



Beaver Sig



February 1961

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI

BALFOUR NOMINEE

This year the brothers of Alpha Theta voted Hank Schleinitz as their candidate for the National Balfour Award. Hank is also consul for the spring semester. He is majoring in Chemical Engineering and plans to go on to graduate school next year.

FROM THE CONSUL'S STUDY

Since the publication of the November BEAVER SIG, several significant events have taken place and the groundwork has been set for some new changes. Triad Weekend, after being absent for a year, once again re-appeared this year with new vigor. Through the co-ordinated efforts of the social departments of three houses, a full weekend of activities was enjoyed by all. More important though was the feeling of good fellowship generated among the houses. It is my sincere hope that this spirit will carry over into the next year and years when Triad will again bring it forth, and once again we realize that "the boys down the street" are pretty good "Joes" after all.

While on the subject of weekends, the I.F.C. Dance Committee has decided to throw in their lot with the Institute and make I.F.C. Weekend a part of the All Institute Centennial Weekend in April. Tentatively this will be a lavish combination of I.F.C. Weekend, Dorm Weekend, Assemblies Ball, and Centennial Weekend---truly a Tech community affair. Watch for it.

In their October meeting in Dallas the Grand Council made several changes which will affect Alpha Theta: (a) the deletion of the statutory provisions allowing undergraduate members to become inactive in the Fraternity after three and a half years of membership (b) to guard against autonomy charges, statutory provisions were approved to allow the implementation of a plan to give certain alumni members a vote on the pledging of men to their chapters (c) the requirement that all ritualistic officers with the exception of the magister have a year-long term of office. The last point has created quite a stir at Alpha Theta, and its pros and cons are still being battled back and forth. I would appreciate any comments that might be offered on this topic or any other subject, for that matter.

Alan Brennecke, Consul

NEW MEMBERS

On February 11, 1961 at approximately eleven o'clock twelve men started on the ceremonies of initiation. This was preceded by a rigorous and serious probation period. These twelve new Sigma Chi's are: Robert M. Johnston, C. E. (Bert) Knight, James P. McGaughy, Jr., William B. McClure, William H. Remsen, John B. O'Brien, Daniel F. Blosssey, Christopher K. Colton, Richard R. Kurth, Alexander J. Brincko, Fred W. Schaffert, Jr., and Stanley K. Yeager.

CENTENNIAL ARTICLE

Just one hundred years ago, on Jan. 11, 1861, thirty seven leading Boston citizens met in Mercantile Hall on Summer Street to support William Barton Rogers' plans for a new kind of educational institution in Boston. Before leaving that night, they signed an agreement which Dr. Rogers later endorsed as the "Original act of Association of the Institute of Technology". Barely three months later, on April 10, 1861, Governor John A. Andrews approved the Act of the General Court of the Commonwealth creating the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Just as Dr. Rogers looked ahead in founding M.I.T. to foresee the power of scientific study "as a means of strengthening the mind, cultivating the senses of observation, and forming the habits of accurate examination," so will the institute which he founded look forward - not backward - in celebrating its Centennial.

The week ending on April 9, 1961, will be devoted in Cambridge to a varied discussion of the problems posed for contemporary society by its growing dependence upon the achievements of science and engineering. Alumni, students, faculty, and other friends of M.I.T. are invited to participate in this timely program.

Many well known figures have been invited to attend the Centennial Celebration. Though no official information has been released, it is rumored that such dignitaries as Sir Winston Churchill have been invited to attend. President Stratton's visit with President Kennedy received wide publicity. The President is supposed to have replied that he would accept an invitation if it were possible.

Dr. Vanevaar Busch will deliver a special Centennial essay pertinent to the theme of the celebration. The title has not yet been released.

On Sunday, April 9, Alpha Theta of Sigma Chi will hold its annual Alumni Open House. We hope that many of you who will be here for the Centennial Celebration can stop by the House for coffee and liqueurs on Sunday afternoon.

The Faculty Ball on April 18 promises to be the most extravagant affair the campus has seen. The Rockwell Cage will be lavishly decorated. The barren walls of the gymnasium will be concealed behind a barrier of living trees.

The students are not to be outdone in Centennial Spirit. On April 21 and 22 the Student Centennial Committee is planning a weekend including a formal dance in the specially decorated Cage and a trip to Sturbridge Village where an atmosphere of 1861 will prevail. Seven individuals on campus are even going so far as to sponsor a beard growing contest. The weekend will conclude with a jazz party on campus featuring (perhaps) Duke Ellington and the Four Freshman.

