

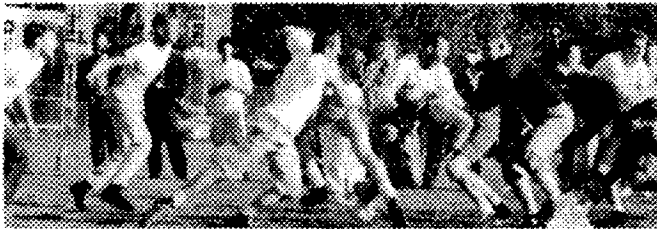


# Beaver Sig



November 1960

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI



Sigma Chi's all-star football team in action.

## FROM THE CONSUL'S STUDY

With the fall semester only two months old, Alpha Theta is off to a rousing start in 1961, M.I.T.'s centennial year. One hundred years ago on April 10, 1861 the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted a charter to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Twenty-one years later M.I.T.'s first fraternity was chartered, Alpha Theta of Sigma Chi. Since that time twenty-seven other fraternities have located at M.I.T., but just as Alpha Theta was "first on campus" in 1882 so she is still there in 1960.

Starting the year off with a burst of enthusiasm, all the brothers returned to Boston for Work Week two days earlier than usual so that repairs on the chapter house might be finished a full day before Rush Week began, allowing us a good night's sleep in preparation for the hectic evenings to come. The music room was completely redecorated, even down to the rearrangement of furniture. In the midst of all this the actives managed to hold a superb initiation. This, along with the new brother, Sandy von Kuegelgen, helped also to bring the spirit of the chapter to a peak for the following days. The efforts of Work Week and Rush Week bore fruit in the form of fifteen outstanding pledges. These men have brought the size of our chapter up to thirty-nine; we hope to stabilize our membership near that number.

Plans are now being formed to participate in the M.I.T. Centennial Celebration in April of 1961. Further information will be available by the time the next BEAVER SIG goes to press. Needless to say if any of our alumni are in the Boston area between April 3-10, be sure to stop by the house or at any other time for that matter.

Al Brennecke, Consul

## RUSH WEEK

To the perplexed M.I.T. freshman, Rush Week and fraternities are a mound of brochures piling up somewhere in his room. Establishing some random process, such as color of the cover or number of pictures in the pamphlet, he proceeds to scrutinize his abundance of information and from the "best" twenty-eight fraternities on campus selects a dozen or more to visit.

Friday morning he arrives alone in Boston and makes his first sojourn through the corridors of M.I.T., laden with suitcases, an overcoat, a briefcase, a typewriter, and, of course, every shred of correspondence from the fraternities. That first day, after walking around Boston and seeing nothing but suicidal driving customs, tight alleys being used for two-way thoroughfares, and meeting no one, the perplexed rushee has his first doubts about the wisdom of "going away to college". But his uncertainty is quickly dispelled and by night he is at a friendly party among the most congenial strangers he has ever met.

Rush Week has begun accompanied by all its fury and our now thoroughly confused freshman is spending the night at Alpha Theta. In the morning he groggily but cheerfully embarks on his "tour of inspection" of the other houses. After his first two visits he contrasts the three houses he has seen. The important factor he realizes is that each house has its own individual personality.

By lunch he is convinced that ten, and not twelve, will be enough houses to see. In the late afternoon the intense activity of Rush Week has its effect and our once hearty rushee is now quite weary. That night, having decided that actually eight houses would be plenty to see, he spends some time contemplating which fraternity he prefers.

Sunday afternoon finds our experienced but tired rushee convinced that six houses was too many to see and he narrows his choice down to one or two. He spends a couple of hours by himself, considering what he really wants most in a fraternity. Before he left home he thought he knew what he'd look for, but now he has some tangible experiences to take into account. The intensity of the rushing program at Sigma Chi has impressed him. The house was not luxurious, but it was well kept and seemed to have an atmosphere of relaxed congeniality about it. In fact everything seemed perfect, almost too perfect. Our once confused freshman has now become a suspicious rushee, who resolves to be very observant when he returns to the house tonight. Before turning in, he receives some straightforward answers about Alpha Theta from an active who is more than willing, in fact almost eager, to talk to him. His

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#### FROM THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As this issue began to take shape and progressed from a nebulous idea to its present concrete form, I was inclined to include some things and shy away from others. This is natural. What I've tried to do is present a picture of the active chapter as it is today. This was to be accomplished by having various house officers write articles concerning their individual departments. This gives the reader the facts and figures of our existence but says little of the fraternal spirit in the house. For if Alpha Theta is not or does not become more than a place to hang his hat to a brother, then we have set ourselves up to be something we are not. In a news-letter published by Alpha Epsilon of Nebraska there appeared the following excerpt which is quite apropos:

"Every undergraduate and alumnus should lend his best efforts to see to it that his chapter is a FRATERNITY, not a dormitory. After all, how many alumni visit their dormitory rooms when they return to their campuses?"

