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CORPORATION TO MEET

ANNUAL DELTA THETA CHI CORPORATION MEETING
Sunday, June 6, 1999, 10:00 a.m. at the chapter house

Nominees for three-year terms on the board of directors:
 Dave Thurston '88, Sean Rodwell-Simon '92

Nominees for four-year terms on the board of directors:
 Terry Jones '66, Mike Phinney '95

***For information on proposed changes to the by-laws,
 please turn to page two.***

Update On Our Situation With Theta Chi Headquarters And RPI

Unfortunately, the developments surrounding the December hazing incident continue to dominate Delta Chapter news. Since our last letter on this incident, we have received many calls and e-mail messages from concerned alumni. Their reactions vary from "keep it going at all costs" to "we should accept the fact that fraternities are on the way out." Several have requested more details on the incident so that it might be easier to put things in perspective, so we thought we would start with this. Because we were told by RPI that we were not permitted to interview the hazed brother, and because the versions we have heard from the undergraduates vary somewhat, we think it safest to paraphrase the report from Theta Chi's National Headquarters. This was based on the telephone interviews conducted by Dave Westol, the Headquarters' executive director, and reported in a letter from him dated January 4.

On Tuesday, December 8, 1998, a sophomore member of the chapter was "mattressed"—placed between two mattresses—and at least six members then jumped on the mattress. Although no physical injuries were reported by the member who was mattressed, it appears that this was done to discipline the member because he had failed to properly complete his duties regarding signups in the kitchen. An estimated 20 members were in attendance at the meeting called to conduct the mattressing, including the president, vice president, and the treasurer of the chapter.

During the course of Westol's interviews, he also uncovered other practices of the chapter that violated the Headquarters' current definition of hazing, both in the form of disciplinary actions against brothers and initiation procedures involving pledges. As far as we can tell, all of the problematic prac-

tices uncovered had been in place for many years at Delta Chapter (although we understand that mattressing had been used infrequently in recent years, and the signups issue was one of many problems involving the hazed brother). Note that both the Headquarters' and RPI's current definitions of hazing are very broad and include not only physical contact of any kind but also anything that might pressure someone psychologically. Also note, it is our understanding that alcoholic beverages were in no way involved in this incident.

Actions of Theta Chi's Headquarters Staff and Committees

As was reported in our last letter, the reorganization team from Theta Chi National had conducted face-to-face interviews with all of Delta Chapter's brothers and pledges and concluded that most of the brothers and around half of the pledges were not worthy of reinstatement as brothers and pledges. Unfortunately, none of the pledges who were approved for brotherhood have elected to be initiated, presumably because they are not sure they want to join an organization with an uncertain future and also because no one can provide them with a reasonable explanation why half of their fellow pledges were rejected. Another problem is that the market for decent apartments in Troy is such that most people try to lease a place in the early spring, and many of these freshmen had already gotten discouraged and put down deposits even before the results of the interviews were announced.

Of those brothers and pledges who were not reinstated, one pledge elected to file an appeal quickly, and five brothers have more recently sent theirs in. The appeal process is difficult because all the "rejection" letters were the same, with nothing specific to individuals, so it is hard to know what points to make. In a response to the pledge's appeal,

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Changes To Corporation By-Laws Proposed

It has been recommended by several previous board members that a three-year term on the board is not long enough to be the most effective, so the board passed a resolution at its meeting on January 31, 1999, to propose amendments to the corporation by-laws to provide for four-year terms. If approved by the general membership at this year's annual meeting, then, for this year only, four new alumni members would join the board; for ensuing years we would return to the normal two new members each year. One other minor change makes the annual meeting date coincide with RPI's Reunion Weekend rather than the weekend of commencement. According to Article VIII of the existing by-laws, these amendments need approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present at the annual meeting.

The proposed changed sections would read as follows:

ARTICLE II: DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Corporation

shall consist of eleven members, three of whom shall be Undergraduate brothers and eight of whom shall be Alumni members.

Section 2. The Alumni members shall be elected as follows: (a) At the Annual Meeting in 1999, two shall be elected for a term of three years and two for a term of four years. Thereafter at each Annual Meeting, two members shall be elected for a term of four years with the stipulation that any person whose term shall expire in a given year cannot be reelected or reappointed for a period of one year following the expiration of said term.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held in connection with the summer Reunion Weekend of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, after written notice has been given to each member at least thirty (30) days in advance.

