

The

# EDGECLIFF



# NEWS

Cornell University Chapter  
of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

ITHACA, NEW YORK

OCTOBER, 1975

## ZBT Is Back!

One cold day last April, the oft-painted tree stump in front of Cornell's Willard Straight Hall bore a simple but prophetic message. The work of a pre-dawn foray by members of the final revival pledge class, the inscription read: ZBT IS BACK!

With the reopening of the house at 1 Edgecliff Place this August, ZBT was undeniably back and off to a fresh start under the leadership of President William Kurland '77. The brothers are planning a host of social, cultural, scholastic and athletic activities for the coming year, and a comprehensive rush program is being organized by rush chairman Harry Cooper '78.

After a week of getting the house back in shape, the brothers held the first social event of the year on August 30, a party for prospective Little Sisters: Cornell women who will participate in many ZBT activities during the year. Over 30 women attended the party, which was considered a success by all involved, though it was generally agreed a new recipe for punch is needed.

Upcoming events include a barbecue and movie, a house Olympics, and a trip to the ZBT chapter at the University of Pennsylvania for the Cornell-Penn football contest.

The cultural committee is planning a speaker program and seeking ways to foster good community relations. Activities of the alumni committee include producing the *Edgecliff News* and sponsoring a reception for the alumni. Academically speaking, the house is maintaining an exam file and organizing a tutorial program for brothers and pledges.

In intramural sports, the house has fielded strong soccer and football teams for fall competition against many of the 45 other fraternities at Cornell. Within the house there have already been spirited contests of touch football, basketball, bumper pool, backgammon, and ultimate frisbee. The frisbee game ended abruptly when the saucer was flung over the fence into the churning waters of Ithaca Falls.

The house has hired a houseman and cook, with breakfast and dinner being served Sunday through Friday of each week. The steward is Dave Newton '76. Other officers are: Rush Chairman Bill Kurland '77, Vice-President Nick Liscia '78, Treasurer Mitchell Gershonowitz '78, Secretary Josh Kiem '78, House Manager Robert Breitman '77, Historian David Gottlieb '78, and Executive-at-Large Joel Sacco '78.

Formal rush begins with two smokers during October. In addition, the brothers will be contacting freshman friends on an individual basis. According to Kurland, rush "is the most important thing we'll be doing all year." The rush committee is shooting for a pledge class of between 20 and 30 freshmen.

Everything points to a banner year for ZBT. While some minor problems remain to be worked out, the brothers can look forward to bigger and better things as long as the present attitude of "it's great to be a ZBT" remains.



## How Kappa Revived

Now that you know Kappa is back on its feet it might interest you to know what events led to its re-establishment. It happened like this. In the latter half of the fall semester of 1974 a group of students inquired into the status of ZBT at Cornell. Some were sons of ZBT's, others were friends who were interested in the fraternity. They learned that, although the house was not officially "off the Hill", it was dormant. Don Sherman, a past president, was staying on in a caretaking capacity but he was the only occupant.

They weren't discouraged, and through their efforts the interest of Richard Graham, Kappa Foundation President, and Jim Greer and Doug Maine of ZBT National was roused. By January the re-establishment effort was in progress.

Alan Moidel, an alumnus from U of Pittsburgh, arrived in Ithaca and worked with the first group of men in an effort to generate interest among other Cornellians. This was after all the other fraternities had had a full semester of rush. They worked hard and by early February there were 16 strong commitments. With 14 more commitments we'd get the go-ahead for the coming year.

With a firm groundwork laid, Al Moidel left Ithaca. With more technical support from ZBT National and Dick Graham's encouragement, rushing efforts were redoubled. Slowly the number of committed members increased.

When the prospect of reopening Kappa arose, ZBT National began contacting local Kappa alumni for their support. Howard Cogan, an alumnus residing in the Ithaca area, lent his support. Other alumni expressed interest but wanted to be sure that the new start would have a chance.

As the academic year came to a close, it was clear that we would have a very good chance. We opened our doors with 29 members. We hope to double that by May. And with the enthusiasm and drive of the membership we are sure we can do it.

But our plans extend beyond increasing our membership. As individuals we have varied interests, with members enrolled in the several colleges of the University. We hope that these outside interests, when brought together under one roof, will enrich the experience of fraternity living. We have many plans for the year. One project will work towards expanding our library. Most of all we plan on continuing the tradition of ZBT at Cornell. We are learning about what it has been in the past and what it can be in the future.

EDGECLIFF NEWS

Published regularly by the Kappa Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are always welcome and should be sent to Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, Box 876, Ithaca, New York 14850.

