

THE SIGMAN

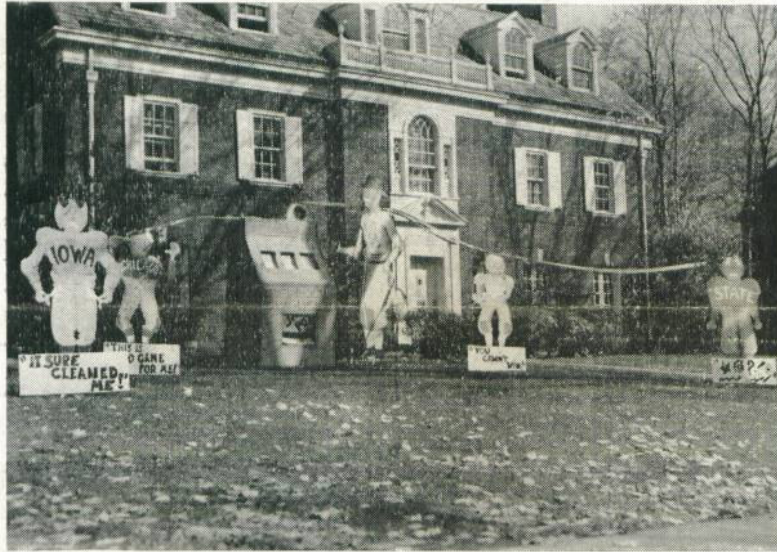
University of Michigan Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha

VOL. X

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER, 1939

No. 2

Sigma's Exhibit Wins Homecoming Honors



Pledge Formal Highlights Fall Social Season

Caricatures of Pledges Feature Decorations

At some time between nine and twelve on the evening of Saturday, December 9, the annual Lambda Chi Pledge Formal zoomed to its zenith. The exact moment at which this took place is difficult to ascertain, because the entire affair was thrill, chill, and spill-packed. If you were not at the Formal, there follows a description of what would have befallen you were you there:

Upon entering through a streamer curtain of black, white and silver, your gaze was immediately attracted to the decorations in the two ball-rooms. Black, white and silver streamers, closely spaced, were strung across the ceiling, and a novel attraction was the cartoons of each pledge, drawn by Damon Woods. These drawings were spread out along the walls of the two rooms, each set off by a facade of the afore-mentioned colors. "Sweet Swing by Saltz" was the order of the day for those dancing, as Claire Saltz and his

Pepper Shakers titillated your Terpsichorean taste.

After a while, whirling, the feet became fatigued, and you decided to retire to the "Blue Room" for a little "rest". Down in the pit of your stomach a little voice began to vociferate, "Where's the food? We want to eat." You looked around, but could only espie a five-gallon tank of ginger-ale, so you told the little voice to "forget it." You and your lucky woman then mounted to the first floor where another surprise awaited you.

Life here had reached a dead stop, for the floor was bare with not a soul in sight. Being a true Lambda Chi you decided to investigate, and were justly rewarded for your trouble by the discovery of a refreshment bar on the second floor. You secured \$500 in stage-money from the cashier and then purchased two \$50 cokes and a couple \$150 sundaes. The little voice inside of you purred its thanks.

Clever Slot Machine Causes Traffic Jam; Miss America Presents Cup

As promised in the October "Sigman," Sigma Zeta had something new and different in the way of homecoming decorations to amuse the alumni who found it possible to return for the Yale homecoming game this year. As a result, Lambda Chi Chapter won the first cup offered on the Michigan Campus this year by taking first prize in this keen competition between the forty fraternities.

The exhibit consisted of Fritz Crisler in football togs playing a "Championship Slot-Machine." The machine was intricately mechanized so that as Crisler pulled down the lever three footballs appeared and lighted up on the dials, a bell rang, and a "Jack-Pot" spilled out. Crisler held a Yale shirt in his hand showing that the Yale player had "lost his shirt" at the game. A Michigan State player, a Chicago player, and an Iowa player standing by seemed also to have lost at the game.

The display seemed to be a near sensation as a continual traffic jam prevailed in front of the house all day, and there was a lot of jubilation when it was announced that Lambda Chi had won and that Patricia Donnelly, "Miss America of 1939," would present the cup to President William Hope at the chapter house after the game.

No one was happier than the committee members who worked practically night and day for over a week to get the decorations in order. Jack Strait was General Chairman; Damon Woods, Art Chairman aided by Jack Rupert, Joe Gwinn, and Aubrey Roberts; Ronald Hardy, Mechanical Chairman aided by Ken Field, Glidden Doman, and Bill Hope.

Damon Woods' cartoon artistry was outstanding, and at the same time the mechanical works which could be seen only from behind, were truly a show in themselves.

All too soon the two hands of the faithful old Big Ben pointed to twelve and you knew that it was over—What an evening!

