

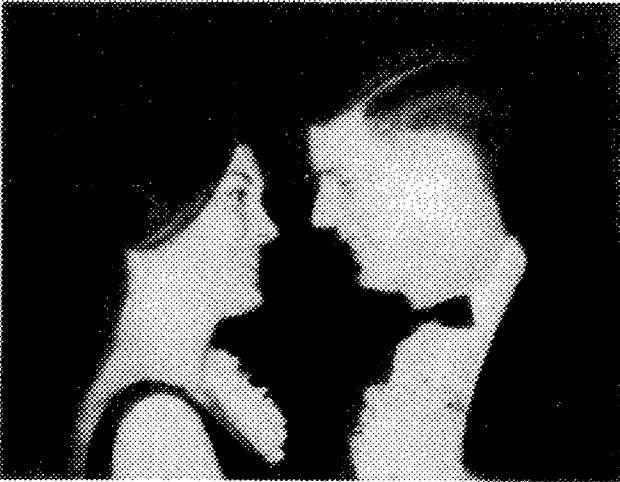


# Beaver Sig



APRIL 1964

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI



Miss Lynda Delgado, 1964 Chapter Sweetheart, and Unidentified Admirer

## LOOKING OUTWARD

There has been much conversation in college administrative circles recently about the changing role of the fraternity in the university environment. Concern has been expressed about the irresponsibility and immaturity of fraternities as shown by their disregard for cooperation with administrative officers and the surrounding townspeople. As fraternities become more aware of this popular attitude, they will begin to realize that their organization has an obligation to the school with which it is affiliated and the town in which it is located as well as to the individual member. Already the larger national fraternities are realizing their responsibility to the individual chapters to encourage a less self-oriented program of activities.

This term the brothers of Alpha Theta started well toward this end. The most evident and first move taken was that of encouraging the brothers to make greater efforts toward scholarship and participation in activities over at the Institute. Our scholarship chairman, Gary Brooks, initiated this program by establishing definite rules limiting noise in the house to certain confined times, and, in general, making each of us aware of our scholastic responsibility as individuals, and as a functioning part of the MIT community. The activities chairman, Mark Hanson, concurrently began by making information available to all the brothers on current cultural, social, and athletic events. We have also encouraged the undergraduates to enter extracurricular activities of all kinds at the Institute as well as in the I.F.C. As a continuation of last term's program, our tribune, brother Mac Holzer, has stimulated the brothers into bringing many interesting members of the MIT faculty and staff into the house for dinner. This not only brings us closer to the Institute, but also provides an opportunity for broadening our individual knowledge and general awareness.

Another area of increased emphasis is that of social responsibility - the duty of any organization or individual to work for the improvement of the society in which it exists. In a sense society may be considered as just a larger brotherhood, but it is seldom approached from that viewpoint. Last term Alpha Theta was the first of all fraternities on campus in its support of the I.F.C. blood drive. Thirty-eight of forty-three members contributed blood to be used to help children afflicted with hemophilia. This term the house has eagerly supported the annual Red Cross blood drive at MIT. In addition, individual brothers have been encouraged by I.F.C. representative Ron Morelli to participate in social work of other types in the Boston area.

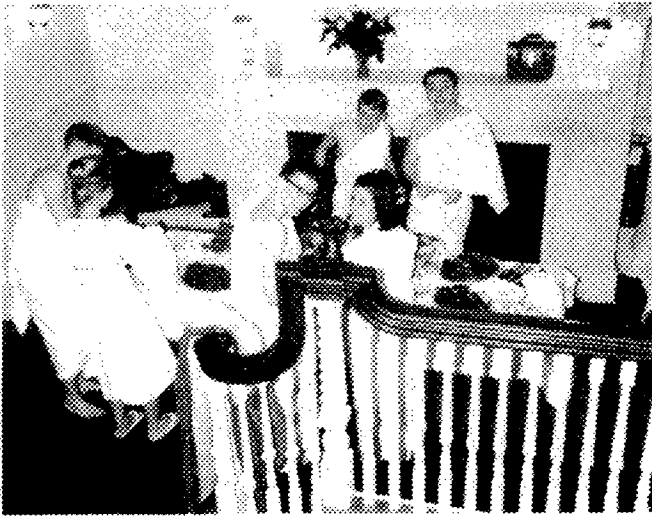
For continued mature development and growth it is necessary for a chapter of a large international fraternity to take interest and actively to participate in the events related to its general organization. In this respect we at Alpha Theta have had unusually great opportunities this term. On Saturday, February 21, brothers Bert Knight, Jim McSeaghy, Don Grimes, Jim Ward, and Lock Kuhn traveled to the University of Connecticut for a social gathering with the men of Sigma Chi Alpha, a local fraternity which hopes to petition soon for admission into Sigma Chi. On Sunday, Proconsul Dick Kurth, Don Partridge, and I followed up the social visit of the others with a more serious meeting for the sake of getting to know the chapter on a more formal and factually informative level.