UNDERGRADUATE LIFE AT MIT

In recent bull sessions at the house one of the foremost topics of discussion has been the changing concept of undergraduate life at MIT. Officially, MIT is striving toward an undergraduate program dedicated to the creation of the "whole man", the man who has professional competence tempered with an understanding of the human and the world condition. In this writer's opinion this is far from being the case; I believe the average MIT graduate is purely a result of an assembly line process in which the end product is an analytical machine. There is a dearth of intellectualism at MIT, and there is a lack of social orientation; there is political apathy, and there is an absence of concern for the rest of the world. The administration attempts to circumvent these problems by expanding the humanities program and by creating a wealth of extracurricular activities, but the most important requirement for the building of men, an atmosphere in which each aspect of his personality can mature, is missing. There is no time to inquire into the ramifications of the theory of relativity, only time to study the methods of analysis which will guarantee success on the next quiz. Everything except analytical and factual knowledge exists in the form of pseudo-athletics, pseudo-parties, and pseudo student government. This is not necessarily a condemnation of the school, for in our particular society which demands the specialized individual and personality, MIT is doing a superb job of turning out the required product.

Perhaps the above discussion is exaggerated, and perhaps it digresses too far from the intended subject of this article, but it is a relevant part of any study of undergraduate life at MIT. Now, however, let us look a bit closer at the life of a 1960 undergraduate, in particular a fraternity man. Although it is impossible to portray the typical fraternity man, there are some salient characteristics which we can ascribe to him. The fraternity man of today is conscious, more than ever before, of academic pressure. Even if he does not excel scholastically, his entire life gravitates around the magic word "cum". He is constantly entwined and entrenched in a mad race of scholastic performance. Socially, our subject presents a dichotomy. To a great extent he rejects the Ivy League, personified by sophistication if you will, and assumes a state university "Joe College" appearance. Thus, although he is trying to perform a Horatio Alger in science or engineering, he remains socially static. One of the most tragic facets of this man is his conformity to the external pressures imposed by his fraternity, whether they be social, scholastic, or athletic. The pathos of seeing the rejection of the boy with aesthetic talent, the mind of a genius, or a personal eccentricity, is a very moving experience. This paints a rather gray if not entirely black picture, and certainly there are many fine qualities exhibited by our undergraduates, which make them almost unique in the university world. Personal responsibility, self-reliance, initiative, and determination are of the highest echelon. Therefore, it is not the personal qualities, as much as the aims toward which they are directed, that I am questioning.

Fortunately, at Sigma Chi, the above analysis is not valid. We have men of diverse talents, and men who are striving toward a broader perspective of society, and who are conscious of the rest of the world. A great deal of this is due to our heritage and to the traditions which

have been established at Alpha Theta through the years. Thus, it is imperative that the alumni be interested in MIT and especially Sigma Chi, for only through the advice and counsel of our alumni can we continue to keep our goals in line with the best interests of society.

FROM THE ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE

During the past twelve months, Alpha Theta's Alumni Representative has received over fifty letters from its alumni; some of these expressing criticism of the alumni program and others offering praise. Irregardless of their content, the increase in the quantity of mail and apparent concern of her alumni gives Alpha Theta encouragement. As one who will soon enter into the alumni ranks, it is not difficult to envision the vital role that alumni will play in Alpha Theta's future. The active brothers have ambitious plans and high hopes to see them as realities, but it is plain to see the obstacles that less than forty active members face when endeavoring to instigate any noteworthy plans. We must all realize where the real strength of Alpha Theta of Sigma Chi lies: in the vitality and enthusiasm of her alumni. Her future lies in their support; this is without question.

As mentioned in the past issue of the Beaver Sig, an alumni directory has been compiled, and will be distributed within the next two weeks. This directory is intended to inspire some communication among the alumni and eventually result in more communication with the Alumni Representative.

In an effort to improve the alumni section of the BEAVER SIG, plans are being made for a picture page in the next issue. If you have any pictures of your family or of your days at Alpha Theta, drop them in an envelope with identification and they may appear in the next issue of the Beaver Sig. The pictures will be well cared for and returned intact. Be sure to include sufficient information with each snapshot to allow a caption to be written. If you'd like, write your own caption. With a little cooperation from the alumni, the picture page could turn out to be a real success. Send the pictures to the Alumni Rep., 532 Beacon St., and please don't procrastinate. If you do, it is likely that you will forget entirely about the picture page and it will not be a success.

The newest member of the Alumni Committee is Mr. R. S. Leghorn, President of Itek in Cambridge, Mass. To our knowledge, there are now three Alpha Theta Sigs employed at Itek.

ALUMNI NEWS

The last BEAVER SIG contained biographical sketches of six members of the Class of 1927. In keeping with the idea of presenting an entire class in the same issue, the Class of 1935 is covered in this issue. The information obtained for the Class of 1927 came from the "circular letter" mentioned in the last issue. The information for this issue came from the Twenty-Fifth Reunion Record of the class. This reunion was held last June, and consequently, the information is fairly current. Much thanks should be given to Mr. R. B. Forster who provided additional information on the members of his class.

