



THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter Sigma Chi Fraternity

FALL • 1949

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
ALPHA THETA CHAPTER
532 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 15, MASS.

July 12, 1949

Dear Brother:

This issue of THE BEAVER SIG marks both the beginning and the end of an era. The period that is now becoming history has been dominated by the influence of former servicemen; their broader background and more mature outlook on life has had a great influence on fraternity doings. The period ahead promises a return to the policies on which fraternities were originally founded and for which they really exist. The high school graduate will again become the backbone of the organization. In a way, this is a blessing, because it is the younger man who stands to benefit more from what life in Sigma Chi offers as part of a college career.

We, the graduating veterans of Alpha Theta, have gone through a unique experience despite the wide range of our backgrounds. We had the opportunity of steering the ship in a course that some would not consider normal. We hope and believe it has been a wiser and more mature one. As in any democratic group of people, not everyone has agreed with the opinions of the presiding officers. If there were any ill effects we do not believe they will remain.

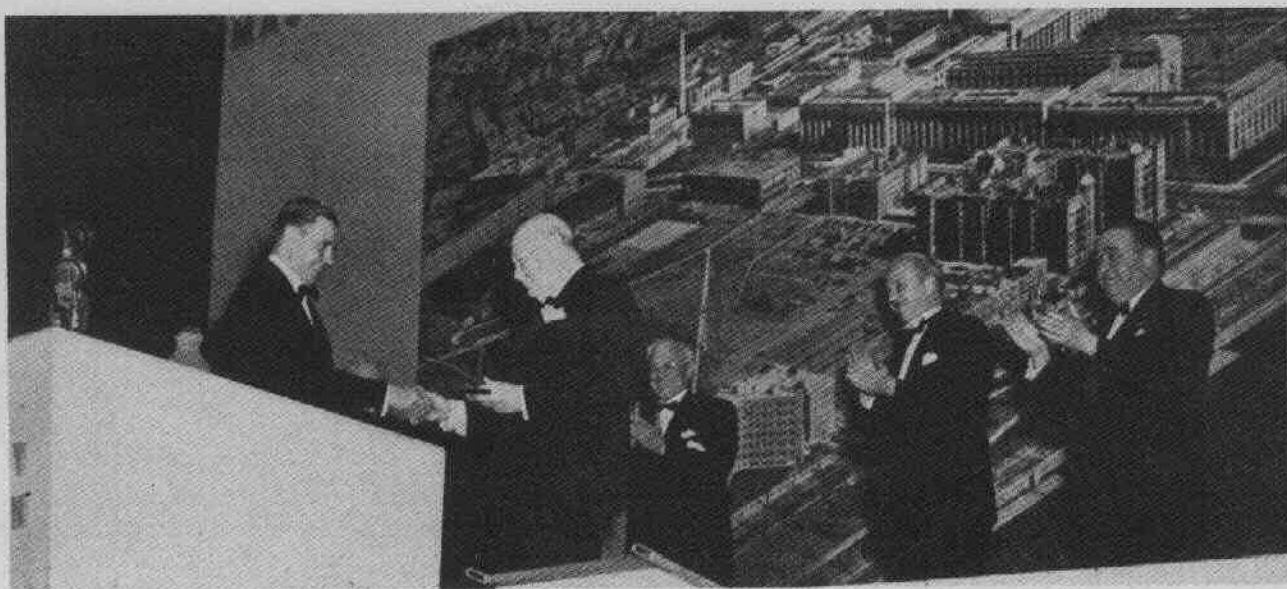
Moreover, we realize that the success of this Chapter has been due to the cooperation of all its members. It was this spirit that made life at Alpha Theta a mutually beneficial experience. We owe the fraternity a great deal and thank all those who have made this one of the most constructive, interesting, and memorable periods of our lives.

In Hoc

Jim

Vera

Consul



Against the photographic mural background of the Institute, President Killian smilingly shakes hands with Mr. Churchill, who has just been appointed honorary lecturer of M.I.T. Left to right: Dr. Killian, Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, Dr. Karl Compton, Dean of Humanities Burchard, and Governor Dever of Massachusetts.

