Delta Chapter Continues To Grow And Prosper

As Delta Chapter approaches its 105th anniversary, the house remains very strong. Thirteen new freshmen pledged Theta Xi, bringing the house's membership to its legal limit of 41 people. With so many members, the house is lively, excited, and motivated.

After a summer with only about a dozen brothers living in the house, actives converged on Boston in late August. With the help of strong alumni support, we now have pledges from all corners of the country, including Seattle, Oakland, Orlando, and Puerto Rico. We all immediately celebrated the success of rush weekend with the traditional band party, featuring the popular Boston band Skin, followed by the Citgo VI. Jeff Evernham, D884, and Jim Weaver, D888, let the entire city of Boston know about Friday's party when they hung a huge Roman numeral VI from the Citgo sign in Kenmore Square.

Shortly afterward, all of us were ready to face the start of the school year. Everyone, that is, except for the junior class, which revived its pledge walkout the first weekend after school started and climbed Mount Washington in New Hampshire. In answer, the pledges took their walkout in mid-October, spending the weekend at Cape Cod. After their stay, they returned our forks, pool balls, and liquor and, in addition, brought back a 3' x 3' Citgo sign for commons.

Many aspects of living in the Back Bay have not changed. The Harvard Bridge is still under reconstruction, and we still get raised eyebrows from the neighbors, especially during good parties. However, there are some interesting changes that have taken place, especially regarding our alcohol and party policies. The city of Boston has passed legislation restricting the amount of alcohol a dorm may have in its possession. Right now, it is unclear whether or not this policy will be forced onto the many Boston fraternities. Nevertheless, this legislation, combined with the newly implemented and stricter IFC party policy, has resulted in far fewer parties around campus this year. Despite these changes, though, a Theta Xi's social life is more exciting than ever. The social schedule this term includes, among other things, two band parties and a formal at the Cambridge Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Motivation in the house is strong. We have a great deal of support for our intramural teams. We have enough interested brothers to provide our teams with fans as well as players. In addition, we have continued our philanthropic work with another “car bash” during the Kenmore Square Fair and once again raised money for the national Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. It never seems like we have a shortage of volunteers for all the things that need to be done around the house. All in all, despite the usual load imposed by MIT, spirits are high, and the house continues to grow and prosper.

On the horizon, we look forward to welcoming a new class of brothers into the bonds of Theta Xi. Our 6294 is not too far away, and it won't be long before another class of actives become alumni. As more pledges become actives, and more actives become graduates, the spirit and the attitudes that are Delta Chapter will perpetuate the ties of brotherhood at Theta Xi well into our second century.

YITB,
Daniel Ebroom, D864
President
Theta Xi Begins Its Fall Sports Program

Faced with the start of a new academic year, the Theta XIs of the Delta Chapter began their annual assault on the autumn playing fields. Although kept out of football competition by a scheduling error, the house has fielded MIT intramural teams in soccer and cycling. Under the traditional name of The Bozons, Theta Xi started the promising soccer schedule with a pair of losses but has since improved its record with a tie and a win. Coming off a 3-1 victory over PSK, the much improved team awaits the final games of the season.

On the asphalt road, the Theta Xi cycling team of Matt Thompson, D870, Terry Totemeier, D890, and Andy Parsons, D895, captured first place overall in the intramural cycling 32.8-mile road race, with third place going to Matt, fifth to Andy, and 11th to Terry, who experienced a flat tire.

On the IM tennis courts, the house had enough interest to field two teams. The first team, comprising the more serious players, pushed its way to a 2-1 record and has a good chance of making the playoffs. The second team is trying to better its 1-2 record.

The brothers of Theta Xi are also involved in MIT intercollegiate athletics. Theta Xi has four upperclassmen on the varsity crew team, which participated in the annual Head of the Charles. The freshman crew team (on which the house has seven members) is on its way to mastering the art of rowing. Soccer and baseball seasons are rolling along, with several house members participating in each. Bob Bellis, D885, and two-time scorer Mark Cramer, D876, are active in junior varsity soccer. Veteran MIT pitcher Jim Gort, D867, has completed the fall season and eagerly awaits the spring, when he can reactivate his arm and continue showing rookie Rich Tanner, P#9, the ropes. Will Gorgen, D893, has been representing Theta Xi on MIT’s sailing team at regattas throughout the Northeast.

