

The

Kappa Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity at Cornell

Edgecliff News

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2001

From The Chapter President —

Kappa Brothers United In Effort To Improve Edgecliff

Alumni Kick Off \$150,000 Campaign To Add Upgrades

Since the beginning of the spring semester many changes have taken place here at Kappa. The greatest achievement of the house was the stellar rush week that resulted in the largest pledge class in years. This year we are proud to report 25 new brothers. Jason Behrens and sidekick Alberto Leff led rush. Because of the high brother moral, planning for rush '02 has begun and is being led by Brian West and his rush committee.

The condition of the house is at an all-time high. At the beginning of the semester the third-floor bathroom was redone. In addition, we, with the support of the alumni board, are undertaking a \$150,000 campaign to fund further house improvements. The house at 1 Edgecliff Place needs a new hot water heater and a new railing system for the stairs. We also hope to renovate the second-floor bathroom and the first-floor vestibule. Matt

Rubins '90 began the fundraiser by generously donating \$10,000 to Kappa. However, in order to restore the house to its proper working condition, we need more support from alumni. Please feel free to contact me at 607/257-8594 if you have any questions about how you can help the house.

Fixing the house is not our only goal this semester—brothers are also working hard to regain the highest house GPA on campus. This is an honor that we have received numerous times in the past few years. We also have strong representation in various clubs throughout campus. Brother Chris Noble is a member of the Hangovers, one the best a cappella groups on campus, and brothers Mark Lapidus, Adam Sachs, Marc Smoler, and David Newman are all members of the Cornell Hotel Society. The brotherhood is strong and collectively participating in

intramural sports, philanthropy projects, and fun times together.

We have also become more involved with National. In February we sent four brothers to conclave in Pittsburgh. I am proud to report that we were one of the strongest chapters at the convention. We are also looking forward to a visit from National Executive Director John Yulich in April.

As we look to the future we see much room for improvement. As a brotherhood, we must unite both brothers and alumni in an effort to improve the house. ZBT is *the* name on campus, and in order to maintain our status as the best house, we must continue to work together. Please stop by 1 Edgecliff Place and meet your fellow brothers.

Ryan Kass

SEE YOU AT REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 7-10, 2001

Kappa welcomes all alumni, current undergraduates, their families, and guests back to Edgecliff! An informal reception and open house will be held at the house on **Saturday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** We look forward to seeing all of you there. In addition, please feel free to stop by Edgecliff at any time during the weekend.

Kappa Foundation Members Visit House To Discuss Renovations, Improve Relations

Members of Kappa Foundation Inc., the alumni organization for the Kappa Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau, visited Cornell this year to meet with the brothers and assess the status of the house. The members of KFI arrived on Saturday, February 3, and stayed until Sunday afternoon. Although there were several reasons for the visit, the trip was sparked by the current problems with the renovation of the third-floor bathroom. Construction on the bathroom was set to be completed over the summer, yet various prob-

lems have caused the project to continue past spring break. This is more than two months after the originally scheduled completion date. To help remedy the situation, begin working on separate projects, and enhance their relationship with the brotherhood, KFI decided that a visit Cornell would be a valuable step.

At the start of the visit, board members David Coyne '90, Jerry Ippolito '79, and Matthew Rubins '90, took the entire executive board out to dinner where several topics

(Continued on page two)

Trip To Conclave Reinforces Common Bond Among All ZBTs

The chance to attend the Zeta Beta Tau Conclave was offered to our entire house, and I immediately felt it was a great opportunity to do something for the chapter and meet other brothers. I volunteered and was selected for the excursion to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We left early in the morning to make it to the meetings on time and were fortunately able to get there through the bad weather. Once we got there, three brothers and I engaged in the informational meetings that covered topics such as risk management and rush strategies.

Alumni of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, who were knowledgeable professionals, ran these information sessions in an organized fashion and easily relayed the information to the brothers on hand. We learned some great ways to avoid trouble and also learned our rights as a fraternity house. In the past, one might let the police use intimidation when dealing with students, but we learned that we

have rights and can prevent trouble in many situations.

The long discussion on rush focused on having an initial plan that can be implemented during rush semesters. This discussion was very informative and interactive. All the brothers created their own plans, and then everyone shared their ideas aloud so each different chapter could hear new ideas. By the end almost every chapter had its goals and activities planned for the next rushing semester.

After the meetings the socializing began. All the brothers showed up at a Zeta Beta Tau party at one of the local establishments near the hotel, and what was an informational trip soon became an exciting opportunity to meet new people. As brothers from the different chapters bonded and mixed, many people outside the fraternity began to filter into the party. Soon there were people from all over talking and having fun, and by the end of the evening the place was full of

local students from Pittsburgh's learning institutions.

It was nice to be able to meet some of the local students and see how their social lives differ from ours. It was a wild atmosphere until the early morning hours. As the people began trickling out of the party, the conclave seemed to be coming to an end. Despite this feeling, there was still another session with the alumni to wrap up ideas.

