Spirit And Unity Abound
At 66 Bay State

This has been a good term to be president. The job of the house president consists primarily of supervising the other officers and representing Theta Xi in the community. When the house officers are as responsible as they are this term, the job of supervision is an easy one, and when the house is unified by a cohesive active chapter and energized by 15 enthusiastic new pledges, the job of representing Theta Xi becomes an enjoyable one indeed.

The biggest news of this term has been the addition of 15 energetic, motivated pledges to the house membership roster. The drive of the freshman class has turned the house almost completely upside down. The pledges put our intramural soccer team into the championships and will probably do the same with our volleyball team; the pledges (with help from our social chairmen) have recruited about four waves of “regulars” for our parties from the Simmons freshman class; and the pledges, when they win the highest scores on their favorite video game at Captain Nemo’s Pizza & Subs, sign all of their names together as “TXI.” And three of the four competitors in the finals of beer pong (the 13th Annual R. C. Jones Beer Pong Tournament and Jamboree) this year were pledges.

A good example of the cohesive energy of the pledge class was provided by this year’s black light unicorn party (the annual pledge party). The entire class worked for two weeks prior to the party, with some pledges pulling up to three consecutive all-nighters to make the decorations as nearly perfect as possible. The effort was a success; all of the actives and alums in attendance agreed that the decorations (including a “radioactive” fountain, a net full of balloons, a strobe light, and art work on all of the walls) were the best they’d ever seen. The party guests were also impressed, and there were plenty of guests to be impressed. Groups from six to 10 other MIT fraternities showed up, as well as women from MIT, BU, Wellesley, Laselle, Emmanuel, and Lesley—and a sizable portion of the Simmons freshman class. When the party was finally over, the pledges crept out of the house on the eighth annual pledge walk-out, leaving the house uncannily quiet for the rest of the weekend.

The actives have, needless to say, been kept busier than usual teaching the pledges the many and various traditions of Delta Chapter. From beer pong to Saturday works, and from the workings of the little sister program to the workings of the dumbwaiter in the pantry, this class is rapidly learning the little details that make this house work. A graphic demonstration of the purpose of tradition was provided when the 8’x6’ mirror in the front room of 64 Bay State was broken by house guests from another fraternity at one of our parties, reminding one and all of the original spirit of the “no ball-playing in commons” rule that has been brought up and passed every term since the mirror was last broken in 1978. Thanks to the help of local alumni, the house can look back to that time for advice in replacing the mirror, showing in a small but effective way the cumulative memory that makes Theta Xi as a brotherhood greater than the sum of its parts.

This year’s pledge class is, as Tim Hazen, P4, wrote to alumnus Steve Russell, D842, “exuberant—I think that’s the right word.” As the energy of the pledge class infects the active chapter and the unity of the actives grows to encompass the pledges, the house is once again welcoming a new generation of future brothers into the great tradition of Theta Xi.
Delta Chapter’s Social Program Is Exceptionally Strong

As usual, all of the brothers at Delta have been enjoying our social program. So far this term we have had four well-attended house parties and several formal dinners, and we are looking into possibly doing some day excursions. We are also looking forward to the black-light pledge party, which promises to be quite amazing this year, given the enthusiasm of the pledge class.

Our success this term is no doubt due to the nearly 100 percent participation of brothers at our events. In addition, many local alums enjoy not only being at house parties and functions but just “hanging out” at the house.

Jim Gort, D867
Mark Milam, D868
Social Chairmen

Work Week Leaves House In Great Shape

Drawing on painful lessons from past years, organizers of this work week emphasized timing—getting done in time to rest up before rush began. Therefore, we avoided major building and set our to replace worn-out carpet and couches. A new set of couches in commons and a new set in the lodge room make the house a happier place to sit (or, for some, to sleep).

