A Note From The Corporation President...

Delta Chapter At A Crossroads

As I write this, it is Memorial Day—a time to honor those who fought for our country so that the rest of us may enjoy freedom. Memorial Day, at least in the Boston area, is a time for planting and growth. After another record winter, we have finally (we hope) moved past the danger of frost. At least this writer thinks so; his tomatoes are in the ground! As you recall, it is also a time for summer vacation plans or graduation celebrations.

Three-quarters of the way through our operating year, alumni contributions total $1,860 from 25 donors so far. In the prior year, 34 donors contributed $3,075. The 1993-94 year saw 39 donors contribute $3,930. This is a rather disappointing trend. A very big thank you goes to the 25 donors this year to date. If you have made a recent donation to add to the list, you have my thanks as well. If you have yet to make a donation, it is not too late. I hope that many of you just procrastinated or set it aside waiting to get to it later. Please give Delta Chapter your consideration.

I would like to share an interesting observation noted by the guest speaker at this spring’s award dinner. We are pledges for five months, active members for three and a half years, and alumni for the rest of our lives! Does our fellowship last for four years? I think not. I have the benefit of being geographically close to the chapter house. However, geography alone should not make us distant from Theta Xi—from continuing our contributions (and not just monetary) to our shared brotherhood.

Delta Chapter finds itself at another crossroads in its rich history. This spring 15 seniors graduate, and an undergraduate leaves the house this summer (continued on page two).

Alumni Rush Assistance Sought!

Dear Alumni:

Although rush is still several months away, the entire house has started preparing for it. Many of you probably know that with 15 graduating seniors, it is exceedingly important that we have a strong rush. Listed at right are the main events for rush '96. We hope to see many of you here; we know you would have fun at these events and that the incoming freshmen would also receive valuable information from “the wise” as they make their “living group” decision. So here is the schedule:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23
1) Clambake 2) Daiquiri
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
1) Beach trip 2) Casino night
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
1) Canoe trip 2) Boat cruise

Don Hyun, '96
Rush Chair

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Theta Xi Deltas And Friends Hit The Ski Slopes

About as early as garbage men wake up, about 30 Theta Xi actives, alums, and friends packed up their skis and headed for the slopes at Smuggler's Notch in Vermont. It was a pleasure to socialize with some of the older Deltas: Paul Levano, Keith Chatterji, Tim Atwood, Guillermo Trinchet, Matt Warren, and Sunny Pak. For weeks preceding the trip, there had been weather forecasts by professionals as well as cynical, amateur resident-meteorologists about how the slope conditions would be...well...grassy.... But, once we got there, it was clear that they were wrong. It was more icy than grassy, but with enough snow to make the mountains ski-able. I snowboarded for the first and last time that Friday and am now a proud owner of a right knee without any feeling.

After a good day's worth of skiing, we took advantage of the swimming pool and jacuzzi facilities, then bedded down in a spacious townhouse. Special thanks go to J. T. Hwang for planning the entertainment.

The next morning, we hit the slopes again. It blizzarded, hence a lot more snow and a good time was had by all.

From The Chapter President

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and recruitment. But the best thing about the program was that it gave brothers who may never meet again the opportunity to relate to one another. This was a great experience that allowed me to get advice from other chapters on forming a judicial committee and to give advice to other chapters about dealing with National.

With 15 seniors and a sophomore leaving next term, this leaves the expected count of actives at 19. With the room formerly known as “museum,” we are putting in new computers and a printer, hooked up to MIT’s network. This leaves the number of available rooms at 16. Rush is therefore our number-one goal right now. Don Hyun is our rush chairman, and, although it will be a tough job, we know Don will rig something so that it’ll all work out.

I tried something at house meetings that hadn’t been tried in my time here—requiring brothers to dress up. Since the house meetings have been held on Sundays at noon, most people just rolled out of bed when someone came around to wake them up. Since the dress code was established, I have not had to have a house circuit to gather/wake brothers for the house meeting. We still have those delinquent brothers who choose not to attend house meetings, but perhaps with the standards committee coming up with incentives for people to fulfill house duties, that will be taken care of.