A New Era Opens for Tech

FOR three days this spring, Boston and Cambridge were the focal points of world-wide attention when the Massachusetts Institute of Technology held its Mid-Century Convocation on the Social Implications of Scientific Progress. The events of the convocation were climaxed by the inauguration of Dr. James R. Killian (Alpha Theta, '26) as the tenth president of Technology. The combined convocation and inauguration was the occasion for hundreds of scholars, administrators, and other leaders in the field of education to come to M.I.T. to listen to major addresses by the Right Honorable Winston Spencer Churchill, Harold E. Stassen, President of the University of Pennsylvania, James R. Killian, first M.I.T. alumnus to become its administrative head, Karl T. Compton, former president and chairman of the M.I.T. Corporation, and John E. Burchard, Dean of Humanities. It was the occasion for nearly three dozen eminent scholars to examine the material, spiritual, and intellectual aspects of Twentieth Century progress.

Several factors were responsible for the timing of the three-day convocation to coincide with the inauguration of the new President. Under the leadership of Dr. Karl T. Compton, and particularly during the war, M.I.T. unquestionably assumed a position among the leading institutions of higher learning in the world. By this fact alone, the Institute felt obligated to examine the role it would play in the post-war scientific and technological development in relation to world

social conditions. Over eighteen thousand alumni and friends watched the proceedings in person.

Unusual interest was shown in the series of panel discussions dealing with the general broad topic of "The Social Implications of Scientific Progress at the Mid-Century" which were a major feature of the M.I.T. Convocation. Six specific topics were discussed with the understanding, as presented in Dean of Humanities Burchard's opening speech, that although they merely scratched the surface of the problems facing modern scholars, anything more extensive would spread the discussions too thin. These topics were discussed: The Problem of World Production; Science and the Human Spirit; Specialization in Education; The Underdeveloped Areas of the World; Individuals and Institutions (i.e., the value of traditions and institutions in promoting social progress); and The State, Industry, and the University.

Discussing such broad questions, it was impossible to come to any definite conclusions on most of the points that were brought up, but all the participants in the panels felt that their viewpoints had been clarified and broadened. The "New Era at M.I.T." was ushered in with an understanding that technology and science can no longer remain oblivious to the social and political problems of the world, and that all well-trained university graduates — whether engineers or philosophers — would have to assume their obligations as citizens of the world.

The M. I. T. Interfraternity Conference

By C. J. JACOBY, III, *President*

NATIONAL recognition of the Institute's tradition of self-government has been accorded by an impressive trophy awarded in November of 1948 by the National Interfraternity Conference to Technology's Interfraternity Council as the one "which during the past year made the most notable contribution to the social and educational program of an institution."

Without a doubt, this achievement was made possible to a large extent by the liberal policy under which Dean of Students Everett M. Baker has allowed the I.F.C. to exercise control over the fraternities at M.I.T. In contrast with most schools, here the I.F.C. alone decides when and if a new fraternity is allowed to affiliate with Tech. Before such action is considered, it also undertakes an investigation of the social and financial qualifications of the petitioning group and specifies a probationary period. Since most of M.I.T.'s chapter houses are not on school grounds, the I.F.C., to a large extent, assumes the responsibility for the actions of fraternity men whenever they are involved in situations which might reflect the character of the whole undergraduate student body.

But neither would the high degree of success that the I.F.C. has achieved be possible without the co-operation of all of Tech's twenty-four fraternities and two local petitioning groups. They have realized, through the widespread publicity that Greek letter societies have received recently, that everyone must set higher standards and make the fraternity system at M.I.T. above reproach. Numerous conferences between the administration of the school and the officers of the I.F.C. have helped to emphasize the point further. A discussion of the problems involved in the necessarily restrictive nature of fraternities has been a theme of many chapter meetings.