On March 5, we at Alpha Theta had the pleasure of entertaining Grand Consul Harry Wade at dinner and afterwards. We all enjoyed the opportunity to discuss our trip to Connecticut and the current affairs of the fraternity with him. In addition, we are much indebted to him for his pertinent suggestions for improvement within our house.

The busiest weekend by far, however, was that of March 14. While brothers Bert Knight, Pete Bruckmann, Jim Ward, Jim Carter, and Jim Piepmier left for Province Conference at the University of Rhode Island, twenty of the rest of us prepared ourselves for All-Tech Sing and simultaneously entertained about twenty unexpected guests from Epsilon Iota chapter at Saint Lawrence University. While the brothers at the conference gathered new suggestions and became familiar with the other chapters in the province, we here in Boston came in second in the serious music division of the All-Tech Sing and had a couple of great parties, as well as several good bull sessions, with the men from Saint Lawrence. The weekend as a whole turned out to be a very rewarding experience for the whole chapter.

All of the above activities are, in one way or another, a manifestation of our attempt to see ourselves as others do and to respond by meeting our obligations to the Institute, Boston, and the general fraternity. We will continue to look outward in this manner until we do indeed become an active, respected, and integral part of the community in which we live.

-Robert M. Johnston  
Consul



"De Gustibus . . ."  
Toga Party, Sweetheart Weekend 1964

#### THE SOCIAL SCENE

Alpha Theta's 1963-1964 social season got off to a good start this year with our traditional Wellesley freshman mixer. As is the custom, the brothers and the new pledges headed west on the Sunday that the freshman girls arrived, to do a lot of looking while carrying suitcases and trunks or just walking around. Upon completion of the sorting processes, we invited in about twenty-five of Wellesley's best to get our season going.

Late October found the worthy Sigs on their traditional Serenade. This year's took us to Bradford Junior College, where Miss Patti Newsom, 1963's Chapter Sweetheart, attends school; Wellesley College; and Simmons College. One could almost have followed us from the trail of screaming (More!) and swooning girls.

The end of November brought the Institute-sponsored Junior Prom Weekend. Girls from home towns and most of the local schools moved into 532, while the brothers struck out to find a place to stay. The Prom on Friday night was the best yet (as it is every year). With Saturday morning came Field Day at the Institute, to bring freshman-sophomore rivalry to an end. Life magazine had a photographer present to cover the event, but the story didn't make it into print, so this infamous day of fun and games must live on in obscurity. Maybe it's just as well. The New Christy Minstrels entertained in Kresge on Saturday afternoon, and Saturday night was "twist and shout" time at the Cambridge Armory. There's an old saying about "all good things . . ."; and sure enough, Sunday afternoon saw the good Sigs reluctantly returning to the books.

In December young men's fancies turn lightly to thoughts of Christmas parties, and Alpha Theta Sigs are no exception. After persuading our clutched freshmen to get dates, we all enjoyed an evening of tree decorating, Christmas carols, ice skating for the hardy, and general seasonal merriment. Due to the general hibernation for finals that lasts from Christmas vacation to February, the Christmas party was the last planned social event of the first semester.

At the start of the second semester, planning for our own Sweetheart Weekend got into high gear. Again, the girls moved in and the brothers moved out for the big weekend, February 28 and 29. We held a handsome Sweetheart Ball Friday night at the Blue Hills Country Club in Canton. Miss Patti Newsom, 1963 Sweetheart and pinmate of our Consul, Bob Johnston, read the list of nominees and presented the new Sweetheart for 1964, Miss Lynda

Delgado, who is pinned to our Registrar, Jim Flejmeier. We had a good turnout of friends of the house and recent graduates, including the Ippens, the Ayreses, the Galburns, and the Hacketts, and everyone enjoyed the evening very much.

After an afternoon of tobogganing and snowball fights, we returned to the house Saturday night for a Roman banquet and toga party. The highlight of the evening was the traditional presentation of class skits. The classical atmosphere of this event was reflected in the senators' skit; they presented a portion of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Brother John O'Brien played Caesar with his usual power and grandeur, and the death scene was quite a spectacle.

The end of Sweetheart brings us to the present in Alpha Theta's social season. Future plans include another all-Institute Weekend and a beach party in early May, following an ancient tradition begun last year. It is my hope that we can gather for a casual dancing party about once every two weeks for the remainder of the term, for I feel that a house's strength lies not alone in its ability to work together. Shared social experiences can add a great deal to the common bond we share in Sigma Chi.

