strong Rush Preps Beta For Fall 2002 Changes

This year's rush was successful and exciting as usual. A strong summer rush and a well-run work week both helped ease the load during rush. As always, Betas had an amazing time. Everyone had a good time relaxing at George's Island in Boston Harbor, playing pick-up games at Wellesley, and getting to know the freshmen on a Charles River boat ride to the house after Killian Kickoff. Everything leading up to and including rush was well organized and set a solid foundation for the challenges Beta faces next year with an altered rush schedule.

Beginning in the fall of 2002, all MIT

freshmen will be required to live on campus. The IFC has made provisions for the change and altered the structure and schedule of rush. While IFC rush committees come up with a detailed description of rush '02, many things at Beta have begun to change already. With the innovative work of the 2002 committee, we are making changes in the pledge, financial, and, of course, rush programs. The elected rush chairs for next year, Benjamin Roberts (1049) and Mark Brigham (1058), have the difficult task of leading Beta through the new rush process.

With the 2002 changes to rush looming,

it was important for us to have a strong showing this year. We are pleased to announce that rush was a resounding success, resulting in 10 new pledges for the chapter. We welcome Lars Blackmore, Kevin Chen, Oliver De La Cruz, Jeff Gilbert, Ben Kochan, Jon Leifer, Randall Link, JM Modisette, Eric Scarborough, and Edgar Terrero. Each pledge adds to the house in his own way and will help the house develop in the coming years.

Allon Hochbaum and
Dylan Hirsch-Shell
Rush Chairs

Thanks To Alumni, Christmas Party Again A Success

Iwould like to thank all of the alumni who came out and made our annual Christmas party so successful. The party was the biggest and most exciting one I have attended and included roughly 30 alumni, the actives, and their dates.

Our next big event is the annual alumni party on Saturday, May 4, 2002, at the house. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. We hope to build on last year's great attendance and make this year's event bigger and better. Please contact members of your pledge class and convince them to come back and relive their undergraduate days. This will be a great event—please don't miss it.

– kai –
Isaac Dinner 1041
Alumni Secretary

Events Prove Beta's Good Standing

Socially, the 2001 fall semester was a positive one for Beta Upsilon, and continued on from the exciting scene at Beta last summer. Weekly house gatherings provided a relaxing atmosphere for brothers and friends to take a break from the rigorous academic life here at MIT. These parties attracted guests from an eclectic mix of schools around the greater Boston area, especially on Thursday evenings where guests enjoyed the music of pledge and resident disc jockey Lars Blackmore. The highlight of the fall was a large event held on Saturday, September 29. The party featured the musical group *Funk-Kin*, a funk band descending and evolving from *Parliament-Funkadelic*, whose musical sounds and entertaining on-stage act left the crowd amazed and asking for more. Furthermore, the event showed that Beta Upsilon, as a chapter in good standing, understands the effort and responsibility

necessary to organize and host events using good risk-management strategies.

The fall featured two other major events: the pledge party in mid-November and the Christmas party in early December. Both went off without a hitch. The pledges completely planned and organized a great party featuring multiple disc jockeys and plenty of new faces from Wellesley, BU, and Simmons. The Christmas party was a major success as well. Actives and pledges had a great time bonding and enjoying the first snow of the winter.

This spring, social chairs Allon Hochbaum '03 and Sam Elder '04 have been keeping the social program alive with great events focusing on fun and recruitment as we face the changes coming in 2002.

– kai –
Ethan Brown '04 1069
Social Chair

This Year's Pledges Bring New Life To Beta Upsilon

This year's pledges breathed new life into Beta. The annual rush women's dinner was a great success, and the pledges performed a touching rendition of *Beta Sweetheart* as thanks to all the rush women of rush 2001. The pledges also were responsible for coordinating a social event with the help of the social chairs, and we were all pleased with their efforts. To prepare for the changes in the residence system at MIT in 2002, the pledge program was shortened and incorporated changes Russ Spieler '01 implemented as last year's pledge educator. These included a more

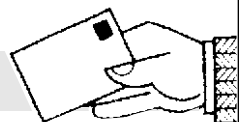
focused approach to lore and songs in the first semester, with a special emphasis on house integration. The second semester began with pledge work week at the end of January. Initiation occurred in mid-February at which point the pledges were contributing members of the house and ready to take responsibility for its upkeep and longevity. Eventually, the pledge program will be shortened to a term, so that a fall rush and a spring rush will be possible. Two pledge classes a year will provide the house with flexibility in numbers, as well as a way to ensure enough brothers live in the

houses after fall 2002. It is important to look at the eight-week pledge programs supported by the General Fraternity, as well as other one-term programs at MIT, so that we can model ours appropriately and make any necessary changes. We wish all of this year's initiates the best of luck!

– kai –
Andrew Vernon Martinez 1039

*Congratulations to our new brothers,
who were initiated the weekend of
February 15, 2002!*

SEND US YOUR ADDRESS BEFORE YOU MOVE!



NEWS

RICHARD H. SANDERS '34 lives with his daughter, Lynn, and visits his son, Stephen, in Italy. Reach Dick by e-mail now at richardsanders@juno.com or by mail at 303 Sea Anchor Dr., Osprey, FL 34229.

IRA LOHMAN '38 (lohman@alum.mit.edu) has seen Carol and AL WILSON, Betts and DON WERR, and Louise and DICK MUTHER (all class of '38). Ira's sister, who lives in Kansas City, passed along an article about Dick that appeared in the Kansas City Star and discussed Dick's 14th book, *More Profitable Planning: Six Steps To Planning Anything*, and his work on a do-it-yourself kit to help people plan for having multiple careers. (Contact Dick at 1250 W. 63rd Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113.)

