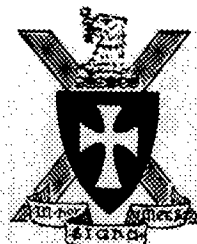


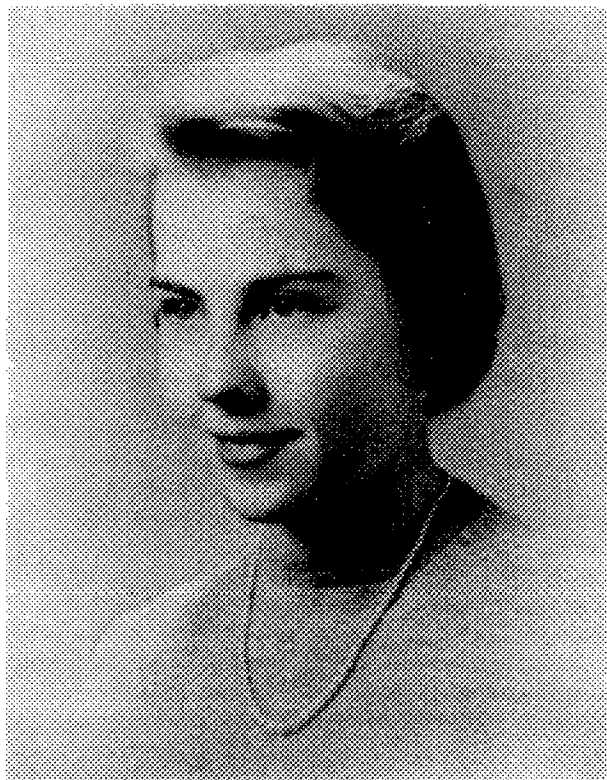


Beaver Sig



MARCH 1957

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI



SWEETHEART CHOSEN FOR 1957

During Alpha Theta's Sweetheart Ball March 1st, our choice of sweetheart for 1957 was announced. She is Ann Gustafson, a delightful and captivating sophomore at Wellesley College. The White Cross she wears belongs to Bill Brandon, one of our flock of senior electrical engineers. Ann hails from Worcester, Mass., and is majoring in political science. Even though Ann and Bill are majoring in diverse fields, they find a common field of interest in the arts. Many an afternoon will find them at the Museum of Fine Arts, Symphony Hall, or the Opera House. They have recently been introduced to skiing and are rumored to be navigating the slopes quite well. We are all proud of Ann and wish her a happy and rewarding future.

WHITE ROSE TO --

Married - Joel Searcy '57 and Elaine Belisle.
 Pinned - Lee Fister '57 and "Pi" Van Alstyne,
 Wellesley; John Decker '57 and Linda McCullough,
 Radcliffe; George Pillorge '59 and Andy Blamire,
 MGH; Bill Brandon '57 and Ann Gustafson, Wellesley.

SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT "SIGS" First On Campus

Alpha Theta chapter is indeed proud of its record in scholarship for the first term of the 1956-57 year. After being ranked ninth in fraternity standings in the last term of the 1955-56 year, we have now achieved a goal which we have for some time sought and worked for. In fraternity standings, Alpha Theta finished first on campus. It was only by the hard work and co-operation of all the brothers that this was made possible. Of forty-two members, we had thirteen men on the dean's list, and five of these were on first dean's list. Our house average was 3.55, the general undergraduate average being 3.23 and the general fraternity average being 3.18.

At the scholarship banquet held on the night of Feb. 23, a banquet which this year was held with good cause, the trophies for highest achievement and greatest improvement were presented. The high honors awards went to Huber Warner, a transfer student from Ohio Wesleyan on the 3-2 plan. In his first term at MIT, Hube got a 4.83. The award for advancement went to Bob Murphy, who got a 4.61, a jump of 1.09.

We are also very pleased with the scholarship attained by the pledge class, which averaged 3.41. This placed them fifth on campus in the pledge class standings.

The Sigma Chi Foundation Award, which is presented to the fraternity at MIT with the highest scholarship, is presented on a yearly basis. We have our sights set equally as high for the second term of this year. With work, co-operation, and maybe a little luck we might bring Sigma Chi's trophy back home for Rush Week and next year.

Pete Kuempel, Fall Scholarship Chrm.

