

# The Contumacious Arcanum

Vol. #43

The ΘΣΤ Alumni Assn. Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2002

## Alumni Site News

• A major change was made to the Alumni Website when, in early September, the Membership Directory, the Messengers Directory, and the Calendar, as well as all pages linked to from these pages, were password protected. This was done for two reasons. The first was to protect the information contained within the directories from automated email address "harvester" programs. These programs search the internet for pages with email addresses on them and collect them so that they might be sold to SPAMmers. We managed to get very lucky and never got hit by one of these. However, it was decided that we should no longer take the chance.

A second reason for the password protection was to protect personal information (such as birthdates and addresses) from those who might use it for sinister purposes. Related to this was the concern that pictures of members or their children might attract unsavory elements.

To gain access, please use the following when prompted - User name: "Tau"; Password: "ElmsClub". Don't include the quotes and note that both are case sensitive. If you ever forget the user name or password, simply request them from Pete Lenz or Richard Dammkoehler by emailing: TauMagi@ThetaSigmaTau.org

• In response to a suggestion from an alumna, a donations button has been added to the alumni site. Using it, members can donate money, using a credit card via PayPal, to the alumni association to help defray newsletter mailing costs or server maintenance costs.

• The house website is located at <http://alumni.ThetaSigmaTau.org>

• If you wish to have an email address through our domain, (example: plenz@ThetaSigmaTau), email Plenz or Nages at TauMagi@ThetaSigmaTau.org.

## Individual News Updates

Dr. William Brooks (60), professor of Biology at Ripon College retired this year. Dr. Brooks was a Ripon graduate and member of Sigma Nu. He returned to Ripon in 1966 to become professor of Biology, replacing his mentor, Associate Professor Dan Thompson.

Mike Cason (96) is engaged to be married in September of 2003.

Rick Demas (93) will marry Anne Stone on Saturday, October 19 of 2002 in NYC. Both Rick and Anne are lawyers working in the New York City area.

Harrison Ford (64) received the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement at the Golden Globe Awards in February. {Boldfacedly stolen from the Summer 2002 edition of the Ripon College Magazine}

Cindy (Surber) Gribble (92) recently quit her job as a financial aid officer and is now pursuing a master's degree in Information Technology at Carnegie Mellon University using a full-ride scholarship that she won. She and her hubby, Jeff (aka *Fluffy Bunny*) are fine and happy.

Lisa Hansen (93) married David Graham on July 14, 2002. They were married in a ceremony in their back yard in Yuba City, CA. Lisa works at a local hospital in the medical records department and David works as a prison guard. The Grahams are also expecting their first child in the late spring or summer of 2003.

## Individual News Updates (continued)

Sarah Hoffman (02) is "...living in Madison, WI, where she is a slacker. She gets paid very good wages to slack, and, to no one's surprise, she is very good at it. (For those who might be unaware, slacking is a term used in baking. It refers to the process of taking frozen baked goods out of a freezer and setting them out to thaw)."

Kurt Kapplinger (93) is engaged to his girlfriend, Leslie. They plan to marry in the spring of 2003.

Peter Lenz (89) and Viola Martin (02) were married September 14 of this year. The ceremony and reception were held at the Country Inn Hotel of Waukesha. Taus that participated in the festivities included: Jim Bourn (88) and Rich Dammkoehler (92) who stood with Pete as groomsmen; SaraH Hoffman (02), Lexie Natkin (01), and Tric Roll (02) who stood with Vin as bridesmaids. Taus who attended the wedding include: Steve Banasiewicz (89), Toni Bourn (89), Brook Compton (01), Eileen (O'Leary, Plane) Dolan (85), Deb Halvorson (90), John Hoffman (Honourary), Carol (Shay) Hornung (88), Daven Howard (96), Chuck Nailen (88), Barb (Thompson) Pamperin (89), Lisa (Flegel) Sottile (88), Torii Swader (98), Nik Tarini (90), Eric Thorsen (89), and Darlene Wulf (03). Also in attendance were several microTaus: Andrew Bourn, Jaxon Bourn, Stephanie Bourn, Gabrielle Dammkoehler, Frank Dolan V, Cathy Plane, and Kim Plane.

