

The

Nostomantic Semibiannual

A newsletter for the actives, alumni and friends of Theta Sigma Tau

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 56, July 2006

House Notes

Class notes-like sections with news and rumors about Tau actives and alumni. If we don't get enough to fill a page, we make shit up.... but it's often hard to tell what's made up and what's not.

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Quotable Quotes

Slips of the tongue and amusing comments made by Taus and others.

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Conclave of Evil #21

The 21st Summer Party is coming up! Details, facts, etc.

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Adventures of God

Another installment in the continuing story of a God who has a sense of humor.

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Hawaiian Reflections



Collins Kaholo (01) recounts in his 'blog life at Ripon and Tau.

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Tau Traditions

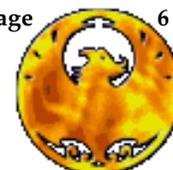
A short column about a now defunct traditional spring party, Theme Party.

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Commemoratives

Space filler, pictures of some of the house's commemorative glassware.

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House & Alumni Assn. News

A fair amount has happened in the past several months.

This spring, Tau had six new members join the house. We'd like to welcome Carl Abraham, Dave Casper, Ryan Greene, Stephanie Lassen, Josh Le-Greve and Dustin Zuelke to the ranks of the house.

Also this spring the house saw three of its members graduate. We'd like to welcome Andy Beswick, Emily Dillon and Jharick Shields to full membership in the Alumni Association. Now, where are your dues? ;-)

This fall will see the house 21 members strong, and already with prospects for the fall pledge class, should they choose to have one.

Theta Sigma Tau Websites

We had serious issues arise in the past quarter with respect to the house websites. The server that had been hosting both the active house site and the alumni site was knocked permanently offline by circumstances beyond our control.

Because the situation was unexpected and permanent, it took us a little time (read: nearly 2 months) to deal with the problem. But the end result is something better than we had before and with less time-intensive issues for the webczars.

We have contracted with a hosting service called WebFreaks to host both websites. their service pro-

vides us with some benefits we did not have before.

- *A Better Exploder* - Subscribing and unsubscribing to the Exploder is now an automatic process. On top of that, one can opt to receive messages from the exploder in a "digest" format meaning that one will receive just one email a day from the exploder that contains all the messages sent to it.

- *Email hosting* - We can now set up an unlimited number of email addresses that end with the domain "@ThetaSigmaTau.org". These email addresses can either be set up as full fledged accounts or as aliases that forward messages received to another email address.

- *A limited number of subdomains* - to explain, briefly: a subdomain is a website address that differs slightly from the default and leads to different content... for example, the House's site (with info on actives and such is at www.ThetaSigmaTau.org while the alumni site is at the *subdomain* alumni.ThetaSigmaTau.org. We may set up four other subdomains, so if anyone has a good idea for something like this...

Of course, using a commercial hosting service incurs some cost. In order that the sites remain free and open to all of our brethren and sistren, we have instituted the following policy: only people who donate to the websites' upkeep may receive email addresses at our domain. For a mere \$6/year, you can have an email alias or account (limited in capacity to about 5 meg). All other site materials are still free to members (if it is password protected, simply email plenz@thetasigmatau.org to get access.



Theta Wiki Tau

Someone recently added [Theta Sigma Tau](#) to [Wikipedia](#), the online, publicly editable encyclopedia. The material appears to be drawn directly from the House website, with little new information added to it. However, it does have links to both the fraternity's website as well as the store. Perhaps it will help some of our "lost" fellows rediscover the house. And perhaps new info about the house will be posted by our lost siblings.

We have no information on who placed this Wikipedia entry (no, it was NOT Plenz). Whoever you are, thanks, it was a great idea!

Merriman Generosity

An interesting fact that recently came to light: due to the generous donation to the Tau Alumni Association by an alumnus of Merriman House (Phi Kappa Pi), we have now received more in donations from Merriman House alumni than from 80% of Tau alumni. I'm just making an observation...