Once a month, the president and a representative of each fraternity meet at a dinner meeting to discuss the various problems of fraternities and to disseminate information. Through the I.F.C. gatherings this year have moved topics trivial and consequential. At a recent meeting, a program was discussed in an attempt to collect books from fraternity bookshelves and return them to the Institute library. Trivial? Yes, but important to good fraternity relations with the administration. Recently, also, the question of fraternity houses in relation to the existing fire laws was considered. Consequential? Definitely, since the pursuance of all of the Boston housing and fire regulations may

require alterations costing thousands of dollars which the chapters were not planning to spend.

Committees of various types are established to work out problems concerning chapter officers. A social chairman's committee recently organized an exchange for information about local bands and entertainment facilities; and a steward's group likewise aids economy and improved quality of meals for all fraternity men by listing the best food suppliers.

Perhaps the most successful committee that has recently been organized is the Investigation Committee. The Dean of Students now turns over to this group, among other things, the minor infractions of social regulations maintained by the various girls' schools surrounding Boston. One incident was handled so well by this committee, recently, that the Institute received a letter commending the I.F.C. on its action in the case.

With the current M.I.T. Alumni Drive for funds, increased attention has been given by fraternities to the possibility of some sort of new group housing project on school grounds. With the benefits of being closer to school and living in new buildings in mind, and also the disadvantage of no longer being completely autonomous, the I.F.C. has been working on a plan in conjunction with the Dean's Office and the Architectural Department. It is hoped that the final result will be satisfactory to both the individual fraternities and the Administration.

But as in other organizations, all work and no play does not lead to the best results. Without a doubt, the I.F.C. presents the year's biggest and best formal dance week-end. With reports and books forgotten for the minute, the M.I.T. fraternity man and his date have the opportunity to listen to topnotch entertainment and dance to a "name" band. Last spring Monica Lewis flew from New York to provide songs and merriment for the eight hundred odd couples crowding the main ballroom of Boston's Statler Hotel. Later during the week-end, cocktail parties and picnics made the I.F.C. Formal a truly memorable event.

All in all, with the co-operation of the various fraternities and Administration at Tech, the Interfraternity Conference goes a long way towards keeping the name of M.I.T. in the forefront of student life the country over, and in helping to dispel some of the unfavorable publicity that Greek-letter societies have recently received.

Foreign Students at the Sig House

THE babble of languages that can be heard in the Sig House at M.I.T. would make any UN official feel perfectly at home. Co-operating with the National Students Association's Foreign Students Summer Project, the chapter agreed to house six foreign students while they are studying at the Institute during the summer terms. The guests that are here represent Norway, Denmark, France, Israel, Austria, and New Zealand. Living with such a cosmopolitan group is the ideal way to learn about foreign affairs, and also provides the opportunity to hear some interesting criticisms of American policies. The Project has developed to a stage where it may be truly called a new experiment in international relations.

Foreign students who are to enter the program are selected through an intensive screening process that eliminates all but the best scholars. The F.S.S.P. foots all their bills, including food, living facilities when they are not available without cost through fraternities, and some incidental expenses. (Tuition costs were waived by the Board of Directors of M.I.T.) The students only have to pay transportation expenses to and from their native lands. Several tours are also arranged for the students, and at this time they expect to visit the TVA project en masse.

The money for this project (approximately \$30,000) was raised through a number of diversified methods. The usual technique of contacting Tech alumni was excluded because of the alumni drive that the Institute is itself conducting, and other methods had to be tried. In general, most of the donations were from private individuals who were personally contacted by members of the F.S.S.P. Committee. Some support was also forthcoming from industrial organizations in the Boston area. Since private interviews were necessary to obtain most of the contributions, the number of quizzes that students engaged in the Project flunked

is legion. Earl W. Eames, Jr., and Lloyd A. Haynes, originators of the plan to bring students from Europe, and unquestionably the men most responsible for its success, even attempted to appear on the "Break the Bank" radio quiz show on two separate occasions to win money for the Project. They missed both times by a very narrow margin.