Alumni Write

With the assistance of a pacemaker, LEONARD C. BASTIAN '37 continues to enjoy his retirement in Connerville, Indiana (1201 W. Third St., 47331), where he once was mayor.

E.J. NORMAN '44 is the western regional manager for Carrier Corporation and can be reached at P.O. Box 400341, Hesperia, CA 92340 (ejimn@aol.com).

WILLIAM C. NORTHRUP JR. '46 of 2019 Doral Court, Henderson, NV 89014-1075 would like to get back in touch with brothers from his era, most particularly NORMAN F. PAULSEN '47. Our address for Norman is 3 Harbor View Dr., Stony Brook, NY 11790.

Retiree J. HIBBARD ROBERTSON '51 reports a new address of 220 N. President Ave., C-1, Lancaster, PA 17603.

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Despite Uncertainties, Scholarship Program Sound

As with a lot of this newsletter, the Alumni Scholarship Program news is bittersweet. The good news is that the additional contributions received since our report last fall have been very impressive, and as of early April a total of \$115,000 had been received from 150 alumni. This puts the balance in the fund (which includes an allocation of income earned in excess of scholarships paid out) at more than twice the level of a year ago. As a result, the scholarship committee decided we could afford to offer scholarships to three rising seniors for the school year 1999-2000. Each of these awards will be greater than the two awards that were granted for the 1998-1999 school year. Details about the recipients, our alumni contributors, etc., will be reported to you in a special newsletter this fall, similar to last year.

You may recall that the initial goal established by the alumni corporation board at the 1997 Sagamore retreat was to try to grow this fund to a level of \$150,000 by the end of 1999. At the time we considered this a "stretch" goal, but the way things were going through the end of last year, we were starting to think we could easily exceed this level. However, with the current uncertain-

ties created by the combined actions of RPI and Theta Chi's national headquarters, the board has reluctantly concluded that it must put all future fund-raising efforts on hold until Delta Chapter's future is less tenuous. We feel it is clearly inappropriate to ask our alumni to support a long-term Delta Chapter endowment fund if the chapter's long-term existence is in question.

In case any of you are wondering what happens to this fund under various "doomsday" scenarios, the agreement with RPI that established the fund says: 1) if Delta Chapter ceases to exist at RPI for a period in excess of three years, the scholarship(s) will be awarded with preference given to someone active in Greek life, however; 2) if Delta Chapter is subsequently reactivated at RPI, preference will revert to brothers of Theta Chi, and; 3) if all fraternities and sororities cease to exist at RPI, the scholarship will be awarded to someone involved in student leadership activities.

So, let's hope that Delta Chapter can weather this storm and that we can start to rebuild the positive momentum for this program that we had at the end of last year!

Rich Bollam '66

Alumni, Actives, And Freshmen Work As One

One large thank you goes out to all those who were able to make the trip for a day of sharing experiences, a lot of sweat, and elbow grease. A group of approximately 20 alumni got together on Saturday, April 17, 1999, to share their thoughts and feelings about Delta Chapter with actives and freshmen. After approximately an hour of discussion, the alumni, actives, and freshmen organized teams to clean the chapter house. A great deal of work was accomplished in a very short time, with alumni, actives, and freshmen working side by side. The day's work produced very positive feelings, and when the last pot was put back into the kitchen, many in the group made plans for the evening together.

Special thanks go to Mark Dickie '88, Joe Knapik '91, Mike Phinney '95, Matt Dias '00, and Pat Smulligan '02, who organized and gathered supplies for the work. Alumni, actives, and freshmen noted that the day was a positive step forward for the future of Delta Chapter. Thanks again to Graham Williams '52, Mark Rice '71, Joe Killough '71, Doug Jablonski '85, George Quigley '85, Scott Virkler '87, Greg Palmer '88, Marc Dickie '88, Randy McHale '89, Scott Campbell '90, Rob Gray '90, Paul DiChristina '91, Joe Knapik '92, Frank List '92, John Auletta '93, Mike Phinney '95, Drew Spitzer '96, Scott Ogeka '97, Angelo Vissas '97, Ian Payner '97, Dan McGovern '98, Jim Shertzer '98, and all the actives and freshmen.

