

The

Sagacious Scalliwag

Keeping Taus informed, whether they like it or not.

A Triannual Newsletter

Issue #58 - Spring 2007

Website facelift

The Tau site(s) look brand new and spiffy!

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Tau Notes

News and updates about our brothers and sisters including births, deaths, marriages, moves, and whatever other dirt we can get!

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Tau-nzania & Tau: The Movie

More about Cyndi Pinkus' (08) semester in Tanzania, and the cast of Tau: The Movie (1990)

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Adventures of God

Another in the continuing series of near-blasphemous humor from a Ripon College Comparative Religions major.

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House Activities

Activation: March 23 in the Lounge

Spring Formal: March 24 at the Best Western of Ripon.

This spring the House got eight pledges including: Ted Moose Beres, Katelyn *My Little Apocalyptic Pony?* Brown, Luke *Deputy Deputy Flipsy Cup* Lockhart, Kyna *Myssyssyppy*, the *Color Changing Desert Horse* McCartney, Krystal *Banana Monkey Dishwasher Peas ... Bear* McKean, Allison *Zoot, far too perilous for Desma* Ng'ombe Miller, Danielle *Gigantor* Reimer, Korine *Bluelight Special* Viethaler, and Talley *D.E.G.A. Yake*. Good luck to all of them.

Live-In weekend was held on the weekend of February 9 - 11, and so this newsletter is being mailed out after it will all be over.

As has become the tradition, Spring Formal takes place the evening after Activation. This year the dj services are being paid for by a generous alumna of the House, meaning that no member or alum has to do the work this year. More fun to be had by all.

Alumni Activities

Website update

See page two for a bit more chatter about the upgrades going on at the Tau website.



Theta Sigma Tau - 1998

Summer Party #21 (aka *The Conclave of Evil*) is scheduled for August 9 - 12 of 2007. Unless plans change (obviously) it will be held once again near Langlade, WI. For info, contact [Pete Lenz](#)

Local? Activities

Alpha chapter of Theta Sigma Tau...?

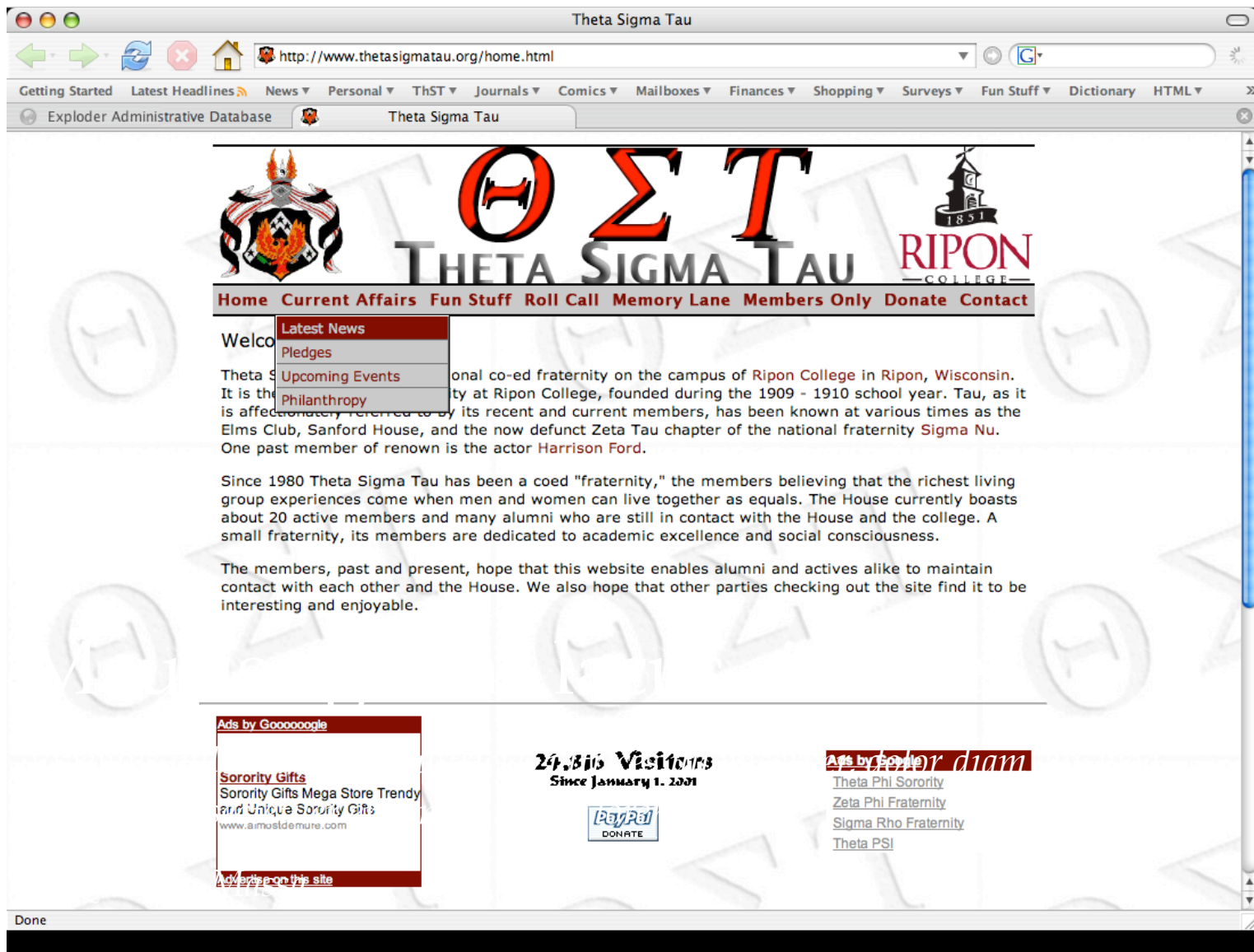
The House and Alumni Association were contacted recently by a group of people from a community college in Michigan, asking about what is involved in forming a co-ed fraternity and whether they could be a chapter of our organization.