As the fall sports wind down, the winter and spring ones are just starting. On the varsity level, Tope Lawani, D883, has joined the MIT squash team and is the team’s youngest player by three years. Chukes Mobisson, D891, is starting his second year on the varsity basketball team. He is playing second string on a team that may prove to be the best in MIT’s history. For cross-country skiing, the house will have two representatives: Andy Parsons, D895, and Terry Totemeier, D890. Jeff Evernham, D884, will again be playing on MIT’s volleyball team.

On the intramural level, Theta Xi will have its usual C-league hockey matches and B-league volleyball games to prepare for as well as A-league basketball games. The hoopsters expect to do very well, and, as a consequence, I have already received serious threats—threats sure to be carried out if I do not get them registered on time.

YITB,
Pete Jacobs, P#9
Jock Com

Fish Stories?

Whether you’re actively working or actively retired, we’d like to hear about it.
Send us your news for the next issue of this newsletter.
Our House Manager Reports

Work week went well this year, as we encountered no major problems during our annual fix-up of the house. This was probably due to the fact that there were no major projects. For the most part, we tried to get everything in the house working and looking sharp without starting any huge reconstruction jobs. However, Dan Chang, D872, and Malcolm Casselle, D889, constructed a massive loft in AT&T north, while Adam Brandt, D881, lowered the loft in third rear 66 to obtain more headroom for sleeping. Additionally, we did refinish the floors in the piano room and library and still managed to finish work week by early evening on Thursday so that everyone was well rested for the start of rush week on Friday.

There has been increased concern about fire safety around the house over the last few months, and, as a result, we are taking greater care in making sure that all fire extinguishers are charged and accessible on all floors. We also installed a new sprinkler system over the stove and fryer in the kitchen to replace the aging one that was emptied last year at the 6294 banquet.

Saturday works have been going well, and the pledges seem to be a very enthusiastic group. With their efficiency, we may be able to start some large projects during this year’s help week.

Jason Crain, D866
House Manager

A “Smashing” Fund-Raiser Held

October has rolled around again, and, with it, another Kenmore Square Fair has come and gone. We decided to participate in the fair to help improve community relations and to help raise funds for our fraternity’s charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. To do this, we provided people with an opportunity to take their frustrations and aggressions out on a donated car. By the end of the day, the results were two broken sledgehammers, the remains of what used to resemble a car, and $200 raised for MS.

Everyone had a good time (who doesn’t like to smash windows?), and the brothers received Kenmore Square Fair ’88 T-shirts for their participation.

YITB,
Alan Beale, D887
Community Relations
Chairperson

Undergrads Overcome The Challenge Of Rush

There are many things to note about this year’s rush. It was the first time in four years that rush started from Killian Court, providing a new experience for everyone. It was another rush with rain; the canoe trip needed no splash fights to get us wet. It was a rush where the majority of the actives were participating for the first time. But most of all, it was a very successful rush.

Aside from the rain, all of the events went well. Everyone had the most fun on the harbor cruise, where an enclosed deck kept us out of the rain. Yet the level of excitement at the boat cruise was only a hint of what Monday would be like.

How well did it go? We were looking for 11 to 12 pledges. We extended 15 bids, and 13 freshmen accepted. They wasted no time before pledging, with the alarm ringing promptly at 8:00 a.m. By 8:15, seven had pledged, and by 9:20, we had 11 new members, enabling us to go “code zero” after a mere hour-and-a-half!

Needless to say, everyone was exuberant during the band party, which featured Skin. The band’s members said that it was “one of the best parties we have ever been to.”

This is not to say that rush was easy. There were many stumbling blocks along the way, and MIT’s demographics continue to make rush increasingly complicated. Rush is always a great challenge, and each year we must use the lessons we have learned in the past to improve it. Our alumni, especially past rush chairmen, have been very helpful in this area, and if it weren’t for all of the alumni help that we receive each year, our rush simply would not work. Thanks to all the alumni and friends of the house for making this rush successful. Next year let’s go for “code zero” at 8:30!

