



Beaver Sig



DECEMBER 1957

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI

THE SOCIAL SIG

Alpha Theta once again opened its social season with the annual stag party on the opening night of the term. The old songs, and perhaps a few new ones collected over the summer, echoed off the stoic brownstones of Beacon Street far into the night, leaving very little sleep, but much enthusiasm, with which to start our studies.

The return of the Wellesley girls was celebrated by a mixer in the house, which some eighty people attended. This mixer was the big chance to spot that special girl, and to whisk her out of circulation before Harvard caught up. As usual, many of the brothers and pledges were successful in their search, and many faces have returned for other weekend parties.

Some fifteen to twenty dates were on hand for the annual Scholarship Banquet this year to see Alpha Theta collect the Sigma Chi Foundation Trophy. The steward outdid himself, and, despite the name, our minds soon wandered to more pleasant things than books. Next, the Sigs posthumously celebrated Halloween with a party guaranteed to make any spook think twice. After a cocktail party, the brothers wined and dined their dates in fine style (much to the dismay of the Quaestor,) and then stole away for a scavenger hunt. Then all finished off the evening with dancing and merriment, the lighting for which shown from twelve grotesque pumpkins.

Getting away from parties for a moment, we should mention our annual Serenade, which again was held on the campus of Wellesley College. Sweethearts Ann Gustafson and Roxanne Jope, both juniors, were presented with the traditional white rose by Consul Dave Baldwin, as the well known Sweetheart Song echoed through "The Quad," drawing an appreciative audience from the nearby dorms. Ann and Rocky are pinned to brothers Bill Brandon and Jim McNamara.

Plans for the immediate future include an all day party November 23, which will begin with an expedition to the Boston Garden to see the Canadiens play the Bruins. The Canadians in the house, Pete Lawes and Bill McArthur, claim that "the Bruins don't have a chance," but everyone expects to have great fun, and all are anticipating the evening of merrymaking, designed to give us that needed break from studies.

Soon after this affair comes the first big house party weekend of the year. December 5, 6, and 7 finds the Miami Triad joining forces to throw the term's biggest social event. Tentative plans for this year include a cocktail party and banquet Friday night, followed by the annual Triad Formal. The Sigma Chi combo will supply early morning music back at the house, while the Sigs and their dates shed dance attire and get into something more comfortable.

Continued on Page 3

SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT

Sigs Win Trophy!

Alpha Theta is indeed proud of its scholastic attainments during the past year. At the semi-annual Scholarship Banquet on Saturday evening, the 19th of October, a trophy was awarded to the chapter in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement. The trophy is the Sigma Chi Foundation Award, and is presented to the fraternity at Tech with the highest scholarship over the entire year.

Our average for the two terms was 3.63, while the general average of all undergraduates was 3.29, and, of all fraternities, 3.23. This places us 20.4% above all men's average, and, with only a few chapters yet to be reported, we are first scholastically among all Sigma Chi chapters. If we remain there, we will win the Daniel William Cooper Award.

At the banquet, two other trophies were presented, one for highest achievement, and the other for the greatest improvement over the preceding term. The high honors awards went to Jim Overbeck '60, who got a 4.93 average his second term, and to Bob Smith, who jumped to the Dean's List with a 4.04 term rating, an improvement of 1.04 points. Pete Kuempel and Henry Cutler were ineligible to receive the highest achievement trophy, because each had won it in other years, but, nonetheless, we were all very proud of their 5.00 term ratings. Altogether, eighteen of our members were on the Dean's List, seven being on the First Dean's List.

The combined effort of forty-one members made our goal a reality. We now have attained our laurels, and with caution and hard work, we can keep this honor in the years ahead.

John Beckett, Scholarship Chairman

ALUMNI NOTES

Probably the most talked about man in the news today is Dr. James Rhyne Killian, Jr., a 1926 alumnus of Alpha Theta. His appointment as Special Presidential Assistant for Science and Technology adds a new chapter to his already outstanding contributions to both M. I. T. and the community as a whole.

Last summer Edward S. Farrow, Alpha Theta '20, was elected Grand Consul of Sigma Chi. Mr. Farrow, who is Executive Vice-President of Eastman Kodak, was previously Grand Pro Consul, and has long been a devoted Fraternity worker.

BALFOUR AWARD

On the evening of October 6, Alpha Theta had the honor of seeing Malcolm M. Jones '57 receive the Province Balfour Award. This award, which is given to the outstanding undergraduate in each province, is one for which Mal was outstandingly qualified.

Mal's activities as an undergraduate were unusually diversified. They included four years in student government, culminating in his term as Undergraduate Association President, and membership in the sophomore and junior honorary societies. He served as an I. F. C. representative to Institute Committee, and in the chapter held the offices of Quaestor, Steward, and Consul. For four years he sang with the Logarithms, a vocal octet. Intramural sports saw him especially active on our hockey and softball teams. His excellent scholastic record is spoken for by his membership in Tau Beta Pi Society.