The next morning, we made our way downstairs into the conference room where the important concepts of the conclave were discussed and summarized briefly. The meeting ended with the ritual "Good and Welfare" and students shared their weekend experiences. It seemed like we were all one, rather than individual chapters. It was an experience not to be forgotten.

Adam Bodzin



From left, Jeff Rauch, Ryan Kass, Zach Pomerantz, Avi Barak, and Mark Jones at the toga mixer with Chi Omega.

New Bathroom At Edgecliff Nears Completion; Summer Projects Planned

The new bathroom at Edgecliff is not totally complete, but it is in working order. After several months of renovation and building, it is finally coming together and is now useable. The showerheads feel like 30 little angels spraying water on your back, and the large mirror is more than adequate for shaving. When the toilet partitions are installed, the bathroom will be in full working order.

Soon, we will be calling in a contractor to do some banister work. After years of use and abuse the banister will be professionally repaired and stained a new color. This project should take place in early April and should only take three to five days. Right now we are taking bids to see which professional will give us the best price.

During the summer, more labor-intensive projects are planned. These include roof work over the kitchen as well as construction of a wall and door in the boiler room. As for the rest of Edgecliff, things are running well.

Robb Stokar
House Manager

Kappa Foundation Members Visit Edgecliff To Improve Relations, Discuss Renovations

(Continued from page one)

were discussed and debated from the standpoints of alumni and students. Plans were made to remedy the problems with the bathroom renovation. In addition, preliminary plans for upcoming house renovations and fund-raising campaigns were completed. The meeting turned out to be a huge success. Plans to renovate the second-floor bathroom, replace the railing for the stairs, refinish the vestibule, and install high-speed Internet access in the house were initiated. Furthermore, a strategy to raise \$150,000 was discussed at the dinner on Saturday and during a conference call with several alumni and students that took place on Sunday morning. The campaign started

off with an extraordinarily generous donation of \$10,000 by Matthew Rubins at the end of the call.

The weekend also allowed a casual, free exchange of ideas between students and alumni. The trip provided the perfect setting for both groups to express feelings about the house and the goals of the brotherhood. It was a great opportunity for the two groups to work out fundamental differences in opinion and get to know each other in order to make any further interactions more successful. The visit was so helpful in bridging the gap between alumni and students that KFI has decided to make visits to Cornell an annual occurrence.

Daniel Arnold

ZBT Takes 25 Steps Into The Future

The Kappa Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau had, for the second year in a row, an extremely successful rush campaign. Led by Rush Chair Jason Behrens, 25 new members were inducted into the house. The new brothers joined the house with great enthusiasm and have already begun to contribute. The new class promises to be a valuable part of the Zeta Beta Tau tradition.

This year's rush campaign was difficult. Many of the prospective members were torn between several houses. Fortunately a strong showing of brotherhood and many well-planned events paid off. Jason said, "It was a long, tough process, but in the end, it was all worth it."

Jason was not solely responsible for the success of the program. As Jason put it, "We could not have done this without the help of the entire brotherhood." He also gave special thanks to Alberto Leff who helped out all week.

The new class will provide the house with enormous benefits. Aside from providing 25 new brothers and strengthening the bond of ZBT brotherhood on campus, the class contributes in less obvious ways. Their dues will help to all but erase the financial problems of the chapter. In addition, the new class will help to improve our chapter's relationship with Zeta Beta Tau National by



The freshman class and Brotherhood Development Director Avi Barak '02 gather at ZBT's Date Night.

proving to them the strength of our standing on campus. After all the work that the brotherhood put in, the results we obtained were extremely rewarding.

Daniel Arnold

New Brother Learns, "It's Great To Be A Zeta Beta Tau"

At the end of January, I was initiated as a brother of Zeta Beta Tau. Since then, I have grown very close to the 24 others who were initiated that day, as well as the older brothers of Kappa. Being in ZBT has given me the opportunity to meet a new group of friends and experience a new social environment. Each new brother is glad to be a Kappa, and the older brothers are glad to have us as the newest additions to this fraternity.

We all hang out with one another, but beyond that, people really have deep conversations. In fact, just the other day, I was talking to a few of the sophomore brothers about some academic concerns. I am considering switching majors, and the three brothers were more than willing to listen and give me advice.

All of last semester, I found myself going to parties at different fraternities every weekend, and I met many different people every time but never spoke to them again after that night. I considered a small group of people to be true friends. By the end of the semester, I was pretty sure that I wanted to join a fraternity because I thought that it would help me to find my place in a large school where it's easy to get lost. ZBT was my first choice even then because I liked the few brothers who I knew, and I always had a good time when I was there. When rush week came around, I spent most of my time at ZBT and got to know a lot of the brothers pretty well, as well as other freshmen who wanted to join the house. I felt that ZBT truly was the place where I would find what I was looking for in a fraternity and in a group of friends.

