

# The MUSE

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University

ITHACA, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 1989

## Homecoming Reunites Alumni

Greetings, brothers. For all of you alumni who missed it, Homecoming Weekend 1988 was a huge success. Over 50 alumni returned to Ithaca to see old friends and the condition of the house. People who had not been back since graduating, such as Vance Harrison '75 and Dave Dellenbaugh '75, were among the many who returned. As usual, we were greeted with the presence of regulars such as Nicholas Reitenbach '56, Gilbert Barker '51, Rick Rego '82, and many others.

A special appearance was made by the legendary brother who originally hired Dolly 28 years ago, Joel Van Wyman '60. Joel was happily surprised with the way the house looked, and the "Rattlesnake," as he was once known, pledged his support to help raise funds for the continued improvement of the house. The painting of the house, the new wood sign on the front lawn, the new doors on every room, and the new carpeting on the second and third floors were among the many changes that he and other alumni cited as welcome improvements.

I am glad to say that everyone I spoke to had only nice things to say about the weekend. The coffeehouse on Friday night, the tailgate on Saturday morning, and the formal on Saturday night were among the weekend's highlights. As usual, Dolly was busy cooking most of the weekend but found plenty of time to spend talking with the alumni and to yell at the active brothers. He wanted me to tell all of you that it was great to see such a big  
*(continued on page four)*

## Sage Reports On Mu Chapter

Greetings to all you Pi-house alums out there. I hope the real world is treating you as well as Ithaca is treating us. Things are on the move this year at Sigma Pi: A mid-summer fire inspection and changes in the rush process have kept me and the rest of the executive board busy making capital improvements and attempting to comply with the new rules set by the Interfraternity Council and the university.

Bruce Kornfeld has been the point man on a capital improvement program required to bring our house up to present fire codes. This program, which has cost close to \$20,000, has given us new doors on every room and between every floor. The expert work of the Hamilton Brothers helped us pass inspection with flying colors. Other capital improvements, such as new carpeting (last year's pledge project), have improved the appearance of the house dramatically. Our new appearance and a string of successful parties and happy hours have given us an extremely  
*(continued on page two)*



*There was a full house for Casino Night at Saturday's formal during Homecoming.*

## University Plans New Building

Cornell architects are considering plans for the construction of a 55,000-square foot building at the west end of Beebe Lake to house both the alumni affairs and the undergraduate admissions offices.

The new center would provide conference and office space for the two divisions, as well as reception facilities for prospective students and alumni, replacing current admissions offices at 410 Thurston Avenue and the Alumni House at 426 Thurston Avenue.

The university expects to approve a site and design a proposal early in 1989, according to university spokesperson David I. Stewart.

The primary proposal under consideration calls for location of the structure in the area between the current Alumni House and the Entrepot Campus Store at the west end of Beebe Lake. A secondary site for the proposed building, which would be called the Alumni/Admissions Center, is at the south side of the lake's west end, near the university's Weinhold water processing plant.

The alumni/admissions building will cost upwards of \$10 million. But apparently the university does not have a "blank check" for the project. Firms have been contacted to devise plans for the building. It seems certain that something will come of this project that will be beneficial to alumni, prospective students, and the campus and enhance the beauty of the west Beebe Lake area.

David Folkenflik '90

## THE MUSE

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## A Sigma Pi Brother Appears On National Television

Every May, Pi-men graduate from this fine institution and head out into the real world—each with memories of the past and dreams for the future. On Homecoming Weekend, I had an opportunity to talk with one of last year's graduates about what he had done since he left school. Daniel "V" Gerson '88 was known throughout the campus by his nickname, "V," and for his sense of humor and acting ability. When he left school all who knew him wondered if he would ever get the break that would enable him to "make it big." Hoping to accomplish just that, as well as to get some experience in producing, Dan went to work for the very popular TV show *Late Night With David Letterman*.

After having lunch with Letterman one day, Gerson learned that he was going to get his big opportunity. A week later Dan found himself on national television—a dream come true! Although he was only in the spotlight for a brief moment, the appearance was enough to generate what Dan called "many promising offers." Dan has since moved on from his stint with Letterman and is in the process of writing a humorous book on the accounts of a fictitious character, Prince Najaar of Kuwait.

The future looks bright for Gerson, and many believe that his success is certain. We all wish him the best! After all, he was a departing senior *last year!*

Steven Simms '89  
Alumni Secretary

## Sage Reports, continued

optimistic attitude toward rush.