More important, though, than mere quantity of participation, was the quality of Mal's service. Especially outstanding, but nonetheless quite typical, was his forward-looking approach to the problems of student housing, freshman orientation, and hazing. We therefore think quite fitting his receipt of the Province Award, and his high standing in the international competition.

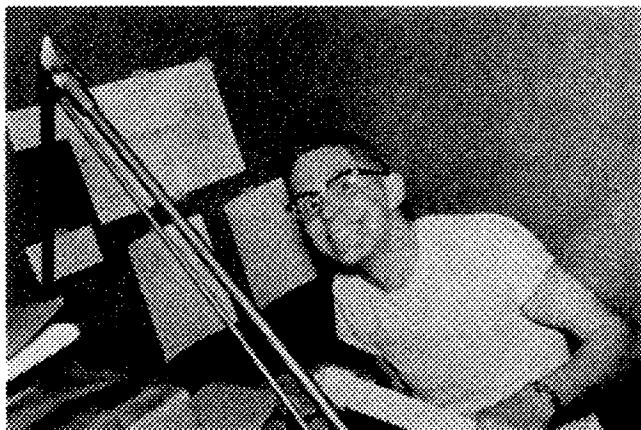
Tom Stone, Associate Editor

PLEDGES WHIP SOPHS!

There has been no school sponsored freshman-sophomore rivalry at M. I. T. this year. A few people managed to find themselves in the showers, but this was the only display of what is now a dying tradition.

The endpoint of that rivalry still existing was reached one drizzly Sunday afternoon when the freshmen met the sophomores in a football game on Briggs Field. As game time approached, it looked as if the sophs would have to do without the quarterbacking of Jim Long, who was mysteriously absent. However, just as the kickoff whistle was about to sound, Jim, who had been kidnapped by the pledges, lumbered onto the field. His services were not enough, however, to stop the sustained drives of the freshmen, who won, 25-7. Sliding to touchdowns were Thompson, Price, Brennecke, Nill, and even a lone sophomore, Bob White.

Al Brennecke



Physicist

FROM THE CONSUL'S STUDY

This year started with a bang in the form of a really fine Work Week. Although we had a small number of actives, 23, returning, much was accomplished. Our primary task was the job of painting the complete stairwell, walls, woodwork, ballisters, and all. It was necessary to rent scaffolding to reach the skylight on the fourth floor. The color is an ivory - somewhat lighter than the original bamboo. The net results are a brighter, cleaner hallway and a paint that can be easily matched.

No sweeping changes have occurred in the proposed move across the river. In fact, circumstances are such that it looks as though we may stay here in Boston for some time to come. Numerous snags have occurred. The large amount of available land does not seem to have materialized, and that which is available is very near the railroad tracks that run behind the Institute. There seems to be some question also on the matters of ownership and taxes. If the Institute were to own the house, taxes would be almost negligible. If we owned it, taxes would be of the order of \$150 per man per year. The conditions of Institute ownership are not wholly attractive.

Realizing these facts has necessitated a reexamination of our past policy on house repairs on the present house. When possible, improvements were made in the form of furniture and the like, which could be moved if necessary. There is now a committee looking into the matter of replacing the windows on the back of the house. The condition of these windows has been worsening for some time, until now they are a menace to both the fuel bill and the health of the rooms' inhabitants.

The chapter has recently formed a new classification for membership - that of social members. Occasionally there are in the school men who, though they are very close to the house, for some reason are unable to assume full membership. This fact, however, makes them no less desirable as friends and associates. The position of social member allows them to eat meals and to take part in social functions in the house. It is felt that this concept is fully within the true meaning of the word "fraternity."

We now have one man in this position, Hank Couch. He was a pledge here two years ago, and, because of scholastic difficulties, could not be considered for full membership.

At the Grand Chapter this year, not too much was accomplished. Neither of the two major issues at hand, drinking and the "white clause," were brought to a vote. The drinking issue, however, is about settled. The International will now enforce the rules of the various colleges concerning liquor in the houses.

On the other hand, the "white clause" issue is far from settled. Moves are now afoot to remove this term from the Constitution, but they did not come to the floor last summer because of a parliamentary error. Our chapter now is considering trying to initiate a mail vote on this change.

In closing, may I extend a sincere invitation to stop into the house when in Boston. Please feel that you are welcome.

Dave Baldwin, Consul

A WORD FROM OUR MAGISTER

As a result of the excellent Rush Week program and conducted by Rushing Chairman George Pillorge, Alpha Theta pledged a strong class of thirteen prospective initiates. As usual, the geographical distribution is broad, ranging from the East to the Far West. The pledges are: Eric L. Mudama, from Park Ridge, New Jersey; Winn F. Martin, Clayton, Alabama; Charles W. Rogers, Westfield, New Jersey; Curtis Bruce Tarter, Louisville, Kentucky; John E. Scobey, Midland, Texas; Earl C. Van Horn, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio; Wilson "Bill" Kendall, Lamar, Colorado; Richard "Barney" Stevenson, Elizabeth City, North Carolina; Eugene B. Jacobi, Jr., Clifton, New Jersey; Byrd Leigh Price, Modesto, California; Alan Roger Brennecke, St. Louis, Missouri; George "Tom" Thompson, Kansas City, Kansas; and Kenneth Nill, Oceanside, California.

