

# The Taubula Rasa

Theta Sigma Tau/Sigma Nu Alumni Association  
118 S. Wilson St., Fredonia, WI 53021 - 414-435-0516

## House News

This fall the house obtained one of those rarest of creatures: a fall pledge class! Three people pledged the house this fall: Jenny Greathouse, Jenny Johannes, and Ashleigh Smith.

Both Jennys were welcomed into the family on November 18th at the fall activation party. Ashleigh depledged for personal reasons but has been offered social membership.

This brings the membership of the house to roughly 20 members... not an all time high, but definitely a high for the last decade or so.

The house held a Fall Formal this year. It took place on November 19. It was not as elaborate as the Spring Formal: no dinner or commemorative glassware, simply a private get together to celebrate the

activation of the fall pledge class and spend time together.

The house is seeking to purchase a safe to store the various relics and artifacts of the house. They have a line on a large used safe, through a member, that will cost maybe 20% of the new cost. Any donations to help pay for this are welcome.

The house is also looking into replacing the stack of old, barely functional, and highly encrusted dorm fridges in the library with a single, larger unit. Again, donations to this end are welcome.

The house did receive a donation from some alumni this Halloween: a mock fireplace. A silly affair made from cardboard, it will at least provide a little amusement and something for Fireside Chatters to sit beside.

## Alumni Association News

Changes on the Alumni site primarily revolve around additions to the material available on Tauster and items available at the Tau Store(s).

Available now on Tauster are all five of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy radio series, plus a video documentary about making the 3rd - 5th series. We also have, courtesy of Andrew Rich (03) text documents of the five novels. They need some tweaking to make them web-friendly... when tweaked they will be put up in Tauster, too.

Also on Tauster you will find many more amusing Quicktime and Windows media movies and music. Some are a bit risqué and others are just fun.

There are some new items being offered at the Tau stores, the most notable of which is US Postal System postage stamps that have the Tau crest or letters on them. If you received a paper copy of the

newsletter, check out the envelope! We can customize the stamps however we like (within legal limitations). They are pricey, but they would make very nice stamps for special occasions.

There are also new garment types, including the ability to make black t-shirts!) and a few other do-dads. We hope to update some of the items soon... put numerals on the clock face, put up Conclave and pledge class shirts, etc. We just need to find time.

Updates are soon to be done to many members' profiles. We've got some address and email changes to make. They've had to be postponed for various reasons, but we've caught up with those reasons and should be able to start making more regular updates soon.

*"Never tease a weasel not even once or twice: the weasel will not like it and teasing is not nice.."*

*"I wasn't a big baby, but I ate a lot. My mom said all I did was eat and poop."*

*'Looks like not much has changed.'*  
Collins Kaholo (01) &  
Brook Compton (01)

*"This month will be lonely for you, stock up on batteries."*

A fortune cookie to  
Emily Dillon (06)

"...we were dragons.  
We were supposed to  
be cruel, cunning,  
heartless, and terrible.  
But this much I can tell  
you, you ape, we never  
burned and tortured and  
ripped one another  
apart and called it  
morality."

- The Dragon from Terry  
Pratchett's Discworld  
novel *Guards! Guards!*

"Stand there and don't  
move till I come again."

-Reported by a student  
volunteer in Plenz's lab  
upon hearing the  
sentence "Don't move  
until I tell you to" under  
heavy distortion,

Paul and Vicki Bernheimer (80) have moved. The move from Gray's Lake to Buffalo Grove shortens their daily commute by 80 miles, which makes them very happy.

Mattie Fowler (96) recently accepted a lateral transfer within the county from the Assessor's Office, where she had no opportunities left for advancement, to the Child Support Office, where there is plenty of growth potential. "I now know why there is so much opportunity there... You pay for the chance to promote with your faith in humanity. I swear, if I hear one butthead whining that they're not a deadbeat, because deadbeats don't love their kids... You know, the last that I heard, people who love their children make sure that their kids are fed, taken care of, have a roof over their heads, decent clothing, maybe even spend some time with those children... Or have I completely lost my mind? About the only ones that I feel sorry for are the kids. They didn't ask to have losers for parents. Can you tell that I'm becoming ever so slightly cynical?"