## Missing: A Link With Kappa's Past

Those of us who have revived Kappa Chapter are in a predicament. We are members of the second oldest chapter of ZBT, a chapter that traditionally has been the best in ZBT, and yet we know very little of its past. Stories and anecdotes that have been part of ZBT are no longer with us. Past rituals and traditions unique to Kappa are unknown to us. Only with the help of our alumni can we re-establish our link with the past, a vital link which ties all Kappas together, whether they be 1915 or 1978. So please, if you can't make it to Homecoming, drop us a line and share your memories of life at Edgecliff. It will be greatly appreciated.

As we go to press, we are preparing for Homecoming at Edgecliff (October 18). This year Mr. Henry Van Horn, who worked at Edgecliff for many years, will be the guest of honor. Henry would like to talk over the "good old days" with all alumni who show up so we're hoping for a good turnout of alumni after the game.



## Library Needs Books

The rebirth of ZBT at Edgecliff has spurred a number of major improvements to our fine house, one of which is a proposed renovation of the chapter library. In the short period of time that the new Kappa chapter has been operating, the library has become the major gathering spot for the members, whether for reading a *Cornellian* of years past, or simply discussing one's day on the hill.

At present, the library consists of approximately five hundred volumes, ranging from encyclopedias to textbooks to a nearly-complete set of *Cornellians*. Brothers have at times found it quite informative and amusing to thumb through an old textbook in one of their courses, noticing how the subject matter has evolved over the years.

We are asking all interested alumni to look through their attics, basements, or dusty bookshelves to find books which they would enjoy donating to the house library. Of particular interest to the members would be reference material, such as an atlas or dictionary. Some alumni may have a set of *Harvard Classics* which are no longer of use to them. Great novels such as these would surely satisfy the literary appetites of the membership. Also, any used furniture that might complement the library's yellow and brown decor would be greatly appreciated.

All books donated will be affixed with a seal naming the contributor, his year of graduation, and any desired message will, of course, be included. We feel that the expansion of our library is one way in which alumni, present, and future members of Kappa chapter may share in the continuing growth of Zeta Beta Tau at Edgecliff.

Gary A. Smotrich

## You Can Help With Rush

You can help with this year's rush by sending us the names of any Cornell freshman male. It will only take a minute of your time, and it will be a great help to us in rebuilding the strength of Kappa chapter, the best fraternity "on the Hill."



## Alumni Role Invaluable To Kappa's Future

Tradition is an important feature of life at Edgecliff Place. It can be found in almost every phase of the operation of the fraternity. For example, we have standard procedures in conducting meetings, serving meals, and pledging and initiating new brothers. One might wonder why certain traditions have lasted for so many years. The answer probably is, "What has worked before will most likely work again." In a sense then, Edgecliff '75 is very closely related to Edgecliff 1965, 1955, and so on; those things that made the house strong in the past are making it strong now.

Here is where the alumni of Kappa chapter play an invaluable role in the future of the fraternity. One major difficulty in reopening a house is re-establishing our link to former Edgecliffers and the spirit of fraternity life which they embodied. Our historian, David Gottlieb, has been faithfully assembling the bits and pieces of history and tradition which have been left to us in various collections of records from meetings of past years. The only way in which we can truly accomplish this task is if we have the opportunity to talk to YOU, the alumni of Edgecliff. If we can do this, we will be able to preserve the traditions which are so essential to our fraternity life.

As most of you know, Homecoming Weekend is a big occasion at Cornell every autumn. Along with football and a generally festive atmosphere, we feel this weekend will be an excellent time for the alumni of Kappa chapter to visit us and relate their stories about "the good old days." We are hoping for a good turnout at the social hour following the game.

Stanford D. Gittlen

## Diversity The Key To Lively Brotherhood

Walk into Edgecliff one day and you will hear the sound of lively discussion. Politics, fraternity business, classes, and girls are the main topics, along with the ever-present debate between the engineers and arties over the value of a liberal vs. a technical education. The reason for such constant discourse is not that we don't get along, but rather our wide range of backgrounds, activities, religious beliefs and political affiliations.

Brothers are in the Conservative Club and the Young Peoples Socialist League. A large number of brothers belong to Hillel, while some belong to the Atheists Club, and others to the Cornell Christian Fellowship. Non-controversial areas of activity include almost total house participation in intramural



## Edgecliff A Challenge To Returning Brothers

What do you do when you find your home in ruins? Do you file an insurance claim? Do you ask the state or the Red Cross for help? Do you just sit on a stump and cry? If you are a Kappa brother, you take none of these actions. Instead, you roll up your sleeves and get to work.