As this school year winds down, I realize that in less than five weeks I will no longer be living in a house where someone is always up and that I will no longer be able to get together with my 15 pledge brothers to soak an unsuspecting brother with the hose. If I had to do it over again, I would choose Theta Xi all over again—the only difference being that I would start improving Theta Xi, and myself, a lot sooner.

Delta At A Crossroads

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expecting an active count of 19 in the fall (see other undergraduate articles). This makes our 1996 rush effort very crucial. So, you ask, as an alumnus how can you help? Put very simply: please help with summer rush. I am a Theta Xi because of summer rush. Mike Kenney, the previous corporation president, is a Theta Xi because of summer rush (it didn’t hurt that he was from Chicopec, either). So when a local active asks you to participate in summer rush, please provide whatever help you can. A little bit of your time and a little bit of your perspective about life at MIT as enriched by Theta Xi can continue your fellowship with a growing brotherhood. And soon we will reach D1000!

Thank you for your support!

Yours in the Bonds,

Michael Gagne, A954
Chapter President

Michael W. Dziekan, A725
Corporation President
Theta Xis Meet And Exchange Ideas
At Northeast Conference

This semester, seven men from Delta traveled to Gamma Mu for a regional conference of Theta Xi. Most of the brothers who had never been to a regional conference, me included. The trip really enlightened us and gave everyone new hope. We got to see what Delta does right and where we can improve in the areas of rush, risk management, and brotherhood.

Speaking with other brothers in the bonds about rush issues gave us much-needed confidence. As a rushing house, Delta is definitely on the right track. Our short rush period has honed our strategy and allowed us to adopt a good policy. We look for high quality people and get them to pledge without resorting to dirty rush tactics. The main difference I noted was our budget, which was far and away the largest in the region. With a very important rush in the near future, it is comforting to know that we are doing things right, and we can keep improving.

Risk management was another eye opener. A long discussion of BYOB/closed parties, substance-free chapters, and confrontation was helpful. Other chapters, especially Gamma Mu, gave lots of good advice. Delta has reduced many risks since I pledged, but still has problems. Our parties are still high risk, and some brothers still have lax attitudes toward these problems. One thing that comes up again and again is confrontation and accountability. We often allow brothers to put us at risk because we want to be tolerant. Some of the chapters at the conference encouraged us to see that some things, namely money and risk management, are more business than brotherhood. Delta took that advice and has formed a standards committee to decide how we should handle the tolerance vs. accountability argument.

After the discussions, everyone had a chance to see how other chapters initiate. Comments for the good afterward gave us all a chance to thank Gamma Mu for a great conference. Another interesting point: nearly every comment ended with the words, "...and I love my fraternity." It may seem a small detail, but it was something that I had never heard anyone say before, and it made for an uplifting end to the meeting.

All in all, the Northeast conference yielded some good results. New ideas and stories gave all who attended a sense of Theta Xi as more than just 64 Bay State Road. There are other brothers out there who share the bonds. Theta Xi eager to learn and grow, all working through the same problems, and willing to meet brothers were the highlight of the conference. We at Delta look forward to participating in future conferences.

Aaron Prazan, Δ968

A Senior Reflects On The Lessons Taught By Theta Xi

MIT and Theta Xi have been an enormous part of my life for the past four years. Now I'm asked to put down in words what these years have meant to me. I don't know that there are words to explain it, but I'll do my best.

One of the first things I have to talk about is learning. I have certainly done a lot of it while I've been here. MIT has taught me more about my field than I ever thought was possible to know, but Theta Xi has taught me things that are perhaps even more important.

One of the biggest lessons I've learned is that it takes all kinds. I grew up in a relatively wealthy area in northern New Jersey. For some reason, I thought that everyone I met at MIT would have come from the same kind of background. I soon realized that that was a huge misperception. In the time that I've been here, I've lived with people from vastly different backgrounds. Some grew up in some of the largest cities in the U.S.: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago. Some, like me, grew up in the suburbs of those huge cities. Still others grew up in the middle of nowhere (I suppose I should say "rural areas," but, having lived in the Northeast for the past 12 years, that's how I think of it).