This presented an interesting possibility... if things can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction, Tau at Ripon could become the Alpha chapter of a fledgling regional, possibly eventually a national organization.

Of course, there would have to be a great deal of detail work and discussion regarding the form of an umbrella organization and what sort of rules and policies it would have.

An informal discussion has begun, at first mainly to assist them in the founding of their own organization. Participants in this discussion include a few alumni, a few House members, and a few of the founders of this new fraternity.

Once their house has been established, we will turn to discussion of the possibility of forming a "regional" organization of which our House at Ripon would be the Alpha chapter and theirs the Beta.



THE Theta Sigma Tau website has undergone a dramatic facelift!

Our new look is just one of the side effects of what has been a fundamental change to the arrangement and layout of the contents of the website.

In the past, there were basically two websites: one for the House and one for the Alumni. This created an artificial sense of division between the actives and the alumni. With the redesign and restructuring of the two sites into one, we bring our actives and alumni together again.

The redesign has allowed us to make the site more "browser-friendly." In the past the site was best viewed using the outdated "frames" function, which gave us a static menu in a window to the left and a larger display window to the right. However, frames can cause idiosyncratic problems with browsers because they often implement the code differently. And so, frames have been done away with. In their place, a visitor to the website will find

drop-down menus available on every page of the website as well as a simple text-only menu at the bottom of every page (for those people whose browsers or computers don't deal well with javascript). In addition, viewers will find additional sub-menus appearing beneath the drop-down menus on many pages intended to enhance the navigation around the site. As a final gesture towards making the site more navigable, a "site map" has been added: a web page that lists all of the primary and secondary pages on the site.



The above image is part of our new welcoming "splash screen." When one first goes to the site, one sees a black screen with the Greek letters appearing as a silver watermark across the screen and the pic-

ture displayed here comprised of the crest and the name of the House. In five to ten seconds the page reloads with the site's "home" page.

Other changes include a standardization of the appearance of pages across the site, the addition of new pages, the updating of many pages that had gone untouched for far too long, and, the re-allocation of password protected materials into two different categories: i) full alumni only; and ii) alumni, socials, honoraries, and friends.

The upgrade of the website is still underway. The majority of publicly accessible pages have been upgraded but many of the password-protected pages and other tertiary pages have yet to be updated. While the process is not difficult, it is time consuming... with well over 700 known members, updating the personal info pages of the large proportion of those members that we have information on becomes a daunting task!

Pete Lenz (89)



“Put your junk in the box!”

- A three year old referring to toys..

Amanda Arloro (93) managed to slip on the ice in early February and broke her back. One one of her vertebrae was broken, but she will be mending for quite a while.

Patti Beck (98) & George Johnson (00) announce that they are expecting their first child in September.