The house is certainly looking up this year, and the future looks bright. Although we are graduating a large number of brothers this year, the neophytes and the remaining juniors are a tight group that should be able to overcome the temporary problem of low numbers. Rush is the key in this situation, and we are doing all we can to get a large number of good men to bring our house back to the strength we are all accustomed to.

I hope all of the alumni who had the chance to come back to the house for Homecoming enjoyed seeing some familiar faces. Since I will be an alumnus soon, it was good to see that so many people still care about the house and were able to come back to have a good time. "The Doll" sends his thanks to all his friends who came to visit him; he says every year that this will be his last, but he does not look like he is going anywhere. His new truck is treating him well, and he is still dishing out his friendly abuse with the same vigor as always. It is good to see that some things never change.

Guy L. Dipietro '89  
Sage



*After 28 years, Dolly is still cooking Homecoming meals like nobody else can!*

## Sigma Pis Continue To Display Their Athletic Prowess

The Sigma Pi sports machine is continuing to roll after a strong showing in the 1987-'88 intramural season. Finishing in the top 10 for the past few years, but not winning it all, has just made the house more determined than ever. It will be difficult to replace many of the fine athletes we lost as a result of graduation, such as Bob Pearl '88 and Steve Muson '88, two key figures in last year's drive toward the championship. We believe, however, that the enthusiasm and ability of the neophytes will make up for the loss of the many great athletes.

The Pi-house started off the season in fine fashion by finishing second in tennis, thanks to the hard work of the Florida tandem of Eric Kabot '89 and Brian Happ '88. As usual, the soccer team, led by captain Jeff Lipsky '89, made it to the playoffs. Unfortunately, we lost in a heated battle to the eventual champions in the semifinals, 2-1. A great deal of congratulations is owed to the soccer team, which worked long and hard to achieve the success it did.

One other sport the Pi-house showed very well in was football. Eric Kabot '89, intramural football player of the year, threw 22 touchdown passes in six games, connecting on many occasions with speedy receivers Gary Rezak '89, Steven Cooper '89, and Jon Broder '91. Although the team did not win the championship, the points gained for reaching the semifinals were extremely important in our drive for the championship.

Already the inner-tube water polo team is swimming three times a week in preparation for the start of the season in February. Last year's loss in the finals was very difficult for most of the players to accept, and anything less than first place this year will be a letdown. We also expect to show well again in downhill skiing, thanks to returning champion Gary Braun '89, and wrestling, where Lloyd Jarkow '89 will strive for his third straight championship. With so many bright lights in our sports scene, it is no wonder the house is confident that this year's finish will be the best in recent memory.

Eric Gordon '89  
Sports Chairman

## Mu Chapter Makes Many Capital Improvements

Greetings from the office of the treasurer. The house is on stable ground financially, even though we have recently spent almost \$20,000 on necessary improvements. As many of you already know, this summer the city of Ithaca came very close to closing down the house. The old doors and frames no longer met the new Ithaca fire standards, and it became necessary to get new ones. After working out a plan with the city and hiring some carpenters to put new doors and frames on all the rooms, the house easily passed inspection. The doors certainly make a vast improvement in both the safety and the appearance of the house, but paying for them caused us to use almost all of our surplus money. Strong rush results that bring in many new brothers and continued financial support from alumni are the two things we feel will ensure us of being able to meet the next "crisis."

In order to put an end to brothers leaving the house owing large sums of money, we now use the bursar billing system, which goes through the university, to collect payment. Brothers must pay this bill in order to graduate, which makes it practically impossible for people not to pay their bills! Although this is something we did not want to be forced to do, the amount of money the house was losing annually was getting out of hand. Almost all brothers agree with this solution, and I feel that it is best for the future of the house.

New doors, no more broken porch, new dining room chairs, and carpeting on the second and third floors are all improvements that have been made in the last year. I would like to thank our generous alumni, whose support has made these things possible. I am hopeful that your support will continue to grow in the year ahead. Stop by and see all of the improvements!

Bruce Kornfeld '89  
Treasurer

## We Meet Moral Responsibility By Aiding Our Community

Each year the brothers of Sigma Pi attempt to help some of those who are less fortunate than we are by raising money through rock-'n'-roll tea. Many of you, I am sure, remember this event differently than it now occurs. No longer are beer trucks parked on the front lawn serving all those who attend. Instead, in order to comply with the new campus drinking laws, beer is served only in a small roped-off area for those who are 21 or over. In order to get approval for last year's party, Mush Braunstein '89, Guy Dipietro '89, and Alan Rosen '91 had to meet with community leaders and lay out the plans for the party. Approval was difficult to obtain, but their persistence enabled us to get the necessary permits.