Debbie Halvorson (90) is engaged to be married to Dan Bakken on May 6, 2006. Dan has two children from a previous marriage: Jordan, who turns 9 in 2006; and Jasmin, who will turn 6. Debbie and Dan live in Trempealeau, WI.

Sarah Hoffman (02) is engaged to be married to Matt Kramer. Their wedding is scheduled for October of 2006. Matt works in Quality Assurance with the Milwaukee Bureau of Child Welfare. Sarah is a receptionist at US Bank Trust Security Services in Milwaukee. They live in Grafton.

George Johnson (01) is stationed in Forward Operations Base Salerno in Afghanistan. Elsewhere in this newsletter, in the section titled "Letters from the Front" you will find some of his emailed letters from "the armpit of the universe."

Beth Ann Judas (93) presented a paper at the Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology in February of 2005. Her paper was titled *LBA Aegean Ceramics Excavated in the New Kingdom Nubian Fortress System*

Paul Karp (98) works in Ripon as an EMT. Paul lives in Oshkosh with fellow house alumnus Ted Tickler (04).

Rick "Rico" Kimpel (96) was recently promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class: Boatswain Mate. In August Rico was in Washington State putting in some reserve time. While there his unit offloaded over 300 tons of ammunition and explosives from the USNS Keystone State. Rick is living in Watertown, WI, where he is the assistant manager of a Rocky Rococco Pizzeria.

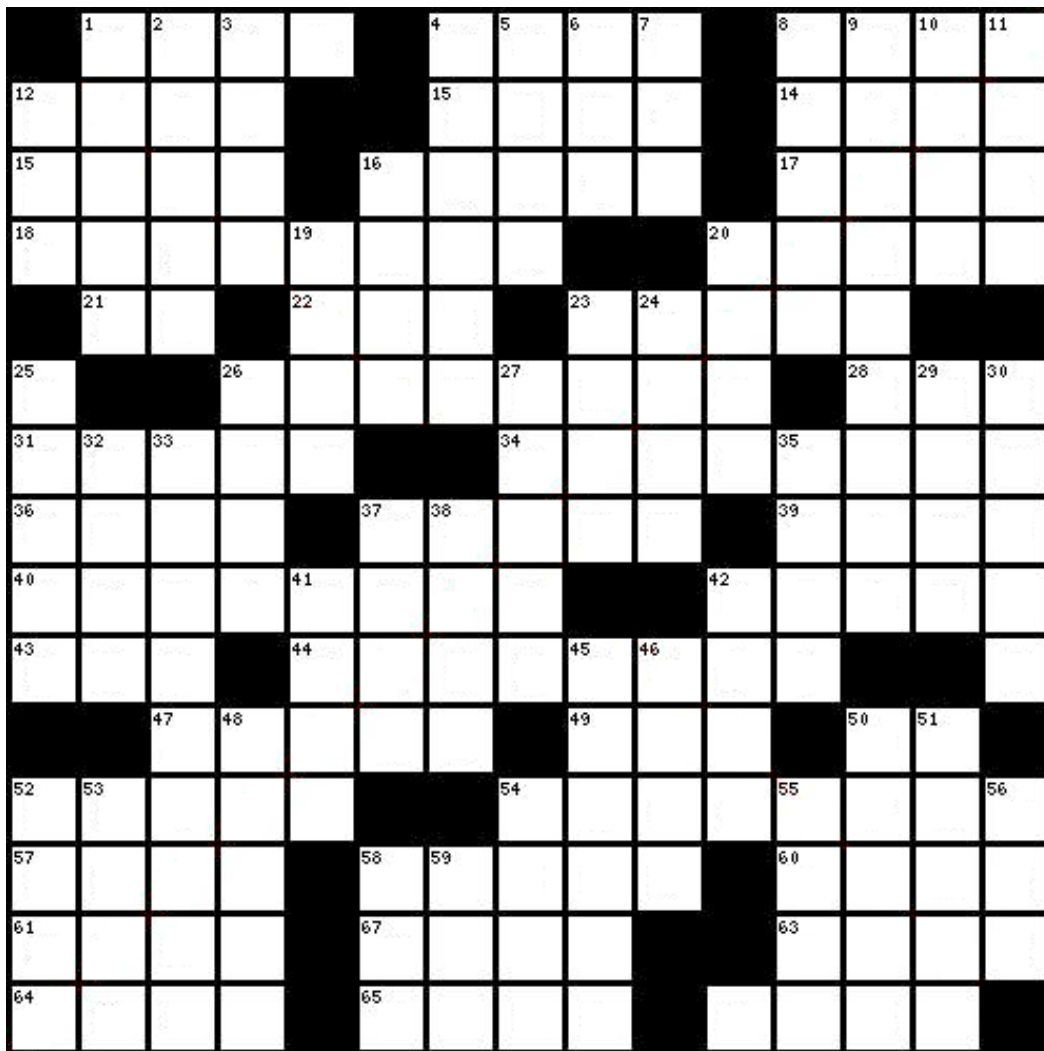
Bryan Kuhn (99) says: "...as of 10/12/05, i'm living the dream: unemployed and loads of spare time. my current address is 3255 Cliffside Drive, LaCrosse, WI. donations, legal advice, and job leads are welcome. the harsh reality is that its not enough to be one of the best around at what you do, someone will find a way to screw you for a profit margin. happier news is that a month ago, I adopted a Queensland Blue Heeler mix from the animal shelter...named Bindi-Roo. she's 8 months old, wicked smart, has an attitude problem and a short attention span. does that count enough for a micro-tau?"

