Momentum From Centennial Strengthens Delta’s Bonds

The first year of Delta’s second century is drawing to a close. It has been an extremely busy year for all of us. We have retained the momentum Centennial gave us and are utilizing it to strengthen our bonds of brotherhood by participating in a wider range of activities than we ever did before. Our visibility on campus, our ties with officials and organizations at MIT, our relations with neighbors and with other fraternities...all of these are on the upswing. Going into my senior year, I look for nothing less than the best for Theta Xi, and I am optimistic about the future.

We are putting much time and effort into community service projects this term. Almost everyone in the house helped out at MIT’s blood drive, organized by freshmen Chris Neils, D869, and Dan Chang, D872. In addition, 15 brothers each gave a pint of blood. Our second Miracle Mile for MS (multiple sclerosis) was held on April 3. We placed all of the change and bills on pieces of masking tape that extended the entire length of the “infinite corridor” at MIT—more than an eighth of a mile. This year we raised over $1,300 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, making it our most successful fund-raiser ever! Dan Ebroon, D864, was overall coordinator of this event, with help from Matt Thompson, D870, on publicity. Last, we participated in the Kenmore Squarefair held on April 12. This event was another MS fund-raiser—charging contestants to paint over a beat-up car donated by an area junkyard. Jason Crain, D866, and Keith White, D837, organized the fair. All in all, our community service record is improving immensely. If you have any suggestions for us in this area, please let us know.

Delta Chapter held its first-ever “house retreat” at Lynn Woods Reservation on March 16. Thirty-two brothers participated in some interesting discussions, a picnic lunch, frisbee tossing, and ballplaying, and everyone just generally had a great time. The whimsical clouds in the March skies parted for us, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves outside in the sun. Our goal was to grow closer together as a house, and in this, the retreat was a tremendous success. We hope to be able to do something like this every year.

MIT held its first Greek Week from March 31 to April 5. Several fraternities and sororities held events open to the MIT community. Theta Xi cosponsored a cookout with Alpha Chi Omega, MIT’s second (and newest) sorority. We had the women of Alpha Chi over for a buffet dinner in March, which went very well. We all enjoyed the cookout and the rest of Greek Week, which also included a field day, casino party, and a pub night/darts tournament, as well as assorted other events.

As my term of office draws to a close, I would like to thank the top-notch team of officers I worked with this past term. Without them, none of these activities would have been possible. I feel that by participating in these events as a house, we have become closer and stronger than ever. I look forward to seeing the house progress further in the years ahead.

“Have we got a drink for you!” claim David Sperry, D835, and Wallie Everett, D863.

Delta Digest Keeps Alumni Up-To-Date On Chapter

With this issue of the Delta Digest, we would like to bring you up-to-date on the status of the Delta Chapter of Theta Xi. By keeping you informed, we develop a closer relationship between alumni and the active chapter, as well as allow for another means of communication among Delta brothers.

We thank you for helping us keep track of your current addresses, careers and professional positions, and personal and family news, which are always of interest to us. Please continue to inform us about you or your classmates, since this is vital to our communication efforts. The letters that you send to the house are always posted and read by all of us.

We hope that this Digest achieves its informative purpose and that it also brings some enjoyment to you.

YITB,
Abelardo V. Bal, D855
Secretary
Chapter Organizes Treasury To Aid Collection Of Debts

Organization has recently become a key goal for the treasury. Our treasury is making many efforts to create a more organized and detailed system for collecting debts and supporting house budgets and functions. As we reported in the previous Delta Digest, the spring 1986 term bill was increased, the first increase in more than three terms. After reviewing the housing corporation’s annual report, we realized that the most significant result of the increase in term bills was an improvement in the quantity and quality of food. In fact, many people have commented that the quality and availability of food has improved. An organized, ongoing budget is being kept, detailing how much our meals cost and how much food is wasted.

Other changes include the purchase of an AT&T 6300 personal computer with printer, modem, hard disk, and expanded memory. The dBASE files are currently being modified to include every aspect of the treasury—not just personal accounts. Also, bills are being printed on a more periodic basis so that actives and alumni have much more reliable notification of current debts. Finally, we have a bit of good news for the recent alumni using our Sprint code. The volume discount will be included once again for all alumni who are keeping up on their payments of their monthly bills. Payment of alumni bills has increased dramatically since the bills have been issued more regularly and reliably.

Yours in the Bonds,
Roger Carpenter, D856

Brothers Fend For Themselves For A Week In Kitchen

The big steward story for this issue of the Delta Digest is about Chay, our cook. As of March 31, 1986, he became the proud father of a bouncing baby boy. He has named the boy Jimmy because it is an American name. Jimmy is Chay’s second child; his first is Nancy.