Jennifer Bell (90) reports: Bet you can't guess what I've been doing the past two-&-half years... I've been playing fiddle!! Who'd'a thunk it? It uses up all of my time. In fact it's kind of taken over my life. But it sure is fun! I've been taking every musical opportunity I can. I go to a local contra dance, as a "sit-in" musician (I haven't been kicked out yet :)).... and I've been playing with a large (50+ musicians) scottish music society (we have a concert coming up right after Gratitude Day, & we played for the NH Highland Games in September), and also with a small group (5 or 6 of us) every Wednesday. We just recently had to name ourselves (Riley's Hat... Riley is the parrot), since we've lined up performances this spring. Oh, and I've played in a few fiddle contests, and placed in two of them. (Okay... well... not a lot of contestants for those two. One was an outside festival in soaking rain... but still - I placed!)

Jim Bourn (87) has received the prestigious [2006 Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from [The Bears Nuts](#), a fan organization dedicated to the [Bad Taste Bears](#).

Denise Canale (93) received her master's degree in Public Administration from Keller Business School in the fall of 2006.

Richard Demas (92) has purchased a new home in Staten Island, NY. Richard is a lawyer and is married to Anne Stone and they have a son, Parker Brotherston.

Collins and Kim (Oxman) Kaholo (01/00) are pleased to announce that they are expecting twins in May of 2007. Collins says “I hope you all realize that you are now gonna be either an uncle or an aunt to my kids when they are born, so ... set a bad example!”

“The screams of the anguished are better than candy.”

- Ebenezer from [Two Lumps](#)



Rick Kimpel (97) is in the process of joining the Merchant Marine. In the meantime he is sorking for Securitas, doing security work for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Fond du Lac.

Rob Kinyon (98) has a request: Heyla, all. I've been working for an internet startup called Wotan for the past few months and we're at the point where we could really use a bunch of alphatesters to really bang on the product. The product is called Kayuda and is found at <http://www.kayuda.com/> Elevator speech: When you are initially planning something out, you grab a piece of paper and draw circles and lines. Kayuda is circles-and-lines on the web that persist and are collaborative. Everything is very interactive and it's all saved on the server immediately. We support Firefox and IE7. IE6 is technically unsupported, but should still work. Please remember that this is still in alpha - we're fixing bugs as quickly as we find them, but you might run into issues. If you do, please send an email to the [alphatesters mailing list](#).

Thanks, Rob

Bryan Kuhn (99) reports: It's been a ride, to say the least. In a year's time, I was an unemployed bum, part time bike mechanic, independant sales representative/small business owner, industrial chemical salesman, and have finally landed somewhere comfortable. I'm back in the outdoors industry and in a position where I don't have to sleep in my car and eat ramen noodles! I'm lucky enough to have snagged a sweet position as the Sales Manager for Redfeather Inc. and Bell Canoe Works. Both brands have the same parent company, ORC Industries, based in La Crosse. Redfeather is known best for modern aluminum frame snowshoes, and Bell is a maker of absolutely gorgeous whitewater, touring, and recreational canoes - and a Kevlar/carbon fiber composite canoe can look downright sexy if you're into that sort of thing. We're fighting the corporate machine, everyone wears jeans and t-shirts to work, and half of us took over the conference room in a semi-violent coup - we burned a "Motivations" calendar. The design gurus, myself, and 2 sales support phone jockeys are camped out amongst coffee mugs, empty jars of salsa, half a box of energy bars and a thinning case of New Glarus Yokel. (Coming soon: an entire line of composite solo canoes, in every color of Jolly Rancher...they'll even come in a Bell Canoe Works wrapper).



“I have a Smeg cooker!”

- Andrew Rich (03) in re: his stove

Pete Lenz (89) has applied for his first post-doctorate job: a tenure-track position at a small liberal arts college that we all know and most of us have some form of strong emotion about. Ironically, he would be stepping into the position vacated by Taus's first faculty advisor after Sigma Nu departed, Dr. Bob Otis (H). No response yet, and his chance is slim to say the least, but it certainly would be an interesting and amusing turn of events!

Viola (Martin) Lenz (02) has returned to college to pursue a doctorate in Pharmacy. Viola works for Columbia St. Mary Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, and lives with her husband, Pete (89), and daughter, Lillian, in Fredonia, WI.

Keith Onken (87) lives in San Antonio, TX, and works for a survey and data management company called [CATIPro](#) as an Independent Consultant.