Eric and Mage (Soldner) Lanz (03) welcomed their son, Nikolai Edgar, on June 30, 2005.

Amanda (Arloro) Leclair (93) has landed a new job as the kitchen manager/chef at the Kennebunk Middle School in Kennebunk, ME. While it means a slight loss of income, it will permit her a much greater amount of time spent with her son, GT.

Pete Lenz (89) successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on August 3, 2005, which completed his work on his Ph.D. Dr. Lenz is thrilled to be done finally and is contemplating pursuing another degree... primarily to evade student loan payments for another few years. ;-)

--- continued on page 5



Crossword Maker Pivari.com

## A Hoff-J Original Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. Fed the vampire
4. Stare
8. Book ID number
12. Wear it in winter
13. Year (Latin)
14. College athlete group
15. He invited you
16. Join
17. Leak
18. CRAZY
20. Calls
21. \_\_\_\_ what?
22. Each
23. Matthew's boss
26. CRAZY
28. Naughty
31. Passenger
34. Resident Evil corporation
36. Angers

37. Divisions?
39. Brightly colored
40. Tormenter
42. Waits
43. Ripon to Oshkosh direction
44. CRAZY
47. Ye olde fishing equipment?
49. Count \_\_\_\_ Count
50. Either one
52. Kiki's sound effect
54. CRAZY
57. Booty
58. Sporty place
60. Cry of dismay
61. Urge
62. Cheap price?
63. Animal drs.
64. Eat (German)
65. Pay to play
66. Where Marvin lies

## DOWN

1. Men like them
2. Rope trick
3. Female ending
4. Famous for bread
5. OK city
6. Talking tree
7. Caviar
8. Home of ink?
9. CRAZY
10. Remove water
11. Snoozes
13. Comedienne Cho
16. \_\_\_\_ friendly
19. Mocked box
20. Sweetie
23. Major-\_\_\_\_
24. Teases
25. It doesn't pay
26. Chaucerian veggies

27. \_\_\_\_ grain
29. Lotion ingredient
30. \_\_\_\_ macabre
32. Fe
33. CRAZY
35. Line goes backwards?
37. Font sty.
38. Hawaiian goose
41. Lister's swear word
42. Recurring problems
45. Retaliate
46. Deep sleep
48. Between (French)
51. Mom and Dad, slang
52. Chatroom request?
53. Mistakes were made
54. Prefect's friend
55. Broken Spanish car
56. Uno, \_\_\_\_, tres
58. Simile center
59. Porn star .Jeremy