NEW CHAPTER ADVISER

An increasingly familiar figure in the Alpha Theta Chapter house is Eugene R. (Gene) Chamberlain, recently named chapter advisor. The youthful Denison University Sig replaces Robert C. Dean, Jr. who left Technology to accept a position in private industry. Gene Chamberlain's association with the Institute as Assistant Director of Admissions affords an excellent student-faculty communication for the chapter.

Born in 1920, Gene attended the Oak Park High School in his hometown of River Forest, Illinois. He was enrolled at Albert College, Bellville, Ontario, for a short time before entering the navy in 1940. He served as chief fire control man with various cruisers in the Pacific Theater of War, and was commissioned an Ensign in 1945. Following his discharge

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Handwritten notes and diagrams on the right side of the page, including a box with '420' and a circle with '400', and arrows indicating relationships between these numbers.

RUSHING OUTLOOK

Last term a committee met to recommend alterations on our present rushing system. The past system seemed to lack efficiency, a proper balance of activities, and in general, the "SIG" personality so essential in acquiring the best pledge class on the MIT campus. Basically, the rushing system remains the same. Besides our few alterations, there are also overall changes in the MIT rushing program.

The greatest change was made in the organization of rushing itself. In order to focus the chapter's rushing efforts, a three man committee will be in continuous charge of all rush week activities. These three men are responsible for moving rushees, activities, and any and all pertinent information to the vital places and persons as quickly as possible. By centralizing the chapter's activities, we felt it would speed up our operations and would allow us to meet more rushees, thus helping us to pledge the "pick of the crop."

In line with the last thought, it is exceedingly hard to see all of the six hundred rushees who come through rush week. The chapter always welcomes advice and recommendations on prospective Sigs from our alumni. In addition, you could assist the chapter even more by letting us know of prospective "Techmen" who may be considering a visit to the campus before submitting their applications for entrance. Alpha Theta would like to meet these men and could provide lodging in the house during their visit to MIT.

The second important change in the rushing system could properly be labeled "activities." This is purposely a very general category because it encompasses such things as sports, beach parties, sightseeing, and night life. But the purpose of the category is singlefold -- to entertain the rushee who is Sig material by letting him do what he most likes doing. In addition, this allows a few of the members to get to know this man much better than the entire chapter ever could in the short period of rushing.

Let me emphasize again that the entire system is as always directed at obtaining a top-notch pledge class, the members of which may soon thereafter become worthy Sigs.

Sigma Chi and Alpha Theta, have always prided themselves on close alumni-chapter relations. I know you will "ferret out" that prospective Sig and send him and a recommendation to 532 Beacon. Bob Smith



Auctioning off Many Year's Accumulation of Hall Closets

FROM THE CONSUL'S STUDY

The second term is well under way and so is Alpha Theta. Elsewhere in this issue of the Beaver Sig are articles describing our attainments in scholarship, athletics, and the social side of life. When all these individual achievements are viewed as a whole they indicate continued progress for our chapter. But we must remember that "the rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher." Some of the rungs still to be scaled are the problems of our aging house, discussed in the last issue, the discriminatory clause in our international fraternity's constitution, the international's attitude toward drinking in our chapter houses, and our relations with the general public in the Back Bay area. Furthermore, we look for continued improvement in our scholarship, our athletic prowess, and the strengthening of that elusive something known as chapter spirit.

For the last several years MIT has been one of the leaders of the "educational approach" toward the removal of any discriminatory clauses in national fraternity constitutions. Under the leadership of the Inter-Fraternity Conference every chapter of each fraternity presently having a restrictive clause has been written to and asked to at least see that the issue comes up for debate at the national conventions. Our chapter has cooperated to its fullest extent and we look toward this June's Grand Chapter meeting at Toronto for some action on this issue.

Another issue to come up at this summer's Grand Chapter is the report of the committee of Maintaining Chapter Standards. Headed by our Grand Praetor William H. Carlisle Jr., it is considering the problem of drinking in our chapter houses. At Alpha Theta drinking has not posed any such problems. MIT imposes no regulations on us, believing that each living group should be free to legislate its own rules. At the present time our rules are simple and few: drinking is allowed only on the weekends, and no individuals may drink or store any alcoholic beverages in his room at any time. We feel the problem would be aggravated rather than improved if the international fraternity sought to strictly enforce its present "prohibition-type" ruling.

