

# Beaver Sig

MAY 1966

ALPHA THETA OF SIGMA CHI

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

AO BALFOUR CANDIDATE WINS PROVINCE AWARD

With this issue, "The boys at 532" are trying to revamp our publications program. Hereafter, via the Beaver Sig, we want to become a clearing house for information about some of the most interesting people the world has ever seen, or will ever see, the brothers at Alpha Theta of Sigma Chi. We have access to information about the present and recent past "us", but we will have to count on you for data on our older "Boys." We will be glad to tell you about the present "us" (we get better every year) and hope you will pass on the good stuff about you.

Bob Briber '52 and Bill Stern '40 are Alpha Theta's latest additions to the Trustees of our house. Jim Overbeck '60 is our new financial advisor. Dr. Killian has consented to be Honorary Chairman of the Board. Many thanks to these fine gentlemen.

As usual, this year's Sig house contains an amazing variety of M.I.T.'s finest. Frank (more about him below) tells us the Brothers are generally smaller than they used to be. We average about 5' 10", but we have two brothers at 6' 4", followed by a couple at 6' 3". If these guys are small, you past actives must have really been a pack of animals.

I am only acquainted with three and a half years of the traditions and spirits of Alpha Theta, but let me run through a few, to see if they strike a familiar note.

1) This year's pledge class is, once again, the best among the fraternities at M.I.T. This statement may sound like a rash generalization in view of the fact that we didn't take them all away from the second-best house, but half of them are out for Freshman sports, several appear headed for leadership positions in campus activities, and we may even have a few top scholars.

2) In keeping with the tradition of "men of different talents, temperaments, and convictions . . .", we have brothers in the top positions in student government, outstanding athletes on a couple of varsity teams, and several first rate scholars. The truly outstanding part about Alpha Theta is that the Chairman of the "Friday afternoon philosophy society" is just as much a brother as the Big Man on Campus.

3) We still have the most beautiful, well-kept house among the fraternities. The plant has begun to show some signs of its age, but the House Manager and his task force (the freshmen) keep the place up pretty well.

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John Bailey Adger, Jr. '66 was selected by a committee of Sigs appointed by Grand Praetor William H. Carlisle AO '28 to be the International Balfour Award nominee of the New England-Nova Scotia Province. In this capacity John duplicates the performance of Jim Piepmeier AO '65. He has been extremely active both in the fraternity and in school activities and a few of his endeavors will be mentioned here.

In his first year at Alpha Theta John worked for the Intercollegiate Conference and the Junior Science Symposium, and even participated in frosh basketball. But as a sophomore John began to concentrate his extracurricular activities into the area of student government, from which he would later rise as a key figure at MIT. In his junior year John headed the Junior Science Symposium and was elected a member of Beaver Key Society, MIT's athletic and activities honorary for juniors.

By his election to the chairmanship of the Student Center Committee John culminated his years in student government, as is indicated by the fact that the chairman of this committee is one of a group of five ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the Institute Committee, the student governing body of MIT. John saw to the integration of the Student Center into the daily life of the Tech student. MIT had never before had a "student center," thus his task was monumental.

Only a partial list of John's school activities has been presented, yet it is significant that during his four undergraduate years John has maintained a lively interest in the house and its organization. He has been on the Scholarship and Executive Committees and held the offices of Social Chairman, Assistant Magister, Tribune, Rush Chairman, and finally Consul of Alpha Theta.

His term as Consul was one of enlightenment and innovation as old ideas and methods were analyzed, and in some cases new ones replaced them to strengthen the organization of Alpha Theta. It was primarily at this time that John's strong character traits became obvious: his enthusiasm, spirit, and the personal interest he shows for every individual makes John Adger our most respected member.

We were all pleased to learn that John Adger AO '66 is the International Balfour Award nominee of the New England-Nova Scotia Province.

by John Adger

I would imagine that every Consul--- past, present, and future---has entered and will enter the office with an idea of what lines of direction he would like to give the Chapter and an overall spirit of guiding principle, by which he could gauge his own direction. The principle I followed was, roughly, a body of young men in a fraternity are different from year to year, and last year's approach is not always the best way to handle the various aspects of running a chapter. Accordingly, the direction I gave was, essentially, "Let's examine our traditions and institutions to see if, in their present form, they are suitable to our purposes of today." We set about this task not in the spirit of change for the sake of change, but with the idea that evolution is natural and healthy. My thoughts were that even if nothing were changed, we would benefit from searching discussion in that the institutions which emerged would be strengthened by thorough understanding and approval by the brotherhood as a whole.