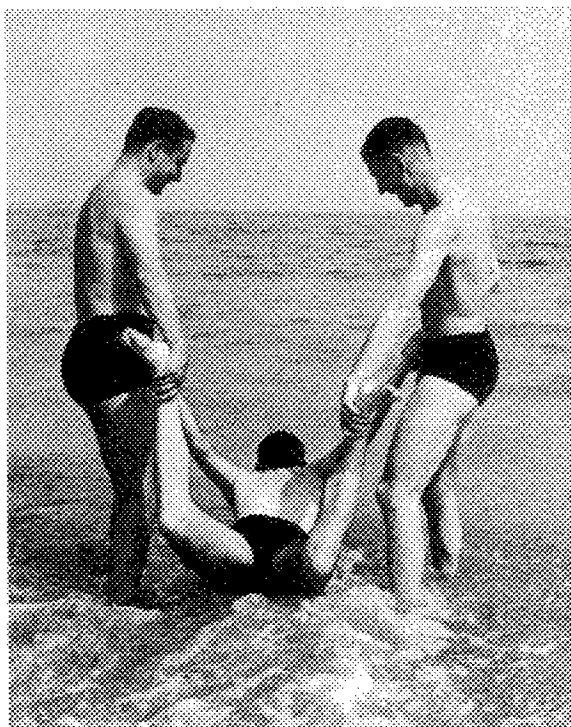
All the visiting students are now busily engaged in their studies and are enjoying many features of the F.S.S.P.'s orientation program. This includes lectures by distinguished speakers at weekly meetings of all

the foreign students, tours through the metropolitan area, parties, and week-ends arranged by people interested in the Project and international affairs. Each and every visiting student is given the opportunity to spend several week-ends with an American family. Since one of the qualifications for being chosen to participate in the Project is a reasonably good knowledge of English, no difficulty has been encountered with the problem of language.

Most of the foreign students are doing graduate work and are particularly interested in seeing the technological research facilities available at M. I. T. Similar instruments and skills are not available anywhere else in the world, according to their opinions, and they plan to return to

their homes with a much improved knowledge of the latest developments in the engineering world.

The students of M.I.T. have pioneered in a field which holds much promise. By extension of the N.S.A.'s plan to other schools, a great many more deserving students will have the opportunity to benefit from American educational facilities. We at Alpha Theta feel quite certain that any of our sister chapters that take part in this "new experiment in international relations" will derive the same satisfaction and enjoyment from their participation as we have.



Life for the foreign students at M. I. T. is not exactly all work and no play. Here Gordon McKennie of New Zealand is getting dunked in the Atlantic by Ketil Moczfeldt from Norway and Frederick Paur of Austria.

Speaking of Athletics

By GORDON INGWERSEN

A CHAMPIONSHIP in volleyball and a second place in football were the highlights of the Alpha Theta intramural athletic season this year. Under the able leadership of Athletic Chairmen McLeod and Ingwersen, Sig teams were very successful in their 1948-1949 year, finishing in the upper brackets of all their leagues. The house stood third on the campus in the whole intramural program when the spring term ended. The two houses that beat us, the S.A.E.'s and the Theta Chi's, provided some thrilling moments during the final play-offs of the season.

The house football team, playing in the intramural sports program, lost the season's first game, but then proceeded to whip five opponents in a row to get the league championship. In addition to the handicap of faulty scheduling, two of the best Sig backs were delayed in getting back from their Thanksgiving vacations and could not make the game in time. After a hard-fought game, which the team members claimed was not anywhere near the house's usual standards, we bowed to the Theta Chi's and settled for a second place in the school ranking.

In the basketball league, the Sigma Chi team wound up in a three-way tie for first place. A play-off was indecisive because each team lost and won one match. Finally, the winner was selected on a mathematical basis; after all the slide rules were put away, the house wound up in second place, losing to one of the dorms.



Breaking the tape in the hundred yard dash for a first place, Howie Hendershott helps to again prove his ability as an all-around athlete.

The volleyball team was really the pride and joy of the house this year. Under the leadership of player-coach Falcao from Rio de Janeiro, the team crushed five straight opponents in the league games and then five more in the round robin. After admiring the new gold trophy in the library for a while, somebody calculated that the team had an average score of better than 15 to 5 points.