Pete Gillies '89

Δ DIAL

Published regularly by the Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are always welcome and should be sent to Theta Chi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 906, Schenectady, NY 12301-0906.

Update On Our Situation With Theta Chi Headquarters And RPI

(continued from page one)

Dave Westol commented that one of the main reasons the pledge had been rejected was that the pledge had elected not to identify any brothers he felt shouldn't be reinstated. This was a question that every brother and pledge was asked. It was a question we were told would be asked, and it was one that troubled most brothers and pledges. As a result we had discussed it with the interviewing team the evening before the interviews, and we were told that a "no thank you" response would not be a cause for rejection. If it now turns out that this was in fact a litmus test, then we assume all the appeals will be rejected.

Another common theme in the responses from alumni to our first letter was that it was hard for them to tell how the board felt about the appropriateness of the Headquarters' procedures and decisions. Over the course of the last four months, while we have tried to be diplomatic, our reactions have generally varied from complete shock and disbelief to angry resignation. We all agreed that mistakes were made, and, with hindsight, several of the chapter's practices were clearly out of step with current rules, and changes were certainly in order. However, the severity of the punishment and the "us versus them" nature of our interactions with the Headquarters' staff caught us totally off guard. Right from the start, the board was excluded from the investigative process, and we were often treated as if we were part of the problem. Of all the things that amazed us, perhaps the worst was the seemingly arbitrary results of the reorganization interviews, especially toward the pledges who were not involved in the maturing or any of the other violations. In trying to interpret all this for the undergraduates so that they would not get completely discouraged, we have found actions like this often impossible to explain. Maybe we're too old fashioned, but it seemed to us that Theta Chi's "helping hand" was very hard to find during much of this process.

Actions of RPI's Office of Greek Affairs

While all of these actions of Theta Chi's Headquarters were progressing, RPI's dean of Greek affairs was conducting his own investigation. The results of this were announced after the devastating impact of the reorganization was known to him. The chapter has been placed on suspension until the end of 1999, meaning it cannot rush new pledges until then and it cannot initiate current pledges. After hearing this decision, a group of local alumni met with the Greek affairs dean (Norris Pearson), the dean of students (Ed Knowles), and the vice president of student life (Dave Haviland) to point out that the combination of Theta Chi Headquarters' and RPI's suspensions would

leave the chapter house virtually empty next year. We asked if they would waive the rushing/initiation ban while leaving the other probation conditions in place. We asked if they would write a letter to Theta Chi's Headquarters and encourage them to look favorably on any suspended brothers and pledges who choose to appeal their suspensions. These RPI administrators made supportive comments during the meeting, but a week later we were told that the suspension would not be altered and that rather than sending a letter of support, the Greek affairs dean had placed a phone call to a Headquarters staff member. Some of the board members feel that RPI's current administration does not appear concerned enough about our possible demise to actively help us prevent it. It also appears to most of us that all the financial and other support that so many of our Theta Chi alumni have given RPI over the years counts for very little in this process.

Related to all this, we have just learned that, in addition to the punishment of the chapter, RPI has elected to suspend several individual brothers from school for periods of up to one year. (Note: All this arose over an incident in which no one was seriously hurt and which, to the best of our knowledge, was the only recently reported infraction of this type at the chapter!)

Our Current Plan

Obviously, Delta Chapter's future is being seriously challenged. The combined actions of our own Headquarters and RPI's current administration have eliminated virtually all our brothers as well as next fall's rush, and thus far it appears that neither of these two groups is too concerned if our 91-year history comes to an end.

In our last letter, we noted that we were considering all possible options. Several of these have since been eliminated. In conversations with RPI administrators, we were told that changing our national affiliation or becoming a local fraternity was very unlikely because both RPI and the IFC feel there are already more fraternities at RPI than there is demand for them, and both organizations would oppose any new applications. We also spoke to RPI to see if they would be interested in leasing the chapter house for a few years while we built our numbers back up. They said they did not have a current need for a facility like this. So we were down to the options of trying to lease it to another Greek organization for a few years, putting the house up for sale, or "toughing it out" with some combination of brothers and non-brothers (plus a lot of help from our alumni). The board has concluded that we should "tough it out" for at least two years, for three basic reasons:

- In general, we have received very supportive comments from many, many alumni over the last two months, offering financial, physical, and moral support.
- The few remaining brothers have gone through unbelievable challenges over the past four months and are determined to struggle on at 2100 Burdett if we will support them. They recently sent the board a written "offer," in which they (plus a group of suspended brothers) agree to pay us whatever rent that can reasonably afford, agree to maintain the house well, agree to individually sign "leases" with us stating that (among other things) if they disobey any RPI or Theta Chi rules they understand they will be asked to leave. It was well thought out and well written.
- We owe it to Dusty Rhodes, former Theta Chi national president, who worked so hard to make 2100 Burdett Avenue a reality (and isn't it depressingly ironic that all this is happening so shortly after Dusty's wife passed away and his legacy resulted in substantial gifts to both Theta Chi National and RPI just within the last year!).

Obviously, this will all put considerable pressure on our finances, and after we put together a budget we will be writing to ask for your help. (Several alumni have already told us that if we do elect to press on, they will redirect all or a portion of their RPI and Theta Chi national gifts for the next few years.) If any of you would like some direct input into these difficult decisions, please join us at the alumni corporation's June 6th annual meeting. In the meantime, we welcome your comments, and we thank you again for your calls and letters of support.

Paul DiChristina '91, President
Lou Takacs '57
Nick Humber '63
Rich Bollam '66
Ray Rumanowski '73
Pete Gillies '89

***We missed saying
thanks to...***

**ROGER W. WINSLOW '57
and
PETER GUESNON '54**

on our honor roll last summer.
Their checks were (literally!) in the
mail when the list was compiled.

Alumni Write

(continued from page two)

"I retired as director of public works for the city of Port Jervis, New York, in 1992," writes THOMAS F. BRANNAN '52. "I dabble in consulting engineering." He makes his home at 373 Kirby Town Rd., Middletown, NY 10940.

Patty and GRAHAM WILLIAMS '52 enjoyed a visit with Joan and JIM SCHNABEL '52 at the Schnabels' summer place on Lake George last year. "We had a tour of the local waters on Jim's boat," writes Graham, "and lunch on a picturesque island. All just delightful!" Graham keeps busy with his practice and with admissions work for RPI's school of architecture. Write to him at Four Bolivar Ave., Troy, NY 12180.

PAUL A. LAPLANTE '54 resides at 106 Wareham's Point, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Last October, a big group of Theta Chi alumni from the mid-1950s gathered at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania for golf and good times. Among them were JAMES W. HAMILTON '55 and his wife, Dede. Jay reports that LARRY LEONARD '55 did most of the organizing (with a little help from Jay and BOB STALEY '56) and that the event was terrific. For details, write to him at 334 Falling Rock Dr., Stuarts Draft, VA 24477.

MARTIN A. STRAUSS '71 makes his home at 6377 Rainbow Span, Columbia, MD 21045.

Much happened in 1998 for E. RIDLEY SMITH '72 and his family. After 14-plus years with his last employer, Ridley changed jobs and relocated to Indonesia. His new company was then bought by Arco, and riots followed two weeks later. "I was then evacuated to Singapore and finally returned to Jakarta to await word on my employment status. I got an Arco job, but during the flight to Jakarta, my wife became ill. She required colon surgery, and one week later we were in Jakarta. All is well now with the kids in school and Sally feeling much better." Send mail to Ridley in care of Arco Indonesia, P.O. Box 260888, Plano, TX 75026-0888, and e-mail to rsmith8@mail.arco.com.

Employed by Medical Graphics Corporation, GLENN TAYLOR '74 can be reached at 4587 Medina Lake Dr., Medina, MN 55340 (gtaylor@winternet.com).

"We survived the riots, fires, and evacuation from Indonesia last May," writes KARL J. SCHOENLEBER '78, "and relocated to Houston in August. The culture shock of Texas makes it feel like another foreign assignment, and our three children would return to

Jakarta in a heartbeat. We are slowly adjusting back to American TV and news after learning to live without it for three and a half years. We are also preparing to send our oldest child to college next year. (Has it really been that long?) Our home is open to all visitors, so give us a call if you're passing through Houston." Karl's address is 27 S. Chandler Creek Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77381 (schoenl@ibm.net).