Christie Robinson's (05) book is now available to the public. The LeFay Chronicles is about a modern descendant of Morgan LeFay (of the Arthurian Legends) who finds herself invited to a school for people of magic and embattled by an enemy of her very bloodline. To see more, check it out online: [The LeFay Chronicles @ Lulu.com](#)

Geoff Seymour (88) is doing the job hunt thing, having quit his previous job because of dissatisfaction with the way it was run. Geoff lives in a suburb of Washington, D.C.

In Memorium

Several of our brothers died in the last year.

In memory of: August "Pete" Renner of Brookfield, WI, who died June 2, 2006. Pete served his country as an Infantry Captain in World War II. He was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his bravery and injuries received at the Battle of the Bulge. He was a former trustee and alumni board president of Ripon College and a charter member of Partners in the Legacy. He was an executive vice president and consultant with M&I Bank. He enjoyed fishing, stamp collecting, and raising tropical fish.

[Text borrowed from the Fall 2006 Ripon Magazine (content was cleaned up, as much as possible, and spelling errors corrected).]

In memory of: Jerome Townsend of Racine, WI, who died March 21, 2006. Jerry enjoyed many sports, was an avid Packers fan, and enjoyed playing football and basketball. He was drafted by the Chicago Bears, but chose instead to serve his country and was stationed in Europe during World War II. He formed many lifelong friendships as owner and operator for more than 35 years of Mully's American Bar in Racine, WI.

[Text borrowed from the Fall 2006 Ripon Magazine (content was cleaned up, as much as possible, and spelling errors corrected).]

In memory of: Luis Vasquez of St. Clairsville, OH, who died June 23, 2006. A veteran of World War II, Luis was a medical doctor and Belmont County Coroner. Luis was very much involved in his community as his membership in the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church of Maynard, his position as a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, his status as team physician for several OVAC schools, and his past roles as school board member and Ohio Sports Board member bear out. Luis is survived by his wife, Bonnie, four sons and two daughters.

[Text borrowed from the Fall 2006 Ripon Magazine (content was cleaned up, as much as possible, and spelling errors corrected).]

In memory of: John Webster of Richardson, TX, who died October 19, 2006. John was a professor of mathematics-statistics at Southern Methodist University, an institution that he had taught at for 25 years. From 1946 to 1953 John served in the U.S. Army. John is survived by his wife, Wilda, one son and two daughters; a sister, Margaret Webster Sommerfett (Ripon, '52), and three brothers including Edwin Webster (Tau, '49) and James Webster (Ripon, '58).

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ULRICH'S UNCONVENTIONAL URGE TO UP-ROOT FROM THE US TO UNSUNG URUGUAY

Yes, I'm really going to live in Uruguay! Uruguay is a small country in South America, on the Atlantic coast between Argentina and Brazil. Half of its population lives in the capital, Montevideo, which is where I'll be living as well.

Why Uruguay? My aim had been to move to Panama, but last year the program that would have allowed me to qualify for residency there was rescinded, so I began investigating other locales. Mainly I was looking for a place where it would be pleasant to live, where I could qualify for residency, where either English or Spanish is spoken (since those are the only languages I have much experience with), and where the cost of living is low, or at least reasonable. This makes for a remarkably short list! Although I knew next to nothing about Uruguay, it kept coming up as a possibility, so I researched it further, and made two extended visits there earlier this year. Montevideo is a peaceful and very livable city, and it was quickly clear that I would feel at home there. I found several lively groups of English speakers and also met a number of native Uruguayans, and I found a house to rent that is near ideal for my needs, much better than I'd dared hoped for.

Adventure travel being one of my passions, this will also be a step in continuing to follow that inclination. While Uruguay is not a big travel destination, it does have undiscovered natural charms of its own, but it will also make an excellent home base for further exploring South America.

For the last few years I've been working to position myself so I can support myself via the internet, in order to be able to live or travel anywhere there is an internet connection. Initially my income will come from investments, commodities trading, and small projects that can be done over the internet. I am not entirely confident it will be feasible to live this way indefinitely, so that's part of the risk, and also part of the adventure! Currently the cost of living in Uruguay is relatively low -- one of the lowest anywhere in the world -- so that helps my chances of success. I also expect I will discover other opportunities to supplement my income that I can't even dream of right now, once I've been in the country a while.

Is this a permanent move? Who knows? What is "permanent," anyway? It seems a good change for me for now. I don't know for sure whether I'll like it there; that's impossible without actually trying it. But I do know that I'll enjoy the adventure of finding out! If I don't like it, or if the money runs out, or if I simply get restless, I haven't burned any bridges, and I'll just make another change.