Several other house teams also placed well near the top of their leagues. The track team finished second in the combined field events; the softball team ended the season with second place honors; and the tennis team finished the term only vanquished by a group from the Graduate House.

The Sigs were prominent in varsity sports throughout the year. Consul Jim Veras was captain of the soccer team for another year, helping to maintain the reputation he had gained as a member of the All New England Soccer Team and a candidate for the Olympics. Carl Bergmann, Howie Hendershott, and Harold Falcao were other members of the chapter on the first string of the soccer team. In rowing the house had five men on varsity teams last year. Several of the brothers had the privilege of representing M.I.T. as crew members at the Poughkeepsie Regatta, the well-known final competition between the eight top crews in the country. Brother George Dickson was a competing manager of the Pistol Team and was awarded a trophy for being "the outstanding member of the varsity pistol team." Also representing Sigma Chi on varsity teams were "Lefty" Moulton, the pitcher for the M.I.T. baseball team, and Barry Norris, a member of the Tech Sailing Team and an intramural volleyball manager.

In spite of the abundance of studying required at M.I.T., sports have always held their own as part of a well-rounded college training. Although varsity sports like football are still impractical here, intramural competition in other sports, and intramural games between Institute living groups provide a wealth of opportunities for athletically inclined students. For those men who do not have the time to practise with regular teams, Tech's excellent athletic facilities, such as the swimming pool and the sailing pavilion, afford the opportunity for a little pleasant exercise.



In a good mood after just helping to win the second place in the combined field events at M.I.T. are, left to right: Former Consul Jim Veras, Carl Bergmann, and former Pro-Consul Howie Hendershott.



The Right Honorable Stonwin Hillchurch (alias Ed McLoed) addressing an audience gathered on the occasion of Alpha Theta's Three-Quarter Century Convocation.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

By STAN W. MOULTON, JR.

THE social program of last year, under the able direction of Brothers Warren Cheek and Bob Keihn, started with the annual Rush Week tea dance. A bevy of gorgeous creatures was assembled to thrill the hearts of the incoming freshmen, and in several cases they were more than successful, because throughout the year some of these same gals were seen quite frequently in the company of pledges and Actives.

The most auspicious occasion of the year was a banquet early in December honoring Brother James Killian upon his election as president of M.I.T. A cocktail party before dinner provided a chance to meet many of our alumni and friends who had not had the opportunity to visit the house very often, and it is hoped that such meetings will become a more regular part of Alpha Theta's annual social schedule.

The last social event before finals was the Miami Triad Week-end. In keeping with Alpha Theta's time-honored custom, the brothers brought their girls from near and far. The house was turned over to the fairer sex, as in the past, and the men sought sleeping accommodations elsewhere. A banquet, prepared as only John and Mrs. Raulerson, our chefs for over fifteen years, can prepare, was a fitting start for the week-end and put everyone into the best of spirits for the Triad Formal on Friday night.

Saturday was more or less a day of recuperation,

and everyone spent a quiet and cozy day and evening. Activities centered around the basement game room where everyone gathered for singing and a general get-to-together. Sunday meant the week-end was drawing to a close, but not before the traditional Christmas party. Eggnog in the library was followed by the appearance of Santa Claus with an enormous bag of gifts, and only a few skeptics thought that old Saint Nick's resemblance to Bill Pepler was anything more than a coincidence.

Not long after the beginning of the spring term, mysterious signs began to appear asking, "What's in the black bag?" It was soon apparent that a treasure hunt had been scheduled for the coming Saturday night, and that finding the "black bag" involved chasing down cryptic clues over the whole Boston Back Bay area.

About this time, the Mid-Century Convocation at M.I.T. was receiving a great deal of publicity. Given the unique chance of meeting some of the most highly esteemed educators and statesmen in the world, Alpha Theta held a luncheon for one of the discussion groups at the meeting.

Several weeks later, not to be outdone by the Institute, Alpha Theta held its own Three-Quarter Century Convocation featuring the Rt. Hon. Stonwin Hillchurch as guest speaker. Sigs and their many guests had the pleasure of hearing Brother Ed McLoed deliver a speech, ghost written by Brother Joe Glasgow, about events, such as the Kinsey Calamity, which had led up to the year 1975.