Another brother and I went down to the University of Maryland for a four-day week-end last year and we stayed at the Sig house, naturally. When we walked in it was not as if to a hotel but we walked into a fraternity. This does one good to see that the bond of fellowship is in fact reciprocal and not just a nice phrase. Please don't infer that we at Alpha Theta don't act in a similar manner to visiting Sigs but its awfully different when you're doing the visiting and you are the one being treated as a brother and not a stranger.

Words do not seem effective enough to describe an entity as abstruse and intangible as "spirit" can be. On the other hand it can be so realistic and constant and one can become so accustomed to living under its influence that one loses all conception of what it is to be without the "spirit of brotherhood". This is what I would like to think that Sigma Chi and particularly Alpha Theta has done for its members. There is the danger of complacency in this attitude though. It might be good to step out every now and then or even visit a "dormitory" and observe how people act with out it. Then hurry back.

Mac Harris, Associate Editor

#### FROM THE RUSH CHAIRMAN

The time has come for another rushing chairman to retire. As he hands over his carefully guarded records to his newly elected successor, he recalls briefly the trials and tribulations of the weeks of preparation climaxed by those all-important five days of Rush Week.

By any standards the chapter enjoyed a gratifyingly successful Rush. The number of pledges or the percentage of bids accepted both deserve perhaps more than cursory consideration and certainly a fifteen man pledge class speaks well for Sigma Chi at M.I.T. When the final judgement is made, however, what is it that determines and then confirms the success of a Rush Week?

There is no single factor to be cited, nor is there a phrase to sum up the successes of a fraternity. It is important to note that no single man can be termed responsible for the chapter's success and, even more important to note that no man can be singled out as not

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#### FROM THE ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE

In early January Alpha Theta formed an alumni committee with the expressed purpose of strengthening ties with her alumni. As mentioned in the BEAVER SIG issues of February and May of this year, this committee hopes to have a representative from each class who will serve as its coordinator. Several letters have been sent out requesting alumni from each of the classes to serve as their class representative; the response has been enthusiastic, but not overwhelming. Unfortunately, there were some ambiguities in these letters and, consequently some of the alumni contacted declined the position. The most frequent question arising concerned the necessity of visiting Boston to attend the committee meetings. Also some alumni felt that the responsibilities associated with the position were too nebulous and hence declined rather than commit themselves to time consuming duties of no consequence. In an effort to ease the minds of those who have already accepted and to encourage those who have yet to commit themselves, I will outline the responsibilities of an alumni committee member.

The chief duty of a member is to act as a coordinator between the active chapter and the members of his class. He will not be obligated to visit Boston to fulfill these duties, nor will he be asked to supply any sort of material or incur a significant expense. The chapter feels that these representatives would be a vital link in our efforts to better alumni relations because they could personally contact the brothers of their class with much more effect than could we. These are the thoughts behind the alumni committee. Its success depends on the enthusiasm of the members of each class. At latest count, nineteen classes are represented on the committee, the most recent being Peter L. Kuempel, '59, Byrant K. Vann, '60 and R. G. Dexter, '27. This is certainly a substantial number, however we are unable to carry out our alumni plans without representatives from the remaining classes. I therefore urge any alumnus who may be interested in representing his class to write 532 Beacon.

In late March of this year the chapter instigated a "circular letter". The letter was intended to be from member to member of a particular class with each member attaching a summary of his family, business, and activities since graduation. To date, the class of 1927 has been the only class completing the circle. Their summaries have been quite interesting to the active chapter and have served to up-date our records. Excerpts from them appear in this issue of the BEAVER SIG. This circular letter is our only means, outside of direct correspondence, to receive information of the alumni which we can pass on to all Alpha Thetas. If you (the alumni) have not yet received one of these letters, please let us know.