That's exactly what the 30 brothers of Kappa chapter did as they left their summer dreams behind and filtered back to Cornell this fall. After being closed for two years, the house needed a major cleaning to make it livable. Dust was everywhere; there was no hot water, few decent beds; the kitchen needed a complete scrubbing, along with the windows and floors.

As each brother arrived, he threw his personal possessions down in his room and set to work on the house. Five, ten, twenty . . . thirty men were soon hard at work trying desperately to turn a cold and dingy shell into a home for Kappa chapter before the start of school.

Slowly, Edgecliff took shape. Wiring was fixed, the lawn was mowed, and the kitchen disgrace was degreed. The first big breakthrough came on Monday, August 25, when, thanks to a new tank, hot water returned, followed shortly by clean hot water. Scrubbing became the accepted order of things; walls, floors, windows, ceilings, everything that was supposed to be clean was cleaned, and everything that was supposed to shine was shined . . . several times.

As already mentioned, food was a major problem that first week. The brothers showed a little ingenuity and a lot of bravery by making McDonald's part of their daily routine. At any given time of the day a Kappa brother could be found ordering two Big Macs: one for himself and one for someone working back at the house.

By the end of the week individual rooms began to take on personality. Carpet and paint became common, and furniture, including new mattresses for those which were unusable, was sorted and arranged.

Finally it was done. Edgecliff was no longer a challenging glob of wood and cement; it was a ZBT house, a home. And at that first official meal—that first time the Kappa brothers dined together on something more than "two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun"—they and everyone else knew that, indeed, ZBT was back.

sports, three *Cornellian* photographers, the Sports Editor of the *Cornell Daily Sun*, who is also on the payroll of the *New York Times* and the AP, a feature articles writer for the *Sun*, a varsity baseball manager, a member of the Cornell bowling team, one rugby player, several Mountaineering Club members and two brothers in the Sailing Club. Several members of the Cornell ultimate frisbee team are in the house; one brother is in the Cornell Astronomical Society, another is in the C.U. Horticultural Society and several brothers are actively involved in the I.F.C.

We have lab technicians, a computer operator, one orientation counselor, an intramural referee, a member of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers, and a member of the Delta Club, an Electrical Engineering society.

Brothers hail from nine states, ranging from Massachusetts to Florida and from New York to Illinois. Four colleges are represented (Ag., Arts, Eng., I.L.R.), with a multitude of majors and proposed majors.

As you can see, we have followed in the footsteps of past Kappas in the belief that diversity makes for an interesting and lively brotherhood.

## Big Red Football Always Unpredictable

It's a cherished American tradition to root for the underdog. Look at the fervent fans of teams like the Mets and the Brooklyn Dodgers. This fall Cornell fans are going to get their chance to participate in this rich heritage while watching football at Schoellkopf Field. The Big Red gridders, coming off consecutive 3-5-1 seasons, are considered by most objective prognosticators to be, along with the perennially hapless Columbia Lions, without a shot at the Ivy League title.

An unobjective Cornell fan can, however, legitimately point out the fact that the Ivy is the most balanced, unpredictable league in the nation. Give new head coach George Seifert a healthy Don Fanelli for an entire season and a decent quarterback, they say, and the Red will surprise more than a few objective prognosticators. While neither of those conditions seems likely at this point, neither is impossible, and therein lies the basis for the Cornell fan's hopes.

The Cornell season began with an opening loss to Colgate, the first loss to the Maroon in five seasons. The outcome of the second game at Bucknell was more predictable. The last time the Buffaloes weren't rubbed out by the Big Red was 1891. The Thundering Herd romped 4-0 that year. Since then little thunder has been heard from the Lewisburg squad, especially against the Red. Cornell has won 21 in a row, 14 by shutouts, and has outscored Bucknell 485-53.

Cornell opened its Ivy schedule with a loss to Princeton, which could be in the title race this year simply because it is the only team which will have the same QB it had last season—Ron Beible. Then again having the Wounded-Duck Launcher back may not be that big an asset.

Harvard, which would have been last year's Ivy Champ but for a loss to Brown, visits Schoellkopf for Homecoming on October 18. The Crimson was hit hard by graduation. All-Ivy QB Milt Holt and All-America receiver Pat McNally are gone, but they haven't done the big damage to Cornell the past two seasons. That was done by the Crimson defense, in the form of injuries to Red tailback Don Fanelli. Last year Fanelli, who has been hampered by a pinched nerve in practice this fall, had ten touchdowns in four games when a knee injury sidelined him. He has been moved to fullback, and will no longer be solely responsible for carrying the Cornell running attack. Both sophomore Garland Burns and junior Joe Mollica are decent runners for quarterbacks, and tailbacks Tim LaBeau and Neal Hall, Cornell's first outside threat in years, should divert some of the defenses' attention from Fanelli.