The pool room received a new coat of paint—in a thrilling off-white. A bit bland, maybe, but it doesn’t show the talcum powder! Since the commons carpet looks like the dance floor that it is, we purchased a gorgeous charcoal-blue replacement. However, shopping delays and a few rainy days prevented its delivery until during the freshman picnic. But no problem! Pledge Andy Parsons can apply his carpet-laying expertise to this surprise help week project.

This fall’s high level of athletic participation has made collecting the pledges for Saturday works difficult, but in spite of us all the ovens are still hot, the showers are wet, and the refrigerator varies with the season. “With a screwdriver and a pair of pliers you can fix anything, except the oven.”

YFHM,
Chris Neils, D869

Your Support Helps Keep Theta Xi Strong

Earlier this year we tabulated a list of Theta Xi alumni who had made contributions during our 1986-’87 operating year, which runs from September 1 through August 31. We would like to add to that list the name of Fujio Hayashi, D710, whose check we received after we published our honor roll.

As we begin our 1987-’88 fiscal year, we’d like to encourage our alumni to continue their support of Delta Chapter. The publication of this newsletter is made possible by your contributions, and we look forward to renewing the bonds of brotherhood through this and other alumni communications.
Theta Xi Heading Toward Strong Athletic Tradition

A look at the Theta Xi sports scene reveals competition at all levels. With the addition of an athletically active pledge class, the level of enthusiasm has reached unprecedented heights. The biggest surprise this year has been the Theta Xi Bozon B-league soccer team, which, after a 1986 0-7 record, exploded to a 4-0-1 record, missing the playoffs only because of an MIT intramural department screw-up (yes, it’s true . . .).

Speaking of beer pong, the 13th R. C. Jones Memorial Tournament and Jamboree took place in mid-October. After six hours of exhilaration, the combo team of pledge Adam Schwartz and alum Steve Russell, D842, emerged victorious.

With the winter season upon us and spring to look forward to, Theta Xi anticipates more chances for house accomplishments in intramural hockey, water polo, and (of course) volleyball.

Theta Xi has also truly come alive on the intercollegiate level, with 18 actives/pledges playing on varsity or junior varsity teams. Jim Gort '89 has emerged as the ace of the Beaver Ball Club's pitching staff with a 3-0 record. Matt Thompson '89, Mike Weidinger '89, Mark Cramer '90, and pledge Bob Bellis are all standouts on the junior varsity soccer team. Pledge Will Gorgen of the MIT sailing team has broken through as one of MIT's potential mainstays for the next few years. Pledges Tope Lawani and Chukes Mobisson successfully made the 1987-88 varsity basketball team, and Paul Zackin '90 and pledge Malcolm Cassell are gearing up for another successful season on the MIT ski team.

The Theta Xi rowing tradition remains strong, with three pledges on the frosh heavyweight team (Ed Munnich, Terry Totemeier, and coxswain Jim Weaver) and two on the frosh lightweight team (Andy Parsons and Adam Schwartz). A promising performance in the fall leads to expectations of a good racing season for varsity crew members Chris Neils '89 (heavyweight), Dan Chang '89 and Kedron Wolcott '90 (both lightweights). Chris Neils, by the way, is the varsity stroke for the heavyweights this year.

The continued rise in the ability of Theta Xi sportsmen promises a great tradition to be established for the future.

Chukes Mobisson '91
Jock Comm

Our Alumni
Share Their News

HARRY W. SHIMMIN’s ('31) wife, Betty, reported to us that Harry had a rough several months this past fall, "but is getting along fairly well now with a walker." Send your best to Harry and Betty at 6-839 Tarson Blvd., Lady Lake, FL 32659.

"We spend half of the year in Zephyrhills, Florida," writes PERCY L. FARMER JR. '40. His permanent address is 10 Derby Rd., Apt. #6, South Portland, ME 04106.