This past June brought several AΘ alumni to Boston to attend graduation ceremonies. Among those visiting the house were Robert C. Stout, '50, Robert W. Stout, '49, Wm. Merrill, Jr., '40, and J. Harold Fulião, '50. 532 Beacon overflowed with tales of the "good old days".

The current project of this department and the Associate Editor's department is the compiling of an alumni directory containing the name, address, and class of every AΘ alumnus, living or deceased. This booklet is presently in rough form and we hope to have

it published before the first of the year. This has been a formidable project and hence we would like to have it as up to date as possible. If you expect a change of address in the near future, please let me know. Also, if you are interested in receiving this directory, I would appreciate a note or post card to that effect.

Ken Nill, Alumni Representative

#### ALUMNI NEWS

Robert G. Depter -- '27, was instrumental in collecting the information on his class, and much of the credit for its success is due to him. He is presently living in Harvard, Massachusetts, with his wife, Eva. His elder daughter, Joan, has recently made him a grandfather. Andrea, the younger daughter, is attending Smith College. Brother Depter is presently president and treasurer of Buckley and Depter, Inc. As hobbies he mentions golf, woodworking, swimming, and immobility.

George R. Copeland -- '27, is a mechanical engineer at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Plattsburgh, New York. His wife, Ruth, who has received her Doctor of Medicine degree, is an anesthesiologist at the Physician's Hospital in Plattsburgh. Mr. Copeland has two sons and two daughters. The older son, Jim, graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1956. He is now married, and has two children. The second son, Edmund, is a graduate student at the University of Rochester. The older daughter is expecting to enter Middlebury College with the class of 1964. And the younger one, Nancy, is in the tenth grade at Peru Central School. Brother Copeland is interested in guns, especially new, used, and antique reloading supplies; also, his hobbies are gun collecting, hunting, fishing, sailing, and hand loading.

Denis A. Dearle -- '27, lives in New Britain, Connecticut, with his wife, Dorothy. He is the Plastics Division Manager of North and Judd Manufacturing Company in New Britain. In his spare time he is a plastics consultant and does some writing on the side. For pastimes Brother Dearle works on his house and in the garden and enjoys biking.

Robert G. Kales -- '27, is a past National Commander-in-Chief, Military Order of the World Wars, U.S. Naval Reserve Aviator, and has recently received his Captaincy. He is president, director, or general manager of various companies concerned with manufacturing, real estate, insurance, investments, finance, and management. His two eldest sons, Robert, Jr., and William, were graduated from Princeton, and his youngest son is at Bishop's College School in Canada. His elder daughter, Jane, is married and has a daughter; and his younger daughter graduated from Abbot Academy this year. Brother Kales is interested in guns, masks, art, glass, and poetry. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, yachting, squash, curling, and swimming.

Lee McCanne -- '27, of Rochester, N. Y. is executive vice president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and president of the Credit Bureau of Rochester, Inc. He and his wife, Priscilla, have three children: two boys and a girl. The eldest son, Roy, graduated from Obelin in 1956, and the younger, Alan, from the University of Rochester in 1959. His daughter, Susan, was

a senior at Northwestern last year. Brother McCanne is presently studying at the University of Rochester's night school, and his main hobby is bowling.

Henry E. (Ernie) Muhlenberg -- '27, of Avondale, Tennessee, is a development engineer for E. I. DuPont, de Nemours and Company in Wilmington, Delaware. He and his wife, Edith, have one daughter, Deborah, who is in the eighth grade. In his spare time, Brother Muhlenberg is a consulting architect. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, carpentry, painting, and sketching.

George D. Atwood -- '00, has spent the past forty seven years serving as President, Director, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Decorated Metal Manufacturing Company of Milltown, N. J. He is a member of the Baltusrol Gold Club of Springfield, N.J., and The Brooklyn Club of Brooklyn, New York. He is also married and has two sons and one daughter.

William E. Edwards -- '26 has for the past forty years urged the adoption of his perpetual twelve-month calendar. He is currently teaching at Jackson College in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

John (Shrock) McAllister -- '58, on August 13, 1960, at 4:00 P.M. parted with his bachelorhood. The happy ceremony took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the home of the former Jane Blount. Dave Baldwin, Larry Flannigan, and other Alpha Theta brothers witnessed the ceremony.

Pete Kuempel -- '59, returned from a year of study and sightseeing in Germany. When he stopped in at the chapter house in August, he had many wild stories to tell the North Americaners. Pete is now at the Stanford Graduate school.