You are hereby invited to visit! My guess is that Uruguay is not high on your list of vacation plans, but perhaps Argentina is a possibility; Montevideo is only a ferry ride across the Río de la Plata from Buenos Aires!

Best, Shirley Ulrich (85)
shirley@venturosa.net

Tau Notes, continued

Amanda (Miltenberger Bright) Shepard (00) graduated in December 2005 and is now a registered nurse (RN). Amanda works for Walker Methodist Nursing Home in the Subacute Transitional Care Unit. Amanda lives in Little Canada, MN, with her husband Noah.

Jharick Shields (06) lives in Appleton, WI, where he works as the assistant debate coach for Appleton West High School.

Dave Shogren's (84) band, Barefoot Jones, now has a set of self-produced songs that are for sale. If you don't live in the area of St. Louis, MO, the best place to get their music is on [iTunes](#). One can hear samples of each piece and can get the entire set of five songs for \$4.95! Check'em out and support a brother!

Jon and Angie (Layton) Thompson (96/96) bought a lovely home in Nekoosa, WI last December. Jon works for Rainbow Casino as a Lead Slot Technician (that sounds naughty). Angie is a stay-at-home mom who does some graphics work on book covers and some web design on the side. They have two children: Elizabeth, who recently turned 13, and Jacob, who is 9 years old.

Eric Thorsen (89) is the Financial Administrator for the English Lit. Dept. at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. Eric lives in Malden, MA, with his wife, Rachel Kemper (Ripon 93), their cat, Chaplin, and dog, Preston.

Cat Wood (99) is Now Cat Travis. She married Josh Travis (also a Ripon alum) in 2004. Cat and Josh live in Colorado where Josh is in grad school and Cat works as a Service Manager for Wells Fargo Bank. Cat and Josh are also the proud parents of Abby Johanna, born July 16, 2006.

Life in Tau-nzania

Cyndi is back from Tanzania, but we still have a few emails left from her trip. So, they are being included here for the edification of those taken with the first part of this series.

September 25, 2006: Tanzania - heyyo! tanzania is amazing, i just started my week-long break two days ago and it has already been so great! i'm in moshi right now, a town with a great view of mt. kilimanjaro! i had the most awesome day ever, we tried to go for a day hike up the mountain but it would cost \$60 us dollars. we said no and decided to hike down the part of the mountain we've already driven up. (the daladala ride up the mountain was insane, the road was so bumpy and crazy, like a rollercoaster ride without the safety track or seat belts. then the actual hike down. all i can say is wow! we walked past beautiful views and small houses. little kids would run out just to see us walk by (most wazungu [white people] don't walk down this part of the mountain so we were an unusual site) then while me and caitlin were looking at birds (she saw 18 new species just on that hike today) danny and melody were talking to this guy. turns out he is a guide for kili hikes to the top, and also that he is the guide in the imax film on mt. kili! i just met my first movie star today!!!! he was so down to earth and friendly too, you never would have guessed it. and he knew scott fisher (the guy that died on everest) and also worked with with a bryan someone. his little son was so cute. so after that we continued down the mountain, i spotted this really neat bird, forget what it's called though. at one point we saw a kilimanjaro chameleon (only found on the mountain) unfortunately it was only 2D because a car had run over it, but it looked like a perfectly flat chameleon, which was still pretty cool. then we crashed a wedding. not so much crashed really as was dragged into it by the brother of the groom. they gave us cokes and we were in some of the wedding pictures, it was sorta weird. lunch at a little cafe was tasty, though some of the meat looked to be tube shaped so i avoided those pieces. we eventually hopped on a daladala the rest of the way back to moshi. it was a really exciting day with lots of beautiful views and friendly people. and at sunset we saw the top of mt. kili turn reddish pink from the sun hitting the snow, it was gorgeous! today we traveled to arusha and not too much excitement, but tomorrow early morning we leave for oldonyo lengai (the active volcano we're climbing) we see our first real maasi village and also should see twiga (giraffe)! our first big african wildlife!!!! i'm so excited :)

last weekend we took a return trip to see the tortoises on a small island off the coast of zanzibar. they were so cool. we fed them spinach and they followed us around for food and tried to eat my skirt. they liked it when you rubbed them on the neck. i got soaked on the boat ride back to zanzibar from a big

wave (but it was fun). we also met this amazing shopkeeper that gave us gifts and took us on a tour of his house. my favorite part was the bench swing in the middle of his 90 year old mother's room. it was a fun weekend!