The 1975 Yale game, October 25 at New Haven, can't be any more one-sided than last year's, which the Eli won, 27-3. Quite a few Yalies graduated, with four going on to pro teams. The offense is questionable, but seven starters from the unit which was second in the nation in scoring defense will return.

Columbia visits Schoellkopf on November 1. Unfortunately for the Lions, visiting is about the only thing they'll do here, or anywhere this season. Playing Columbia and Brown back to back used to be a nice fall vacation for the Red. Brown, however, has 18 starters returning from a team which won its last four games. Also, courtesy of the University of Vermont, which dropped football, the Bruins have 6'6" Bob Bateman, Bateman, who was All-New England last season, passed for 1800 yards and is considered a pro prospect.

The Red travels to Dartmouth and Penn for the season's final games. Both of these squads are not going to be as tough as in recent years, but because the league lacks a dominant team, neither can be counted out of the race.

Six Cornell players who looked to be starters have decided for various reasons not to play football. Regardless, Cornell has talent at all positions, although little depth anywhere. Bruce Starks, the fifth leading receiver in the nation last year, returns along with TE Don Wierbinski, but none of this year's QB's can throw like Kevin Sigler. The weekend before the Colgate game Seifert decided that Mollica would start at QB. Mollica, who saw little action as a soph, did exhibit a penchant for running around the end, picking up a yard or two at best. He completed

## Alumni News

We wish to make alumni news a regular feature of the newsletter. We are asking that you send us announcements of births, marriages, promotions, and any other happy event you would like to share with your brothers. A news form is enclosed for your convenience.

We are also trying to up-date our address records so that as many alumni as possible will receive our mailings. Please use your news form to let us know your correct address or up-coming move.

Although a retired C.P.A., RICHARD S. HELSTEIN '34 is still busy representing his firm in professional societies. He also works as liaison between the accounting societies and organizations representing disadvantaged business, and on the Joint Committee of Accountants and Lawyers, does volunteer work at his local hospital, and tries to keep up with current tax events. (23 Fox Meadow Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583)

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JERRY LEVIN '63 started private practice as an ophthalmologist in July, 1973. He and Janice have two children. (6202 Meyers Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215)

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JOSEPH THANHAUSER '71 completed a Master's degree in finance at Columbia in 1973, and then worked for Uris Buildings Corporation negotiating leases and real estate transactions. His business address is 850 3rd Avenue, NYC, NY 10022.

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Lawyer and C.P.A. HARVEY JACOBS '47 serves as a conferee with the Appellate Division of I.R.S. trying to resolve tax disputes to keep them out of court. When he wrote last year he said his leisure time is occupied with a "good amount of tennis and some golf, with the rest of my time spent in an intensive search for a bride." (70 Remsen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201)

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MYLES C. ARBER '64 graduated from NYU Law School, passed the NY State Bar, visited Crested Butte, Colorado and loved the country so much that he decided to settle there. He bought the town newspaper and edits and publishes it, practicing a little law in his spare time. (P.O. Box 155, Crested Butte, CO 81224)

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Professor PHILIP FREUND '29 teaches creative writing at Fordham University. Transatlantic Arts published in hard-cover and paperback his book, *Three Poetic Plays*, which had appeared earlier in England. Austrian and German television have shown his play, "The Pursuit of Dr. Plummer." (1025 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10028)

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In August, 1973, BRUNO V. BITKER '21 was an American delegate to the International Conference of Judges and Lawyers in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, for the sixth World Peace Through Law Conference, the first to be held in Africa. He was chairman of the American Bar Association's Section of International Law Committee on International Courts. The American Bar Association *Journal* of July, 1973, quoted Bitker in "The Constitutionality of International Agreements on Human Rights" as asserting "It is unbelievable, in light of American history, that anyone could question the right of the United States to enter into international agreements to protect human rights." (2330 E. Back Bay, Milwaukee, WI 53202)

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one of the three passes he tried last year, and 38 of 88 as a freshman. Unless he's improved considerably, there's going to be a lot of pressure on the running game.

What all this means is basically that Cornell can count on finishing behind Yale and ahead of Columbia. Other than that, no one knows. It's going to be a lot of fun watching the Ivies again this fall.