Hank Couch's -- '59, wife Ann, is expecting a baby.

James Jeffries -- '59 and Dixie Arthur plan to be married in June of 1961 after Dixie gets her degree from Simmons and MGH. They will live in Texas where Jim is working, and where Dixie will make use of her nursing ability in social work.

Bryant Vann -- '60 is currently doing graduate work at M.I.T. He has recently become engaged to Ricky Crews, and plans to be married next summer.

#### Rush Chairman (Continued)

responsible. Credit can go only to the chapter as a whole for a fine job of summer rushing and its overwhelming enthusiasm, confidence, and cooperation. The Rushing Chairman would also like to extend his gratitude to those of you who took the opportunity of writing letters of recommendation, for it is with alumni support in addition to the efforts of the active brotherhood that Sigma Chi gains in strength. Rushing is the lifeblood of the fraternity, but Rush Week is only the beginning.

Erich Ippen, Rush Chairman

## FROM THE MAGISTER

An interesting comparison might be drawn from the fraternal attitude toward pledges today and that of twenty or even ten years ago. When fraternities first came into the collegiate picture the pledge was considered to be little more than an automaton which obeyed without fail the actives will. He was more or less a combination servant and jester whose function was to entertain and generally fulfill the wishes of the brothers, regardless the degree of sadism or folly these might entail. Any character building qualities of the training program were purely coincidental and bore little resemblance to mature planning. The pressure of college administration, reputation, and "unfortunate accidents" forced the fraternal attitude toward pledgship to undergo drastic change in recent years. Eventually hazing was laboriously and, in many cases, reluctantly deleted from the period of pledgship. Pledge training began to follow a constructive, rather than destructive, policy and freshmen slowly assumed the characteristics of human beings somewhat higher than mere flunkies. Sigma Chi was one of the first national fraternities to advocate a mature training program for pledges.

How may we consider a man a pledge one day and then a brother the very next? Certainly not by beating brotherhood into him with a broomstick, for this method defeats its very purpose. Such action reeks of discontinuity and hypocrisy; two traits with which an individual, let alone a fraternity, cannot possibly exist.

Thus the policy in pledge training has slowly and tediously sublimed to its present state. The pledge is now considered to be on a more equal plane with the brother. The difference between a White Cross and a Norman shield lies more in education, ideals, and affiliation than in differences of inherent character. No pledge is requested or asked to perform any task which has not been carefully considered by the most mature minds available to the college fraternity. Granted pledgship may not be as much "fun" for the actives as it has been in the past, but it is certainly more likely to build a Sigma Chi.

If you are interested in the pledge training program

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532 Beacon Street  
Boston, Mass.

in more detail or if you have a suggestion which might lead to the further accomplishment of our aims, please let us hear from you.

Roger Simmons, Magister

## THE PLEDGE CLASS

Alpha Theta pledged a group of men this year who represent nearly every section of the country. This type of diversification leads to a chapter with varied interests and varied modes and expressions of life. This is essential to the livelihood of our chapter, or of any Sigma Chi chapter, if we are to maintain a house for individuals and not become a social club for stereotypes.

The South retained its foothold in the chapter by pledging five from below that magical line, south of which lies "heaven". Bert Knight, Louisville, Ky., Paul Heid, Falls Church, Va., John O'Brien, Houston, Tex., Jim McGaughy, Pine Bluff, Ark., and Randy Winsette, Knoxville, Tenn. are all new members of the Southern Club. Lex Brincko, Allentown, Pa., Bob Johnston, Darien, Conn., Dick Kurth, Norwich, Conn., Tom Rowe, Massapequa, N. Y., and Fred Schaffert, Reading, Pa. provide the East with better than normal representation. The solid Midwest, consisting of Bill McClure, Indianapolis, Ind., Dan Blossy, Kokomo, Ind., Gary Brooks, Aurora, Ill., and Cris Colton, Jackson, Mich., give the chapter a needed conservative counterbalance. Bill Remsen of El Centro, California rounds out our geographical picture. This is probably one of Alpha Theta's largest pledge classes and definitely her best since this time last year.

## Rush Week (Continued)

decision is made.

The next morning our newest pledge finds that he is not alone in his choice; some other men whom he had noticed during Rush Week had also arrived at a similar opinion of Alpha Theta, Sigma Chi. They were his fourteen pledge brothers.

Bert Knight, '64