The spring term was rounded off with another week-end comparable to the one of the Miami Triad. The girls took over the house, and the I.F.C. Formal at a Boston hotel was the main event. Cocktail parties on Saturday and a beach picnic on Sunday helped to bring the spring social season to a close in a memorable way.

This last year marked the fall of several more men at Cupid's wayside. Consul Jim Veras became pinned and engaged to Gary Chris from New York and is looking forward to his marriage early in the fall. Jim Ryder, also a June graduate, was married to Nieria Kohl on July 3, and they are currently living in Cambridge. Brothers Bob C. Stout, Stan Moulton, and Walter Stahl were pinned respectively to Bobby Martin, Pat Patton, and Muriel Zimmerman, and are all enjoying their new status thoroughly. Also recently pinned was Bill Pepler. He and Helen Hodges decided they were meant for each other after dating most of the year. It seems that from now on the freshmen and sophomores will have to work especially hard at acquaintance dances to maintain Alpha Theta's social reputation.

From the Trustees

THE Board of Trustees has enjoyed a very pleasant sail on calm waters for the last ten years due entirely to the unusually fine spirit of co-operation on the part of the members of the active Chapter. There has been a marked excellence in the administration of the Chapter during these years which has resulted in a very healthy condition despite the ever-changing personnel in the undergraduate group.

Alpha Theta Chapter has maintained a very good credit standing by meeting its financial obligations as they have developed, and during the past year a sufficiently large surplus was accumulated so that the Actives took it upon themselves to undertake extensive refurbishing of the furniture, an obligation which has usually fallen upon the Trustees. The most noticeable improvement has been the complete rebuilding of what have now become the traditional leather-covered davenports in the library.

Another feature which has brought about the continued spirit of co-operation between the Chapter and the Trustees is the fact that there has been no change in personnel among the latter group during the last decade, and we think the Chapter realizes that we try to see eye to eye with them whenever it is possible for us to do so (having in mind, of course, the greatest good for the greatest number over the long pull).

A shadow of doubt has recently been cast over the future outlook for Alpha Theta by the fact that the Institute is considering the building of extensive housing units "on campus." These discussions involve the possibility of providing housing for all fraternity chapters not already located near the Institute premises in Cambridge; this may result in the several chapters being assigned large areas on one floor, similar to a large apartment, or vertical sections in the new dormitories under which an individual chapter would occupy two or three floors (rumor has it that the new structures may be six or eight stories in height). It is probable that these new units will not be ready for occupancy for eight or ten years, because it is expected that the start of the construction will be delayed for at least five years; but it will be seen that the idea brings up problems for us to consider and solve, the principal problem being the disposal of the old house if we move across the river.

The funds in the hands of the Trustees have been depleted somewhat by the fact that it was necessary to reduce the house rent during the war years when comparatively few men were living in the Chapter House — this was due to conditions over which none of us had any control, such as the fact that service-

men located at M.I.T. were required to live in quarters furnished by the army or navy. Another factor has been the greatly increased cost of equipment and repairs with which all of us are now familiar.

One of the best decisions that has ever been made by the Trustees was the adoption of the \$2-per-man-per-month scheme instead of the old note system under which each initiate signed ten \$10 notes and, in many cases, never considered the payment of these notes to be a primary obligation. The new system was started in October, 1939, since which date we have accumulated \$7178.20, including interest. The yearly average collections on the new basis have far exceeded comparable average collections under the old note system during the preceding twenty-year period.

In closing, the Trustees wish to extend their hearty greetings to all former members of Alpha Theta Chapter.

W. HAMILTON CARLISLE, JR.,
B. ALDEN THRESHER,
HAMILTON L. WOOD,

Trustees

WILLIAM L. HALL,
JAMES R. KILLIAN, JR.,
Advisory Trustees



House officers and one of the trustees after a chapter meeting. Left to right: Pro-Consul George Dickson, trustee; M.I.T. Director of Admissions, B. A. Thresher; Consul Warren Cheek; and Annotator Harold Falcao.