For the last several months the relations between the fraternities in Back Bay and our neighbors, have become slightly strained due to lack of parking space on Boston's streets. The doctor's have complained that there is no place for their patients to park because of all the student's cars. There are five fraternities in our block having over two hundred members, of which approximately fifty have cars. Yet we feel we have, as residents of Boston, the right to park on these streets. In order to attempt some amicable solution to the problem we, along with several other fraternities, have joined the Back Bay Association. Of course the ultimate solution to this problem lies in moving across the river to a new house.

I hope this glimpse of some of our current problems is of interest. We welcome any comments you might care to make, particularly on those areas which will be the concern of undergraduates and alumni as well at the coming Grand Chapter.

Mal Jones, Spring Consul

500

MAGISTER'S KEYS

Recent Initiation

On February 9 we initiated a fine freshman class of nine members. The new Brothers are Bob White, Don Ziegenbein, John Beckett, Bryant Vann, Jim Overbeck, Tom Stone, Mark Jensen, Ed Nield, and Jim Long. The ceremonies as well as the pledge training period were conducted in good fashion by our past Magister, Lee Fister. Lee brought with him to the department many new ideas about the designs and purposes of pledge training and its value to the individual and the chapter. Under this program, everything done was designed to help the pledge mature and learn his obligations and responsibilities to himself, society, and Sigma Chi.

This was the first initiation conducted since the tragic accidental death in another fraternity at MIT last year. Under new IFC rulings, all initiation activities must take place inside the chapter house.

During the coming year I plan to conduct the pledge program under the revisions described above. It is my firm belief that only through constructive education of the future members in the workings and beliefs of the present Fraternity can we hope for them to improve it in their time.

David E. Baldwin, Spring Magister

NEW OFFICERS

New officers were recently elected and installed by Alpha Theta. Mal Jones, outgoing President of the Undergraduate Association and the chapter's Province Balfour Award nominee, is Consul, while Larry Flanigan, as Pro-Consul, is leading the Executive Committee's investigation of possible ex-committee revision. Magister is Dave Baldwin, and Quaestor, John Linderman. Lee Fister is the first Comptroller to work under a by-law revision which places the Comptroller on the Executive Committee and puts him in charge of coordinating chapter finances. Other new officers are: Tribune--Mike Jury; Annotator--C. "Pierre" Lawes; and Social Chairman--George Pillorge (who also retains his old position as Rushing Chairman.) Finally, Hubie Warner, who came to MIT and Alpha Theta from Ohio Wesleyan's Gamma Chapter, has initiated a new, "de-Stalvanized" regime as House Manager. As evidenced by the other articles in the "Beaver Sig" these men have already begun their jobs in a manner to assure continued chapter progress.

Tom Stone

THE ATHLETIC SIDE

"SIGS" Fifth in Basketball

These past few months our athletic program has taken great strides. We have entered in, competed, and finished well in more sports than ever before. At the present moment we have reached a slight lull in our program and I can sit back and review what we have accomplished. Our aim this year is to enter into as many sports as we feel is possible. If enough members wish to play a sport we then make up a team and enter them in the competition. These last few months we have competed in five different fields.

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"But I didn't expect an orchid, Larry!"

BALFOUR NOMINEE

It isn't often that one meets an individual who has consistently excelled in scholastic, leadership, and service activities. The author of the Consul's column in this newsletter is one such versatile person, however. Malcolm Jones brought a brilliant record from preparatory school to MIT, where further honors have followed continued hard work. Among Mal's contributions to the Institute have been four active years in the student government. Chairmanships of the Student Union and Leadership Committees and the Undergraduate Association Presidency were his most outstanding positions. Membership in the Sophomore and Junior honorary societies demonstrated the respect which classmates held for Mal, while initiation into the Tau Beta Pi Society bespeaks his academic achievements.

Mal's talents have not been entirely restricted to leadership, as evidenced by his four year participation with the MIT Logarithms, a men's vocal octet. His work within the Fraternity world has included a post as IFC representative to the student government, as well as service to Alpha Theta directly as Quaestor, Steward, and Consul. His contributions to the ROTC department ends at the commissioning exercises in June. Add to this list participation on the Sigma Chi hockey and softball teams and you have only a partial account of Mal Jones' career at Tech.