After hiring an extremely popular band (David Watts and The Great Train Robbery), getting food and drinks donated by local merchants, and organizing a raffle, we were confident of the day's success. The only problem occurred when rain washed away the outside party. Determined not to see this day ruined, the executive board decided that the party would be held that night inside for a charge of \$3 per person. Hard work by all of the pledges got the word around campus quickly, and that evening the party was a huge success.

The house raised over \$1,200, which we presented to the Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC). This money was used to send local underprivileged children to day camp. After receiving thank-you letters from all of the children, the brothers were even prouder of what they had done. Next May we hope to raise even more money for GIAC in order to send more children to camp. We all feel as though we have a moral responsibility to the community that has given us so much.

Steven Simms '89  
Alumni Secretary



## Dolly Remains Busy And Happy

Thanks to help from Dolly, my assistant steward, Chris Depipo '91, and the kitchen boy, Bruce "Flake" Kornfeld '89, things are moving smoothly in the kitchen. Most of Dolly's delights are still coming out of the kitchen, which makes for hearty eating. Bob's during smokers, Barm on Monday nights, and Rats (chicken cordon bleu) on special occasions have helped make this year as good as ever. Cooking up rush dinners for 70 people on Tuesdays and Thursdays is no easy chore, but luckily "the Doll" is up to the task.

Dolly's spirits are high, and he really seems to like the new rookies. For his birthday in September, we all gave Dolly a new winter coat. He seemed very touched by this gift; for the first time in recent memory, he seemed at a loss for words! By the next morning, he was back to normal, yelling at anyone who ventured down to breakfast.

Dolly still bowls three nights a week, and the traditional Sunday night bowling with the brothers has become a favorite pastime at the house. The regulars, Brian "Cosmo" Cannon '91, Pat "Strokes" Young '91, Dave "Flash" Bertenthal '89, and house sweetheart Jen Dwyer, are giving "the Doll" a run for his money.

The Homecoming formal was a big success! Dolly managed to serve a great meal to all 160 in attendance. He was glad to see all of the alumni who returned and hopes to see everybody back again for Spring Weekend.

Bill Freedman '89  
Steward



Alumni Brad Fortune '87 and George Rocklein '87 talk about old times at Homecoming.

## Rush Goes Well Despite Change

Greetings. As always, rush is a major topic on all minds during this semester as we look for potential Pi-men who will add something to the house. This year we have to adjust to a new system as a result of some changes made by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) in an effort to create "fairness" for all houses. The process is shorter this year during informal rush, giving students more time to concentrate on their studies, but longer during formal rush. Everything is a lot more controlled and regulated, much like sorority rush.

Despite problems with the IFC bureaucracy, rush has been going very well this year. We have had great turnouts for rush dinners and events such as bar night and Monday night football. Since we are in the beginning stages of rush, many events have not occurred yet but are planned for the future, including such traditional ones as bowling night at Ides and, of course, "Booey-mongers." In-house brothers have been extremely helpful so far in making things run smoothly. Their constant cleanups have kept the house looking in top shape. The new doors and carpeting have made the house look much better than anytime since I have been here and are certainly having a positive effect on rush.

The rush staff this year includes me as chairman and my assistants, Steve Scherzer '89, Brian Happ '90, Vince Vallejo '91, and Chris Depipo '91. With such a large number of brothers graduating this year, we realize the importance of a strong rush. I am confident that we will succeed in getting a large class of qualified Pi-men.

Eric Kabot '89  
Rush Chairman

## Additional 1987-'88 Contributors

Late in the summer, you received an honor roll acknowledging Sigma Pi alumni who had made contributions during our 1987-'88 operating year, which runs from September 1 through August 31. Since the tabulation of that honor roll, we have received additional gifts from the members listed below. These gifts were credited to the 1987-'88 year. We extend our sincerest thanks. A strong Sigma Pi depends on your continuing support.

P. Louis Callan '26

Wayne F. Forman '80	William R. Johnson '67
Gordon B. Hoffman '31	Jeffrey M. Lewis '85
John E. Hough '37	Stephen G. Pieretti '83
Dewey W. Johnson III '72	Lawrence A. Vranka '85

## Homecoming Reunites, continued

turnout and that he hopes next year's will be even bigger.