*"Here you are sir.  
Do you like head  
with your beer?"  
- A waiter to Ken  
Dillon (03)*

*"We didn't hire you  
to be THAT kind of  
photographer!  
'I can be any kind of  
photographer you  
want!'"  
- Gloria Pavlovic  
Swader to the  
photographer, Tony  
Liu, at her wedding  
to Torii Swader (98)*

## Letters from the Front: Afghanistan - George Johnson (01) writes home...

9-8-05: Off the Chain, Outside the Wire - It was bound to happen. They finally let me out of the TOC to travel the wilds of Afghanistan. Well...they asked me to be the TC (Vehicle Commander) on a convoy with the COL the other day.

I thought it was another day of drudgery in the TOC when I am told, "Get your shit". My witty response was, "Err?" When told that I was being allowed out of the wire, I didn't hesitate, just grabbed my stuff and out the door I went.

I was TC of an M1114 Up-Armored Humvee. They are pretty well protected against small arms and RPGs. They can survive a hell of a pounding from an IED as well. If the blast goes off under the front end the crew is going to live and may get off with sore necks. When the IED detonates under the rear of the Humvee is when you have trouble. That is where Katzenburger was riding when he was killed.

We have an inter-vehicular communications system (headsets) so the TC, Driver and gunner can talk to each other. The gunner is the bloke who stands in between the seats in the hatch in the roof and mans the weapons system mounted there. In the case of our vehicle, we had a Mark 19 40mm machine gun (basically it is a grenade machine gun). The hatch is surrounded by an armored gun shield which works suprisingly well. A while back one of the vehicles in the BDE took an RPG round directly to the gun shield. The weapons system was literally blown off the vehicle but the gunner suffered only a scratch on the back of a hand.

The headsets were worth their weight in gold in tight quarters since the gunner can see much better than those inside. When you need to turn around or have questionable clearance on a side, the gunner can see it much better. In addition, the gunner can often see better in dusty conditions, being above the cloud generated by the vehicle in front of you.

While we were out the COL met with some local elders and the district sub-governor. I got to stand in the back and observe the meeting. Afghani custom places much emphasis on hospitality, so it was obligatory to have refreshments. Coca-Cola is the same all over. We sat around and sipped coke and the COL talked with the elders about the coming elections and security concerns. The emphasis is on getting Afghans to work on solving their own problems and solving them non-violently. I have a nice picture of my NBC NCOs and I out at an old castle that we stopped at.

There are times when it seems like the society here takes the life out of things for adults. All the men wear browns, tans, white and the like. Women wear only the blue burqua. The children however, wear brightly colored outfits. You see a sea of vibrant greens and reds and blues. They are like children everywhere really. They can't sit still for more than a second or so. Like children from many wars, they like Americans... perhaps because we can't resist giving out candy from our MREs. Children, chickens, and ducks like to run out in front of humvees. We brake for all of them; we will get in an accident to avoid children.

It may sound odd that I want to go out where it is more dangerous but working in the TOC is like being in the movie "Groundhog Day." Everything is the same day after day. Seven days a week, no breaks, no days off, no variety to tasks. The same thing over and over, every day, for 15 hours a day. It would drive one to drinking...if we were allowed to drink. It is always nice to get out so you can verify the world does not look like a giant map display. Anyway, enough grousing. Hopefully I can get out more in the future and shake my status as a FOBbit.

- George

9-23-05: Elections - It has been a busy last month or so. We have been getting ramped up for the elections, and then the couple days before the election and the day of the election itself were very busy. However, the election went pretty smoothly. There will always be friction in these things but there was nothing so bad that it would make the Daley family of Chicago cringe or shock the Tammany Hall machine of the late 1800s. This place is almost too chaotic for anything bigger than local corruption.