Mal is probably best known by the Administration for his efforts in tackling problems of student housing, Freshman orientation, and hazing. Those of us who have lived with him have been more cognizant and appreciative of his all round enthusiasm and ability to get things done the proper way. It was not surprising, but most fitting, that Alpha Theta named Malcolm Jones its nominee for the Province Balfour Award at its last active chapter meeting. In selecting its strongest candidate for the award in many years Sigma Chi at MIT points with pride to Mal - a fine administrator, a good sport, and an exemplary Sig.

Bob Murphy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Despite the fact that the term is barely underway, the executive committee has already accomplished several objectives and has set its sights for others. The general opinion was that the executive committee could, and should be, of greater service in running the chapter. With this idea in mind, the first two items of business handled by the committee were the re-organization of the financial and executive committees. On the financial committee, the comptroller was made chairman, and the duties of the various financial officers reassigned to provide a more equitable burden on each and to set up a more pronounced "chain of command" to be utilized when something goes wrong. With this done, the executive committee then reorganized itself to bring about the better and more logical representation of the chapter on the committee. The pro-consul remains the chairman, but the remainder of the committee is composed as follows: consul, ex officio; magister; comptroller; 4 members-at-large, one elected from each class, with the ex-consul acting as the senior representative during the second term.

With these renovations approved by the chapter, the executive committee then turned to the problems facing the chapter: ways to speed up communication between the IFC and the chapter; ways to bring about better study conditions and attitudes in the chapter. Preliminary solutions to these problems have been drawn up for presentation to the chapter.

This is only the beginning of our work. Further consideration of the above-mentioned topics planned as well as such areas as: rules of living out of the chapter house; ways of encouraging more people to accept chapter offices and responsibilities; ways of increasing chapter interest and participation in activities of MIT. The executive committee funnels the business and ideas of the various individuals onto the chapter floor.

With its new organization and backed by an increased interest on the part of the chapter itself, the executive committee hopes to set a working pattern which will bring about an increasing efficiency in chapter government and will contribute to greater chapter spirit and unity.

Larry Flanigan, Spring Pro-Consul

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532 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.

THE ATHLETIC SIDE (Cont.)

In bowling, (or at least a reasonable facsimile of it) we played in a league of six teams losing only two games. Some of the Brothers who were outstanding were Doug McIver, "Gub" Cutler, Dave Baldwin, John McAllister, and Jay Bonnar.

In the ping-pong (yes, it is considered an intermural sport) season, we finished well, losing only one game. Hubie Warner, Mike Jury, Ton Stone, and Don Ziegenbein were the stalwarts of this team. League play was quite inconsistent at times and all the teams save one were little match for this formidable quartet.

The hockey season was very interesting as we came very close to the finals. Due to inconsistencies in the weather, play was not very regular. We tied Sigma Nu in our league but lost to them in the play off.

As indicated by the title our most outstanding sport was basketball. We swept through our league with little or no effort at all. In the finals we got within one game of the championship only to lose our next three to finish fifth. In spite of our disappointment in not going all the way, everyone will admit that the basketball season was very profitable.

Sports yet to come include: volleyball, softball, handball, sailing and tennis. We retired the volleyball trophy two years ago, and are looking towards that field as the most likely for success.

Steve Sawin, Spring Athletic Chairman

NEW CHAPTER ADVISER (Cont.)

In 1946 Mr. Chamberlain entered Denison University, Granville, Ohio. He was initiated into Mu Chapter of Sigma Chi there as an inactive member, having married Helen Howard of Hingham, Massachusetts, in June of 1945. Gene majored in Economics at Denison and was graduated in 1951.

Following a period of employment with a Cambridge manufacturing firm, Gene was brought to MIT in August, 1954. His initial position was assistant to the Director of Admissions, Mr. B. Alden Thresher, an Alpha Theta alumnus. Gene's present title is Assistant Director of Admissions.

Mr. Chamberlain has demonstrated his interest in and concern for the chapter thus far during his brief tenure of office as advisor. A frequent spectator at the intramural sports events and participant in active chapter meetings, he seems intent on keeping Alpha Theta at its present high level of campus scholarship and activities.

Bob Murphy