As a result of this momentous event, the house has been trying to survive for a week without a cook. After being served the “fine cuisine” that the brothers have cooked, everyone is looking forward to the return of Chay.

Other than that, brothers go on eating and complaining. Their newest joy is the reintroduction of pea soup as a dinner.

YITB,
Brian DeCleene, D858
Steward

Theta Xi Social Program Roars Into The Home Stretch

The brothers of Theta Xi are on the home stretch of another roaring social term. As our social scene expands, so does our collection of poster artists. We are now making the transition from the famous Dave Weissberg, D823, era. Although Dave still makes guest appearances, Alys Longworth (a little sister) and Joe Matarsee, D854, are drawing a new look for Theta Xi.

We fought the winter chill in February with our third “island trip.” The idea was initiated by Bob Rozier, D818, John McCrea, D812, and others and carries the name of Bob’s famous drink, the Island Trip.

Matt Scott, D822, and Dave Weissberg, D823, sponsored a masquerade ball at the house, and it was a great success. Other new events included a mixer with MIT’s newest sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. Our other sorority friends, however, were not left out; as Jeff Johnston, D857, and Keith White, D837, led a midnight kidnapping raid of Alpha Phi’s newest sisters on their initiation night. Brother Jim Janosky, D851, brought culture to our social scene with a nine-course gourmet meal. And of course, we will be organizing the Spring Weekend concert for, I believe, the fifth year in a row.

Hope to see you all at 62941!
Brothers Sponsor Second Miracle Mile For MS

The Delta Chapter of Theta Xi organized and sponsored the second Miracle Mile for MS on April 3. The Miracle Mile is a fund-raiser that we held in the “infinite corridor” at MIT. We started by laying tape, sticky side up, at the beginning of the “infinite corridor,” just outside Lobby 7. Four or five brothers stood beside the tape in the hallway and asked passersby to donate their loose change to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis. As people donated their change, we laid their coins end to end along the adhesive tape.

About 30 brothers helped out with the event: I organized the fund-raiser, Matt Thompson was in charge of making signs, Phil Fusco lent advice (he organized the first Miracle Mile two years ago), and a great many brothers each spent a couple of hours collecting change in the corridor. Those who passed through the “infinite corridor” on that day witnessed Theta Xi brothers, their Greek letters announced on their shirts, reaching their goal of lining up the donated money to the very end of the corridor. All in all, we raised over $1,300 through our collecting efforts, which lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Without a doubt, everyone passing through the “infinite corridor” formed a very positive image of Theta Xi and what we stand for.

YITB,
Dan Ebroon, D864

Rush Preparations Begin At Delta Chapter

Spring break is behind us now, and with its passing, the real fervor of rush preparations has begun. The house has had a fairly productive spring rush. We have had close to 20 prefrosh rushing, and although many of them were not admitted, there are several good prospects among those who were. Our sophomore class has been quite motivated, as usual, and from all indications will be helpful for rush. Progress on the rush book is looking good, thanks to help from Henry Brush, D844, and several other brothers who are helping out with photography.

Over the past several years, Theta Xi has enjoyed a very successful rush program. One of the biggest reasons for its success is summer rush and all of the effort we put into it. Once again we are placing great emphasis on a strong summer rush in hopes of continuing this excellence. One key to the success of our summer rush has been alumni participation, especially in areas where there are few or no actives. Such alumni support is truly above and beyond the call, and it certainly impresses the freshmen. I’d like to extend an invitation to each of you to participate in the summer rush. This year we are already planning activities in the following locations: Seattle, Washington; Chicago; New York; New Jersey; Philadelphia; Washington, DC; Connecticut; California; and Boston. Many of the details are yet to be worked out, but if you’re interested in attending an event or helping out in any way, please contact me. I can be reached at the house or by phoning 215/355-8274.

All alumni are encouraged to stop by the house during rush. This year the festivities begin on the evening of Friday, August 29, and run through Monday, September 1. Please join us!

YITB,
Sean Jennings, D848
Rush Chairman

Maintenance And Restoration Continue At 66

As my term as house manager draws to an end, a little reflection is in order. The physical plant is in good order and our ongoing maintenance and restoration work will ensure many more years of fun-filled use.

