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CORPORATION TO MEET

The annual corporation board meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 13, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.** at the chapter house, **2100 Burdett Avenue**. We invite and encourage any Theta Chi alumni who live in or will be visiting the area to attend the meeting.

NOMINATIONS: In accordance with the bylaws of Delta Theta Chi Corporation, the following alumni have been nominated for election to four-year terms on the board of directors:

Greg Willmott '87

Paul Silhan '71

Board Helps Chapter Navigate Challenges Of Probation

As you can see from Damon Belloni's article elsewhere in this *Dial*, RPI has placed Delta Chapter on probation for an incident involving the purchase of a keg. At first blush, this might seem to you as either another case of misbehavior similar to the hazing incident five years ago, or a university policy gone wild. The alumni corporation board has been involved in this disciplinary process every step of the way, and we'd like to share our perspective with you.

First, some background on this particular incident. If you have been personally involved in university life in the last ten years through a child or grandchild, you probably already know that every campus across the country, little by little, has been moving toward reducing drinking, especially for underage students. At RPI, and many other universities, the first step came in the mid-1990s with the decree that no fraternity could host a party with beer or liquor coming from a "common source," such as a keg; in fact, kegs were banned at all times in fraternities. Later came a decision that every party on campus would be "BYOB"—that is, every person attending the party would have to bring his own beer (maximum of six) and drink only his own beer at the party. And it goes without saying that every person intending to drink at a party would have to have legitimate age identification, to be verified by the host and policed by the Interfraternity Council's members.

The next step for Theta Chi came in the summer of 1998, when the delegates at our national convention voted to make every chapter of Theta Chi alcohol-free by fall 2003; this meant no alcohol of any kind, at any time, in the chapter house. At a similar convention in the summer of 2002 the delegates voted to allow certain exceptional chapters to get a waiver from this policy. As you have read in previous issues of the *Dial*, Delta Chapter was one of only 12 chapters in the country to receive a waiver; this first

waiver covered the current school year only (2003-2004). Just recently the chapter applied for a waiver for next year, and received it. Obtaining this waiver on two separate occasions was a feat that we as alumni can be proud of, for it requires strict academic and social standards.

Finally, during this current school year Rensselaer County has created an underage-drinking task force, which has made its presence felt in a major way on the RPI campus. Parties at several fraternities and apartments have been raided, and many students have been arrested and some fraternities suspended. There has been more task force action in the last month, and Rensselaer's IFC has now banned all parties for the duration of the current semester.

It was in this environment that the Delta Chapter undergraduates were discovered with a keg in the chapter house. The alumni corporation board participated closely in the judicial process, and the school's ruling involves the following sanctions:

- Until May 31, 2005, alcohol must not be present at any on-campus or off-campus event sponsored by Theta Chi. This includes formal events such as big weekends, and also alumni events where undergraduate members will be present.
- The chapter must have a live-in advisor for at least the next two years. After the second year, Theta Chi may petition for this particular sanction to be lifted.
- Social probation until May 31, 2006.

In addition to the school's decision, the incident itself causes immediate cancellation of the waiver the chapter has from the National; the result is that Delta Chapter will now be alcohol-free at all times, for all people.

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A Season To Remember

This fall the sport to watch in Troy was RPI football. The 2003 season was a classic, with a post-season run that vaulted Rensselaer into the national spotlight.

Rensselaer's 8-1 regular season, for the most part, was not too much of a surprise. A big reason for this was that there were no major injuries. Key players did go down at times, but for the most part the Engineers got through the season unscathed, a tribute to the great RPI training staff.

A case can be made that RPI's playoff run really began in their last game of the regular season, a 43-25 home loss to Hobart. Several times during the year, the Engineers posted a shoddy first half and then cranked up the offense in the second half to win the game handily. By holding Rensselaer to field goals instead of touchdowns on four separate occasions and then exploding for 28 fourth-quarter points, the Statesmen wrenched the conference title from the Engineers' grasp.

Several other playoff contenders also lost their final games, giving RPI the break it needed to return to the NCAA tournament as the fifth seed in the East bracket. That luck extended to granting the Engineers a pair of home games during their run. Therefore, the loss served as a wake-up call going into the playoffs.

For round one, warm, sunny weather was the order of the day. The Engineers were playing in Troy because their fourth-seeded opponents, the Curry College Colonels, were unable to host. The first half of the game looked like a repeat of Hobart, at least on offense—Rensselaer picked up only a pair of field goals. Defensively, the Engineers had problems shutting down the Curry running game, but allowed only a single touchdown, and a blocked extra-point left the score tied at six. However, in the second half, quarterback Dan Cole and receiver Flynn Cochran, the two biggest playmakers this year for RPI, turned the game into "The Cole-to-Cochran Show." When the show was over, Cochran had a school-record 15 catches, 216 yards, and three touchdowns, and the Engineers were headed to Springfield to take on the top seed in the bracket.

