

Delta Theta Chi Corporation

Serving Delta Chapter of Theta Chi at R.P.I. Since 1915

2100 Burdett Avenue

Troy, New York 12180

December 1999

To the Alumni of Theta Chi Fraternity, Delta Chapter:

Background. We wrote to you in March of this year to inform you of a serious situation that had arisen and that threatened the continuation of the Delta Chapter. As a result of a hazing incident, the chapter underwent reorganization by headquarters, which resulted in only six upperclassmen and eight freshmen being asked to rejoin the chapter.

In the spring '99 *Delta Dial*, we also informed you that RPI had suspended the chapter for the remainder of 1999, which meant that the actives could neither initiate the pledges nor conduct a fall rush. The board decided to support the active brothers and keep the house in operation for them, even though there would only be a few people actually living in the house for the fall semester.

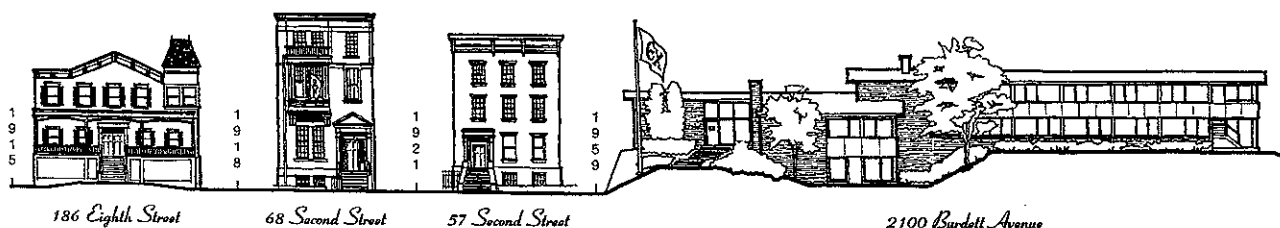
Situation Update. We are writing to you now to provide the status of the efforts of the actives and your alumni corporation board in keeping the chapter in operation.

Lew "Tex" French '83 took the lead in getting some much-needed repairs done. The house has been completely re-locked, some doors have been replaced, and broken windows have been replaced. He also made sure that the fire alarm system was operational and was tested. This all took place at the beginning of the fall semester because it was important to the security of the house, especially with so few people living in it. Tex also organized an alumni-active work party on September 18. During that work party, the unoccupied rooms were gutted and cleaned, making it possible to assess the extent of the repairs that will be needed to walls and floors. (The board recognizes the need to undertake significant repairs to the house. These will be necessary regardless of whether the chapter remains in the house or the house is leased or sold in the future. To date we have obligated more than \$9,600 for just the fire alarm maintenance, locks, doors, and windows.) John "Knuckles" Whitcomb III '83 has inspected the house and created a prioritized list of other maintenance actions and repairs that are required along with an estimate of the cost. The board will be taking action to address the items on this list in order to protect the value of the property.

There are currently eight brothers living in the house. Each pays a fixed house bill, commensurate with typical room costs on campus. (Each brother makes his own arrangements for meals since it is not cost-effective to operate the kitchen with so few occupants.)

Board Meeting. The corporation board held a meeting at the house on October 17. House President Brian Coffin reported that six to eight pledges (from last year's freshman class) were likely, and they would be initiated as soon as possible. Brian also reported that there would probably be seven occupants in the house for the spring semester (six returning occupants and a returning co-op student). The board made the following decisions:

- The board has an obligation to the current actives to continue to support their efforts to keep the chapter alive and to rush additional pledges in the spring. The amount of a resident's house bill was unchanged for the spring.
- Repairs and upgrades that are needed will begin in the spring while the house is occupied. These repairs will be needed regardless of any future decision regarding the use of the house, and they would have to be completed by summer if the house were to be leased to a fraternity or sorority for the fall semester of '00.
- A minimum of 25 occupants was established for the fall semester if Delta Chapter is to continue to reside at 2100 Burdett Avenue. These occupants must be identified by March 1, 2000. The room rate was increased for the fall of '00. (Residents will need to make their own arrangements for on-campus food plans.)



- The headquarters staff and alumni brothers will be requested to take part in spring rushing events in order to help the actives make the 25-person minimum requirement.
- If the minimum occupancy target for the fall semester cannot be met by March 1, the board will explore other options for 2100 Burdett Avenue at that time.

Finances. The corporation board is taking a much more active role in the everyday operations of the house than would be necessary if the house were fully occupied. The board feels that this is warranted: the repairs and upgrades mentioned above need to be accomplished; the cash flow from house bills is not sufficient to sustain house operations; and the chapter has a much better chance of surviving if the house is operating and in good shape. (Rushing would be even more difficult if the house were sold or leased and the chapter existed in a dorm.)

Rich Bollam '66 has the house checkbook and is working closely with the house treasurer, Brett Witherell, to keep up with expenses. Sean Rodwell-Simon '92 is working to make new arrangements for services (trash, cable, etc.) so that the cost is proportional to the reduced number of residents in the house.

Unfortunately, the length of time that the corporation can support chapter operations in this manner is limited. We already foresee the need to use capital improvement funds to execute the work already identified, some of which would have been appropriately paid for by the actives under different circumstances. Therefore, *we are urgently requesting contributions* from alumni brothers to enable the corporation to continue its support of the active brothers without depleting corporation reserves during this period of rebuilding. *Please send contributions for chapter support, in addition to your annual dues, using the envelope provided.* In the event that our plans for the near-term rebuilding of the chapter are unsuccessful and a three- to five-year period of "inactivity" is required (e.g., the house is leased to a fraternity or sorority until Delta Chapter numbers have increased), the additional financial support will still be needed.

Communications. We will continue to keep you informed as events occur, either through letters or the *Delta Dial*. Don't hesitate to contact any of the alumni board members if you have comments or questions.

Fraternally,

The Alumni Members of the Board of Directors,
Delta Theta Chi Corporation

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Enclosures