Viola (Martin) Lenz (02) reports that "...since graduating I have moved to Shorewood, WI, with the ever adorable Pete Lenz. I just married Pete (yes, willingly) and we have a new kitten that I cuddle with. I have been job hunting forever as well as working as a pharmacy technician in my hometown when I am there. Still writing but that won't pay the bills. Am thinking of starting up a phone sex hotline.."

Barb (Thompson) Pamperin (89) was promoted to web developer at International Foundations Employees Benefits Plan. Barb lives in West Bend with her husband, Jeff, and their daughter, Angela, and son, Kyle.

Jack Plano (49) of Kalamazoo, MI, has co-written the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of The American Political Dictionary, now available in bookstore. The dictionary, first published in 1962, includes information from the 2000 presidential election. {Boldfacedly stolen from the Summer 2002 edition of the Ripon College Magazine}

Karen Derf-Reilly (93) is working as an elementary school teacher in Florida.

Tom Rinker is attending ITT in order to break into the IT field, where he's always belonged. Tom lives in College Station Texas.

Elaine Sherman (88) recently moved to Cortez, CO, where she was promoted to district Archaeologist at the San Juan National Forest. She shares a two-bedroom apartment with her cats, Hector and Missy.

Mage Soldner (02) is living in Ripon while her fiancée, Eric Lanz (AAA) finishes his senior year at Ripon College. After a short stint working at Country Kitchen, Mage has found more palatable work (pun intended) at Geoffrey in Fond du Lac and at Ripon Drug working in the pharmacy. Mage and Eric recently bought a new car, a Honda Insight hybrid, and Mage's sugar gliders recently had another pup, a boy.

Robert Steffes (52) was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Citation by Ripon College at Alumni Weekend this year (coverage can be found in the Summer 2002 Ripon College Magazine on page 41). Robert lives in Menomonee Falls with his wife, Beverly Johnson Steffes (54). Robert is a first vice-president, senior stockbroker, sales manager, and certified financial planner with UBS Paine Webber of Milwaukee. Robert's daughter, Karen Steffes Driscoll is a 1979 alumna of Ripon College. {Boldfacedly stolen from the Summer 2002 edition of the Ripon College Magazine}

## Letters From the Front

Last in the series, excerpts from emails sent in by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George Johnson (00) who was assigned to the DMZ in Korea until the beginning of July.

June 27, 2002

We had the craziest damned riot down at Camp Red Cloud (CRC) last night. Located in Uijongbu (a town mentioned often in the TV show MASH) CRC is the headquarters to my division, the 2nd Infantry Division.

There was a protest planned outside CRC previously (involving the accident at Twin Bridges where the two girls were killed by an American vehicle) and we already had one of our companies, C CO, down there to bolster the MPs. Then the Koreans lost their semi-finals game. Many unhappy people swelled the ranks of the protesters, and it turned from protest to riot. The Korean riot police could not hold them back. The wire at CRC was breached in numerous places and rioters poured onto post setting things on fire (according to reports we were getting it now seems the damage was not as bad as feared).

At this point the DIV commander deemed reinforcements necessary and personally requested Currahees. 2-2 Aviation was ordered to provide birds to Air Assault A & B Companies onto the CRC Golf Course and from there link up with C CO and the MP detachment.

We had just left work and were chillin' in the hooch, I had not even removed my BDUs when one of the LTs came running in and said we were recalled and the short version of what was going on. We ran down to headquarters and started setting up the Pick-up Zones (PZs) for the birds. It was amazing how fast we set them up, right on time B CO started showing up in full battle rattle. They broke themselves into chinks and started doing manifests (very important, we need to know who is on what bird in case one goes down and they are charred beyond recognition). We were ready when the birds arrived and off went B CO. We had to truck A CO up from Camp Giant but they were ready when their lift arrived.

We don't know much now what went on, but that is quiet now and aside from minor injuries (bruises and abrasions) all our personnel are safe.

This all leads into a discussion of the Korean concept of justice. Why were so many people upset about the accident? I know people were killed but that is not the whole reason it blew up. They were really mad because the army would not allow the soldier to be tried in Korean courts. There is a reason for this. Strange as it sounds the Korean justice system follows the beliefs of many Koreans which is, "punishment is based on the incident not the circumstances or intent." I talked to Koreans who asked, "Why he not going to jail?" They would not accept that if his intention was not to harm, and if he did nothing wrong, it was just a freak of chance, he should not be punished. They seem to believe that when an incident happens of a certain type, there must be a punishment. There is no justifiable homicide, killing in self-defense or the like. If you kill someone, you have to be tried for murder and sent to jail, because a man died. It does

not matter that the man was trying to hit you with a lead pipe or something. It's a flat penalty no matter the circumstances. In my opinion, that is messed up. First of all that attitude should preclude war in general as war is based on the concept that under certain circumstance killing is necessary and even justifiable. The pitfalls of cultural collisions I suppose. The other thing to remember is that rioting and protests are part of the Korean psyche. They have a very high rate of college students who make up the majority of the protestors.