Retiree ROBERT R. IMSANDE '42 reports, "Not a great deal new. Betty and I have traveled extensively since retirement—over 80 countries on six continents. And more to go." Bob recently finished taping a Jeopardy program. "Came on strong in the early going, but ran out of steam." Send your regards to him at 1416 Westwood Place, Escondido, CA 92026.
Rush Ends Triumphanty
For Delta Chapter

It is often by the quality of a fraternity's rush that the fraternity is judged. If a rush is unsuccessful, house spirit drops; and, if future rushes are also poor, the fraternity may have to dissolve. However, a successful rush not only guarantees the fraternity's survival, but also generates enthusiasm among its members: The spirit is high. Fortunately, we had a very successful 1987 rush.

Let's consider the challenge. Over the past four years, MIT has been increasing its female enrollment. As a result, the overall number of available men has been decreasing. Furthermore, dormitories have escalated their rush programs and provide serious competition for the fraternity system. The capstone is that, as a result of a difficult rush last year, all of the fraternities had increased their intended pledge class size. This year, fraternities were trying to attract the highest percentage of freshmen ever over 30 percent.

We started rush week on Thursday night with these barriers in mind. Our goal of 16 pledges was set "with blinders on." From my position as rush chairman, I was secretly willing to accept anything greater than 14, considering the problems described above as well as our small active chapter (23). Yet the goal was to be 16 or none! We retired early to prepare for the start of rush activities.

Saturday brought threats of the ultimate nightmare of rush: bad weather (da-da-da-dumm!). As a result, we changed our scheduled beach trip to a new event planned by last year's rush chairman, Sean Jennings. After our "Theta Xi House of Pancakes" gathering, everyone went down to the Prudential center, where we were going to have a barbecue in the grass courtyard. Despite our good intent, the Metro police apparently did not approve and came to extinguish our coals. Luckily, all of the freshmen had been fed. Then everyone went up to the skywalk, where visibility granted an incredible 10-foot view of clouds. Nevertheless, everyone had a good time.

Overnights for that evening proved to be a challenge. Many of the guys who had stayed on Friday night wanted to "see something else" for Saturday. Yet Theta Xi proved its strong mettle. Led by dynamic men from the junior and sophomore classes, we filled the house again.

We gave out initial bids the next morning. The day's two boating events, a canoe trip and Boston Harbor cruise, proved relaxing. We met more great freshmen. We expected the pledging to start in the afternoon, but after the bid party, we were well on our way. We had more than 15 pledges by that time. You could almost taste the tension in the air. We were rushing our classmates, the active chapter regained its enthusiasm.

The bid party that evening was ecstasy. Interspersed with the music of "Shake the Faith" (a band with enough wattage to remove plaster from walls) came the melodic ringing of the fire alarm for each pledging. When the dust had settled, we counted 14 pledges and a rush chairman with an inflated ego.

The icing was still to come. Four days later, on Friday, September 4, Dave Kim pledged. We had reached 15 pledges, and the house was riding on a wave of psyche.

How did other fraternities do? Many fell short of their needed class size. As a result, for the first time a second "rush" was planned for midway through the semester. This benefits those fraternities that were more hurt by low numbers, as they could get new members as the overcrowded dorms lose some. One fraternity has even taken on two female borders to alleviate a financial dilemma.

Next year will prove to be even harder. Right now Theta Xi has a good thing going for it. But we cannot rest on our laurels. We need aggressive and innovative rushing. The next few years will be the testing ground for the strength of fraternities. Let's make Theta Xi the strongest.

Thanks to all those actives, alumni, and friends of the house who made rush successful. I hope your aid next year will be even greater.

Brian Decliene
Rush Chairman 1987
Meet Delta's 15 New Pledges

Fifteen people from around the country (actually, the world), pledged Theta Xi this year to form the largest pledge class in recent history. Of course, diversity comes with size. Meet this year’s pledge class:

Alan Beale—Milwaukee, WI. Alan is a navy ROTC. He loves movies and doesn’t feel at home unless he has invited a woman over with whom he can eat or do homework.

Bob Bellis—Binghamton, NY. Bob, also a navy ROTC, plays junior varsity soccer for MIT.