The first institution we went to work on was communication among the brotherhood. The most obvious place to start was with the Chapter Meeting. In the discussions of why we have Chapter Meetings, we found that the real reason we should get together is to discuss the various facets of fraternal experience in terms of Chapter goals and Chapter methods. We knew that our biweekly Chapter Meeting docket was already crowded with business, so we decided to have meetings every week. I think this has worked out quite well, and the reaction to discussion was so favorable we took some extra time in the form of a couple of "Chapter Retreats" to discuss such things as House Organization and Probation Period. Topics for discussion in the near future are to be "Is the term of office of the Consul commensurate with what we expect of him, i.e. what do we expect from the Consul?" and "How much are we our Brother's keeper in the area of, say, scholarship?" Some of these ideas are kicked around in pledge training, but far too often are sorely neglected by the Brotherhood.

Along the lines of communication, we have also instituted what we call a Chapter Calendar. These are put out every two weeks, covering a four-week period. They contain all the dates of Chapter functions, athletic events, etc. and contain space on each date for the Brothers to fill in quizzes, appointments, etc. on their copies. The thought is that the Brothers will plan their time around the events which are already printed on their calendars.

Another program we began thinking about first semester was a much needed revision of the Chapter Bylaws. This project was post-

The new alumni rep has instituted a new policy this year, and is trying hard to breathe some life into an expanded program of alumni communication and participation. An effort is being made to include recent alumni of Alpha Theta who are in the area in activities of the chapter on a week-to-week basis by inviting them in informally for cocktails, dinners, parties, and the like. This has extended our previous policy of a few occasions with formal invitations and the like, although these are also still on the calendar.

Also in line with this policy, we are making an attempt to get alumni who happen to be in the area temporarily (business trips, vacations, enroute...) to stop by and say hi, look over 532, reminisce some, what ever. Let us know a little ahead of time, and eat dinner with the chapter while you're in town. Stop by about 5:00 PM or so on Friday and Saturday, and there is sure to be a cocktail handy. In short, we fear our alumni program has been in sore neglect, and we would like to reopen communication.

As a part of this program, we would like to make the alumni rep a clearinghouse for alumni information. If you have lost track of a classmate, drop us a line and we'll do our best to track him down. (Doesn't somebody still owe you money on an old bet?) As a part of this, we would really appreciate it if you could send back the questionnaire in this sheet. The more interesting ones, we'll print in this column for general consumption. Any added comments, suggestions about THE BEAVER SIG or the alumni program would be more than welcome. Send them along to John Howard, c/o Sigma Chi, 532 Beacon St., Boston. After all, this is the first time I've tried to run an alumni program, and I'm sure some of you have done it before. Thanks.

John Howard

poned until the second term so we could devote our Chapter Meeting time to the pledge-training program, but is now going on under the able guidance of the new Consul--Pro-Consul team.

The above are but a few of the ideas the Chapter has been considering this year. Though some changes have been made, Chapter organization remains essentially as it was, with only minor redefinitions of some offices and institutions. However, I think Chapter organization and purpose have been greatly strengthened through discussion and I believe the tone has been set for continuing re-evaluation. Once again, it is important to note that understanding and confidence are the end objects of these discussions, and a major change is quite rare.

It seems that every Consul enters his office with a whole vista of "great ideas", one-eighth of which are lost in the confusion one-fourth of which are deemed impossible, and one-half of which no one else will agree with. To prevent this, I'm praying... As a junior, I do have one thing to my advantage. Next year there will be at least one person left who not only remembers all of my goals but also whole heartedly agrees with them. With this unanimity I cannot help but have confidence.

#### MY HOPES

I plan to renovate our Chapter By-laws so that they will be more useful as a guide to the Brothers.

After consulting several architects and having the trustees employ one to draw plans for the renovation of our ailing house, we have been informed of the futility of rebuilding and thus must look for other possibilities. With the aid of our trustees and our alumni, I hope to lay sound foundations for this work.

Rising taxes, food and upkeep have increased the financial difficulties of all students in cities such as Boston. We hope to work with other fraternities here to solve this problem.