Organizing Help Week was by far the most important part of my job. It was also the most fun. We continued the restoration work in 66 front commons, carrying on the momentum of past terms. After our hard work on them, several doors and another large section of oak paneling once again display their natural wood beauty. The piano room was painted to match the rest of commons, and the dining room received new wallpaper. To counterbalance this conservative look, the back stairwell was painted a nice cheery orange. We also worked on all of the closets, creating more usable space for the brothers, and the front closet is now thoroughly mouse-proof. The hard work and dedication of Phillippe Fusco, D850, the pledge class of ’86, and the entire brotherhood made Help Week a great success.

Other projects we have planned this term include finishing the fourth-floor bathroom, replacing part of the floor in the basement bathroom, painting the pantry, installing a new thermostat, varnishing the dining room floor, and various plumbing jobs. These projects and the regular cleaning and maintenance work demonstrate the pride the brothers take in their house and the strength of our brotherhood.

It has been a rewarding experience, as well as a pleasure, to serve Theta Xi as house manager. Your traditions and mine are being passed on with enthusiasm.

Yours in the Bonds,
James Janosky, D851

Scholarship Program Increases Brothers’ Study Time

During the spring 1986 term Theta Xi’s scholarship program was helpful and informative. Brothers were urged to attend various lectures, seminars, cultural events, and exhibitions. The scholarship board on the second floor of 66 detailed various dates of interest, such as times and locations for open houses for freshmen. Brothers were kept aware of upcoming due dates and events through periodical announcements and reminders. A successful faculty dinner was held the first week of April.

Overall, the brothers made the effort to create in the house an environment conducive to studying. People were careful to play their stereos at reasonable levels at the appropriate hours. Study breaks were held at earlier hours of the evenings so that one could get back to work after breaking. In conclusion, it was nice to see people studying at the house.

Throughout the term, several of the officers have been preparing guides to their respective offices, and I, too, have prepared a guide and purpose to the scholarship office. This guide will help future officers to have a solid footing in the office, thereby allowing them to concentrate more on initiating new programs and less on cumbersome details.

YITB,
Sean Jennings, D848
Rush Chairman

Ofer Jacobowitz, D863
Scholarship Chairman
DELTA DIGEST

Delta Digest is published regularly by Delta Chapter of Theta Xi Fraternity at MIT for its members and friends. Address changes, photographs, and news items may be sent to Theta Xi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 575, Cambridge “A,” MA 02139-0575.

A retiree from the DuPont Company, HERBERT L. HAYDEN ‘23 celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary in June 1984. He writes that he drives a car with handicap plates and that he has given up hockey and tennis, which he played competitively until he was 73. Brothers can write to Herb at 942 Main St., Lancaster, MA 01523.

Having retired from the Agency for International Development, CURTIS H. BARKER ‘51 moved to Florida, where he’s “enjoying a 28’ Carver Flybridge sedan in the waters around Sanibel Island.” He also enjoys field trips through the local nature center. (One trip was skin diving with manatees.) Curt also acts as arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau to settle disputes between car manufacturers and consumers. About his early retirement, Curt sends a thought for the day: “If youth is wasted on the young, retirement is wasted on the old! Do it now! It’s fabulous!” Send your news to Curt at 101 SW 50th St., Cape Coral, FL 33914.

KENNETH P. KATZ ‘85 asks that mail be sent to him at his new address: 4334 Gadsden, #101, Lancaster, CA 93534.

“As we promised at the Centennial celebration,” writes GREGORY J. MACCALLUM ‘81, “we have moved back to New England. I will let you know more after I find employment.” If you know of any jobs for this chemical engineer, write to him at 34 Curtis Ave., Apt. P-8, Marlboro, MA 01752.

When he wrote to us in February, JOHN K. McCREA ‘84 was still working in MIT’s investment real estate office, “learning more,” he writes, “than I care to about the business world. I am saving my money and plan to expatriate in late May. By then I will have acquired dual citizenship with the Republic of Ireland—exit #1 from the slow lane of career advancement. Over there, they don’t tax the income of artists. My return flight, should I decide to take it, is in November, but my hope is to find a more suitable home overseas, far from the yuppies who now dominate the Boston scene.” We wish John good luck in his new environment. The last address he sent us was 497 Beacon St., #5, Boston, MA 02215.

The president of Ostergaard Associates, PAUL B. OSTERGAARD ‘49 was recently installed as president-elect of the Consulting Engineers Council of New Jersey. His consulting firm specializes in acoustics and has worked on projects all over the U.S., South America, and Europe. In addition to his new position on the Consulting Engineers Council, Paul stays active in many other groups and acoustic organizations. Paul lives with his wife, Jacqueline, at 10 Glenwood Way, West Caldwell, NJ 07006.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following brothers:

RICHARD F. HARVEY ‘36, January 21, 1985
HARRY SODEN ‘31, January 4, 1986