THE SIGMAN

The official publication of Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha at the University of Michigan issued quarterly for its alumni, friends and sister Zetas.

Aubrey C. Roberts.....Editor

OFFICERS

- High Alpha.....William Hope
High Beta.....Charles Keck
High Gamma.....Don Ryker
High Tau.....Lawrence Handren
High Phi.....Jack Strait
High Epsilon.....Robert Prasil
High Pi.....Prof. Ormondroyd

On Scholarship

A new and promising spirit has taken the brethren this year. They have decided to do something about their ability to pull down a few good grades. And to make it "legal," each man has put fifty cents on the line to prove that his team of nine men can raise its average more than the other three teams.

Lambda Chi's Honored On Campus

Members of Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi are active in various fields on the Michigan Campus as shown by the honors bestowed upon four of them.

Richard Humphreys was elected into Druids, a Senior Literary Honorary Society. Membership in this society is based upon activities, scholarship, and personality.

Don Ryker became a member of the Scabbard and Blade, the Honorary Military Society on the campus. Membership in this society is based upon ability and interest in R.O.T.C.

Charles Newman became a member of Quarterdeck, the traditional and honorary society for Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

Harry Kohl was elected into Triangles, the Junior Engineering Honorary Society membership of which is based upon extra curricula Activities.

H. A.'s Letter

Dear Alumni,

From time to time, since I have been a Lambda Chi, I have heard many alumni say that the thrills and rewards of college fraternity membership end when they graduate and leave the campus. I am now a senior and will be leaving the university in June, therefore I have given these statements considerable thought, for I do not wish to break away from Lambda Chi Alpha completely.

I first considered why we enjoy our fraternity membership as undergraduates: We enjoy the close association with a select group of our fellow students; we feel pride in the accomplishments of the chapter, because we contribute time, labor, money and thought toward them. As undergraduate we think of the fraternity as an integral part of us; when it is flourishing

From All The Actives
To All The Alumni
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year

we are proud, and when it lags we work to improve it. Then there are our experiences: Drinking with Bud, Stinky, Al, and Shorty; stealing Larry's girl; cleaning house on the Phi Gam's; boosting Chi O's through the side window after hours; rare old bull-sessions; and a host of other things. It is fun to think how we worked and worried our fool heads off in order to get the fraternity a good pledge class, or an intramural cup, or new furniture, or to get Tommy through Chem. 5.

Yes, I'll admit that a lot of things must end when we get our sheepskins, but not everything. And besides, there are some new phases of fraternity membership which appear.

As an alumnus one can still remain a part of the chapter and contribute to its welfare. One can keep or regain the grand feeling he had when he was undergraduate member. One can still feel proud when his fraternity flourishes and be spurred to action when it lags.

You can contribute time, experience, and money. You can help the chapter rush; help it to manage

its finances; give advise to undergraduates as individuals and as a group; aid newly graduated members in finding jobs. And you can still enjoy close friendship with your fellow Lambda Chi's if you will work one-tenth as hard to find them now as you did to pledge them. It should be no trick at all to get the old bunch together again for some more good times—it should be something like rolling a snowball downhill: you have to bend over a little at first, but after you get it started it grows by its own momentum.

The weakest part of our great fraternity is its alumni organization. If you can join or start alumni groups in your city you will be strengthening your fraternity and at the same time enjoying once again its membership. Lambda Chi ranks fourth in size among fraternities, but its alumni organization ranks about fifteenth. Why shouldn't Sigma Zeta lead the way in organizing its alumni?

The chapter thanks you for making the new "Sigman" possible. Your contributions make it your paper. I hope you are proud of it and will continue to support it.

Yours in Z A X,
William D. Hope, H. A.

Sigma No. 289
Has Turned Pro!

To the fellows that graduated around 1937, he was known as "Chuck." To those who have only been able to meet him through the daily sports pages he is Charles Kocsis of the notable Michigan family that lives and thrives on the golf course.

Yes, Chuck has at last taken the step he has contemplated for so long, and as he says, "It's about time." The action will be official when he takes to the links with a number of the nation's leading pros in the Miami Open late this month. This is one of the more important winter tournaments and will really give the lad an opening test. Chuck plans to enter all of the important tourneys this winter.

Kocsis had apparently given up the idea of turning professional when he left the links in favor of a job with an automobile concern in 1938. Hence it came as somewhat of a surprise to remote friends when he suddenly announced that he was forsaking this position and "staking his future on

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That's Right, No Bull In The Chapter Room

—Humphreys



Then Hope said: "Get this guy, nail him. I don't care how you do it. We got to pledge this guy. Tell him anything but pledge him tonight."

So MacLoud said he would.

When the guy came in the door that evening MacLoud grabbed him by the arm and circled him into the living room and dropped him in a red leather chair and practically sat on his lap to hold him there. Before the fellow could speak MacLoud began to comb the guy's hair and straighten his tie saying: "Great place we got here. Great place. Just take a look around. Greatest fraternity house in the country. I'm sure you've heard of it. Have you heard of it?"

