

Delta Theta Chi Corporation

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

2100 Burdett Avenue

Troy, New York 12180

March 22, 1999

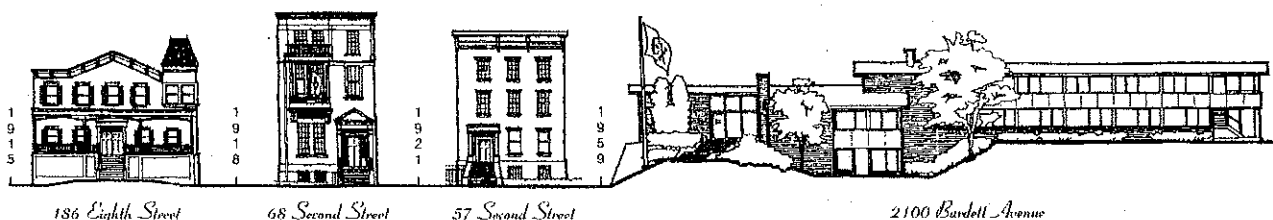
To Alumni of Theta Chi Fraternity, Delta Chapter:

We are writing all Delta Chapter alumni to give you a status report on some serious and unfortunate recent developments involving the undergraduate brothers. The final ramifications will probably not be known for some time, but we thought an interim report was advisable to clear the air of the many rumors that may be floating around.

Last December a sophomore brother was disciplined by several other brothers, which RPI's assistant dean for Greek Affairs, Norris Pearson, concluded constituted a serious hazing incident. Rather than opting for a "local" solution and contacting any of the alumni on the Board or on campus, Dean Pearson instead immediately contacted Dave Westol, the Executive Director of Theta Chi's National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The National's rules required them to conduct a full investigation. During the course of the National's investigation, additional allegations arose about violations of other Theta Chi and RPI rules.

Westol's initial investigation was completed in early January, and he recommended to the National's Risk Management and Standards Committee that Delta chapter be placed on "level 3 probation" or, "in the alternative, that a Show Cause hearing be held to determine the extent of the problems and concerns in the chapter." The Risk Committee, after reviewing both Westol's report and an accompanying response submitted by our undergraduate brothers, disconcertingly elected to increase the punishment to the "Show Cause" level. The three possible outcomes of the Show Cause Hearing are a level 3 probation, a "reorganization", or a complete shutdown of the chapter.

The Show Cause hearing was held via conference call on February 3 and included at our end the five recently-elected undergraduate officers plus three alumni. We all felt it went reasonably well, although there were a couple of rough spots. Nevertheless, the National concluded that the drastic changes they felt were necessary could only be accomplished through a formal reorganization of the chapter. This is a process whereby every undergraduate brother and pledge is immediately suspended and afterward a team of representatives from the National visits RPI and conducts a 30-minute interview of any brother or pledge who wants to be readmitted. After the interviews this team would decide who would be reinstated as brothers or pledges (there is an appeals process). These interviews took place on March 3rd and 4th, and local chapter alumni also attended each interview as silent observers. Based on the impressions of the alumni observers, we were hopeful that at least half the brothers and most of the pledges would be asked to rejoin.



Just last weekend we received the results of the interviews, and they were not positive. Only 6 upperclassmen (out of 31 who interviewed) and only 8 freshmen (out of 17) were asked to rejoin the chapter. As mentioned above, there is an appeals process, but we are not sure at this writing how many brothers or freshmen will submit an appeal. In addition, RPI has been conducting its own independent review of these same incidents. It appears that the chapter will be officially suspended by RPI for at least one semester, which could possibly prevent the brothers from rushing in fall 1999. We must acknowledge that this is an ongoing matter, so we are reluctant to guess what other restrictions might be placed on the chapter or individuals by RPI.

At this time the Board feels it needs to seriously consider all possible options, which include:

- asking for and following whatever advice the National gives regarding the real estate and the chapter to keep it going in the long run;
- looking into the possibility of affiliating with a different national fraternity;
- looking into the possibility of becoming a local fraternity (like RSE);
- trying to find an institutional tenant (like RPI itself or another fraternity/sorority) for the whole building for a "cooling off" period of 3-5 years, and then considering reactivating as either Theta Chi or one of our other options; or
- immediately putting the real estate up for sale and leaving the question of Theta Chi's future at RPI entirely in the hands of the National.

We will contact you through this type of newsletter again once a decision has been reached, at which time we will also provide an update on anything we know from the National and RPI. In the interim, we welcome your input, and ask any of you who are interested to respond back to us no later than April 9th with your thoughts about this situation. Please send a letter or email to Rich Boroway, corporation Treasurer, at 8 Sydenham Road, Warren, NJ 07059; email: rboroway@aol.com.

Fraternally,

The Board of Directors of Delta Theta Chi Corporation

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