Pete Bruckmann

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#### ALPHA THETA WINS PETERSON SIGNIFICANT CHAPTER AWARD

At the Grand Chanter in Denver, Alpha Theta was recognized as one of the most outstanding chapters in Sigma Chi for the school year 1963-64 and as a result we received the Dwight Peterson Significant Chapter Award, named for Past Grand Consul and National Interfraternity Conference President J. Dwight Peterson. Xi Chapter, DePauw University; Epsilon Psi Chapter, Sam Houston State College; and Alpha Theta are the first named winners of the award, which is in the form of a handsome wall plaque and official letter of commendation.

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#### RANDOM BITS

Morgan Collins '27 dropped by the house a little while ago to say hello. He is a visiting professor at the Harvard Business School this year while on leave from his permanent home at the Business School of The University of Michigan.

Tom Jones and Bill Tippet, both seniors, have been admitted to the Harvard "B" School and Tom will definitely attend.

This year's class of new brothers contains 12 members of the Class of 1969 and one sophomore. The group possesses a wide range of interests and has been active in both house and MIT activities. Geographically, eleven are from scattered parts of the U.S. while two are from Europe.

Lance Ernest Hansche was the first pledge last fall. Lance hails from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and can usually be found on the athletic field or at Radcliffe. Probably the most active in his class in intramural sports, Lance was tight end on the football team, leading man on the house bowling team, and a versatile member of our championship basketball team. His main scholastic interests are split between solid state physics and computers. Consequently, he hasn't decided yet whether to major in Course VI or Course VIII.

The second member of this year's class is Bruce Richard Donath. Bruce, a resident of White Plains, N.Y., is a hard worker in any job he does, and is presently doing a lot of work as Quaestor. He is a member of the MIT Rocket Club, and also played intramural football, basketball and bowling; although his services in basketball and bowling were somewhat hindered by a cracked elbow received in the last football game. Bruce is also a member of the MIT freshman baseball team. He works as hard at his studies as he does at his other tasks and his work paid off with a fine scholastic record first term. Presently, "Donut" plans to go into Mechanical Engineering.

John Franklin Walters is the third brother in the house from the Cleveland area; he resides in Elyria, Ohio. John was active in student government in high school and is continuing this interest at MIT. He is involved with the Freshman Feedback Program and was recently selected as a member of Secretariat. John also has an interest in cars, and he has brought a couple of fine automobiles to the parking lot of 532 this year. John was also a member of the house intramural basketball team and did a fine job in the backcourt until he sprained his wrist near the end of the season. He is now on the Sigma Chi softball team. John is presently undecided about his major field of study; two areas which he is considering are Industrial Management and Physics.

Dave Berkeley Kiser joins Jack Zeigler as an Alpha Theta Sig from Indianapolis. Dave's interests include piano, philosophy, sports and Wellesley. He rowed freshman crew in the fall and has played intramural football, basketball and softball. During Rush Week, a lot of us felt that Dave would be "the life of the party" and he certainly hasn't let anyone down. His talent extended to drama last fall when he was the co-writer of the finest pledge skit in years. Dave thinks that he will major in either Course XV or XVI, with a special interest in the Undergraduate Systems Program of the Sloan School.

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The fifth member of this year's class is Stanley Byron Limpert, "Lord Byron" for short. Stan is from the surfin' country of La Jolla, California, and can usually be found wandering around the house. If time spent on a project is a measure of interest in that project, then Stan loves building mailboxes. The new mailbox in the hall near Frank's pantry was made by Stan and Dave Kiser. Stan was also a member of Freshman Council first term and has played intramural softball and volleyball. His interests in a career lie between Civil and Mechanical Engineering.

Rolf Brauchler hails from Merrick, N.Y. His interests vary from student government to most sports, including surfing. He played on the freshman soccer team in the fall and has also played intramural basketball and volleyball. He recently was the second member of his class to be selected as a member of Secretariat. He along with Dave Kiser, wrote the pledge skit last fall and his sense of humor was well exhibited in the skit. Rolf is fairly certain about his major field of study; he says he will go into Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The only Sophomore member of this year's class is Edward Arthur Seykota, more affectionately known as 'Mr. Ed'. Ed's home is The Hague, Netherlands. Ed first came into the house last spring and pledged last fall, the seventh member of the pledge class. Of his class, he is the most active in school politics, being on Parents' Weekend Committee and the Student Center Committee. Ed is an accomplished guitarist and also puts in a good deal of his time tutoring children in Roxbury. He started out in Course X, but this term he entered the Sloan School and is presently applying to their systems program. Ed is a very easy-going guy and is easy to talk to about a great variety of topics. Ed also plays squash for the house team. All this and a fine academic record too.