Pete Lenz (89) as a South Park Character

Stephanie Bourn, daughter of Jim Bourn (87) graduated from Alliance High School this spring.

Rich Dammkoehler (02) moved recently to Gibson City, IL. Rich is working for a startup company in Naperville, IL., and Gibson City places him much closer to that. It also brings him closer to his sister, who has lived in Gibson City for years. Rich, his wife, Mel, and their daughter, Gabby, are all doing quite well.

Ken Dillon (03) is now an officially licensed tour guide for Miller Brewing Company. Ken likes this job: it has health care, benefits, vacation time, etc. The benefit that most excites Ken is the “three free cases of beer per month (four on the month of your birthday)” and the 40% discount on up to five cases of beer every two weeks. If that isn’t a recipe for alcoholism, it’s gotta be the appetizer.

Rick Kimpel (98) has applied to join the Merchant Marine and is living in Fond du Lac temporarily while his paperwork is processed. He is joining the Military Sealift Command, which transports military cargos. This allows him to add his time in the Navy and Naval Reserves to his record for purposes of seniority and retirement pension. While he waits for all of this to happen, Rick has become the lead male singer of a bar band called Bucketmouth. Look for them to be playing in the Fox Valley and Milwaukee area at various locales.

Bryan Kuhn (99) reports that “After successfully staying on unemployment for the entire ice climbing season, I’m now the owner and sole employee for the sales representative agency SharpEnd Sports. I get to work out of the house, work ON the house, and I’m my own boss...when I’m working. Speaking of the boss, Kate (Zboralski) is finishing up her term as the La Crosse school district’s Americorps VISTA representative this summer, and will be starting as Viterbo College’s Volunteer Coordinator in the fall. Amidst all of this, the 40 pound piece of velcro, Bindi-Roo (our 1-year old Australian cattle dog) is having plenty of fun hunting squirrels and catching a frisbee better than Ken.”



Calvin Simmons (87)

Pete Lenz (89) turns 40 years old at the end of July. His darling wife, Viola (Martin, 02) is throwing a “Toast & Roast” for him on July 29. Pete looks forward to being insulted for hours on end by all of his friends. :-{p

Katie Piccirillo (03) and Shayne Healey are expecting the birth of their baby boy near the end of July. His name, tentatively, is to be Michael Francis Healey. Congrats!

Tricia Roll (02), a member of the Army National Guard’s 1157th Transportation Company, shipped out with the rest of her company this spring for a tour of duty in Iraq. We wish Tric a safe trip, a safe tour, and a joyful homecoming.

Jill Schneider (99) marries Steven McNutt on July 12 of this year. They plan a traditional [church wedding](#) to take place (tentatively) on September 28, 2008, but they have decided to have a court commissioner make it “legal” a little early for practical reasons. In marrying Steve, Jill becomes step-mom to Connor and Logan.

Recently discovered online, Calvin Simmons (87) appears to have once been in a goth band called Dragon Tears Descending. The last sign on the web that we can find of him or this band is circa 1998 in Ohio. Where he is now, we do not know.

Sam Somers (05) is expecting a baby girl sometime around the beginning of September. Congrats!



Traditions: Theme Party

*Pictured above: the M*A*S*H Theme Party from the spring of 1980.*

One of the most popular parties at Tau has always been Halloween: the decorations are creative and so are the costumes. Whether it is simply the fun of dressing creatively or some deeper fetishistic needs, parties where Taus can attend in costume have always been popular.

There used to be a traditional spring party: Theme Party; which permitted members to indulge in their need to dress up in both semesters.

Theme Party was just that, a party with a theme. Pictured above is the membership all done up for the M*A*S*H Theme Party in 1980 (that’s Paul Bernheimer ’80 dressed as Klinger). Other memorable Theme Parties were the Sixties Theme Party, complete with “magic” brownies and draft cards (which were burned at the end... with dramatic results); the Comic Book Theme Party; and the Under the Sea Theme Party.

Obviously the lounge would be decorated in line with the Theme, refreshments often reflected the theme as well, and members and attendees were encouraged to dress up as best they could.

