



Beaver Sig



JANUARY 1962

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI

ATHLETIC SHORTS

On the intercollegiate sports scene Alpha Theta's proud to have two fighting seniors as captains of MIT varsity teams: John Rupert (hockey) and Jed Engeler (swimming). Because of a knee injury and a subsequent operation, junior Mike Williams is no longer out for wrestling but sophomore Tom Rowe is doing his best to keep off the mats. Steve Colburn '63 and Burt Lowry '65 are headliners on



PAST CONSUL OF ALPHA THETA RECEIVES BALFOUR AWARD

For the first time in our chapter's history, the distinction of having one of our members chosen International Balfour Award winner came to Alpha Theta. On June 28 at the literary exercises dinner of the memorable Miami Grand Chapter, brother Hank Schleinitz '61 was announced as the 1961 Balfour Award Winner. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the General Fraternity on an undergraduate Sigma Chi, and each recipient must be truly outstanding in all four qualifications: scholarship, personality, fraternity service, and student activities.

To enumerate Hank's many achievements and contributions would belabor the point. It is best to say that this overall cumulative average placed him at the top of the School of Engineering here at M.I.T. and as consul of the chapter last spring, he added much of his spirit and spark to the chapter's activity. Hank presently has a Fulbright Scholarship and is attending graduate school at Cambridge University, England.

PLEDGE CLASS 1961

Nine men of the class of 1965 pledged Sigma Chi this fall and have taken up residence at 532. These Pledge Brothers are: Don Grimes (Greensboro, North Carolina), Quint Boone (Houston, Texas), Kirby Meacham (Chattanooga, Tenn.), Dean Hubbard (Speedway, Indiana), Paul Remington (North Plainfield, New Jersey), Jim Piepmeier (Nashville, Tenn.), Burt Lowry (Huntsville, Texas), Mark Hanson (Edina, Minnesota), and Mac Holzer (Normal, Illinois). With their wide range of interests and talents, they are making substantial contributions to the activities of MIT and the student chapter.

the diving board for their respective teams, while Dean Boyd and Julian Ayres are anticipating a rugged Lacrosse season this spring. Other Sigs in sports are: Dan Blossey '64 (tennis), Dick Kurth '64 (squash), Lex Brincko '64 (squash), Mark Hanson '65 (soccer), Don Grimes '65 (swimming), and frosh oarsmen Jim Piepmeier, Kirby Meacham, Quint Boone, and Paul Remington.

This year in intermurals Alpha Theta's scintillating hockey team is back on ice for what we hope to be another type of undefeated season. With a combination of old talent newly-returned--Jim Overbeck '60 and Bill McArthur '57--existing talent with Erich Ippen, Earl Van Horne, Bill Hackett, Al Bellows, Lex Brincko, Fred Schaffert and Sandy Von K., and new talent in the form of Minnesotan freshman Mark Hanson, we hope to net a lions share of goals. Currently Alpha Theta is top in the league with three wins and no losses, and the icemen are working their way towards the finals.

In the realm of basketball, the chapter's large mid-western representation is proving invaluable in placing us high in our league. Under the able captaincy of Dan Blossey, and with the efforts of Julian Ayres, Winn Martin, Bill Hackett, Beri Knight, Stan Yeager, and freshmen Dean Hubbard and Mac Holzer, the Sig team came off to a slow but sure start. After suffering an initial defeat by Grad House A., the "blue and gold" easily topped Theta Chi, Phi Delta Theta, and Beta Theta Pi.

FROM THE
CONSUL'S
STUDY



Erich Ippen,
Consul

With its record of performance for the school year 1960 - 1961 Alpha Theta returned to M.I.T. in an enviable position. Two new Brothers were initiated, and the chapter prepared for what turned out to be an intensive and selective Rush Week. In the weeks since that time a new class has already become an integral part of the house. Chapter activities have become more and more numerous as new interests have been added to the perennial ones. However, rather than devoting this space to an enumeration of those details I would mention those developments which affect Alpha Theta from the external point of view as well.

It would be appropriate at this time to say a few words about the housing situation, but I am afraid that there is not much news to relate. A long awaited official statement from the school administration is apparently still in the process of being formulated. Although this delay is greater than expected, the thoroughness with which the problem has been approached has struck an encouraging note. Whatever possibilities a future plan may offer, it has been made clear that M.I.T. is continuing wholehearted support of its presently strong fraternity system.

Over the past half year Alpha Theta has also shown increased participation in General Fraternity affairs. Without a doubt this activity was to a large extent kindled by Grand Chapter at Miami, Florida last summer. Hank Schleinitz, our retiring Consul, was chosen International Balfour Award Winner; and a most important constitutional change was effected. The restrictive word "white" has been removed from Sigma Chi's membership requirements.

For some time now this chapter has continually felt the urgency of the need to eliminate this mark of arbitrary discrimination. Through its participation on the Membership Standards Committee this summer Alpha Theta was able to work toward this goal. The action itself was finally precipitated by the danger of losing fourteen of our chapters who faced ultimatums on their respective campuses. Had Sigma Chi not immediately effected this change its bonds as an international fraternity would have been seriously threatened.