-John B. Adger, Jr.  
Social Chairman

#### THE M.R.V.F.B. INC. IN BOSTON

Note: The ideas and opinions expressed below are not necessarily those of the management.

Last October I got a note from the Cambridge purchasing manager suggesting that I might be interested in placing a bid on some surplus fire-fighting equipment they had at auction. After forming a Massachusetts Beta chapter of the Tennessee-chartered Missionary Ridge Volunteer Fire Brigade, Incorporated, of which I happen to be founder and president since 1961, I submitted a bid of \$131.53, which took a 1935 Seagrave 1000-gallon-per-minute pumper.

We licensed and insured the truck (all eight tons of it) as an antique automobile. Insurance cost was small, since we were charged only one-fourth the going corporation rate. After a couple of Saturday afternoons we got it running well and started having fun. In one day we broke the all-time record for picking up random girls with one vehicle and shocking Proper Bostonians. The only sour note was when we were stopped by the Metropolitan Police on suspicion of fire engine theft. After lengthy and repetitious arguments on corporate law with the noble guardians of virtue, we were released on the condition that we get an inspection sticker.

After a couple more weeks of running around, we took it to Gloucester, where we parked it for its winter hibernation in the basement of the Christian Science Church (on consideration of a monthly donation). The only real event that occurred while taking it up there was running out of gas on the Mystic River Bridge.

When it comes out of hiding this spring, the truck will be busy, since we have promised a lot of people (including a Wellesley house mother) rides. The M.R.V.F.B. Inc. is proving to be a very popular, although offbeat, institution.

-Kirby Meacham

## ALUMNI NEWS

On March 8, we at Alpha Theta began our second term alumni functions with an open house for our Boston area Sigs. Local alumni and their families visited old friends and met the new brothers. We all enjoyed the open house and are planning to have alumni and their families in again in April for our annual Alumni Banquet. The date is Saturday, April 25; there will be a cocktail hour at five o'clock, and the banquet begins at six. We hope to see you there.

One of those present at the open house was Bill Braun, an active vice-president of the Alumni Chapter, and an active friend of the brothers of Alpha Theta. He pointed out that the Boston Area Alumni Chapter has not held a formal meeting in over a year and that he is interested in reorganizing the chapter as soon as possible. Pressing business: first, to file the annual report with the general fraternity; second, to elect a new president. Due to the demands of starting a new business endeavor, Brother Spec Card, our former president, was forced to resign his office in the Alumni Chapter.

## PERSONAL NEWS

H. Steven Colburn - Alpha Theta 1963 - Steve was recently married in Portsmouth, Ohio; his wife Nancy attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Colburn are now living in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Steve is a teaching assistant in the MIT graduate school in Electrical Engineering, where he will receive his Master's in June. He plans to continue his studies at MIT and earn his Ph.D.

Also married recently from the class of 1963 is William H. Hackett. Bill and his wife Jeanne are living in MIT's Westgate dormitory for married students. Bill and Jean chaperoned at our Sweetheart Weekend this spring.

Mr. William H. Carlisle, our Grand Praetor of the New England-Nova Scotia Province, was inducted into the Order of Constantine at Grand Chapter last summer. Brother Bill was honored for his years of untiring service and devotion to Sigma Chi.

## ALUMNI MAILING STREAMLINED

This Beaver Sig is the first trial of a new system for addressing our alumni mailings. We have shifted our alumni addresses from the old Alumni Directory to IBM data cards, a new technique which MIT has also adopted. We hope this system will speed the process of addressing our mailings and also allow us to keep your address accurate and up to date. If there is an error in your name or address, please let us know; changes are much easier to make now.

-Mark Hanson  
Alumni Representative

## MISSING ALUMNI

We have no addresses for the following alumni. If you know how to reach them, please drop us a line.

Class of 1913  
William G. Guild

Class of 1920  
Phillip Edward Boynton

Class of 1921  
Fredric H. Pomeroy

Class of 1924  
R. G. Wyld

Class of 1925  
Hobart D. Barnes

Class of 1930  
William B. Wilder

Class of 1934  
William P. Ralston

Class of 1939  
John H. Strohbeen

## HOUSING: THE OUTLINE OF A PROBLEM II

Alpha Theta has for the past three years been examining a serious problem which is rapidly becoming more pressing: housing. Much as we hate to admit it, 532 is slowly letting us down. Recently, leaky roofs, cracking plaster on walls and ceilings, and sagging floors have been more and more evident, and the House Manager has spent a greater and greater percentage of his effort and budget on repairing these and similar headaches. Minor problems, such as rotted window frames, sticking sliding doors, and the like have been taxing our pledges' work session ingenuity for a considerable time. We realize, however, that these things are all the visible signs of a basic and inescapable fact: our house is over seventy years old. With approaching senility replacing staid maturity, the house is in failing health. Taking quite a bit of pride in our home, we do not want it to die.

