

Newsletter October 2004  
Volume 51

# The Elms Clubber

*Theta Sigma Tau & Sigma Nu (zt) Alumni Association/ 262-388-3065*

## House and Alumni News

This fall the House received one pledge, David Kurtycz, a junior. David's pledge name is "Big Pen15 the Friggin Troll." His big sister is Nicole Turner, meaning that when he activates the Royal Family will have THREE active members!

This fall the Alumni Association started a web-based store where anyone can purchase merchandise with the Tau crest or letters on it. There are several different styles of t-shirts available, along with coffee mugs, Frisbees, hats, and a miscellany of other items. The store is located at [www.cafepress.com/thetasigmatau](http://www.cafepress.com/thetasigmatau)

Proceeds from the sales from the store will be used to defray some of the \$800/year that it costs to provide and maintain the Alumni and house sites and associated services.

## Tau Ghosts in the News!

The Ripon College Days recently had an article on the ghosts of Ripon and our own "Dark Walker" shows up in the story. No one's sure where most of their details came from... for example: no one on the Exploder could remember any "places" it could not go in Ripon (and how would one find out? By stalking the ghost?). At any rate, I am reprinting the salient portion of the story here for those who may not have seen it.

Excerpt from "Campus history haunted with ghost stories, unexplained events" by Kari Joas, 10/13/04 *Ripon College Days*.

Back in the Quads, Mapes was supposedly haunted by a demon. On Halloween during the mid-eighties students sought to summon a poltergeist. Painting a red pentagram on the floor between rooms 203 and 204, the students used a book of spells, but read the spell incorrectly and a demon appeared.

The students quickly ran away, and when plant department workers cleaned the painted pentagram the demon was free to travel around Mapes and the campus.

Known as "Black Walker" or "Shadow Walker," the demon was reported to be a black figure standing 15 feet tall with red eyes.

This being an election year, we felt that the Alumni Newsletter ought to take a stand and advocate a candidate. Due to his excellent service to the Alumni Association and just being a swell (headed) guy, we recommend casting a vote for Pete "Plenz" Lenz (89). Keep voting for him in every election from this year onward... write him in on all races... from the presidential race to senator or representative, to alderman, to sheriff's errand boy! Let's get him into office somewhere! You can even get an election year t-shirt supporting him (soon to be switched to 2008...

<http://www.cafepress.com/plenzsminions.12863839>

Obviously, the newsletter is a bit late this time around. We apologize for that, but we've been busy busy busy! And the wait was well timed, since the article below came out shortly after this issue SHOULD have, but it fits so much better in this issue than in the January one!



The Garden of the Cross

But there were two places "Black Walker" could not go, a tree statue located in the cemetery and the Garden of the Cross, which is the newer part of the cemetery that is in the shape of a cross when viewed from above. The cross faces North instead of East, which allows only neutral spirits to enter, according to the college archives. Both these locations are known as talismans, which focus on good, explaining why the demon could not enter.

"Black Walker" was sighted again in 1990 by students in Mapes 104, and at a later date a student was said to defeat the demon, as students never saw the figure again.



## The Rumour Mill

In July Chris Boydston (87) landed a job in Fremont, NE, at a small law firm (two other attorneys). She says that she is in court twice a week and that it is way more fun than she thought it would be. Due to the job she has sold her house in Lincoln, NE, and bought one in Fremont.

Richard (Wookiee) Dammkoehler (92) reports: *The Dammkoehler's still live in the far northwestern suburbs of Chicago. Rich has started his own consulting company and is servicing contracts in the mid-west [www.noradltd.com](http://www.noradltd.com). Melanie has started her own business making hand crafted jewelry and greeting cards (no web-site yet, but we're working on it [shoe maker's children]). Gabrielle started pre-school in September of 2004 and is loving every minute of it. The Dammkoehler's are enjoying their time in Chicago and are gradually growing a close circle of friends. They still enjoy the great outdoors and vacationing in Wisconsin as well as reading and watching movies. I also started a company in 2002 called General Transformation Inc. ([www.gtius.com](http://www.gtius.com)) providing customized image processing ([www.ucustomizeit.com](http://www.ucustomizeit.com)) that is growing by leaps and bounds. Check it out and let us know what you think at [support@ucustomizeit.com](mailto:support@ucustomizeit.com).*

Walker Hibben (94) is still serving in the military and works part time at a tech company. He is also working on a "monster sized fantasy novel" and enjoys a rich fantasy life where he gets paid to act. He was at Alumni Weekend 2004 for his 10th anniversary and was disappointed to see how few people turned out for it.