Malcolm Casselle—Coopersberg, PA. Malcolm, quick to throw a punch in any conversation, is a dedicated skier and has an appreciation for a wide range of music.

Jeff Evenham—Carmel, IN. Walking into Jeff’s room is like walking into an airplane hangar because of his huge airplane poster collection. Jeff also plays varsity volleyball.

Will Gorgen—Wayzata, MN. Will enjoys sailing, skiing, skateboarding, and “The Replacements.” His recent regattas as a member of the MIT sailing team have been quite successful.

Tim Hazen—West Milford, NJ. Tim can be found playing pool anytime. He’s interested in music, as the sounds of synthesizer and bass guitar coming from his room will attest.

Dave Kim—Wilmette, IL. Dave supplements the house’s strong Chicago-area contingent, bringing with him his artistic talents (we anticipate a great pledge party poster). He can be found playing pool with Tim most of the time.

Tope Lawani—Ibaden, Nigeria. Tope, with his experiences in Europe and Africa, adds an international flavor to the house as well as a serious threat on the pool table. He plays basketball for MIT and is generally very relaxed.

Matt McClusky—Helena, MT. Matt is always ready to party; in fact, his antics at parties provide much amusement during Saturday lunches.

Chukes Mobisson—Enugu, Nigeria. Chukes, our new jock comm, has a strong talent for basketball, which he hopes to display as a member of the MIT basketball team. He and Tope make up the entire Nigerian constituent of MIT’s class of 1991.

Ed Munnich—Minneapolis, MN. Ed, who still can’t believe the fortune of the Twins this year, enjoys soccer but has recently begun to row heavyweight crew. His ambition is to become a teacher (after he eliminates capitalism).

Andy Parsons—Marblehead, MA. If you wake up early enough, you might be able to catch Andy, who arises at ungodly hours to row lightweight crew and ride his bike.

Adam Schwartz—Worthington, OH. Adam is motivated in both academics and athletics. In addition to being a physics and math wizard, Adam plays soccer and rows lightweight crew.

Terry Totemeier—Terry spends a good portion of his weekends with his high school sweetheart, who now attends Wellesley (how convenient). He also rows heavyweight crew and owns an awesome Cannondale bike.

Jim Weaver—Thomaston, ME. Jim is getting his money’s worth at MIT, as he strongly pursues his academics while participating in crew as a coxswain.

A large pledge class means that a lot can be accomplished, especially with pledges as motivated as these. They may be the first class since the inception of the pledge party to actually accomplish significant preparation for it 10 days beforehand. Their hard work should ensure an excellent party.

Their successful pledgeship will gear them toward accepting the responsibility of becoming a part of the continuum that alumni and brothers represent.

YFPT,
Daniel Ebroon, D864

The Pledges Tell Their Side Of The Story

This year’s pledge class is awesome. Humility escapes me when I describe us. To start with the cold statistics, there are 15 pledges. The pledges have amazing geographic distribution—two from Nigeria and quite a few from “M” states: one from Montana, two from Maine, and three from Minnesota. Otherwise, Ohio, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois are represented. Yes, we are a class of the north, like one to keep an eye on Florida and California traditions.

Our majors conform to some bizarre ritual—in that half the pledge class is aero/astro. Alas, there are others: various engineers, a materials scientist, physicists and/or mathematicians, and even a linguist. Right now we specialize in hanging out in commons lest you think we are here to “nerd.”

How about sports? We are off to a great start! Two pledges have serious chances of playing varsity basketball; one is proving himself in varsity sailing, and there’s one varsity volleyball player. Five pledges are involved in freshman crew (one of whom is also on the cycling team!). One junior varsity soccer player is among us, and there is a lot of talk about alpine skiing. Tae Kwon Do is the sport for two guys, and we have turned the intramural soccer team into a winner.

Another element of our class is an interest in music. Ranging from playing Billy Joel tunes on the piano in commons or French horn in concert band to scratching L.L. Cool J or slam-dancing to the “Dead Kennedys,” the pledges demonstrate avid musical interest.