September 30, 2006: Tanzania - hey everyone! so the volcano was totally amazing!!!! i didn't die or anyone else, but i did see my first twiga (giraffe), zebra, gazelle (grant and thomson), jackal, ostrich, flamingo, secretary bird, and more animals on the ride there. the climb up was mostly at night (which has thousands of stars in the sky and the darkness covered up how far away the summit of the volcano actually was. i was doing great till the last bit, which was a 45 degree slope of sheer rock-face. it definitely freaked me out and i couldn't look behind me. i got to flatter ground again and didn't want to move for a while. the climb was worth it though cause as soon as i reached the top i moved into a different world. the active crater (which we camped in for two nights) looked like nothing else i've ever seen. the landscape sort of resembled mars. it's hard to describe but i definitely felt like i didn't belong there and was uncomfortable walking around alone because of it. it was fun exploring though, there was new lava spills (about 3 months old) to walk over and we saw where the lava receded into the mountain and left a huge pit in it's retreat. we also climbed to the actually summit which had an great view of everything, and looked around the inactive crater. i have tons of pictures if anyone wants to see them and lots of stories to go with them. the trek back down the mountain was the worst part (except for the 45 degree rock-face up, but i guess i went down it too so i don't know what i'm really trying to say here). my legs are still sore from it (it's the next day). it was one of the greatest experiences of my life!!!!

 *Theta Sigma Tau* 

TAU - The Movie

Amanda Arloro (93) was digging through old stuff from her days at Ripon when she came across something fun: Amanda writes: It was the fall of 1990 and a group of members sat around the lounge and as bored as we were, enjoyed a drink and we developed an idea. If Tau had been made into a movie what actor would play your part? The attached list is the result of that afternoon. It did not contain everyone, but those that came through the lounge that day and those wanted to take part are in it. In other words if the movie could not be made without the individual being in it, we added them in. I.E. the Quad God...can't really tell the story of Tau without him...so we added him in. Since we could not come up with actors for some, we gave them cartoon characters instead until we could think of an actor, but we never got there, besides the characters seemed more appropriate.

Line spacing added for readability only, spelling corrected for the same reason.

Amanda Arloro	Randee Heller
Jennifer Bell	Sigourney Weaver
Len Blado	George Wendt
Kate Burrall	Elizabeth Shue
Denise Canale	Edie McClurg
Rich Dammkoehler	Fred Gwynne
Dav Delikat	Richard Mulligan
Karen Derf	Kirstie Ally
Tony Diekhoff	Bill Cosby
Shaun Ferguson	Dirk Benedict
Quincy Gurgel	Dolly Parton
Bryan Hall	Jean Claude Van Damm
Pete Handley	Paul Schaeffer
Lisa Hanson	Victoria Jackson/Terri Garr
Hans Henker	Jack Nicholson
Kira Herder	Pia Zadora
Kurt Hoepfer	Rodney Dangerfield
Julie Johnston	Jane Seymour
Steve Johnston	Marlon Brando
Heather Jones	Cher
Rick Kimpel	Henry Winkler
Dale Konstanz	Carmen Miranda
Pete Lenz	Ron Jeremy
Dan Reid	Emo Philips
Derek Rivard	Kelsey Grammer
Ed Shaw	Michael Caine
Matt Small	Kurt Russell
Cindy Surber	Cloris Leachman
Tara Sylvester	Slyvester Stalone
Niko Tarini	Peter Lorre
Lisa Thone	Bette Midler
JoAnn Vitullo	Wendy Jo Sperber
<i>Non-Taus</i>	
Sue Boersma	Winona Ryder
Brett Bork	Tigger
Shawn Davis	Martin Mull/Big Bird
Jevan Ellis	Beaver Clever/Rick Mayall
Jeff Gribble	Alice Cooper
Bob Haushalter	Weird Al Yankovic
Luke Huston	Lee Horsley
Dana	Malcolm McDowell
Jodi Tibbets	Eve Plum
Dulci Tibbets	Susan Sarandon
Kevin (Quad God)	Baloo the Bear

An interesting challenge to the crew currently living at the House might be too do this again.

The Adventures of God

A semi-irregular comic by Viola (Martin) Lenz (02)

Happy Easter from God's Family to yours...