Theme Party disappeared some time during the 90s. At this time the house was rather small and the cost of Spring Formal AND Theme Party was prohibitive.

Jim Bourn (87), Calvin Simmons (88), Frank Sewald (89), Carol Shay (88) and Pete Lenz (89) at the Comic Book Theme Party.



NAUGHTINESS IN THE WORLD

It's an interesting fact that many television shows and videos often have suggestive lines in them that would make people go "Um...."

In this issue of the newsletter, we include a few...

*"One mighty blow and his wish came true."
- Oscar the Grouch
Sesame Street*

"There are no jokes in the mental health field. Only ink blots, hand puppets and inflatable anger bats."

*- Rory Gilmore
The Gilmore Girls*

"I was a Thor guy when I was a kid. Thor... I remember resonating, probably because I was a Norse god in my past. I must admit."

*- Kelsey Grammer
(reported by Eric "Thor"
Thorsen)*

"You're speechless, I see. An excellent quality in a wife."

*- Jafar, the villain from
Disney's Aladdin*

Quotable Quotes

Quotes made by or overheard/found by Taus.

*"You're the one who stopped taking the pill."
'You're the one with sperm"
- Viola/Pete Lenz (02/89)*

*"There's nothing better than a fat German in liederhosen."
- Rick, a co-worker of Viola Lenz (02)*



*"Nothing annoys God more than a moving target."
- Dahlia, from the online comic
Something Positive*

*"Scientists have discovered a food that diminishes a woman's sex drive by 90%. It's called wedding cake."
- Unknown, from a forwarded email*

*"If you take sexual advantage of her you will burn in a very special hell reserved for child molesters and people who talk during movies."
- Shepherd Book,
from the tv series Firefly*

*"So, what are we doing today?"
'Fixing your Bible. It's broken."
- Shepherd Book/River
from the tv series Firefly*

Classic Quotes

A few oldies but goodies from early newsletters.

*"Ultimately, that's the meaning of life: to have things secreted."
- A UWM Neuropsych Prof.*



*"Don't think of it as being outnumbered, think of it as having a wide target selection."
- Overheard while
role-gaming*

*"We are, therefore, holding Pieces of You until your balance is paid."
- from a Columbia House bill*