So far, I feel that I made the right decision. I feel comfortable with all of my new brothers, both those who were initiated with me and the older ones. It is a great feeling at the end of every meeting during "Good and Welfare," to be able to say, "it's great to be a Zeta Beta Tau."

Ross Mayerhoff



Mike Fairchild gets pumped up.

ZBT



From left, Brian Rose, Josh Leventhal, Rob Snyder, Marc Smoler (at top), Mike Wahl, and Zach Pomerantz hang out at Dino's.

Zeta Beta Tau Alumni News

MARVIN E. BRAVE '54 is enjoying retirement. He plays tennis five days a week, travels, and spends time with his grandchildren. Say hello to "Sam" at 10 E. Lee St., Unit #1106, Baltimore, MD 21202; may24@aol.com.

Eight years ago, NEIL E. GOLDBERGER '61 (55 Bonita Vista, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610; vnproducts@att.net) created a distributorship company (V.N. Products, Inc.) in the promotional products industry, which has turned out to be a dream business come true—no inventory, no overhead, and no headaches. Neil writes, "Today we are the number one contractor to the government in our industry and service many large corporations. We also have a division that sells licensed products to retail accounts." Neil gets together with MICHAEL GLUECK '60 regularly and is in touch with LEONARD HARLAN '58. Both were his mentors when he first became a ZBT.

Please note this updated address for WARREN BOWMAN '64 of 99 Lynthwaite Farm Lane, Wilmington, DE 19803.

MICHAEL F. SUKIN '65 (370 Riverside Dr., Apt. 7B, New York, NY 10025; nikus2@aol.com) is an entertainment lawyer with an international practice in that field with offices in New York and Nashville. He and his wife, Kim, live in New York with their son, Moses (8), who attends the Bank Street school. Kim is a fashion editor whose recent book, *What to Wear*, is being reprinted in five languages. Michael keeps in touch with ZBTs of his era, so if you want to connect, let him know.

PETER D. SAUNDERS '71 has completed two and a half of his three-year tour as the chief engineer for the headquarters at U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. He will be moving back to the states this June, where he will report as the commanding officer of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps Officer School at Port Hueneme, California. That will be his "twilight" tour of duty with the Navy as he hits his statutory retirement threshold of 30 years on July 1, 2003. Peter and his wife celebrated their 25th anniversary in October with a trip to

Dublin and spent a week with KEN OLINGER '71 and his family. Please note this corrected address information for Peter: Unit 30400, Box 1167, APO AE, 09128; saundepd@eucom.mil.

After 16 years at CBS News, the last two running their Web site, STEPHEN E. JACOBS '73 has decided to work at a technology company instead of a content organization—he's now with Sony. E-mail Steve at stephen.jacobs@am.sony.com.

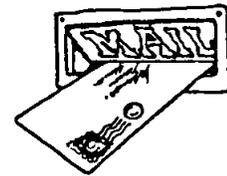
Now a vice president and associate general counsel at Verizon, DAVID S. KAUFFMAN '79 writes, "After being transferred to Dallas, Texas, (boy, that was an experience) I was transferred back to the Northeast where we bought a house just one mile away from our old one. Jody (Weiner) Kauffman (Hum Ec '81) and I celebrated our 15th anniversary this year, and we have three beautiful girls—Melanie (8), Erica (5), and Jennifer (3)." Write to the Kauffmans at 9 Black Birch Rd., Westport, CT 06880; david.kauffman@verizon.com.

We have a new address for JOHN F. VACCARO '92 of 220 E. 29th St., 2C, New York, NY 10016; jfv1@cornell.edu. He is vice president of product development at Teen People Online.

JOSHUA WELLS '93 married Allison Guth (Colby '94) on September 17, 2000. ZBTs in attendance included: VIVEK CHOPRA '92, MIKE CIMINI '92, ADAM GOLD '93, NATE GOLDBERG '94, JEREMY "Droop Dog" GRUNZWEIG '93, ALEX HEFESS '92, MARC MERRIWEATHER '93, TOBY MILLMAN '92, CRAIG SENZON '93, ROB SILVER '92, PAUL SPRINSKY '93, BRETT "Chaka" STEIN '93, and ANDY YONTEFF '92. Send congratulations to Josh and Allison at 140 State St., Brooklyn, NY 11201; jwells@lcbf.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR
Homecoming 2001:
October 13 vs. Harvard
SEE YOU THERE!

Send In Your Newsform



The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni. Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address at the bottom of this page. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest memories of Kappa or thoughts on what Zeta Beta Tau means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Edgecliff News*.



From left, Mike Alaia, Chris Joseph, Dan Arnold, Mark Lapidus, Jeff Brauer, and Brian West attend the ZBT fall formal.

THE EDGECLIFF NEWS

Published regularly by the Kappa Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau at Cornell University for its members and friends. News items and pictures are welcome at all times and should be sent to Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity at Cornell, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

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