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Published by

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF THE
SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

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GORDON INGWERSEN

Cover photograph by F. S. LINCOLN

AN EDITORIAL

ON an average of about twice a week, a copy of some chapter publication would be waiting for the men in Alpha Theta when they came down to breakfast. After a perfunctory glance by the majority of the brothers, the magazine would soon be in the Associate Editor's files. Considering how much work undoubtedly goes into each and every chapter publication, it is a shame that the majority of people do not devote more than a few minutes of their time to reading what Associate Editors throughout the country have to say.

One of the most common explanations of this deplorable situation has been that most chapter publications are too personal. To the members of the chapter for which a magazine has been written, it is pleasant to read about the exploits of star athletes and B.M.O.C.'s, but to any outsider the names are meaningless. Similarly, the details of parties are rather uninteresting to anyone who was not at the one being discussed.

In an effort to make *The Beaver Sig* more acceptable reading to any Sig who happens to pick it up, this department has attempted to combine a liberal amount of impersonal news about M.I.T. with an account of activities which will be of interest to Alpha Theta's actives and alumni. Due to the limited funds available from a small chapter (42 men) and a lack of people trained in journalism, this has not been an easy task. If, as we hope, this magazine is more readable to people outside of Alpha Theta than it has been in the past, perhaps some other Associate Editors might consider revising their publications to gain a wider audience; if it is not, we beg the reader's indulgence in the test of a new idea.

THE BEAVER SIG was not published regularly during the war, nor during the first post-war years, but it now will be printed annually. Any suggestions or comments will be welcomed and should be addressed to The Associate Editor, Sigma Chi Fraternity, 532 Beacon Street, Boston 15, Mass.

Speaking of Alumni

BESIDES Doctor Killian, who has already been described in this issue, other Sigs have been active in M.I.T.'s administration. "Bat" Thresher is the Director of Admissions; Brother Edwin Sharp Burdell, formerly Dean of Humanities, is now the director of Cooper Union in New York City; and Bill Carlisle is doing very nicely as a director of the Walker Memorial dining facilities. Two other Sigma Chi alumni at the Institute are George P. Wadsworth, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Ralph T. Joep, Business Manager of *The Technology Review*.

Recent graduates have been uniformly successful in landing good jobs or continuing with their studies at other schools. Bill Osgood is a salesman for a metal products company in Indiana; Jim Langley is currently planning a trip to France after leaving his job as an aircraft designer in the guided missile field—perhaps he and Hunter Bennett may get together some place on the Continent, since he is vacationing there between courses at Harvard Law; Cap Ranger, III, is married and currently working for the United Shoe Machinery Corporation; "Doc" Shingleton was also just married this summer, and at last report is doing chemical engineering work for National Carbon; and Tod Howland is working for a textile firm in Rockville, Conn. Two Course XV graduates who are living in their home towns while making use of Professor Schell's principles are Roy Simm and Alex D'arbeloff. Roy is with Metals and Thermit Corporation in Carteret, N. J. and Axel is employed by Yale and Towne in Bridgeport, Conn.

Quite a few of the men who have graduated from Tech are continuing their education elsewhere or working for advanced degrees here. Rollie Vance is studying dramatics in New York; "Bobo" Drye is at N.Y.U. Medical School; Bob Hirsch, Perry Nies, Norman Meullen and Bill Clark are all expecting to be at M.I.T. for work on graduate degrees. Bob W. Stout is continuing his studies in physics, as is Neil Helmers, now married, in civil engineering. Not to be forgotten, George Hossfeld is serving a twenty-one months enlistment as an Army research officer in Waterville, New York. At last report he was an Adjutant, but time will tell what ranks the future will bring.

This is an all too brief résumé of some of the Alpha Theta Alumni; it is hoped that in the future, as another feature of this chapter's "Return to Normalcy," a much greater contact with graduates will be maintained. Any pertinent information about alumni of Alpha Theta, or of other chapters who are in or near Boston, will be gladly welcomed and acted upon.