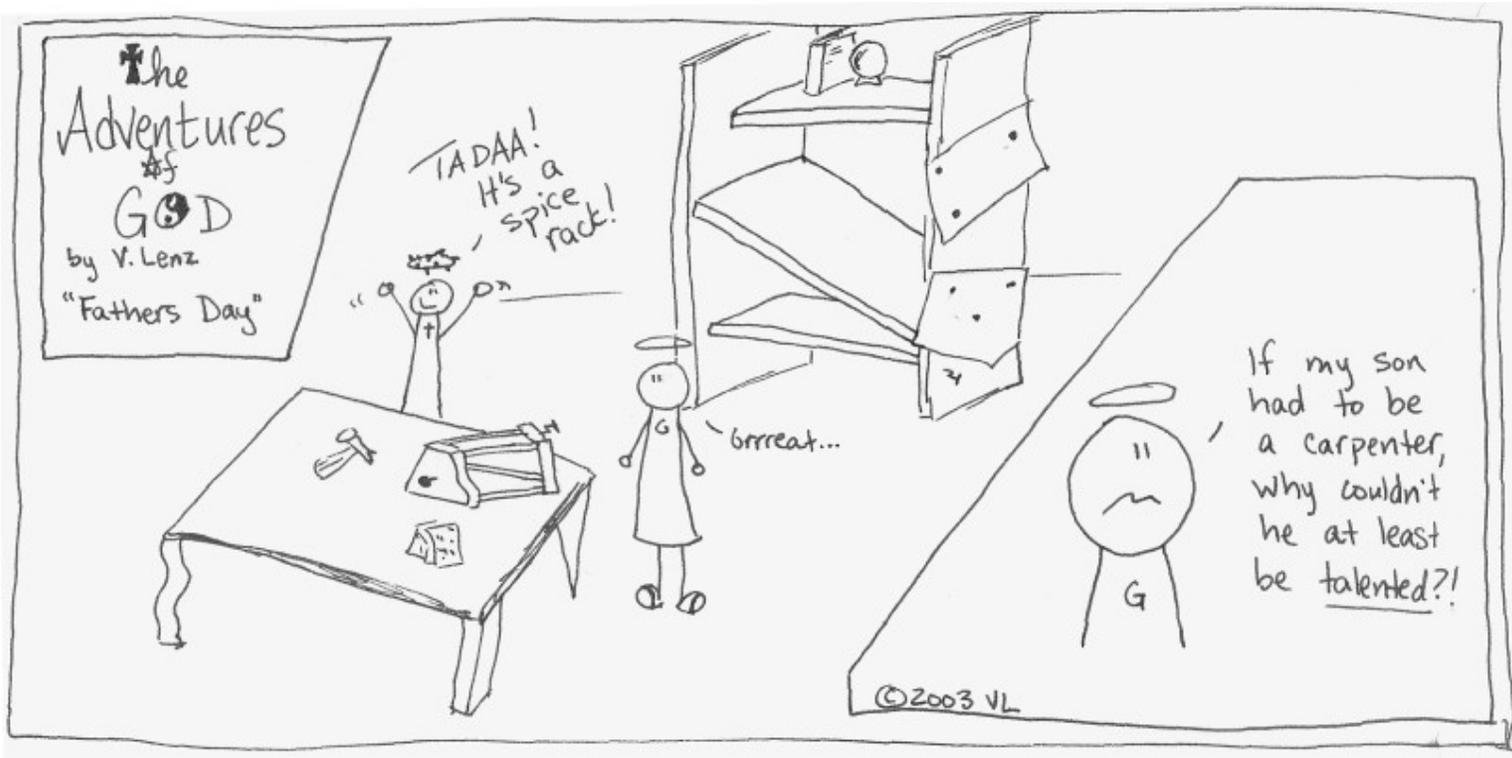
*"Open all doors and windows to facilitate erection."
- Instructions on a tent*

*"Milk a bull and you'll have a friend for life."
- Rick Kimpel's (98) grandfather*

*"Hey man, you believe in werewolves?"
'Hah! You ever seen my sister, Rosita?"
- A couple of bad guys from the movie
The Wizard of Speed and Time*

*"It just sits in your mouth and says 'Hi, I'm a party liquid!"
- Eric Thorsen (89), re: Margaritas*

FATHER'S DAY CARTOON by V. Lenz



The Twenty-First Conclave of Evil

Spreading evil and corruption for over two decades

Conclave #9: The Green Mountains, Vermont



The Twenty-First Conclave of Evil is scheduled to take place from August 10 - 13 of this year. That's the traditional Thursday through Sunday, overlapping the height of the Perseids Meteor Shower.

As has been the case for the last 10 years, the Conclave shall be taking place at the Shay property on Sawyer Lake, north of Langlade, WI. Carol Shay Hornung's (88) parents have graciously consented to have us use their cabin yet again.

Langlade, WI, is west and slightly north of Green Bay, and east of Antigo. It is at the intersection of US Hwy 64 and State Hwy 55. Sawyer Lake is about 4 miles north of Langlade.

The Shays' property is a five-acre peninsula projecting into the lake. At the tip of the peninsula is their cabin. The cabin is large and has all the modern conveniences one could wish for. On the back deck there is a screened gazebo with a hot tub, there are canoes for exploring the lake, a sand bar projects off the tip of the peninsula making a great place for swimming and water-related horseplay.

The area has a fair number of activities that people can participate in, should they feel the need. Attendees of past parties have gone rafting on the Wolf River and horseback riding at a nearby stable.

Conclaves # 7 & 8: Cape Cod, Massachusetts



All alumni and friends of the house are invited to attend the party. The following are rules and instructions for attendees.