The enemy (who we call ACM or "Anti-Coalition Militants") were unable to disrupt the elections. There were no spectacular attacks, very little voter intimidation, the IEDs were numerous but Coalition forces and Afghan forces were good at cordoning them off and getting them taken care of. Best of all, we did not lose any of our Paratroopers or Marines during the election. After the wild fights of the past two months...when the elections came up, the ACM didn't have it. There isn't much for them left this year. They failed to stop the most important event of the year and now winter approaches. We have this nifty stuff called Gore-Tex...the ACM has cotton, maybe some wool if they are lucky.

---- Continued on page 6

## Tau Notes continued from page 2

Alexia Natkin (01) reports: "After being laid off for the third time in two years I am sick of it... I am currently attending graduate school to get my MBA with a concentration [sic] in Project Management. I will be starting at the end of August - it was a rather sudden decision. The university is DeVry's Keller graduate program. I will be taking 6 credits a term for part time status. On top of all that, the event of True Dungeon - in which I with my boyfriend, Lance, and friend, Jenn, built True Taven. True Dungeon and its Taven made national news!!! If people are curious about it they can learn more on the Gen Con site or at [www.truedungeon.com](http://www.truedungeon.com)."

Drew Rich (03) earned a Master of Science in Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Christy Robinson (05) is living in Weyauwega, WI, where she shares an apartment with her sister. Christy works in the area as a substitute teacher, and is hoping to find something more full-time and permanent soon. Toward that end, she is attempting to get a drama department installed in the Weyauwega high school. If she's successful she will get a full time job teaching drama AND the kids will have a fine addition to their curriculum.

Jannan Roesch and her husband, Steve, welcomed their first daughter, Shaena Jannan, on July 5, 2005.

Jill Schneider (96) reports: Steve and I just celebrated our three-year anniversary the end of September. Still living in Green Bay, still working at the casino. I finally got the opportunity to go back to school, and am attending NWTTC part-time. Having a great time with my Marketing and Graphic Communications program and am hoping to graduate in spring of 2007 if all goes well. Still hating the job, but love everything else. Steve and the boys are the light of my life and keep me busy enough for a couple of lifetimes!

Geoff Seymour (88) began working in July for the American Association of Family and Consumer Scientists.

Jaime Smith (96) is engaged and plans to be married in October of 2006.

Torii Swader (96) married Dr. Gloria Pavlovic on August 27, 2005. Taus in attendance included: Best Man Pete Lenz (89); Groomsmen Brook Compton (01) & Collins Kaholo (01); Bridesmaid Viola (Martin) Lenz (02); Ushers Ken Dillon (03) & Paul Karp (99); and Kim (Oxman) Kaholo (00).

Shira (Kira Herder) Wadro (92) is attending Marquette Law School part-time. She plans to acquire her law degree in about 4 years.

Cat (Wood) Travis (98) reports: "I am working for Wells Fargo Bank as a service manager. I was pregnant but am not anymore. Married life has been awesome. Josh Travis is finishing science classes to go to dental school in a year and a half and working at Breadworks in the meantime. I am a recent auntie and damn proud of him. Hangin out in Colorado, enjoying my commute view every morning. Not drinking anywhere near as much as I used to. People don't believe me when I tell them stories of my Ripon years. I have met look-alikes, but no real Tau material out here, except one who moved to Texas. Overall, things are going well. I would like to come for alumni weekend, but finances aren't always great that time of year. This past year we moved, and this fall both of us started different work positions. I feel bad I've lost touch with most Taus, but hope to rekindle those friendships. I miss you guys loads, and will never forget my roots!

hugs, kitty"

JoAnn Vitullo (93) completed her bachelor's degree in Management this past August. JoAnn lives in Minneapolis, MN.

*"Nice use of muffin, sport!"*

- Wanda of  
*The Fairly Oddparents*

*"I fail every time I try to go between that thing's legs."*

- Ken Dillon (03)  
while playing *MarioKart*

*"You do nothing? Your life is completely meaningless!"*

- Paul Karp  
to a woman in a bar  
...as a pickup line.