In addition to drawing people from different backgrounds, MIT also pulls in a geographically diverse group. In these four years, I've lived with people from at least 21 states and six foreign countries. MIT attracts the brightest people from around the world. They come here because they're smart and because they have a strong desire to learn (a desire (continued on page four)
“Betty and I continue to travel extensively,” explains ROBERT R. IMSANDE ’42, retired for 12 years and living at 1416 Westwood Place, Escondido, CA 92026. “We have taken some 65 cruises during our marriage—plus driving throughout Europe, an African safari, and a world transit via Aeroflot. The latter was a real adventure not to be repeated. We visited much of Siberia, Mongolia (including several nights in a yurt camp), Samarkand, and other Central Asian areas. The only other Delta brother I hear from is PHIL UMHOLTZ ’42.”

When he wrote in April, FRANK J. GALLAGHER JR. ’45 and his wife, Dee, were planning a meeting in England in May with JIM CRITCHLOW ’45, NORM EVERETT ’48, JOHN RANDOLPH ’48, and NORVAL WHITE ’49 to walk the Cotswolds. Drop Frank a line at 14 Appletree Lane, Lexington, MA 02173-2421, to see how things went.

Correspond with DAVID A. BOCHER ’72 at 1111 W. 12th St., Apt. 114, Austin, TX 78703. He is in venture capital at Applied Technologies in Austin.

DAVID P. HAMILTON ’88 calls 5-31-2-202 Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154, JAPAN, home.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

JAMES F. HENDRICKS ’13

WALTER F. H. MATTLA GE ’28

October 3, 1995

AGUSTIN W. REYES ’48

November 6, 1995

Lessons Taught By Theta Xi

(continued from page one)

that occasionally even survives freshman year). Theta Xi has provided me with the opportunity to become close with a lot of those people and learn from them things that I never would have imagined. A few examples:

- If you meet someone from the former Czechoslovakia, make sure you know which part he’s from before addressing him. Slovaks do not like to be called Czechs.
- People from Berkeley, California, are not as fascinated by “the naked guy” as the rest of the world seems to be. After asking about it one time, the response I got was, “Which one? There’s not just one naked guy.”
- Korean for “computer science” is “computer science-nah.”
- Midwestern for “soda” is “pop.”
- Some Mormons are surprisingly skilled in the construction of weapons. It is possible with just a few household items (black powder being considered a household item in Washington state) to construct pipe bombs and cannons that will launch rocks more than a half mile.

Living here is not all about lessons, however. It’s also important to have a good time. When I’m gone, not too long from now, there are a lot of things that I’m going to miss. Although I hope to avoid being up at three in the morning as often as I am now, I am going to miss the ability to find someone to go to Nemo’s or IHOP with at any time of day. I’m going to miss walkouts. Believe it or not, I’m even going to miss Saturday Works; it may be a pain to get out of bed early on Saturday and clean up, but when you sit down in commons after everything is done, look around, see everything spotless, and know that Chay-burgers are soon to follow, it feels good. More than anything else, though, I think I’m going to miss stories. Stories about getting turned away at the Canadian border on a walkout. Stories about roping two halves of a 40-foot tree to two station wagons. Stories about the adventures, and misadventures, of brothers in their experiences with those of the feminine gender. Stories of foolish excess, which seem to concentrate themselves around 21st birthday celebrations. Above all, however, stories about brothers helping one another out, whether it be with something as trivial as a problem in a class or something as significant as an important personal decision.

Yes, these have been a remarkable four years. MIT has taught me a lot about my field, and living at Theta Xi has helped me grow as a person more than I ever thought I could. As I prepare myself for departure, I am saddened knowing that I am leaving behind what has been a huge part of my life for the past four years. At the same time I am excited about the future knowing that my time here has prepared me better than I ever could have hoped. I’m also happy because I know that many of the friends I’ve made here and many of the bonds that I’ve formed will last long after graduation. To everyone I’ve lived with at Theta Xi, thank you for all that you’ve taught me. I can only hope that I have returned a fraction of the favor. Stay in touch.

Yours in the Bonds,

Eric W. Seelig, Δ946