While the cabin is fairly large, it only has bed space for perhaps six individuals other than Carol and her family. In horrible weather we could bed many people on the floor, but it might get cramped to do that in less than extreme circumstances. So, attendees are encouraged to bring a tent, or arrange to stay in a tent with someone else. There is plenty of space for camping on the peninsula.

The party is pretty much a "bring your own" affair. While attendees often share food and food prep duties, everyone is responsible to make sure that they have adequate food supplies for themselves. We also need to make sure that all of our garbage is removed from the premises when we leave.

The party has traditionally included microTaus, so attendees are encouraged to keep this in mind with respect to their language use and nocturnal activities. This year we can expect the attending micro-Taus to range in ages from about 5 to 18.

Moderate levels of drinking are acceptable. However, illicit drugs of any sort and in any amount are NOT acceptable.

Conclaves #1, 2 and 10: York, Wisconsin



Posting directions to the party online would be silly... gods know who would show up. If you are interested in getting more details and/or directions, please contact Plenz by email or phone (414-435-0516).

From previous experience we would suggest that you bring the following supplies:

- Tent
- Sleeping bag
- Cooler with food (or cash to buy food)
- Insect repellent
- Bathing supplies (if you start to stink we'll dump you in the lake ourselves)
- Swim suit (perhaps two)
- Warm AND cold weather clothing
- Binoculars (for the meteor shower)
- Plastic bags (for wet clothes and trash)

We look forward to another fun and friend-filled Summer Party! See you there!

The Imperial Ambassador speaks

Collins (Norman Kahlua, Imperial Ambassador to the West) Kaholo (01) maintains a 'blog on My Space and has recently been recounting his days at Ripon for his friends. His recounting makes for an entertaining read and so, with permission, they are being repeated here. People who know Collins will be able to reminisce along with him, while alumni and current alumni who do not know him may get a glimpse of life in Ripon at the turn of the millenium (so very long ago).

- May 6, 2006

Well, now that I've found a good bunch of my friends again, I suppose it's as good a time as any to catch everyone up to date on where I've been and what I've been doing the past nearly 10 years. For those of you I met in college, most of this will be old news, so bear with me until subsequent chapters.

Hmmm, where to begin. Well I guess the obvious starting point would be summer, 1997. For those of you that I went to high school with, that may have been the last time I saw any of you for quite some time. End of summer saw me ship off to balmy Wisconsin for freshman year at Ripon College. I blame Nate for getting me out there, it's all your fault. Anyway, there I am, stranger in a strange land, and winter almost upon us. (Actually at this point, it's only the end of August, but for dramatic effect we'll say winter was almost upon us). In a flash of genius the college puts me in a room with two others from the west coast (apparently to ease the transition, people from similar geographic areas are roomed together, though they were from Oregon and Cali). My roommate Brook (from Cali, hi Brook) is late getting to the college so we don't meet til later in the evening of move-in day. *Brook would go on to become one of my best friends, a groomsman in my wedding party, and well, someone I'm glad to have in my life*

Anywho, to chronicle every specific thing I did that first year in college would take more time and effort than I am willing to put forth, so I will summarize:

- 1)Met lots of new people;
- 2)Grew my hair out, hippie-style;
- 3)Joined a local co-ed fraternity (yes, co-ed. more on that later);
- 4)Met my future wife Kim;
- 5)Released my inner geek by rediscovering my love of two primarily geek-y things, pro-wrestling and gaming (rpg's, card games, board games, video games, etc)

Specific stories of events transpiring during this tumultuous period of my life are best told in person, so if anyone decides to come on out to Oregon, look me up and we'll get together for some story swapping. I will tell you this though, always be prepared when relocating to a new place. Wisconsin winters are notoriously cold, and I, being from Hawaii, was ill prepared for the forthcoming freeze.