Toward this end, we have instituted the office of Housing Officer, whose duties are to investigate the remedies available to us and the means of financing treatment. To date, the following has been accomplished by this office:

A General Feasibility Report, by Bill Moody, Alpha Theta 1954, was received and considered by the chapter. In it, Brother Moody sets forth plans for an entirely new house on the present site. Also, the possibility of building elsewhere has been discussed, but the cost of land close to MIT is prohibitive, and we feel that the present site is ideal with respect to neighborhood and proximity to school.

A structural engineer from the Institute has examined the house and pronounced the present shell and foundation sound. This leaves the avenue of extensive remodeling within the present shell open to us. Grand Consul Harry V. Wade, when he visited Alpha Theta recently, suggested that we keep the present floor spacing and shell, and expand toward the Charles as far as Back Street, keeping many of our present features (particularly the woodwork in the library and dining room), but doing extensive work above the second floor.

A third possibility is to buy another house in the area. Cost and zoning limit us in this respect. We would lose a lot in selling our present house, not only in the financial sacrifice of selling an old, somewhat useless building, but in the pride which we all feel in 532. Also sacrificed would be our ideal location.

This, then, is our problem: our house is falling into bad health, despite our active, if amateurish, doctoring. Our alternatives are these: build, here or elsewhere; remodel, retaining the best of what we have; or buy. We are presently investigating actively both our problem and our possible cures. We would certainly welcome any ideas or expressions of interest from our alumni, for we know that there are many who were here before us who felt and still feel the same pride in our chapter house as we do.

## The Housing Committee:

Loghrey R. Kuhn, Chairman	Dean F. Hubbard
Robert M. Johnston, <i>ex officio</i>	Rod S. Peterson
John H. Fittz	John H. Terry
John F. Howard	James M. Ward, Jr.

## MEET THE FRESHMEN

This year, for the first time in a number of years, our entire pledge class of twelve was initiated. Continuing in our old tradition, almost half are Southerners. These are our new brothers:

Rod Stuart Peterson, from Larchmont, New York, is captain of the frosh sailing team and is quite interested in tinkering about the house. He plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.

James Martin Ward, Jr., comes from Quincy, Massachusetts. He plans to enter medicine after graduation here. Among his interests is the sport of judo, which he practices with the MIT Judo Club.

Terry Lee Kelley, from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, is an exceptionally good-natured fellow, always smiling, with an excellent sense of humor. He's out for lacrosse and rowed crew in the fall. So far he hasn't picked a course.

Ronald Allen Norelli, of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, is one of the few persistent athletes in the class; he played frosh basketball and is now trying out for baseball. Ron is a hard worker, both on the field and at his desk.

David Harold Mechler, of Kaneohe, Hawaii, has strong musical interests. He is in the MIT band and played trumpet in the basketball pep band.

Lloyd Donald (Don) Partridge, Jr., of Memphis, Tennessee, is a loyal crew man and is possessed of the most voracious appetite any of us have ever seen. In their spare time he, Dave, and Rod annoy us with their harmonicas.

Loughrey Roberts (Lock) Kuhn of Charleston, West Virginia is showing a very active interest in the house, taking on the job of Housing Officer and initiating an active program. He's an enthusiastic person, with "ambitious purposes".

John Horace Terry, of Little Rock, Arkansas, is a good-humored guy with a lot of personality. He has strong artistic talents and plans to go into architecture.

John Frederick Howard, of Euclid, Ohio, is going into metallurgy or materials science. He is interested in wrestling and has been active in intramurals.

James Wrenn Carter, from High Point, North Carolina, an enthusiastic worker, rowed crew in the fall and has been active in intramurals.

Peter Eric Gregory Bruckmann, from Mobile, Alabama, is a relaxed fellow with a sharp sense of humor. He is painfully learning to play the guitar.

John Herman Fittz, raised in Yokohama, Japan, by his missionary parents, has strong musical interests and plays piano expertly. He was out for wrestling and now plays tennis while holding down a job and a 4.0 average.

We have one pledge this term, Dennis Patrick Slevin, from Charleston, West Virginia. Denny is a junior Physics major, who transferred here from Saint Vincent College in Pennsylvania. He's a good student and a good friend.

-John Howard

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

\* This is a re-acquaintance issue, since we've failed to produce a Beaver Sig in about a year. Expect another issue (maybe bigger and better) in June. I'll welcome comments, criticism, and especially encouragement, so send me a note or, better yet, drop in if you can. ALSO: send me news about where you are and what you're doing - your classmates would like to know. Until June -

-Don Grimes  
Chapter Editor

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
532 Beacon Street  
Boston 15, Massachusetts

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