For the first time all year, the Engineers were the underdogs. Springfield had the top rushing attack in D-III and had not trailed in the second half of any game this season. The weather was also against RPI, as rain and heavy wind would likely hamper RPI's prolific passing game. Springfield did in fact have an excellent day running the ball. Their offense netted 441 yards without completing a single pass, and they put the ball in the end zone four times.

However, Cole and the RPI offense did not let the bad weather slow them down.

Mike Defilippi got RPI the ball early by recovering a Springfield fumble on the Pride's 31-yard line. Four plays later, Cole connected on a 20-yard touchdown to Jon Branche. Three very wet hours later, Cole had completed 25 more passes for 348 yards and five touchdowns, as the Engineers came from behind twice to upset Springfield, 40-34.

Rensselaer caught its next break when sixth-seeded Ithaca upset Montclair State to advance to the bracket final. Ithaca's lower seed meant that '86 Field would see its biggest game ever. The weather then ensured that the game would go down as one of the most memorable sporting events in capital region history. All local forecasts for December 6 called for snow, and a lot of it.

Almost before the words "Snow Bowl" were uttered in the press box, RPI was on the board. On the third play from scrimmage, Cole found Pat Hughes through swirling snow for a 59-yard touchdown. The next drive, Jon Branche ran the same post route, with the same result, and the Engineers had a 14-point lead. The weather continually worsened throughout the game, but both offenses doggedly stuck to their game plan. Ithaca drove to the RPI four-yard line early in the second quarter, but a big stand by the Engineer defense held them to a field goal. Ithaca finally cracked the end zone on the first drive of the second half, again with the passing attack, to cut the Engineer lead to 14-9.

Rensselaer drove right back, pounding the ball through several inches of snow to the Ithaca 16, from where Cole found Branche in the back of the end zone to give RPI a 12-point cushion. A later Engineer field goal attempt was blocked, so an Ithaca touchdown with under four minutes remaining in the game put them within striking distance. RPI recovered the on-side kick, but Cole was intercepted two plays later, giving Ithaca new life.

In the closing minutes, Ithaca had an incompleting, and then an eight-yard pass that brought up third-and-two. Defensive mainstay Ramses Jimenez, an active member of Delta Chapter, delivered the biggest sack of his career, and Grant Cochran picked off Ithaca's final pass to close the book on the "Snow Bowl." For the first time, RPI's football Engineers would be flying to a game.

The semifinal match against St. John's of Minnesota featured plenty of cold, but the Engineers shrugged it off—after the previous two weeks, it wasn't a factor. RPI played a tough first half, but the eventual national champions made several big plays and ran away with it, 38-10.

Even with its anticlimactic ending, there

Challenges Of Probation

(continued from page one)

The other role the board has played has been in talking to the undergraduates as a group and ascertaining their willingness to make the huge changes that will be required to go forward under these new rules. As Damon Belloni points out, this will be no small feat but one that they have said they will work at every day. We as alumni can feel badly that the environment at universities has changed so dramatically from when we were students, but we also must embrace this inevitable result and help our brothers transition. The board will be working more closely than ever with the current undergrads to make this happen, including hiring the live-in advisor, requesting help from various sources to educate them in new rush techniques, and helping them find a way to carry on some traditions within this new alcohol-free framework. The first event that will require new ideas is Alumni Weekend this fall—we will be sending more information on this later this summer.

In closing, please understand these changes and the challenges that they present to the active brotherhood. We must do our part to abide by the new rules and support the active brothers in doing so. Our message is not meant to discourage alumni from visiting Delta Chapter and enjoying themselves, but instead to ensure that we all understand that circumstances have changed at the house and around campus. Please continue your support—it is needed now more than ever.

Delta Theta Chi Corporation
Board of Directors

can be no doubt that 2003 was the best season in RPI football history. The Engineers set more than 50 individual and team records and were ranked in the top 10 nationwide in all three major D-III polls. The ECAC also awarded Rensselaer the D-III Lambert Trophy, given to the best of the 74 teams in the northeastern part of the country.

Delta Chapter played a major role in the success of this amazing team. Many of the active members were key players and contributors of the team. These players include Ramses Jimenez, Carl Harding, Dave Hansen, Nick Barnes, Sean Doran, Scott Gallo, Peter Herrick, Scott Loudis, Brad Williams, Anthony Martuscello, Dan Yan-kowski, Mark Byrne, Jeff Douglas, Tim Frame, Nick Fresina, Brock Gaspar, Matthew Hackett, Ryan Hickey, and Armin Warner.