There is no doubt that the recent changes will be of great significance to the Fraternity in the years to come. It is also important to realize that the future will bring other changes. Sigma Chi cannot afford to stand still. We have the choice of gaining in strength or losing in strength. Certain moves may, of course, require time; but we believe the present step to be in the right direction, for what could be more in keeping with the true worth of a fraternity than an affirmation of the importance of personal character.

The Boston Area Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter has entered into the new year with a full schedule of plans. At the November meeting it was decided that the gatherings in the future would feature a noted Sig alumnus from the Boston area as speaker. The first two meetings have related topics. On Monday, January 15, Brother Homer R. Oldfield, a group vice-president for Raytheon Corporation, presented a brief talk on his company and its relationship to the technical and business community in Boston. Then on February 19, Richard Leghorn, President of Itek Corporation, will talk on the same topic with reference to his company. At succeeding meetings brothers will speak on other topics of

continues on page 4

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

There was a bit of pride in the air on Saturday evening, October 21, as brothers, guests and several visiting grads--eighty in all--were present for Scholarship Banquet. Last term Sigma Chi had earned top academic standing among fraternities on campus and had set a new fraternity record at M.I.T. with a house average of 3.8.

Although this semiannual cocktail party and banquet is anything but a somber affair, its purpose, nevertheless, is a serious one. Principally the banquet was instituted to focus



attention on the importance of the chapter's scholarship program and to honor those who have been outstanding in this endeavor. In accord with this, Chapter Advisor Gene Chamberlain and Grand Praetor Bill Carlisle spoke briefly; then President of Itek Electro-Products, Inc., "Spec" Card, '40, talked on the importance of scholarship as viewed by a man in business. His ideas were challenging.

The banquet officially closed as the chapter Scholarship Chairman Fred Schaffert presented two of his classmates with trophies. The Scholarship Achievement Trophy, given to the man attaining the highest average the previous term, was presented to Dick Kurth, '64, and Tom Rowe, '64, received the Scholarship Advancement Trophy for the greatest improvement in academic standing. Full of good spirit and sobering ideas, the brothers and their guests departed for an evening of entertainment.

Fred Schaffert
Scholarship Chairman

MEMORANDUM TO THE ALUMNI
Dean Boyd

Having received a good response on our plea for help in locating "lost" Sigs, we are now about ready to publish a supplement to the alumni directory which will hopefully bring it up to date. We would like to thank the brothers from all the classes who lent their aid.

Although the alumni representative's mailbox was full of mail for weeks, not too many of the letters contained any personal news. In order to find out more about what the brothers are doing we have included an information sheet with this issue of the Beaver Sig. It is hoped that everyone will fill it out and return it to the house so that we can keep our records up to date and also publish any interesting news in the Beaver Sig. Be sure to include any new happenings about which the other members of your class might be interested. The alumni news section will only be interesting if everyone sends their "tidbits".

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO:

Alumni Representative
532 Beacon Street
Boston 15, Mass.

Alumni News

1902 - The old Alpha Theta Sigs will be sorry to hear of the passing of Archibald Ehle at the age of 82. Brother Ehle worked extensively in the field of locomotives and his many inventions led to the gasoline locomotive - used in World War I - and to various electric railroad vehicles. He also helped build the first Diesel locomotive in the United States.

1910 - Brother Alexander Van Keuren, Rear Admiral, U.S.N., Ret., lent a lot of help in locating some of the "lost" Alpha Theta Sigs. Brother Van Keuren writes that three "Navy Sigs" from the chapter live in Washington, D. C. and see each other quite often, the other two being Brothers Simmers and Kintner.

1947 - One of the brothers reported among the missing was found right here in Boston. William Edgerly lives in Wayland and is president of the MIT Luncheon Club and active in many other MIT affairs in the Boston area while serving as Treasurer of the Cabot Corporation.

1950 - Participating in the big middle of the missile race is Joe Glasgow who is working in the office of Titan II Plans and Programs, Ballistic Systems Division in Los Angeles. Joe obtained his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma this past June.

1957 - John Decker reports that he and Linda are still enjoying life in Cambridge (England). They are planning to leave sometime between Christmas and Easter - probably to go to the Air Force Special Weapons Center at Albuquerque, N. M. for a three year term with the USAF.

1960 - Ensign Mark Jensen, U.S.N.R., married Miss Judy Gunther this past August and the couple is now living in San Diego where Mark is serving out his Navy tour of duty.

1961 - Al Brennecke has started his year of study in Germany and is enjoying both the education and the experience: "The boat trip over was great - I've never eaten so much and loafed around so much as those eleven days".

Hank Schleinitz, Alpha Theta's latest Fulbright scholar, is studying at Trinity College in Cambridge. Hank is impressed by the friendly and hospitable people and the beautiful countryside.