I had planned to purchase any thing I would need (like a thick winter coat) with some of the financial aid money I was getting from the college. Unfortunately, I did not receive that money until about mid-November, with winter well along. No decent coat, no long underwear, no hat, no gloves, no waterproof shoes (a must for traversing the x-feet of snow that accumulates on the ground). Although that first year, I did get to accomplish one thing: I got to walk barefoot through the snow. Why I wanted to do that is anyone's guess, it just seemed like the thing to do at the time. Moral of the story: Cold bad, Warm good.

End of 1st Semester, College Year 1

*Next time - Birth of a "Tau"



Collins Kaholo (01)

- May 9, 2006

Welcome back to another wonderful installment of "This Was My Life", I'm your host...me. Anyway, to continue or tale of where I have been the last nearly 10 years, we last left off at the end of 1st semester freshman year at Ripon College (WI), with winter set in and everyone hunkered down like the Donner Party. I will point out now for those of you who have not had the pleasure of attending an institution of higher learning that had a Greek system, it is really something to be experienced.

The beginning of 2nd semester is when most fraternities and sororities begin sending out invitations to people they feel would make the best new members of their respective organizations, with most pledging happening at this point in the school year (it allows for those who can't handle the college life to drop out after the 1st semester, acting as a kind of natural selection). I would also like to point out at this time that I had made up my mind where I would pledge while on the plane ride to Wisconsin prior to 1st semester. After looking through the nifty little college handbook they give all students, (you know, the one that describes activities and groups found on campus that are not directly related to academics), I settled on one that sounded like a cool group of people. Little did I know how right I was....

First semester had seen me hanging out down at one of the dorms in the quad, Mapes Hall. Mapes was home to two different living groups, one on one

side of the building, and one on the other. At the far end was the local chapter of Phi Delta Theta, a national fraternity which for the purposes of Ripon was where you joined if you were on the football team. The other side was where I spent most of my time, in the lounge of the group known as Theta Sigma Tau. Now Tau (as it's called for short) has the distinction of being the only co-ed fraternity on campus. That is to say, men and women enjoy equal membership while being able to retain our Greek Letters. It started as a fraternity that eventually allowed women to become full members, but the entire history of the organization is a story best left for another time and place.

I found that although Ripon was a small college (we didn't even have 1000 students that year), the separation of people into distinct cliques was as prevalent as would be anywhere else. I liked the people that ended up in Tau. They were friendly, funny, smart, some might say a little geeky, some might even say the people that just didn't fit with any other group of people. I liked them because they were for the most part tolerant, intellectual, and not afraid to be themselves, even if that meant being different. I felt I could really be myself around them, and not worry what anyone thought of me. There were two main types of people in Tau, gamers and women (okay, not entirely true. Some of the women were gamers also, though they would later admit this was only a ploy to pick up the guys). It was here at Tau that I really got myself into the realm of geekiness that I inhabit now; full of games, comic books, and wrestling.

I have honestly never been more involved in gaming than I was at Tau. There was always someone to found who was willing to do something. Pick-up games of Magic were a regular, rpg's almost every night of the week, always a Playstation or N64 or something available, as well as board games like Civilization or Axis & Allies or even just chess. Sometimes I miss that part of college, hanging out with friends not really doing anything important.

Anyway, I pledged to Tau that semester and became full member. I had the distinction at that time of being not only the youngest member, but also the smallest active guy in the house (damn these poor genetics). I met lots of new people from all over the country during my 4 years at Tau, and though the times were not always good or happy, it remains a fond part of my memories of college. I am after all an alumnus, afforded all the benefits I deserve. Still not quite sure what they are, but I know I get them.

Once again, specific stories of my life in Tau are best left for in-person conversations, so I'll save them for next time I actually see some of you. Well, that'll do it for now. I gotta go get dinner going, my day off and the wifey working means I get dinner duty. Til next time.

*Next time we feature, "College Year 2: Electric Boogaloo"

Commemorative Glassware

As a space filler for this lighter than usual newsletter, a few pictures from the web-sites. Below are five commemorative glasses from Tau. The first celebrates the Fifth Anniversary of the reformation of the house after Sigma Nu left. The other four are the first four Spring Formal Glasses, a tradition that continues today.



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