The above mentioned policy certainly does not exclude publication of other biographical sketches. All biographical sketches received will be edited and published in future Beaver Sigs.

ROBERT W. FORSTER

Married Carolyn Eloise Proper in September, 1940. Children: Robert D., 19, U.S. Naval Academy; Richard A., 17; Charles W., 15; George B., 6. His account of his professional experience begins: "Started work with York Corporation as sales trainee in New York City in July, 1935; left York in 1939 and became Sales Engineer for Davis Refrigeration Co., Buffalo, New York; joined Honeywell in June, 1940 as Commercial Salesman; transferred in 1941 to Syracuse, New York; in 1942 to New York City; in 1943 to North Jersey; opened Jersey office in 1945; became Branch Manager, Buffalo, 1948; became Branch Manager in Boston, 1954; responsible for all divisions in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Was President, Producers Council, Buffalo, 1953-54 and President, Boston Sales Executive Club, 1959-1960, and was Regional Chairman, 1958-1959, Alumni Fund Drive, Wellesley.

His hobbies include golf and fishing.

RICHARD L. HUGHES

He married Virginia Walbridge Hill in November 1937 and has four children, Richard L. III, 21, a Senior at Cornell Univ., George H., 19, pre-med at Princeton University, J. A. Scott, 16, and Virginia W., 12.

He worked as Planning Superintendent for the American Hardware Corp. from shortly after graduation until the end of the war. After five years of methods engineering with the Stanley Works, he became Plant Supt. of the J. M. Ney Co., in Hartford, Conn. In 1957 he obtained his present position.

BUCKLEY CRIST

Married Carol Blackstock Beardsley in December 1937. He has three children: Buckley, Jr., age 20, Williams '62; Peter Beardsley, age 17. Since 1935 his professional experience has included:

President, Crist Engineering Co., Plainfield, N. J. 1948 to 1950. Since 1950, Glasco Corp., Muncie, Indiana. Sold patent rights on beverage vendor to Glasco on royalty basis. Also employed as engineer for development work on pre-mix and other projects. Developed pre-mix soft drink vendor.

Societies: Indiana Sailing Club, Fleet Captain

Recreation: Sailing a Thistle

THOMAS C. KEELING, Jr.

He married Jessie Parkes Stites in September, 1938 and has two children, Thomas, III, attending John Hopkins University and Louise, Winchester Thurston School.

Following graduation, he attended R.O.T.C. camp and then joined the Niagara Alkali Co.. He was with the U. S. Army in various assignments as Commodity Specialist in the office of Under Sec. of War, Army and Navy Munitions, and then Chief of the Chemical Section, attaining the final rank of Lt. Colonel. He returned to the Koppers Co. in 1945 and assumed his present position in 1958.

JOHN E. ORCHARD

He married Helen Louise Olin and now has five children: William John II, age 24, Peggy Anne, age 22, Bobbi Anne, age 22, Lindy, age 15, and John

Martin, age 2.

His account of his professional career begins "Here are the highlights of my career: three years of Law School; three years of law practice in New York City; four years with Kaiser Industries, the last one as Executive Manager of Richmond, California Shipyard #4; twelve years as President of Orchard Brothers, Inc., Rutherford, New Jersey; three years, first as Manager and then and now as President of L.E.E., Incorporated, an electro-mechanical manufacturing concern. My most interesting assignment was in 1952-53 as Chairman of the Small Business Administration; Advisory Committee W. O. C."

John is a member of many societies and clubs and has served on the Board of Directors and /or Trustees of several. He is very proud of his membership in the Young Presidents Organization.

His hobbies are golfing and yachting.

Bryant Vann - '60 was married to Ricky Crews over the semester break. They are presently living at 336 Marlboro Street, Apt. No. 2, Boston 15, until Bryant finishes grad school.

Dwight Simms - '60 having just graduated from Cal. returned to the chapter house this week and spent several days rehashing old times. He is on his way to Europe where he will be until August, when he will return for grad school.

Roger Simmons - '62 transferred to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., this semester to complete his undergraduate preparations for medical school.

FROM THE ATHLETIC CHAIRMAN

The arrival of Christmas vacation saw Alpha Theta's fall intramural program of football, tennis and wrestling completed, while only basketball, of the winter program has closed the season.