Dave and Alys (Fulkerson) Humfleet (03/03) announce that they are expecting their first child.

Beth Ann Judas announces that she is now officially ABD. The title of her proposed dissertation is Late Bronze Age Aegean Ceramics in the Nile Valley: An Analysis of Idea and Practice as Represented in the Archaeological Record. Beth Ann lives in Philadelphia, PA.

Pete and Viola (Martin) Lenz (89/02) announce that they are expecting their first child. Lillian Mae is expected to arrive shortly after the New Year holiday. Pete's hoping that she arrives a little early, just in time to ring in the New Year (and provide a dependent for tax purposes).

Natasha Peters (99) says that she made it through Hurricane Ivan with flying colors (and a few flying trees). The only damage their house suffered was that the carport is now over by the pear tree. Her parents' house was also spared damage, in part because their cypress tree stopped the neighbors' pecan tree from smashing into the house. Tash says that parts of Pensacola will never look the same. "It's almost like Mother Nature decided to try her hand at modern art using store signs, billboards, and trees."

Katie Piccirillo (04) is student-teaching at Murray Park Elementary School in Ripon, WI. She will be teaching fourth grade students there.

Tom Rinker (94) announces that he will be marrying his high school sweetheart, Missy, on January 1, 2005. He says that any and all Taus that wish to attend are more than welcome.

Dave Shogren's (84) band "Barefoot Jones" played at the Class of 84 Reunion in June 2004 which was held in the sculpture garden behind Rodman. Dave says that "it was the next best thing to the gig I once played with "Uncle Wiggly" on the Tit in the quads." Kurt Ristow (84) also made it to alumni weekend and was found singing some nasty heavy metal songs karaoke style on Friday night.

Lt. Matt Woodard (03) is still serving with the US Army in Iraq. He expects to be returning to the states in February, when he will be assigned to a base in Texas. He's been very busy lately and wasn't able to get a "Letters from the Front" submission to me in time for this newsletter.

*"She had that eerie smile that says 'I like you but perhaps one day I will knife you and throw you in the swamp.'"*

- George Johnson (01)  
re; Viola (Martin) Lenz (02)



*"Dude, you have to wrap your pickle before you stick it in there."*

- SaraH Hoffman (02)



## Dillon's Diatribes



So, as some of you may or may not be aware, Brook (Compton, '01) and I moved to a new apartment back in early July. We ventured from the scenic whitebread suburbanite vistas of New Berlin to the "Words fail me" vistas of Greenfield. And for the most part, it's been a good decision, and pretty hassle free, once we figured out how to get to our new place. The only real snag was the TV, both moving the damn thing up the stairs, thanks Pete, and our cable service. DirecTV satellites are not allowed at our new place, so we need to go to cable. Time Warner gets the call!

So, Wednesday night, after the move, Time Warner was supposed to come by and hook up our new cable/internet package. I took off from work early to make sure I was home in time for them to come by, so of course, they didn't. They SAID that they did, and that the guy knocked on the door with no response, but I was sitting IN THE LIVING ROOM, listening for the door, so unless he knocked on it with a feather and ran away right afterward, he's lying to me. So we need to reschedule. Time Warner gets another call.

"Oh, we'll try to send someone by on Thursday after 4, then."

Great. Thursday is my friend Chris' birthday and he wants to celebrate with a movie in Janesville. This is going to be tight. We have no other options, though, so we're stuck with what they'll give us.

"Sounds good, we'll be here."

The lady then goes on to tell us that since we have an HDTV, we can get a free upgrade to an HD box for our cable, and would we be interested?

Um...no, actually- the idea of having a much, much sharper TV picture at absolutely no extra cost to us does not appeal to me in any way whatsoever...

What are you, insane? We'd have to be retarded not to take that deal. She then goes on to extoll the virtues of HDTV to me for another five minutes or so, how sharp the picture is, how much more fun it is to watch, am I a sports fan, blah blah blah. Ok, lady- your sales pitch began and ended at "Free HDTV" Nothing more needs to be said after that. Hell, you had me at "free". If you haven't won them over by that point, they're too stupid to bother with.

"Yeah, sounds good. We'd like to try that."