And the pledge party? At the time this article is being written, we are off to a great start, and it is still a week before the party. With 15 psyched pledges, we plan to make the “black light night” the best pledge party ever!

Speaking of parties, we have made a major contribution to the security of the house. With 6’3” Chukes Morbisson, who was already bouncing randomness at the Citgo V party (the first of the year), and Alan “Fridge” Beale, we have yet to worry about getting rid of rogues who want to get in.

What else? We have been called “the pool class” because of aces like Tope Lawani, who made a fortune in chips at casino night during rush. “The motivated class” would fit, too. We wanted to put a huge V on the Citgo sign for the Citgo V party. Jeff Evenham built a ladder in half an hour. The mission failed because the wood we had to use was badly warped, but not before Jeff made it to the top of the BU Bookstore. Adam Schwartz showed his manliness, on the other hand, by winning beer pong with help from Steve Russell, D842. Pledge brother Will Gorgen wasn’t as successful at the table, but made up for it under the table!

How did we pledge? Early and often! There were 13 pledges on the first day and one in the early hours of the next morning. One guy sent brothers on a wild hunt through Boston; they found him in Tiffany’s with a little sister, pretending to buy a $12,000 ring. The best planned pledging this year was supposed to have been done by Malcolm Casselle, who sent a telegram to the house saying that he wanted to pledge. The telegram was supposed to arrive just as he was leaving the house. Unfortunately, his heart bled when a little sister said she would cry if he didn’t pledge right then—the night before his telegram was to arrive. Other plans included pledging back-to-back on the roof and in the lodge room.

So why did we decide to pledge Theta Xi? One pledge summed up our feelings well: It was the combination of diversity and unity. We agreed at a recent pledge meeting that Theta Xi really feels like a family. Also, the house is great for meeting women! It is an awesome house, and it is definitely worth putting all of our efforts into. Whether doing Saturday works or security at parties, we take pride in it being our place.
Our Alumni News Continues


RICHARD P. WILLIAMSON JR. '57 is an engineer for the Polaroid Corporation in Waltham, Massachusetts. He writes, "My daughter, Jane, entered MIT this September with the class of '91. She was recently a guest at Theta Xi. A brother kindly showed her the '57 class picture with yours truly in crew cut and bow tie." Dick sent along a notice of the death of RICHARD W. WILLARD '51. "Dick Willard was our chapter advisor in the '50s and a strong supporter of the Delta Chapter for many years." Dick Williamson makes his permanent address at 55 Yale St., Winchester, MA 01890.

The lab director of the Natural Energy Lab of Hawaii, THOMAS H. DANIEL '64 informs us that their rapidly expanding lab remains the only facility in the world pumping cold, pure, nutrient-rich seawater offshore from 2,000-foot depth. "This is being used in combination with warm surface water for research into both closed- and open-cycle Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). Additional research on aquaculture using the cold water has led to several burgeoning commercial projects growing such delicacies as abalone, Maine lobster, mori (Japanese seaweed), and microalgae." He and Alice have a five-year-old son, Michael. They would like to hear from any old friends visiting their "big island." Send your best to them at 75-1508 Ka Imi Nani Dr., Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

SCOTT E. CUTLER '73 reports an address of 7207 Lake Mead Blvd., Arlington, TX 76001, and writes, "The good news from down here is my recent promotion to vice president, Tandy Computers software design." Send Scott your congratulations.

Having recently moved, CHARLES F. HARRISON '74 provides a new address of 7945 18th Ave., Adelphi, MD 20783.

I am now living in the Dayton, Ohio, area," pens FUJIO HAYASHI '74. He'd like to hear from any other alumni living in Ohio or Indiana. He is the director of planning for the Mead Corporation and resides at 7411 Rossmore Court, Centerville, OH 45459.