RANDAL D. WEAVER '79 resides at 18 Hill St., Ashley, PA 18706.

Last December, several months after joining Millennium Inorganic Chemicals in Baltimore, RICH FRICKER '81 moved with his wife, Connie, and their children, Richard (12), Dan (9), and Elizabeth (6), to 2920 Placid Dr., Baldwin, MD 21013.

Drop a line to KENNETH J. GIACHETTA '81 at 149 Nevada Ave., Staten Island, NY 10306.

"I've made the big switch and left defense for movie making," pens JOHN BROOKS '83. "I'm now in charge of 3D graphics software development at Disney Feature Animation. Anyone heading to the L.A. area should let me know." Jack's address is 24240 Bella Court, Newhall, CA 91321 (brookscan@aol.com).

The vice president and general manager of Vlastic Farms, Inc., in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, ROBERT COLLINS '85 resides at 539 Hilgire Rd., St. Davids, PA 19087. He and Mary Jo now have three children, Robert (7), Grace (5), and Jack (1).

JOHN T. LONATI '85 writes, "Marianne and I are proud to announce the arrival of our third daughter. Danielle Patricia was born on July 9, joining sisters Alexandra (6) and Michaela (3-1/2). Danielle, hoping to fulfill her father's wishes of having a child play football, was born at a healthy 10 pounds, three ounces." John works for Frito-Lay and lives at 2 Phaeton Lane, Franklin, MA 02038.

CRAIG WOOLHISER '86 is a production section supervisor in the telecommunication products division of Corning, Inc. He and his wife, Breanna, have been married for eight years, and they have two children, Calvin (5) and Lauren (2). Write to Craig at 7412 Richfield Court, Wilmington, NC 28411 (woolhiserc@corning.com).

When we last heard from WILLIAM C. HEADEN '88, he and wife Bonnie were expecting a baby in March. Send best wishes to the Headens at 104 Deer Run Dr., Ballston Spa, NY 12020 (wheaden@hotmail.com).

Stephanie and STEVE BELDY '89 are still at 847 Park Place Dr., Virginia Beach, VA

23451, with their two little girls, Brittany (3) and Brooke (2). Steve is contemplating a career move to the airlines and writes, "If there are any former military pilots who have made that transition, or any other current airline pilots who have words of wisdom or advice (i.e., recommendations), I would love to hear from you. If anyone is in the area, please give us a call or e-mail. Does anyone know where CHRISTOPHER McCRAE '89 is?" (According to our records, he's at 1731 N. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA 22207.) Send e-mail to Steve at ssbb@worldnet.att.net.

MATTHEW M. DOUGLAS '89 moved to Cleveland last year to take a job with Deloitte Consulting. "CHRIS DRUMMOND '89 came out to visit last summer, and we'll be meeting up again to brave the wild rapids of the Gauley River in West Virginia." Matt sends his compliments to the alumni board for their hard work and dedication to Delta Chi. "Paul's letter requesting alumni financial support was convincing," writes Matt. "I hope other alums were as moved as I was." Brothers interested in consulting are invited to contact Matt at 2343 Wooster Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116 (mdouglas@dtus.com). "My firm hires quite a few 'quant jocks' every year."

Write to STEVEN NAEGELE '89 at 22 Park Place N., Herkimer, NY 13350.

A Marine weapons and tactics officer, CHRIS MATTEI '90 wrote in November that his wife was pregnant and that they were both very excited. Send congratulations to 1934 Stewart St., Oceanside, CA 92054 (matteic@pendleton.usmc.mil).

After five years of teaching high school math, P.J. SKIBITSKI '93 has gone to work as an associate editor for Inside Washington Publishers in the nation's capital. Brothers in the DC area are invited to look him up at 1634 N. 21st St., Arlington, VA 22209, or drop him an e-mail at pskibitski@hotmail.com.

KENT MULLEN '97 works for Teradyne as a product engineer and lives at 24 Bay Ridge Dr., Apt. G, Nashua, NH 03062.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

SEYMOUR M. BRADLEY JR. '41,
June 1, 1998

F. WHEELER CANEY '36,
March 4, 1997

RICHARD P. IVERSEN '43

WALTER R. KLINGENBERGER '26,
June 18, 1998