Peter Neil Zacharias lives in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania and joins two of the upperclassmen as a die-hard Yankee fan. Pete's interests lie mainly in sports, but he also plays the clarinet. He played intramural tennis in the fall and is presently out for Freshman Tennis. He also played intramural basketball and softball. After his initiation Pete got right into house government as he was elected as Freshman representative to Executive Committee. Pete works hard on his schoolwork and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Michael Clark Keeley joined us from Mac Holzer's old home town, Normal, Illinois. Mike plays tennis and is an accomplished pianist, composing a great deal of his own music. Like most of the members of his class, he is also active in intramural sports; "Clark" played tennis, volleyball, and table tennis. Mike is also a fine student as his grades were the highest of the new class last

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4) We still have the best cocktail parties at MIT. I don't know how long this tradition has stood, but friends tell us its a privilege to be invited now, even if the trend these days has been to sweatshirt-and-blue-jean social. By the way, if you're concerned with youth's "less soap and more hair" trend, you will be reassured to know that we wear a coat and tie to dinner every night, have no beards, and haven't had a demonstrator yet.

5) Here's the story on Sig intramural sports. Most sports have A, B, and C leagues. We generally have a championship team if we are in a B league for a particular sport. However, when we win a "B" championship, the intramural managers generally put us in the A league competition the next year, where we don't do so good. Luckily, the cycles of "B" up to "A", then back down again, are out of phase for the different sports, so we usually have at least one championship team every year. Two years ago, it was softball and hockey, last year it was football and sailing and this year it looks like basketball and sailing.

6) The Wellesley Serenade still stands as an Alpha Theta tradition and the girls still love it. What I can't understand is why it is done in the last part of October or early November. It's colder every year.

7) Now, a few notes about Frankie. He says there was some guy in the class of '52, '53, or '54 called "Uncle Jake" (?) who still owes him \$2 from a bet on the Yankees---something about a pennant race. He sometimes talks about some guys from Brazil, and loves to tell about a great party he went to with the parents of one of the Brazilian boys.

Before he served dessert on the night of the Christmas party, he whipped downstairs and put on a Santa Claus suit. He climbed out of the pantry window onto the fire escape then from the fire escape through the dining room window. The whole act was really priceless!

The Class of '65 gave him a new serving tux last year. It really makes him look sharp! (Incidentally '65, Casson is threatening to stop service to anyone from 532 Beacon St. until you guys finish paying for that tux.)

More notes from 532 in the next issue...

John Adger

term. He hasn't yet made a decision about his major field; in the lead are Math and Physics.

One thing different about the Class of '69 is the lack of Southern boys. One of the Rebels is Robert Arthur Swanson, nicknamed Chip. According to Chip, his main interest outside the house and school is girls. Being from Miami, Florida, Bob likes to swim, and as a result was on the Sigma Chi championship

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If good fences make good neighbors, the Alpha Theta Sigs need a fence! At present, the powers that be don't like us at all. The Back Bay has evolved a long and tiresome list of discriminatory legislation, aimed at defining fraternities as boarding houses. Considerable expense was required to bring the chapter house "up to the code," but the improvements are not ridiculous. There is now a workable all-house fire alarm system (with an ugly red box outside the dining room), and handrails on both sides of the front stairs. And although there is little fear of fire in the house, the front and back doors have been rehung to swing outward, thus preventing a repeat of the Chicago school fire which prompted major revisions in fire egress designs all over the country.

In compliance with a law that says there must be sixty square feet of floor space for each occupant of a sleeping room, we had to make two triple bunks to replace three double bunks on the fourth floor. The total number of 532 residents hasn't changed, but it has been rearranged. We weren't hit hard by the sixty square foot minimum, but the fraternities who were sleeping dormitory style (all on one floor) were forced to make drastic changes.