Brothers Prepare To Tackle Changes At House

Greetings from all the active brothers. As spring approaches and the school year draws to a close, there is much to remember from the past semester. Undoubtedly the most significant news, though, concerns changes that will go into effect next fall. Due to an alcohol-related incident at the chapter house involving a non-Theta Chi male student, Delta Chapter is facing several sanctions from RPI and the National.

First, in compliance with a new National policy, the Delta Chapter house will transition to alcohol-free housing (AFH) next semester. AFH has only been in existence for all Theta Chi chapters around the country for a short time, and until now we have earned a waiver from it. Due to the incident, we have lost the waiver and cannot apply for it again. Briefly, AFH means that there is no alcohol of any kind in the house at any time. Brothers are allowed to throw parties at third-party vendors, such as bars, or at other fraternities.

Despite the obvious hardships, there are some benefits to going AFH. It should greatly increase the overall cleanliness and state of repair of the chapter house. It will hopefully eliminate the chance of any other alcohol-related incident from happening. Finally, the ban on alcohol in the house will help to shift the focus to academic performance, a change that we feel should help us to stand out as a chapter on this campus. The other important sanction handed down to the chapter is the requirement to have a live-in advisor for the next two years. This non-Theta Chi adult is to advise and counsel the brothers in day-to-day activities.

Now the better news; I believe we have an extremely strong brotherhood here. It's a close-knit group that cares about the chapter. Whether it's playing football, going to class, going to Cancun for spring break, cleaning the house, or watching movies in the living room, Delta Chapter Theta Chis stick together and are there for each other and the house. So I also believe that we will put forth the extra work and sacrifice to make this work. It will be tough and it will be a change, but we knew this would happen at some point. Thankfully, we have a good group of guys to get us through these new challenges.

Fraternally,
Damon Belloni '05
President

Chapter Initiates New Brothers

After almost two months of pledge education training, the class of 2004 was initiated on Thursday, March 4. This group of 10 high quality new members includes nine freshmen and one sophomore. Similar to past years, a majority of the new brothers are members of the RPI football team, but this class also has representation from other sports organizations and curricula on campus.

The following brothers were a part of this year's history-making football team (see the article entitled "A Season to Remember"): Graham Boyd of Wappingers Falls, New York; David Pompei of Burnt Hills, New York; Anthony Albano of Bloomfield, New Jersey; Jake Russell of Washington, New Jersey; Jon Golden of Milton, Massachusetts; Patrick Morse of Chelmsford, Massachusetts; and Jim Shanley of Bristol, Connecticut. Jim is also a member of the RPI baseball team. The other members of the class of 2007 include Bryan Cass from New York City and Brandon Bradley from St. Thomas, Virginia, who is a member of the sports therapy and training team at RPI. Brandon Johnson, from the class of 2006, is from Massena,

New York, and plays basketball for RPI.

All of the new brothers exhibit strong dedication to Delta Chapter and should make great additions to our proud brotherhood. These new brothers have expressed specific interests in maintaining and improving the house and its surroundings. Their pledge class project, landscaping around the house, was integrated into our most recent weekend cleanup work party.

I look forward to meeting the parents of our newest members at our yearly parents' dinner. I also look forward to spending my senior year at RPI and Theta Chi with this good group of guys next year. Although we typically educate and initiate our pledges in the spring, it seems more than likely that we will change that next year and conduct a similar process this coming fall. It will be my privilege to be a part of this process, a task that I genuinely enjoyed this semester and that helped me to get closer to them as brothers.

Fraternally yours,
Ed Davidson
Marshal

Much Accomplished At New Officer Retreat

This year, as in years past, we attended a two-day winter retreat for the active officers and the alumni board at the Sagamore Hotel on Lake George. I had always heard good things about it, and I was indeed privileged to be a part of it this year. The other active officers and I looked forward to meeting the alumni and working together to make the house stronger in all ways.

We started with a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) brainstorming session to assess the alumni and active brothers' perspective of the status of the brotherhood. We then split up into smaller groups to discuss some of our predominant threats and weaknesses more in depth and determine potential solutions to those challenges. The main challenges discussed were alcohol-free housing (AFH), risk management, accountability among the actives, strengthening rush, and im-

proving our image with our neighbors, RPI, and our National, or "IHQ" (International Headquarters).

We concluded our discussions with consensus on the direction that we need to go and the steps that we need to take to reach our goals.

We have since started working on our plan for next year's rush, and there is more excitement about recruitment than there has been in quite a while. Finally, several capital improvement projects were discussed, and, with the help of alumni maintenance advisor Marc Dickie '88, we have made many improvements in the house, the most notable of which is the new floor in the basement.