So as always the Currahees are holding the line on The DMZ and at CRC now.

George

July 19, 2002

The monsoons are back, it rained for all of yesterday, just pissed rain all day. But monsoon proper means I am coming home since I got here in the monsoons.

In four days I sign out of my BN and 24 hours after that I board my plane back to the US.

It has been a strange and interesting year. I lived on the DMZ in a Quonset hut that made the dorm at Ripon look positively fancy. I got to meet former president Carter and shake his hand. I went to Air Assault school and got to rappel from a hovering helicopter. I have been woken in the night by the siren, not knowing if it was another drill or if the NK horde was coming. In training I flew as the S-3's radio operator in two air assaults. I have written SOPs for the BN, coordinated training events, done reports, run tear gas and small arms ranges.

I have visited palaces, old battlefields, eaten dog and met people from all over the world. I have purchased a lot of DVDs and CDs. Read a lot of books.

I have met a lot of awesome people. People I plan to keep in touch with even after I leave this place. When you are on a post as remote and inaccessible as Camp Greaves you become close to people. There are no families here, no where to go off post without a long bus ride. You get to know everyone in the BN. Bar-B-Ques, eating at the NOTRI and listening to a band, or just chillin' and watching a movie you spend time with the other people in the BN. When they have problems you hear about it, when good things happen you hear about it.

I think in terms of bus schedules and formations and leaving numbers of where I can be reached at all times. I think of a trip to the PX as an all day affair, I can't cook here and the commissary is an all day trip anyway. It will be a big adjustment coming home.

I will not miss Camp Greaves nor the hassle and jump through your ass work, but I will miss the people and the feeling of family here.

Next time I email I will be stateside. CURRAHEE!

George

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## Theta Sigma Tau Alumni Association

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### QUOTABLE QUOTES

"There are only a few hands I want in my pants, and this isn't one of them."

- Escape From Monkey Island computer game

"Uhh, no thanks. I try to keep the number of large pointy things in my pants to an absolute minimum."

- Escape From Monkey Island computer game

"Damn! My tongue was more expensive than your breast!"

- Tric Roll (02) to Tammy Johnson (04)  
re: body piercings

"I think you need to stroke his head longer to get him to sing."

- Plenz to his brother, re: toy robot dog

"Steph... swallow, then laugh."

- Daven Howard (96)

"What do you fear most in bed?"

'Frogs!!!'

- SaraH Hoffman (02) reading a quiz in Cosmo and Plenz' response.

"That fell out of someone..."

- Darlene Wulf (03), re: a pen

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Porn for women – it has a plot"

- Viola Lenz (02)

"If you do it alone it just feels wrong!"

- Adam Terry (SaraH Hoffman's hunk o man)  
re: board games

"I mean really... you see neon green, you see spandex, you think gay superhero!"

- Viola Lenz, re: Gregory Shane Helms, aka the wrestler "The Hurricane"

"She could suck-start a Harley!"

- Richard "Wookiee" Dammkoehler (92)

"When you're poor you have to take it where you can get it."

- Viola Lenz

"Hey Viola, do you chew or swallow?"

- Tric Roll to Viola Martin,  
re: birth control pills

"I was his first."

'Please finish that.'

'... little sister!'

- Deb Halvorson (90)/Barb (Thompson)  
Pamperin (89); re: Pete Lenz

"I don't go down 'cause I can't get back up!"

- Chuck Nailen (88), re: The Time Warp

"Do you have a band-aid? I'm a hemophiliac bleeding love for you."

- Jared Billings (03) to Tric Roll

"Hard things and tight things just don't mix."

- Tric Roll

"Ow! That went in harder than I thought it would!"

- Tric Roll, re: shoelace

Contributions to help defray costs for the newsletter (conservatively estimated at \$3/person/year) are always welcome.

Send them to Pete at the above address.