## Letters from the Front – George Johnson continued from page 4

You may have heard about voter turn-out being lower than the presidential elections. Well, first of all the verdict is still out on that. Secondly, while I imagine it is true, you ever see how many people vote during an off year congressional election? Not nearly as many as during the years that coincide with a presidential election.

In any event, while democracy and freedom in Afghanistan is still a long way off they have taken another step towards it. We cannot leave, yet: there is still a long way to go in this desperately poor country. But progress is being made.

- George

10-9-05: Earthquakes - I am intact and so is Forward Operating Base Salerno. I was laying in bed after getting off of the night shift when the earthquake happened and I noticed it to say the least. It was about 3 minutes total of noticeable earthquake. There was no damage here or anywhere else in our sector of Afghanistan but we are currently spinning up aide to go to Pakistan. When you need it quick fast and in a hurry no one delivers like the US Army.

Here is to hoping that a building fell on Bin Laden!

- George

11-6-05: Changing seasons - The short Afghan autumn is just about over. The temperature is dipping down into the 20s and 30s at night in many parts of Regional Command East. Here in Khowst it only gets down into the lower 40s. The Khowst region is the French Riviera of Afghanistan. Cooler than some areas in the summer, warmer than most in the winter, and has more rainfall than any other part of the country but not quite as snow choked as other parts.

So we are preparing for the winter, did you ever think about the logistics of having to run snowplows on dirt roads? It's a lot harder to do without damaging the roads than back in the states.

Anyway, just wanted to say hello and all that.

- George

11-7-05: Another Change of Address - I have yet another variation on my address. The old ones should work for things already in the pipe. Please use this from now on, and please help me spread it on.

Johnson, George  
TF Devil, HHC, 1st BDE (S3)  
APO AE 09314

As I said stuff already in transit will make it but they are trying to make a uniform address for all units on post to make delivery more reliable.

- George

---

## Letters from the Home Front – Tricia Roll (02) & Hurricane Relief

As a mechanic in the Wisconsin National Guard I got to help out with the Hurricane Katrina Relief with a unit out of Oshkosh. With the 1157th Transportation Company I got to have a once in a lifetime opportunity. We were in New Orleans for about two weeks. I got to inspect and fix the vehicles when they came in from missions. When the vehicles came in we had to check all the fluids in the trucks to make sure that they weren't contaminated with the water and muck from the streets. After the inspections we did any repairs that were necessary such as repacking bearings or replacing hubs. I had a great time since I got to learn so much. I didn't fully understand the workings of brakes. Now, for this experience, I have a much better understanding.

As a mechanic, we didn't get to go out into the city of New Orleans much. Each of us were given a chance go out on a mission. I was part of a mission that drove an Infantry unit to a part of the city to do door-to-door searches. They were searching for individuals that survived the Hurricane and needed assistance. It was something to see. I'm glad that I got to see it. I gained a lot of knowledge, a lot of new friends, and a slightly changed perspective of the things around me. It felt great to help people that needed it. This experience will stay with me always.

- Tric Roll (02)

## Quotable Quotes: Torii & Gloria Swader's Wedding

### The Bachelor Party @ Hooters!

"I come here for the stimulating intellectual conversation."

'And the titties!!!!!!"  
- Ken Dillon (03) & Paul Karp (98)

"I'm not an anal man... Giving or receiving, I would just like to clarify."  
- Paul Karp (98)

"The waitresses here are a triple-threat: they sing, they dance, they jiggle."  
- Ken Dillon (03)

"Just remember the golden rule: Always go from the outside in and then on top."  
- Brook Compton (01)

"Oh my god, that latex glove is totally doing it for me. It's Michael Jacksonesque!"  
- Paul Karp (98)

"There's still time to call off the wedding!"  
- Torii Swader (98) after having received a lot of attention from the Hooters Girls.