Last year, WALTER E. BORDEN III '45 took a three-week trip to southern Argentina to do some bird watching. Walt also has been busy building houses for Habitat for Humanity—he's worked on 40 houses—and building a 36-foot replica of a sailing ferry, which will travel on Lake Champlain this summer. Reach Walt at 105 Alder Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522; birdweb@juno.com.

JOHN KERN '50 (189 E. Lake Shore Drive, #8, Chicago, IL 60611; jck@kernfd.org) and wife Anne had a great time at the 50th class reunion in June of 2000. John gets up to Cambridge several time a year for meetings of the Grants Committee of the Council for the Arts at MIT and the annual meeting in the fall, but he seldom is able to stop at the house. Incidentally, John shares that the house at 119 Bay State was acquired in the summer of '46 through a swap with Simmons College, receiving their president's house for Beta's Brookline House. John writes, "I remember being charged one Saturday as a pledge to go down to Scully Square to purchase yards of leather-bound and tooled secondhand books for the library, which was barren after the departure of the Simmons president. I wonder how many of those old books are still there?" The Kerns enjoy spending time with their three children and several grandchildren—"kids and grandkids are really what our life is all about these years!"—and at their ski house in Keystone, Colorado.

Nancy and JOSEPH N. SHERRILL JR. '51 gathered in June of 2001 with several classmates for a 50th reunion. In attendance were WALTER E.H. MASSEY, Carol and DICK REEDY, Susie and GEORGE UNDERWOOD, Jean and HERB VOELCK-

ER, Sheila and ART WASSERMAN, Emily and FRED WEITZ, and Julie Gentleman (widow of GREGOR J. GENTLEMEN JR.). Events took place during three days in Cambridge and then three days in Newport. "It was great to be together with old friends," pens Joe (28 Chateau Court, Wichita Fall, TX 76302; jsherrill@scglaw.com).

R. GORDON BLACK '56 sends along a new address of 955 Marion Ave., Mansfield, OH 44906; gblack1659@aol.com.

EDWIN C. BELL '58 (633 Camilo Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134; edwincbell@aol.com) visited with Lynn and STEVE YERETSKY '59 in July in Friendswood, Texas.

"FRITZ HERMINGHAUS '57 flew in for a few days in July," pens DICK McLAUGHLIN '58 (139 Ocean Creek Blvd., Fripp Island, SC 29920). "Time gets away from us—it had been 20 years since our last visit. He was piloting a two-engine Beechcraft around the states visiting his daughter and sister. Fritz is now retired, living in Italy, and building a two-engine plane to keep occupied."

JOHN J. SCHWAGER '88 has transferred to the New York office of Kurt Salmon Associates. His new home address is 28 Windham Dr., Simsbury, CT 06070. His e-mail address is john.j.schwager@alum.mit.edu.

We have an updated address for ANDREW T. OBST '90 of 21534 Penfield Ave. N, Scandia, MN 55073; obst@alum.mit.edu.

"I have landed in Texas," writes JOHN C. SPRINGSTEEN '91 of 1918 Lauderdale St., Houston, TX 77030; springo@alum.mit.edu.

When we heard from him in September, JAY COULSON '94 and wife Laura were expecting a baby girl in early December. At that time they had also relocated just north of Columbus where Jay planned to spend a lot of time mowing grass and remained employed with Banta Integrated Media. Find out more news from the Coulsons at 14155 Perfect Rd., Sunbury, OH 43074; jcoulson@banta-im.com.

BENJAMIN R. JORDON '95 has a change of address: 124 Mockingbird Lane, Decatur, GA 30030.

PETER BERGER '97 has moved to 16523 128th Ave. SW, P.O. Box 1424, Vashon, WA 98070. His e-mail is still peb@alum.mit.edu.

"Stephanie, Val (the dog), and I have completed our move back to the greater Boston area," writes PHIL LaFOND '98 (19 Abbott Place, Brockton, MA 02301; phil@lafonds.net). "Thanks to all of you who helped or offered to help us make the transition relatively easy. For those of you on the West Coast, keep in touch. For those of you in the Midwest, thanks for the day on the water, and for those of you on the East Coast, give us a call!"

Please note this new address for MATTHEW S. RECHTIN '99 of 674 Haight St., #2, San Francisco, CA 94117; mrechti@alum.mit.edu.

"I'm working in Palo Alto and living in Mountain View now. I'll throw a housewarming party as soon as I have furniture (which could mean years)," writes KENNETH W. CONLEY '01. "There's a beer in the fridge for anyone who wants to stop by. Any tips as to where to get a good beer/die table are appreciated." Ken's new address is 541 Del Medio Ave., #205, Mountain View, CA 94040; conley@alum.mit.edu.

After decimating Boston with his special brand of money love, the fifth *Beagle*, alias ANDREW HOGUE '01, has been spotted heading south toward the center of the known universe, New York, to work on Wall Street for Kinexus. He also proposed to his girlfriend of four years, Tiffany, and they plan to marry in June. His last known whereabouts were 4 Rock Ledge, Oakland, NJ 07436; ahogue@alum.mit.edu.

"I hope all is well at Beta, and my blessings go out to anyone who may have friends or family involved in today's tragedy," CHETAK RESHAMWALA '01 wrote on September 12, 2001. Visit "Chet" in Boston at 464 Commonwealth Ave., #51 (zip code 02215), or e-mail him at chetak@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

B. ALDEN CUSHMAN '24 on November 17, 2000; WALTON H. MARSHALL JR. '35 on July 13, 2001; HENRY C. QUIGLEY '50 on July 27, 2000.