Most important of the housing legislation is that which affects our future. With forty-two brothers and only room for thirty-two, we feel the need for expansion. By making it illegal to expand 532, to buy an annex, or even to move to another part of the Back Bay, the discrimination is serving its purpose. Either we suffer a loss in Brotherhood because we are in apartments scattered all over; or else, to house all the brothers we must move. Since our present house is old and renovation and expansion is impossible, we are contemplating a move, to a bigger house so we can once again all live under the same roof.

Ken Morse, the worthy House Manager

The Alpha Theta Chapter held a dinner on Sunday, November 21, 1965, for several members of the Back Bay community. Among them were State Senator Oliver Ames; past State Senator William Otis; Lawrence Perera, a Back Bay attorney; Daniel Ahern, the chief consultant of the Back Bay Planning and Development Association; and the President of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, Mr. Charles Howard. Other guests included MIT's Dean of Residence Frederick Fasset; William Carlisle, Jr.; and Alpha Theta's Chapter Advisor, Eugene Chamberlain. The wives who were present helped to keep things warm and light.

The reason for our added interest in the Back Bay community is that its residents are becoming interested in us. The heavy influx of students in recent years has presented the Neighborhood Association with many problems. The Back Bay Redevelopment Authority has been founded to investigate such problems as the rising number of low quality boarding houses and the increase in traffic noise.

Our problem is their tendency to associate Alpha Theta and other MIT fraternities with the more unruly students, who are principally from Boston University. (The B.U. student population has risen from 5000 to 27,000 in recent years.)

Alpha Theta thought it prudent to invite these influential members of the community into the house in order to establish communication at a more personal level. By so doing, we wanted to demonstrate to them that we are actually respectable and responsible citizens worthy of living in their community.

The results of our reception were excellent. The Neighborhood Association and the Alpha Theta Chapter are working closely together towards a meaningful solution to the problem. Our action is mainly motivated by Alpha Theta's strong desire to remain in the Back Bay. Nevertheless, our enthusiasm will be tempered by discretion.

Lock Kuhn, ex-Housing Officer

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Sailing Team. Bob's cheerfulness never seems to leave him, and his presence is always noticed by his pleasant disposition. Bob is a rare man at M.I.T.; he plans to major in Chemistry.

The Sigma Chi representative from Falls City, Nebraska, is Thomas William James. Tom is one of the hardest workers in the class, both in his schoolwork and in any job that he has to do. He played football in high school, but a knee injury kept him from playing for the house team. However, this didn't keep him from being an enthusiastic supporter

of the football team, as well as a spectator at most of the basketball games. Tom played for the house in both volleyball and badminton. His other interests include tennis, golf, music (he plays the tuba), and Radio Club. He had a fine term scholastically and will probably major in Electrical Engineering.

The other Southern boy is James Hampton Black, Jr. Jim is from Mint Hill, N. C., maintaining the tradition of at least one North Carolina boy in each class. Jim ran in-

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tramural cross-country, finishing fourth in a field of almost two hundred, and played volleyball. Jim is also an inter-collegiate athlete; he ran Frosh track and is presently in the first boat of the freshman heavyweight crew. Jim's sense of humor keeps most of us in suspense as we wonder what he will say next, and his roommates say that there isn't a person with more consideration for others. Jim studies hard but isn't sure of his major field.

The thirteenth new brother, Ingo Winzer, is from Switzerland. Ingo's interests are Bob Dylan and Bill Cosby records; in fact, he can imitate Cosby pretty well. He was the star on the house ice hockey team and is presently Chapter Kustos. He is a member of the R.O.T. C. Rifle Team and is in the first boat of the freshman lightweight crew. Ingo is also a very hard worker and he is in Architecture, a course requiring a great deal of effort.

Ron Norelli, the friendly Magister

## ALUMNI INFO SHEET

NAME

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION (or pastime, if you prefer)

MESSAGES FOR CLASSMATES, DEBTS OWED, ETC.

(like who got married first)

NUMBER OF FUTURE SIGS OR SIGMAS

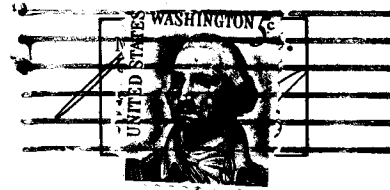
# Sigma Chi

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

532 BEACON STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215



*Mr. Ingo Winzer  
Vella Florimont  
Grandvaux, Vaud  
Switzerland*