### On the way to or at the wedding

"Fortunately I don't have a selfish bone in my body."  
"Yes, you do... I'll be on it later this evening."  
- Pete Lenz (89) & Viola (Martin) Lenz (02)

"So, by the way, how big is a midget strapped on?"  
- Mary Lynn, one of the bridesmaids talking about porn popular at Tau

"I'm blowing it to make it larger."  
- Viola (Martin) Lenz (02); inflating a liner for a baby bottle.



Theta Sigma Tau  
/ Sigma Nu  
Alumni  
Association

118 S. Wilson St.  
Fredonia, WI 53021

Phone:  
414-435-0516

E-Mail:  
plenz@ThetaSigmaTau.org

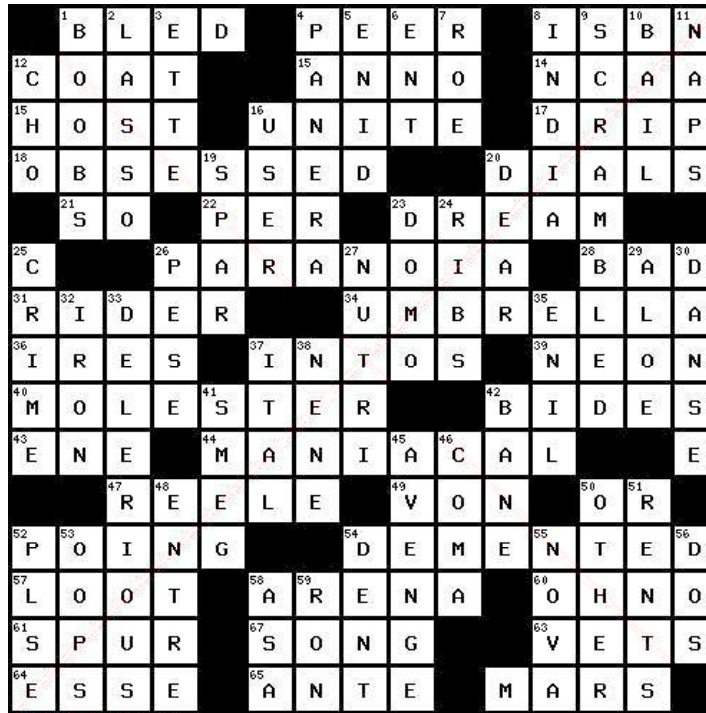
*Ubi sub ubi*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ThetaSigmaTau.org](http://www.ThetaSigmaTau.org)

## Hoff-J's Original Answer Key



Crossword Maker: P1van1.com

This is Jen Hoffman's (95) first published crossword puzzle. When she's not writing or making crosswords she is flinging pasta at employees and customers of the Fazolis Restaurant that she manages in Madison, WI.

## About Our Organization...

The template for newsletters in MS-Word suggests that a small section of the newsletter be devoted to pretentious ramblings about the organization for which the newsletter is made. And so: **ahem**

The Theta Sigma Tau Alumni Association is devoted to maintaining the ties of siblinghood that were forged between all members of that very auspicious and grand fraternal organization that bears the same name and is located on the ivy-covered campus of glorious Ripon College.

## Subscriptions & Donations

If you are interested in receiving a paper version of the newsletter, subscriptions cost \$1/issue (which comes just short of paying printing and mailing costs when the newsletter is over four pages long). I keep track of how many issues you should receive, so if they are released irregularly, you will get as many as you paid for.

If you submit something for publication in the newsletter (other than a personal update for the Tau Notes section) you get a complimentary copy. So send in a crossword, a trivia test, a story of some sort. If you're serving in the military or the Peace Corps or Americorps (or if you have in the past), share some of your experiences.

Also, don't forget that the house and alumni sites and the server that hosts them cost a fair amount to maintain. The site and server provide ways to stay in touch, to share fun and silly things, to reminisce about your time at Tau, and to keep track of what's happening there now.

Donations to defray these costs (roughly \$800+/year) are always welcome. Please send them to Pete Lenz at the address listed in the upper left of this page or use the PayPal donation buttons found scattered around the alumni site.