When I took office last January, I stated as a goal the continued growth of alumni support. I planned on accomplishing this by getting the alumni to come back to see the house and to get more familiar with the present brothers. I am happy to say that I feel this has happened. Alumni support is much greater now than it was three years ago. The house is moving in a new direction, and I am proud to say that we have all been a part of that. In six months I will be an alumnus, and I am confident that the new alumni secretary will continue the progress we have made. The Pi-house has changed for the better in the last year, and I would like to thank all of you for your support.

Steven Simms '89  
Alumni Secretary



From left to right: Eric Gordon '89, Eric Kabot '89, and Eric Berman '89 enjoying Homecoming Weekend activities.

## Our Alumni Report

"I received my honorary ScD from Drew University in May 1988," announces GEORGE G. READER '40. George is a physician in the department of public health at Cornell University Medical College, and his address there is 1300 York Ave., New York, NY 10021.

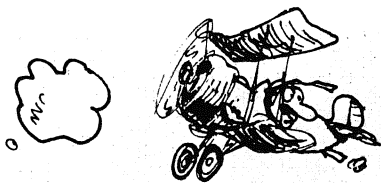
Labor arbitrator JOHN C. SHEARER '52 reports that he took early retirement from Oklahoma State University and is now emeritus professor of economics. "I now devote full-time to labor arbitration all over the U.S., which I've done part-time for 25 years." He adds, "I recently bought a summer home in Mount Vernon, Maine, to escape Oklahoma's sizzling summers." Send best wishes to John at 2020 Crescent Dr., Stillwater, OK 74075.

"Say 'hi' to Dolly from 'Hoffs,'" writes ARTHUR J. HOFFMAN '64. Art is a project manager for Dow Chemical Company. He reports, "The Cornell basketball coach is not interested in my son, Peter, and there are no jock scholarships for Ivy Leaguers, so my 6'5", 23 ppg all-stater is going to Michigan Tech University on a full-ride basketball scholarship." Art also writes, "I'm happy to hear you are making progress on house repairs and fund-raising." Keep in touch with Art at 2415 Woodland Estates Dr., Midland, MI 48640.

Pathologist JEFFREY L. CRAVER '75 was intending to return to Cornell for Homecoming Weekend to attend the Federation of Cornell Clubs annual meeting, the Cornell-Yale football game, and "to get rich on Casino Night at Sigma Pi." He reports, "My family is doing well. Anne keeps expanding her languages repertoire (now studying Arabic, Farsi, and Serbo-Croatian), and our daughter, Mary Pat, is thrilled with third grade. Pathology is a very interesting and enjoyable career for me, but I keep working  
(continued on page five)



\* Let us know, too!  
Our address is on  
page two.



# Alumni Write

(continued from page four)

on my golf game with the ambition to make the Senior Tour (ha! ha!).” Send warm wishes to Jeff at 401 Edgewood Dr., Saint Louis, MO 63105.

Writes THOMAS M. GARR '76, “I’m still working on Wall Street for First Boston as an institutional securities broker and living in downtown Chicago (Apt. #721, 666 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60611). Any Pi-men in the area or passing through who enjoy the sun, the waves, and a cold beer, give us a call.”

WAYNE S. BUDER '79 works in advertising and receives mail at 1700 Beach St., #206, San Francisco, CA 94123. He writes, “I saw RANDALL J. OTTINGER '80 get married in Palm Springs, California. Other Pi-men in attendance were STEVEN L. BERGH '79, WAYNE F. FORMAN '80, and MARK D. SHERWIN '80.” He further writes, “I spent a week in Salt Lake City back in March skiing with Mark Sherwin, Wayne Forman, DAVID C. D'ORLANDO '79, CURTIS A. QUANTZ '79, and STEVEN M. ROSENZWEIG '79. Salt Lake hasn't been the same since.” He adds that he is looking forward to returning to Ithaca this June for the 10th reunion. “I hope other Pi-men of '79 are also planning to reunite at that time. We'll see you then, Doll.”

Reports BRUCE A. STOUFFER '79, “Tracy and I have a small house in the middle of Princeton. Tracy commutes to New York, where she is an equity portfolio manager for a large pension fund. I'm still with FMC and am now the product manager for the automated material handling systems business located in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Princeton is a lovely place to live, and we really enjoy being able to see the Cornell athletic teams in action.” Keep in touch with Bruce at 103 Patton Ave., Princeton, NJ 08540.