YITB,
Steve Carter, D873
Rush Chairman

Two Attend The 1988 Theta Xi National Convention

Steve Carter, D873, and Mark Cramer, D876, attended the Theta Xi National Convention of 1988. This year, three legislative meetings were held to discuss current Theta Xi National issues. Main issues were liability insurance, risk management, and little sister programs. Theta Xi is now insured with the Fraternity Insurance Purchasing Group and is in coalition with 17 other fraternities. This combines with National’s new risk management policy, which, among other things, sets guidelines for parties and improves fire safety. By implementing these guidelines and increasing insurance, Theta Xi hopes to reduce its liabilities and to be protected if necessary. As far as little sister programs go, it was nearly unanimous that Theta Xi chapters wish to retain them.

A few workshops were also held. They were interesting, but were not of major importance to the Delta Chapter. Steve and Mark attended workshops on the Theta Xi ritual, money management, and AIDS.

All in all, the national convention was a very worthwhile experience. Mark and Steve learned a great deal about how Theta Xi runs nationally and about how policies are made. When they returned to the house, they relayed many of the higher points of the convention to the brothers.

YITB,
Mark Cramer, D876
Steven Carter, D873

Tim Hazen, D882, takes out his frustrations on an old Plymouth at the Delta Chapter’s "car bash" in this year’s Kenmore Square Fair. The event raised over $200 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.
The Steward Goes Stir-Fried
With Some Opposition

I must say that being steward this term has indeed been an interesting experience. Everyone in the house seems relatively happy, and this tends to make the steward a happy guy.

I'd like to tell you about the latest controversial dinner—stir-fried vegetables. The house, in accordance with tradition, is packed with bloodthirsty carnivores who seemingly cannot make it through an evening meal without consuming some type of red meat. I had run for the office of steward on the platform of serving "more interesting and more nutritious" meals. In accordance with my promise, I developed a stir-fried vegetable dish to incorporate into the meal rotation plan. The reactions to this meal were mixed; overall, the active chapter of the house has somewhat accepted it, but at each serving of the meal, practically all 15 pledges (except the really starving or desperate ones) mysteriously disappear. I continued to serve the meal (once every week), hoping that the pledges would accept it. Instead, things got worse. I awoke one morning to find a generous portion of cold, slimy, stir-fried vegetables (from the previous evening's meal) crammed into my mailbox. This was war!

I continued serving the meal, with a few more pledges appearing at each dinner, but I still met considerable pledge class opposition. I have finally broken down and will try a "compromise" dinner of stir-fried vegetables and chicken. Wish me luck!

As for the day-to-day things, Chay is still faithfully cooking for us. His recent illness has weakened him, so we have reduced his working hours for the week to ease the strain on him. He no longer cooks us breakfast, so the brothers feast upon cold cereal, waffles, oatmeal, and bagels, instead. Kedron Wolcott, D877, my reliable assistant, continues to rule with an iron hand in dealing with the delegation of worklist jobs, and the ship seems to be sailing quite smoothly.

Bon appetit!
Andy Parsons, D895
Steward

The Social Scene At Delta Chapter
Proves Fun For All

The social scene at Theta Xi is, in our unbiased opinion, the best ever. If it is any indicator of the situation, we were forced to close the last party due to overcrowding. Our reggae band party, featuring Boston's Mighty Charge, was simply amazing, and the black light party still awaits. We're sure our rowdy crew of pledges will make it a glowing success.

In addition to the usual, we have lots of innovative goodies for the starved MIT socialite. We have purchased a house VCR, and Adam Brand, D881, built a very powerful pair of speakers for house parties and rock'n'roll Tuesdays. There's King Richard's Faire, a medieval festival with plays and jousting; a social mixer with Alpha Chi Omega; and a closed party at Wellesley. The most exciting event on the horizon is the Theta Xi formal at the Cambridge Hyatt Regency Hotel, where we will dine and dance. In conclusion, the term looks very promising, and brothers should have no problem leaving the pressures of MIT behind. Here's to a great year!

YITB,
Matt McCluskey, D892
Tope Lawani, D888
Adam Schwartz, D896

Jeff Everham, D884, and Jim Weaver, D888, took pestering to a new height for this year's Citgo party.