Football, as usual, was the first program to get under way. Alpha Theta found itself in League 1 of the A division along with Delta Upsilon, Tau Epsilon Phi, and last year's IM champion, Beta Theta Pi. The season's opener against Delta Upsilon, the eventual IM champion, resulted in a disappointing 13-7 defeat for the Alpha Theta eight. Delta Upsilon scored first on a short pass play in the latter part of the first quarter, but failed to connect for the extra point. Midway in the second quarter, pledge brother Dan Blossey made a sensational grab of a pass from Julian Ayres in the end zone. Blossey again caught a pass on an around-the-end option play, giving Sigma Chi a 7-6 lead, which they maintained until the last play of the game when Delta Upsilon, in a highly contested referee's decision, was awarded a touchdown on an outside end run. Sigma Chi suffered another setback on that same play in the injury and loss for the season of stand out line-backer, Mike Williams. Tom Dupree, '55, as the linebacker figured as a major part of Alpha Theta's pass defense against the D. U.'s position.

Two weeks later the Blue and Gold suffered defeat again, this time at the hands of highly rated Beta Theta Pi. The Betas' only two scores came in the first quarter. Fred Hopper, starting blocking-back, was injured on the opening kick-off. Sigma Chi's offense, somewhat lacking in depth, gradually recovered through the substitute efforts of pledge brother John O'Brien, but was unable to score against the strong Beta defense.

The following Saturday Alpha Theta completed its season with a 20-0 defeat of Tau Epsilon Phi. Bill Hackett, a sophomore end, turned in an amazing performance, returning two intercepted passes for touchdowns and catching an "Ayres-aerial" in the end zone for the Blue's third score. Two seniors and a freshman, center Hank Schleinitz and guards Bill Kendall and Fred Schaffert, served as mainstays of the Alpha Theta line throughout the season. Outstanding at defensive guard was freshman Bill Remsen, while two more freshmen, Dick Kurth and Bob Johnston, served equally well on occasions when substituting for regular ends Winn Martin and Bill Hackett.

Bill Kendall and varsity wrestler Mac Harris coached the chapter's wrestling team to fourth place in the IM Tournament. Included on the team were Bill, Fred Hopper and freshmen Bill Remsen, Bob Johnston, and Bill McClure. Kendall won first place in the 177 lb. division while McClure took fourth place in the 130 lb. division.

The Alpha Theta tennis team won three matches before losing 3-2 to champion Burton House "A" in the semi-finals of the IM Tournament. The team, consisting of Julian Ayres, Dan Blossy, Lex Brincko, Bert Knight, Bill Hackett, Ken Nill, and Winn Martin, beat Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Senior House by scores of 3-2, 4-1, and 3-2 respectively.

Consul Al Brennecke was chosen to captain the chapter's basketball team, but due to a knee condition was unable to play himself until the last game of the season. Notably missing from last year's group were junior Jed Engeler, full-time varsity swimmer, and Bob White, '60. Alpha Theta ended the season with a three-two record, defeating Alpha Epsilon Pi "B", Phi Gamma Delta, and Dover Club and losing to Sigma Phi Epsilon and Burton House "A". Assisting regular guards Bruce Tarter and Julian Ayres were Hank Schleinitz and Freshman Bert Knight. Fred Hopper, Bill Hackett and Winn Martin shared the forward positions while Dick Brown handled the center's chores with assistance in the last game from Al Brennecke.

Alpha Theta, having yet to win an IM championship this year, may, however, be justly proud of the fact that one-half of the total number of actives and pledges participate in intercollegiate sports and are subsequently ineligible, a fact which in itself may offer some explanation for the rather mild success of the IM program to date.

Julian Ayres, Athletic Chairman

AROUND THE CAMPUS

This last semester saw, as usual, a lot of activity across the Bridge. In the first part of the fall Aldous Huxley, the Carnegie Visiting Professor of Humanities gave a series of seven lectures on "What A Piece of Work is A Man". Then on October 12 we saw Dave Brubeck and later that same week Werner von Braun spoke on "Why Must We Conquer Space". Junior Prom featured Les Brown and Ahmad Jamal. Ahmad played unusually well on Saturday night to an overflow crowd in the Armory.

The house extended a social membership to 1st Lt. Ted Gay. He graduated from West Point in 1955 and came to MIT this semester for two years of graduate work. Ted's father is a Sigma Chi from Emory University.

The Spring semester should prove very active also. The Sweetheart Weekend is planned for March 10, 11 and 12. Then in April will be I.F.C. weekend coupled with the centennial celebration. And now is the time to start making plans for the Alumni Open House.

Two of the brothers, Ken Nill, and Hank Schleinitz were elected to Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honorary society; Ken was also elected president of the M. I. T. chapter of the Electrical Engineers honorary, Eta Kappa Nu.

Senator Barry Goldwater made an appearance on campus February 10 to lecture on "Principles of Conservatism". Brother Barry was unable to make it to the chapter house for the investiture of the new brothers. Several brothers went to his lecture though and talked to him afterwards.

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