Pens STEVEN A. HOBBS '80, “My wife (Elizabeth Drugge) and I are pleased to announce the birth of our first child, Allison, in October 1987.” Steve continues to practice law in New York City as a mergers and acquisitions specialist. “It's a testament to *The Muse* that I was able to read in the April issue about other Pi-men I went to school with: ROBERT G. RUHLMAN '78, STEVEN L. BERGH '79, ANDREW L. KANTOR '79, LARRY W. BARSTOW '79, WAYNE S. BUDER '79, DAVID C. D'ORLANDO '79, JOHN R. WELCH '78, CHRISTOPHER B. OLIE '79, STEVEN M. ROSENZWEIG '79, RANDALL J. OTTINGER '80, and JARETT F. WAIT '80. Congratulations on a job well done! Best regards to everyone and the 'Stork.’” Greet Steve at 3 Walmsley Rd., Darien, CT 06820.

Drop a line to JON R. ZIRN '81 at 1303 York Ave., Apt. #4H, New York, NY 10021. “Z-man” is a physician at New York Hospital.

In May, FORD B. FAY '82 wrote, “We're moving into a new house and are expecting our first baby in August. I am working long hours and going to night school at the University of Rochester for my MBA. My wife, Kathleen, and I spend a lot of time with JOHN D. STEWART '83 and his wife, Pat.” Write to Ford at 51 Oxford St., Rochester, NY 14607.

Attorney KURT “Bossy” BOSSHARDT '83 reports, “We decided that two years in this decadent, bayou-like party town (New Orleans) was enough. We longed for the ocean breeze and rum runners we left behind in sunny Florida. So, we're going

back, but with added cargo. Alexa ('ziggy poo' sweetheart) and I are the proud new parents of Ryan Ellis (born May 2).” He continues, “We had a good time over Mardi Gras with JAY SACCO '80 and LUC G. CHABOT '80, although Sacco beat up one too many kids for Mardi Gras beads. The weekend attraction was Sacco, Luc, and Sacco's girlfriend, Bridget, in a four-man pyramid—oh, what a few gallons of frozen daiquiris will do to you!” “Bossy” works six blocks from GARY DERCK '81 and welcomes visitors at 260 Hibiscus, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, FL 33308.

“Life is good here in New York City,” writes JESSE F. HAMMERMAN '83 (529 East 88th St., New York, NY 10128). “There are plenty of Pi-men with which to get together when time allows.” In May, Jesse reported that WILLIAM S. MARCUS '85 was to become his brother-in-law in December. Bill was going to marry Jesse's wife's sister, Debbie Goldberg. “I had nothing to do with it,” Jesse adds. “They met through Bill Laviola.” Jesse is a general contractor.

TIMOTHY J. HENN '83 writes, “In May 1987, I graduated from Harvard's business school. I then spent the next three months skiing in New Zealand and scuba diving in Australia. I bumped into my pledge brother, MICHAEL D. VERNICK '83, on a street corner in northern Australia. Mike had spent the last 12 months dodging kangaroos while riding a motorcycle across Australia.” Tim continues, “I got tired of scraping snow off my car and decided to move to California, where I am employed as a marketing engineer for VLSI Technology, Inc. They get more sun here in a day than Boston gets in a week. California's great!” Tim adds, “You guys are doing a great job with *The Muse* and other publications. Have a great year!” Tim invites brothers to get in touch with him at 738 Blue Sage Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

## DECEASED

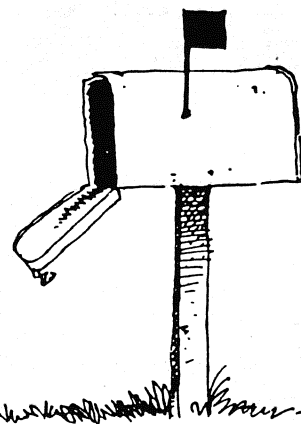
We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

ALBERT L. BATCHELDER '36, April 16, 1988  
 BAYARD M. HORTER JR., April 27, 1988  
 RICHARD J. MacCONNELL '31, April 1, 1987  
 JAMES H. PERRIN '62, April 27, 1988

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is good news!

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today!





*Sigma Pi*

*J. F. C Weekend*

*March 1961*