Dave Kim, D886, deals another hand at the rush week casino party while alumnus Steve Russell, D842 (in the striped shirt), works over a potential pledge.
Theta Xi Boasts 13 Strong, Enthusiastic Pledges

It didn’t take long to find a pledge class to rival last year’s. This year’s 13 pledges are strong, enthusiastic, and good with a hack. They are motivated showerers and wizzes with Delta numbers, although they could become better friends with their quests. In the following lineup, each pledge is introduced by one of his pledge brothers:

Joaquin “Jimmy” Abreu is originally from the Dominican Republic and currently lives in New York City. With his adrenaline always flowing (perhaps a bit too much on walkouts), he is always willing to go to Popeye’s Chicken with you. A future aero/astro, Jimmy makes sure not to go to school too much, except when it’s time for crew.

Tim Atwood is a lifetime resident of Maine, and Brewer is his present home. He likes to play both basketball and soccer and is casually taking tae kwon do “as a hobby.” He plans on majoring in mechanical engineering and is fond of telling the Florida pledges that “it’s not cold yet!”

Sean Campbell hails from Syracuse, New York. His rowing efforts last summer have given him experience that makes him an asset to the MIT frosh heavyweight crew. Although few freshmen are respected at the pool table, Sean has cracked the top six on the TX pool ladder, a goal for many of the pledges.

Al Dietz is our representative from Maryland. Al loves to have a good time, whether with his electronic home entertainment center, his thrilling classes, or with an oar in a crew shell.

Mark Duggan is our closest pledge, and he is from Lynnfield, Massachusetts. A runner and a health nut, “Mahk” attacks Bruegger’s Bagel Bakery every morning and hopes to run indoor track this winter.

Pete Jacobs, a vintage Floridian, can always be spotted with shorts and a T-shirt, even in contrary weather. He is not certain of his major, but is unerringly loyal to Florida football teams. Pete also plays bass guitar.

Julian King is from Jamaica, bringing a flavorful accent and character but leaving his family behind to contend with 1988’s hurricanes. Planning to major in chemical engineering, Julian likes reggae and disco and is a smiling spark in the pledge class.

Paul Leuvano is from Longwood, Florida, and, unlike Tim Atwood, he thinks it is cold. Paul loves cars, hard rock, and his girlfriend. When he isn’t writing or calling Lori, he is convincing a brother of the “awesome power” of his ’77 Camaro. His claim: “If they’ve made ‘em, I’ve beat ‘em.”

A thoughtful type, Jim Martin hails from East Windsor, New Jersey. Jim can often be found in the wee hours of the morning pondering fraternal life at Theta Xi or just carrying on enjoyable conversation. Jim is interested in heavyweight crew and plans to be “edumocated” in physics at MIT. His dream is to do research in Russia.

Sun Jun Pak, or “Sonny,” as he likes to be called, comes to us from Bainbridge Island, Washington. While he was adamant in not joining crew, he does have good taste in music and can often be seen behind the turntables at house parties. Sonny plans to major in aero/astro engineering.

A novice but motivated coxswain form Utica, New York, Eric Portman invented the pocket billiards variation “Portman Ball” (in which the shooter must pocket his ball and scratch simultaneously in order to score). Other than running the pool table and defying the laws of 8.012, Eric concentrates on non-smoking females in cute little sports cars.

Rich Tanner likes the Oakland “A’s” (this is a bad year for him to be in Boston) and is the epitome of a California beach bum (even though he admits to not being able to surf). A pitcher for the MIT Beavers, Rich plans eventually to be a mechanical engineer.

Our representative from Puerto Rico is Guillermo Trinchet. His ambition is to be an electrical engineer, but his pledge brothers see him destined to spend his life fixing Citgo signs at gas stations around the country.

Having returned from their walkout with good stories and a great Citgo sign, the pledges are working on their party, but are keeping their plans secret. The rest of the fall term should be exciting as the pledges of ’92 apply their energies to their house activities. I hope you all get a chance to meet these guys.

YITB,
Chris Neils, D869
Pledge Trainer
We Hear From Our Alumni

EDWARD J. BACON '46 informs us that he has retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 33 years and that his wife, Marty, has retired from the National Institute of Health. "We hope to do some traveling (U.S. and abroad). With that in mind, we are cleaning up the house and hoping to rent it this fall and are planning a major improvement to our beach shanty in Rehoboth, Delaware, so we can spend extended periods of time there after this place is rented." Ed and Marty were to be in Illinois this October for the birth of their second grandchild to their daughter, Ann, and her husband. "Ann is an occupational therapist." Their first grandchild, born to their youngest son, Paul, lives in Hudson, Massachusetts. "Paul is employed in hazardous materials handling with a Boston firm." Ed further pens, "We expect to spend early 1989 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, fixing up son number one's (Stuart, a chemical engineer) former house so that it can be sold to provide him with a down payment for a home in Maryland. He is deep in genetics with a Rockville, Maryland, biotech firm." Ed has little contact with alumni, however; he does have frequent encounters with GUS REYES '45 and family. Send your best to Ed and Marty at 9808 Watts Branch Dr., Rockville, MD 20850.