JAMES L. GEARY JR. '76 is a physicist for Berkeley Research Associates and makes his home at 6548 Lee Valley Dr., #304, Springfield, VA 22150. He writes, "My wife, Helena, and I moved to the Washington, DC, area two years ago. We have a one-year-old daughter, Debra. She is walking and getting into everything."

I am now working for Newport Corporation after spending a year in Japan working for Schlumberger," shares KEITH E. BENNETT '78. "Now I'm developing new products for laser and electro-optics research and spending several months per year in Japan. I'd like to hear from other Delta's who are or have been in Japan." Keith makes his home at 1206 Pine St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

"The news is baseball," writes JOHN D. ARENIWAR '79. "DAVID R. BARTON '77 is running his computer baseball game and has convinced some of us fanatics to join him in a Theta Xi league. The standings so far have MICHAEL F. KENNEY '79 (plus CHESTER G. ROWE JR. '80 and HOWARD S. BERMAN '82), followed by Dave, KENNETH J. DAVIS '76, myself, JAMES E. KRAFT '77, Jim's brother (Mike Kraft), HAL B. HINDMAN '77, STEWART K. MEHLMAN '76, and DAVID A. KATZ '80. Anybody out there have a spare pitcher?" He further writes, "I hear that J. SCOTT POUNDS '79 has a new daughter, so send him congrats." John also visited BRYAN H. FORSTON '82 at his new house in Atlanta in March. "The carpet really is red!" John is a chemist for Shepherd Chemical Company and receives his correspondence at 220 Loraine Ave., #2, Cincinnati, OH 45220.

"Just moved to 'Burbs with HOWARD S. BERMAN '82 and CHESTER 'Chuck' ROWE JR. '80," writes operations manager MICHAEL F. KENNEY '79. Drop them all a line at 6 Valleywood Circle, Winchester, MA 01890.

An engineer for ESL, Inc., GARY L. COHEN '80 informs us that CRAIG L. LAWSON '82 is back in California after a long trip "to the hinterland of the world (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, North Carolina, etc.)." Reach both Gary and Craig at 950 Lantana Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

ED MORGAN '81 is currently working for the U.S. Forest Service in southeast Alaska and can reached at P.O. Box 321, Fort Collins, CO 80522.

"Debbie finished her master's in computer science and now officially outranks me," writes GREGORY J. MACCALLUM '81. Greg is self-employed and makes his home at 38 Coburn Ave., Worcester, MA 01604.

"After two years at Northern Research and Engineering," pens THOMAS G. DAVIS '84, "I'm cashing in the last two years of my National Science Foundation Fellowship. I'm going to study engineering management at Stanford University." Tony's new address is 110 Webster, Apt. D, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

A happily married YOUNG SOO HA '85 informs us that he was married in May 1987. "I still hang around the MIT campus to play some volleyball or to teach Taekwondo. You lazy guys should come out to Taekwondo class at MIT; I need more brothers in the club." Young is a chemical engineer for Mermek Corporation and makes his home at 45 Golden Ave., Medford, MA 02155.

PATRICK D. LINCOLN '86 started graduate school in the fall and can now be reached at 7201 Wood Hollow, Apt. 2823, Austin, TX 78731.

STEPHEN W. RUSSELL '87 shares with us that he is a PhD student in the department of materials science and engineering at Cornell. He writes, "Ithaca is a great little town, a mere six hours from Boston, and all Theta Xis are welcome to road trip out here anytime." Steve has been keeping in touch with JAMES A. FERRARA '87, who is finishing a master's in materials science at AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey. "He is about to apply to grad school for his PhD and may even end up here at Cornell with me. I'd love to know if there are any Delta alums living in Central New York State (i.e., Syracuse, Rochester, Binghamton, and especially the Finger Lakes Region). You can contact me at 607-273-4135." Steve resides at 309 Eddy St., #6, Ithaca, NY 14850.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

E. STANLEY BOGERT '27, February 10, 1987
RICHARD W. WILLARD '51, October 5, 1987