Ok, so the cable guy is gonna be here at some random time on Thursday after 4, but he's bringing an HD box with him, so life is happy. I get home around 4, I have some ice cream, and I wait. Brook gets home. We wait. And wait. I swear, it's like some kind of monitoring power that they have...

"Are Compton and Dillon still waiting for us to come over?"

"Yes, they are"

"Ok, give it another few minutes, then."

...

"How about now?"

"Well sir, it would appear that they've given up waiting, and are now preparing to leave their apartment and are willing to forsake a timely connection in favor of going out and having lives and doing something fun with their friends for the rest of their evening. Yep, they're making their way to the car now..."

"Good. Give them a call and tell them we'll be there in 5 minutes."

15 minutes later, the dude shows up, stays till 8 or so installing everything, and boy, is this dude a trip.

"So, it looks like you read a lot of comic books."

"Yep"

"You know inkers?"

In all my time reading comics, no one has EVER asked me that question before. (See, comics tie into my everyday life at all times. I am a comic god)

"Not personally, no. And, unlike artists, I don't know the style of any any inker well enough to identify their work by sight."

"You know Matt Nelson?"

"Never heard of him."

"He worked for Top Cow."

"Oh...uh...cool. You know him?"

Maybe a contact or something useful will come out of this guided tour of Hell....

"Yeah. I play Xbox Live with him. He lives in Utah or something."

Well....that's just special. At what point am I supposed to care?

And, of course, the guy DOESN'T have the HD box we were promised, because apparently they just like to taunt you with it. However, he is very quick to once again extoll all the virtues of HDTV to those of us who don't have it (Like he still needs to convince us it's a good idea.) They're a bunch of HDTeases...

"I think the problem, guys, is that you don't seem to want it enough..."

Listen, Time Warner, if i want something waved in my face constantly, something that I really, really want, but can never have, I'll go to a strip club ok? (at least then the waving is literal!)

So they left us a regular box, and promise to come by next week sometime with an HD box so we can repeat this experience all over again next week! Yay! And he didn't even leave until 8, by which point it's too late to catch my friends and I'm hoping he dies on the way home, preferably cut in two by an express train in front of his family, because he still won't shut up about the stupid HDTV.

Plus the moron didn't even install the cable in the right rooms of the house, which is just super special. There's only three rooms with tvs in them in the apartment, guy! How hard is it to pick the right two of them?

He finally does show up the next week, and we get to experience the joys of HDTV...the whole three channels of it that actually come in HD. Oh, sure, we get HBO and Skinemax and such in HD, for the next two weeks, until our "free trial" of those channels is revoked and we have to start selling kidneys to get them back. But boy, can we watch REGULAR FREE NETWORK TV in HD!!!! WHOOPEEEE!!! Unless I'm on the HD channel, I can't get a decent reception for those networks, but now I can enjoy a razor sharp picture of a network I could have seen for free! And it's only costing me \$80 a month! THIS ROCKS!!!!

And the line about sports fans? Total lie. You have to pay extra for ESPN in HD.

Maybe I can get the All Inker Channel, though.

Bastards.

News from Abroad: Bonn, Germany



Andy Beswick (07) is spending the fall 2004 semester studying in Bonn, Germany. He writes that there are certain things you will see there that will simply drive home to you the fact that you MUST be in Germany:

1. You walk into a grocery store and there are hot dogs in pickle jars.
2. You walk down the street and a man on a bike passes you... and he's 90 years old.
3. Not only is seeing older people on bikes regular, these people are Comanches when it comes to bikes! I've seen some of these people riding and when it gets into a tight spot, they throw their leg over the side of the bike and ride with both feet on one pedel on the side of the bike. Unbelievable!
4. You walk into a store and there are a few customers with dogs. They aren't seeing-eye dogs. What's more, they are extremely well behaved. I've also noticed quite a few dogs w/o leashes.

5. After seeing the man on the street, you notice that you have to walk in the street cuz there is a car parked on the sidewalk. When there's no room on the street, just park on the sidewalk. That's ingenuity.

The best one: 6. You know you're in Germany when you become an alcoholic because the beer is cheaper than the water. As a matter of fact, you can get a Fleischman's price for don pernigon. Or some other really good tasting alcohol for a really cheap price. And it's a high proof. Jim here from Ripon is living proof. He's spent more than 200 euros on alcohol and it's only been 3 weeks. What a party!

Tau Television: Our Favorite Reality Program!