"Having spent 20 years in the nuclear business," writes ARISTIDES MILOTIES '54, "I made a major change of profession about 12 years ago. We currently own two restaurant/gourmet/wine and cheese shops and are building our third—all in shopping malls. For those of you who come to Florida, we are on the west coast in the Clearwater area. Come see us." Aristides has seen DON MUDGETT '59 and BOB BYER '54 in the last two years and makes his home at 2115 Hickory Gate Dr. Dunedin, FL 34698.

EDWARD J. J. GRABOWSKI '61 informs us that he is still a chemist "involved in making drugs—the legal kind." He continues, "Have a group of about 20 responsible for designing practical syntheses for drug candidates. While on a lecture tour of California with wife Lenore and son David, we met with JOE ALEXIS '63. Joe lives in Modesto, and his course XXI studies have brought him to a VP at Wells Fargo Bank." Send your regards to Ed at 741 Marcellus Dr., Westfield, NJ 07090.

"I recently changed employment," announces ROBERT P. BYARD '77, "from defense software to medical imagery. This was due to a planned closing of ESL's office in Utah. My new company, OEC-Diasionics, makes a portable video x-ray system, and I am designing some of the image processing functions. Fun, fun, fun." Bob has three daughters (8, 5%, and 11 months) and makes his home at 9150 Stillwater Circle, Sandy, UT 84093.

PAUL S. LEWIS '78 proudly informs us that he completed his PhD in electrical engineering at the University of Southern California, in the area of digital signal processing. He writes, "Still living with my wife, Gwen, and sons Nathan and Jason in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and am working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory." Send Paul your best at 108 Aragon Ave., Los Alamos, NM 87544.

"I married Michele Byrdsong in Atlanta on June 4, 1988," announces BRYAN H. FORTSON '82. "Wedding guests included ERIC SHAIN '81 and his wife, Anne; JIM TROLINGER '84 and his wife, Joan; and ANDY FURMAN '85." Bryan continues, "I'll be headed for Los Angeles this fall to present a paper at an electronic and mechanical failure analysis conference, and I'm getting ready to run (after a fashion) the Atlanta Half Marathon this Thanksgiving. I'm hoping to do the whole thing next year." Send your congratulations to Bryan at 2910 Leisure Springs Circle, Decatur, GA 30034.

Summer Time at 64 Bay State Road

This summer, Theta Xi filled its rooms with brothers and boarders, making a fun time for all. Fourteen brothers and 24 summer boarders lived at the house. The boarders included women from Mount Holyoke, MIT, Wellesley, and Simmons. As summer house manager, Jeff Johnston, D857, kept 64 and 66 Bay State looking great. Jean Maha and Adam Schwartz, D896, were the social chairpeople and organized two open house parties. There were also several impromptu parties on the roof deck.

The weather was often in the upper 90s, but the extreme heat could not stop Theta Xis from taking advantage of Boston's offerings. Performances on the esplanade and the plethora of restaurants attracted many of the brothers and boarders. Adam Brand, D881, Jim Gort, D867, and Mike Weidinger, D871, took a road trip to Boston for the Fourth of July celebration. Other brothers camped out on the esplanade, obtaining excellent seats for viewing the Boston Pops and the fireworks.

The brothers kept themselves fit throughout the summer. Tim Hazen, D882, brought his weight set to the house, and the brothers kept themselves pumped up all summer long. When they were not at their jobs, internships, or just being lazy and getting a tan, they could often be found playing sports. There was a basketball crew that went to the MIT courts every evening. Many brothers kept in shape by taking road trips and holding rush parties all around New England.

As the summer drew to a close, the house emptied out, leaving only a few brothers. At any rate, the brothers who stayed in Boston really enjoyed themselves, and I'm sure next summer will have many Theta Xis partying the summer away at 64 Bay State Road.

YITB,
Adam Schwartz, D896Assistant Summer House Manager