Fraternally,
Ricky Jackson
Vice President

Your news is important!

*Let us know what you're doing—where you've traveled,
whom you've seen, how your family is prospering.
Mail your news today to the address on page four.*



Alumni write from far and near

ROBERT E. MUNGER '43 has moved to 68 Reservoir St., Apt. C1, Holden, MA 01520.



“Still working and enjoying it,” writes LAWRENCE A. PAINE '54 (319 Oglethorpe Blvd., Saint Augustine, FL 32080). “I keep in touch with JACK TREBOUR '54 and saw HERB DAMMAN '54 and RON SILVER '54 a year ago.” Larry adds that he hopes to make it to his 50th reunion this year.



JAMES W. HAMILTON '55 receives e-mail at jddhmltn@ntelos.net and “snail mail” at 1808 Whetstone Dr., Waynesboro, VA 22980.



CURTISS S. BEACH '63 makes his home at 1911 NE Second Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33909.



Write to JOSEPH D. FAVALORO '58 at 617 Portside Lane, Edgewater, FL 32141.



DAVID H. BOSHART '61 sold his art business and is now semiretired. He'd really like to hear from his Theta Chi contemporaries at dboshart@comcast.net or at 8504 Charter Club Circle, #10, Fort Myers, FL 33919.



Stay in touch with WILLIAM C. STITT '63 at P.O. Box 704, South Freeport, ME 04078, or at wstitt@babson.edu.



On April 1, KURT D. HOLLASCH '67 retired from Delphi Corporation, where he was director of engineering in the thermal systems division. He resides at 6780 Bear Ridge Rd., Lockport, NY 14094.



MARTIN E. EVANS JR. '72 works for Chevron Texaco Energy Technology Compa-

ny, where e-mail reaches him at meev@chevrontexaco.com. He resides at 100 O'Neil Circle, Hercules, CA 94547.



After attending the Harvard Graduate School of Education, GARRET VIRCHICK '75 got a job teaching science at Fenway High School in Boston. He and his wife, Barbara, have one son attending the University of Vermont and one heading toward his senior year at Boston Latin High School. Mail reaches him at 32 Mill St., Dorchester, MA 02122, and e-mail at g.virchick@verizon.net.



JOHN L. BROWN '81 is the support services manager for Central Locating Services, a subsidiary of Asplundh Tree Expert Co. Write to him at 110 Misty Meadow Lane, Lansdale, PA 19446, or at jdacbrown@comcast.net.



ROBERT C. COLLINS JR. '85 writes, “After five years I have left my startup technology company, Newview Technologies, and joined The Matworks as CEO. I am now commuting south to Beltsville, Maryland, right outside DC. I would be happy to touch base with any brothers in the DC or Baltimore area.” Our address for “Rip” is 539 Hilaire Rd., Saint Davids, PA 19087; rcollins@thematworks.com.



Please note this new address for DANIEL J. FALTA '87: 55 Catalpa Rd., Wilton, CT 06897; danfalta@hotmail.com.



MARK D. SCHROEDER '90 lives at 11 Crestview Dr., West Sand Lake, NY 12196.



CHARLES (“Randy”) MABIE '94 and his wife, Debbie, have moved to Campbell Hall in Orange County, New York. Brothers in the area are invited to stop by at 329 Ridge Rd., Campbell Hall, NY 10916. Randy works

for J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, a heavy highway general contractor, where e-mail reaches him at rmabie@jfcson.com.



Sarah and MARK E. BARNES '96 got married in February 2002 and had their first child, Alexander, in February 2003. Once a month Mark plays poker with MICHAEL MUCCI '96, ROBERT FLEMING '96, and ERIC FLYNN '96. Drop him a line at mark.barnes@sap.com or at 9 Rutledge Rd., Natick, MA 01760.



BRETT WITHERELL '00 and his wife, Colleen, have bought a house at 3 Adams Lane, Westford, MA 01886. Send e-mail to Brett at witherell_brett@emc.com.



Financial advisor WILLIAM E. RYAN '02 lives at 129 Tempest Dr., Latham, NY 12410, and receives e-mail at rp18man@alum.rpi.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

ALFRED C. HAEMER JR. '41
September 7, 2003

RUSSELL E. HARRIS '63

PAUL A. LAPLANTE '54
July 21, 2003

ORVILLE W. REEN '38
May 15, 2003

AARON B. RUSH '95
May 20, 2003

THOMAS H. TIMBERLAKE '58
May 12, 2002

JOHN M. WRIGHT '41
October 12, 2003



Δ DIAL is 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.