Last week on *WHOOOoooooore!!!!* Both Susie and Tiffany were eliminated from the competition. Susie lost during the Fellatio Elimination Round when she discovered that she did, indeed, have a gag reflex! Tiffany literally crapped out during the Backdoor Surprise Elimination Round.

The judges agree that this round will be most challenging for Chad, who will be working with a severe physical disadvantage when compared to the other remaining contestants. Chad is confident that he can do well, though.

*"Some mornings it looks like the hair fairy threw up on your head."*

*- Viola Martin Lenz (02); re: Pete Lenz's (89) bed head.*

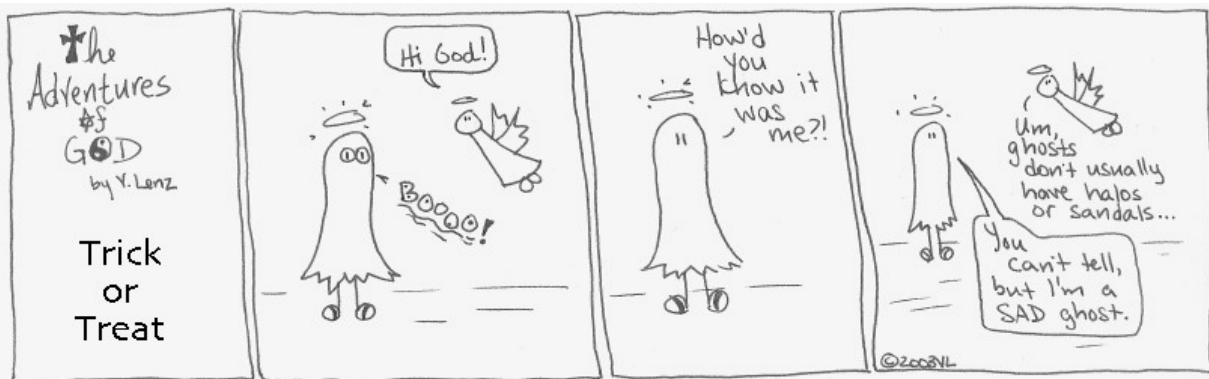
This Thursday on *WHOOOoooooore!!!!* We find Buffy, Sindy, Mary, and Chad each in a "three-way" match with our judges: Dirk, Lou, and Tony! This week is the dreaded Three-in-One Elimination Round.

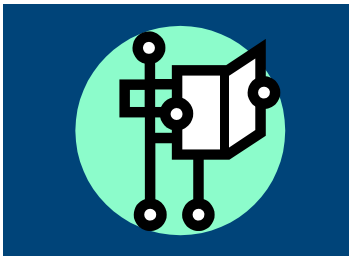
Tune in to Skinemax on Thursday as we watch all of the action reach a climax (or three) and we "come" a little closer to finding out who is America's greatest...

**WHOOOoooooore!!!!**



Viola's Comic Corner: Halloween Edition





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## Quotable Quotes

*Special today: Carol at Conclave #19*

"It's not usually a guy thing, but we'll let you come."

- Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"Carol, I can't believe you can still get on your knees after THAT ride!"

"Yeah, but I won't be able to get out of bed tomorrow."

- Lisa Flegel Sottile (89) & Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"... she had a real soft mouth, too."

- Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"I had to explain to him that if he didn't want Smokey's nose in his rear, he better get moving."

- Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"That's why women like horseback riding: it's got it all!"

- Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"My breasts are still frozen!"

- Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"Steve has toasted buns."

- Carol Shay Hornung (88)

"You wanna do it on the deck?"

"We've done it on the deck before!"

- Pete Lenz (89) and Carol Shay Hornung (88)

*Other quotes from other folks...*

"It's cool when you've got bigger wood."

- MicroTau Andrew Bourn

"That was actually my mouth your finger was in."

"Hey, it was warm and moist... how was I supposed to tell the difference?"

- Roxanne Ross (05) and Ken Dillon (03)

"Hey, in ten years I'll STILL be young and viral!"

- Jharick Shields (05)

"I want it laid out flat when we suck it dry."

- Jim Bourn (87)

"I don't like digging in drawers unless I ask first."

'Oh, I do!'"

- Lisa Flegel Sottile (89) and Pete Lenz (89)

"Aw, man! I didn't bring a napkin and I squirted on myself."

- Viola Martin Lenz (02)

"I don't feel juicy."

- Viola Martin Lenz (02)

Viola's Comic Corner: More Halloween Goodness