The rest of last year's class can be found in the following places: Bill Kendall is spending a while at Paris Island with the Marines, Earl van Horn and Ken Nill are doing graduate work at MIT, Bruce Tarter has a teaching assistantship at Cornell, and Dick Brown has entered the business world, working for Pratt and Whitney in Connecticut.

"PLANS IN THE MAKING"

At its January meeting the Boston Area Alumni Chapter decided to institute a guidance or counseling service for the undergraduates. By giving them the opportunity of visiting and speaking with Boston Sigs in various businesses and industries, it is hoped that the undergraduates will benefit. Brother "Spec" Card is leading the planning for this project.

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE - JUNIOR PROM WEEKEND

Junior Prom Weekend, November 3, 4, and 5, combined dancing, folk-singing, and partying to highlight the brothers' fall social season. Dates began arriving as early as Thursday from Indiana, Pennsylvania, and New York. On Friday those from Simmons, Wellesley, Chandler and Boston University joined them in the house as the brothers moved out.

The evening began with a well attended cocktail party, followed by a sumptuous banquet including lobster newburg and white wine served by our eminent Frankie. The fraternity's men of song--the Sigma Chi octet--sang the old, the new, and finally the favorite--the "Sweetheart Song." Later, amid the usual confusion; "cumberbund folds up or down? who's got a pair of black socks? where's my cor-sage?", the brothers prepared for the formal, held this year at the Statler, where dancing was to the music of Harry Marshard. By one o'clock, it was back to 532 where slacks

and sweaters replaced tuxes and formals.

Bright and early Saturday morning, freshmen and sophomores joined in a massive field day battle at Briggs Field. The beaten sophomores returned complaining about the onslaught of what appeared to be the "chinese army". The afternoon entertainment at Kresge Auditorium featured folk singer Joan Baez.

After an informal dinner, it was the popular jazz artist, Ray Charles, and his orchestra. An enthusiastic audience attended the concert held in the armory, which was followed by our own private performance---the annual pledge skit and a "jungle theme" party.

Sunday was spent resting, driving in the country, or walking on the esplanade. One by one, the girls caught their planes or drifted back to their schools, but not without some regret for a wonderful weekend come to an end.

LOOKING BACK

When Alumni drop by for a quick look at the "house", a favorite topic of conversation for us (and we imagine for them) is the change in the chapter house and its environment. What follows the inevitable "I remember when" in such discussions never ceases to amaze us with the innovations that have been. Even now, most of us living here are usually too preoccupied in schoolwork, activities, and commuting across the Harvard Bridge to realize fully what has happened in our few years at Alpha Theta and MIT.

At first it is surprising to discover that 532 Beacon as we know it is probably not quite the same as when some of you saw it last. For longer than we can remember the basement hall and gameroom has been wood paneled and now serves as a party room on weekends. To us the old pipe organ which occupied the present site of our telephone closet is but an often-told legend. In constant need of repair, it was removed shortly after the war. And to us the sounds of midnight traffic on Storrow Drive Expressway as it flows around the Fensgate and along the Charles towards downtown is a necessary nuisance that has always been.

More recent grads would probably find a welcomed change in the downstairs living room which was modernized with current style lamps and furniture several years ago. And last summer the Fensgate Hotel underwent conversion into a girls' dormitory for Chandler Secretarial School; although Sigma Chi is pleased with the new neighbor, it was found that college girls required more hot water than hotel patrons. As a result the eternal hot springs has been turned off and we are just now installing our own hot water system.

Across the Charles, fate and the Second Century Fund are constantly changing the stoic face of Tech. Early last year, fire swept through the block of stores opposite 77 Mass. Avenue entrance and claimed the home of Boston's educational T. V. station WGBH, along with Larry's, Tech Drug, and Walton's. These days a big iron ball is demolishing the charred brick framework in preparation for a new student union. When finished, the proposed union will include the commercial facilities needed on campus as well as student lounges, halls, and recreation equipment.

As an MIT alumnus you probably already know about new buildings under construction. A new earth science

building has begun to sprout on the East Campus Parking Lot while a new four story garage behind the swimming pool already holds the displaced cars. The eight story women's dormitory and a married student's housing project are still on their way.

Quite naturally, change and growth is a rule at MIT, and here at 532 Beacon Street, present and future efforts to preserve and improve the chapter house will bring about change here. We presently have one of the oldest and best kept house on campus. However, it seems inevitable to me that we will all someday recall when Alpha Theta was at 532.

BOSTON ALUMNI

continued from page two

interest in the business world and also on some of the problems facing us in our educational institutions.

These meetings at the chapter house are generally quite enjoyable; dinner is served about six thirty and is preceded by an informal cocktail half-hour. We at the chapter would urge especially Alpha Theta Alumni to stop by.

The thought behind these monthly meetings is simply that we feel that not only will the talks be worthwhile, but it is a great experience for the undergraduates to be able to talk with and exchange views and ideas with the alumni. This relationship with older men and the guiding influence that they can exert is an important educational experience. Whether the alumnus be a graduate student or a business man, the undergraduate can profit greatly.

Alpha Theta of Sigma Chi
532 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts
Return Postage Guaranteed