The first goal of pledge training is to prepare the pledges for initiation. This includes meeting the requirements of the National Fraternity and the standards of Alpha Theta. But this is only transitory. The real objective is to help the pledges find a place in this chapter and at school. M. I. T. and the chapter offer much for the individual, and the individual can gain the most by being active at school and in the house. There is more to an M. I. T. education than the degree. It is hoped that the pledges will realize this as a result of pledge training, and take advantage of their opportunities.

The pledge class has several activities planned. One of these is to prepare a song book of Alpha Theta party songs, which will be a real contribution to the chapter. Perhaps the day will come when almost everybody knows the words! Another of their activities is to plan and present the Saturday entertainment of Triad. This includes the Pledge Skit and an informal dance.

The class has shown itself to be above average scholastically, and we would not be surprised if they took top honors on campus among all pledge classes. They have broad interests, as is made obvious by the number and diversity of their extra-curricular activities, and their participation in sports. In these men rests the continuation of the Alpha Theta tradition.

Peter Kuempel, Magister

THE SOCIAL SIG (Cont.)

Saturday afternoon will feature a Dixieland jazz session at the Phi Delt house, and, possibly, an ice skating expedition to a nearby rink. After a broiled lobster dinner, the pledges will put on their traditional skii, topping of the evening, and following will be an informal dance.

Sunday is the day of sad farewells, when dates return to their schools, and we (well, some of us, anyhow) return to our books. However, before social activity is dampened by the final, after Christmas push, the brothers and their dates will spend an evening caroling. Yes, the holiday spirit is beginning to show!

Second term is still in the planning stage, but everyone is looking forward to our annual Sweetheart Ball. This event, which comes the last weekend in February, will give a rousing start to 1958.

Ed Neild, Social Chairman



Be it ever so humble. . .

ATHLETICS

Football season is now over, and once again the Sigs placed second in their league, this year behind the SAE's, who have not lost for several years. Much of the credit for the fine showing this year is due to Captain Dave Baldwin '58. Particularly outstanding on offense were Jim Long '60 and Mark Jensen '60, as their aerial combination was the big factor in all our games. Opposing lines found Fred Morefield '57 and John Linderman '59 especially hard to stop on defense. For his aggressive play, Fred was chosen for the All-Star Team as a defensive end. With a fine group of freshmen gaining experience this year, we expect to be the team to beat next year.

Basketball has started, our team winning its first game easily, 45-26. In the light of this early season victory, the outlook is bright for improvement over last year's performance, in which we copped fifth place among all teams. All-stars Bob White '60 and Larry Flanigan '57 are again the big men on the squad, which also includes veterans Pete Kuempel '59, Wayne Stuart '59, and Jim McNamara '58. Freshmen Bruce Tarter, Al Brennecke, and Tom Thompson all have high school experience and should help round out our already strong team.

The intramural swimming meet proved the merit of our mermen, as we finished second, losing to Theta Chi by only two points. We took four firsts and two seconds in seven events, but did not have the depth necessary to win. Winning firsts were Earl Van Horn '61, Hubie Warner '58, and the two relay teams, while Dick Wick '58 and Leigh Price '61 finished second in their events. This year's outstanding performance is due mostly to the enthusiasm and initiative of Captain Dick Wick, and the fine support of the whole chapter.

Hockey promises to be another bright spot on the intramural scene this winter, as the Sig team boasts two Canadians, Bill McArthur '57 and Pete Lawes '58. They and star defenseman Norm Meyers should present a formidable trio and winning combination. Also returning to play on the team are Fred Morefield '57, Mal Jones '57, Steve Sawin '59, Dick Wick '58, and John MacAllister '57. This year, for the first time, a regulation puck will be used instead of a rubber ball, and play is expected to be skillful and rough.

Continued on Page 4

ATHLETICS (Cont.)

Alpha Theta can also boast of its athletes participating on varsity teams. Two of last year's near-championship freshman heavyweight crew, Captain Ed Neild '60 and Mark Jensen '60, are labelled as stalwarts of the varsity crew for three years to come. Following in their footsteps on this year's freshman crew are Winn Martin '61, Eric Mudama '61, and Bill Kendall '61. Playing on the soccer team this fall were Bart Sensenig '58 and Hubie Warner '58, both of whom received trophies for their fine play. Fred Morefield '57 can be found on most afternoons working out with the rugby team; he is one of the team's outstanding players. Playing on the squash team this winter are Tom Stone '60 and John Beckett '60, while Dick Wick '58 and Hubie Warner '58 placed in the All Institute Swim Meet.

This, then, is the picture of Alpha Theta athletics. As you see, the outlook for the year is indeed bright if the brothers can continue the success which they have demonstrated to date.

Huber R. Warner, Athletic Chairman



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