The fellow thought a minute. Then he said: "slightly."

MacLoud jumped up and dragged the guy with him and seized him by the lapels and jerked him close and whispered: "you mean to say you've only heard of our house slightly! Haven't you heard about our chapter room?"

The guy picked up the coat lapel that MacLoud had ripped off and put it in his pocket wistfully and shook his head.

MacLoud clapped his hand to his head in despair. "Listen," he said, "I'll let you in on something. We got a counterfeiting machine in the chapter room. No bull."

"No bull?"

"That's right. No bull. We tell folks we got a bull in there just to throw them off the track. It really is a money-making machine.

We all make our own money here. If you pledge us you can make all the money you want in your spare time."

"Gee. No bull, eh?"

"That's right. And we got a distillery in the furnace room. Now I'd show you the chapter room and the furnace room but only members and pledges can go in these places. Now if you were a pledge."

The guy was suddenly becoming very interested. "What else you got?"

"Hell. We got everything. What do you want?"

The fellow opened his mouth to say what else he might want but MacLoud shouted with glee: "Yeh, we got that too!"

"Gee." the guy said.

"See all these rooms?" MacLoud motioned violently with his hands in all directions.

"Yeh."

"You just think you do, man. These rooms are really five times as big. You just think they're smaller. It's an illusion of ours we do with mirrors." MacLoud leaned over and whispered, "We do it with mirrors." MacLoud winked. "Have to keep within University regulations." MacLoud laughed like Hell.

"Just laugh at University rules, eh?"

"You said it." MacLoud laughed again. Then he took the fellow out where the banisters were. "See those banisters?"

"Yeh."

"They're gold. Solid gold. They just look like wood. See how easy I can cut them with this knife? Still looks like wood doesn't it. Marvelous job. Marvelous imitation of wood. Just put these slivers in your pocket and melt down when you get home. And oh yes, here's a pledge pin. You can put it on now." MacLoud held the pin out.

The guy pulled back his fist and said: "I'm afraid you got me wrong, pal. I'm no rushee. I'm the traveling secretary!"

U. of M. cagers got under way with a very fine showing against our traditional rival, Michigan State, last Saturday.

SIGMATHLETICS

The Intramural standing of Lambda Chi Alpha is now at its rosy heights. After getting rather a tough-luck start in speedball, we are rapidly climbing upward. At the present time, our volleyball team, led by "Tree-top" Neff, is ready to enter the championship play-offs, having annexed six wins and no losses to take the League Championship. As Lambda Chi has two legs on the volleyball trophy, it need only to come through with the top honors this year to make that traveling trophy stay above our fireplace permanently.

In a recent swimming meet, several natatorial stars were uncovered; namely, our new pledge, Herb Howerth, and the new transfer from University of Toronto, Ron Hardy. Jack Strait, last year's intramural manager, still looked good and can be counted on for some points in the swimming meet.

Harry Kohl, who has just been relieved from varsity football duties, has now joined the ranks of the house athletes, and will be a valuable asset to the intramural teams of the future.

'Stretch' Nelson, all-campus center last year, has already promised a good showing in basketball. Roger Bradley, who has made the all-campus team two years in a row, ineligible to play this year because he has his sheepskin, will be the coach.

Altogether, the athletic situation is looking brighter as each sport comes along.

NEW INITIATES

Sigma Zeta is happy to announce the initiation of two very fine boys. Harry Kohl, Sigma No. 350, is a junior engineer from Dayton, Ohio. Harry is quite an athlete. He was Michigan's number two quarterback this season, and for the past two years has been the all-campus tennis champion. As a pledge he has been a valuable asset to Lambda Chi in sports, especially tennis and basketball.

Vincent Gottschalk, Sigma No. 351, is also a junior engineer, but from Pontiac, Michigan. Vince is a good-looking boy always in the midst of Ann Arbor's social whirl.

University News

A few lines to get you alums up to date on the happenings on our thriving campus.

This year the Union Opera is being revived. This year the play will be, as usual, a comedy on campus life. It is entitled "Four Out of Five." The play was written by Max Hodge, last year's editor of the Gargoyle, and the cast will include Tom Harmon and Jack Meyer, both of Michigan football fame. This traditional production of Mimes started in 1918. Since then, at least one play was produced a year until 1936 when they were discontinued. Many of the plays offered have toured the United States, even playing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Funds derived from these plays helped materially in building the Michigan Union. Dick Humphries, president of Mimes and a member of our chapter, had a great deal to do with the revival of the Opera, one of Michigan's best-known traditions, and from all indications at present, this opera will live up to the standards set in past years.

* * *

You have, of course, heard how the highly touted Michigan eleven bogged down in the middle of the season and lost out in the Big Ten championship race, but the season was not nearly as bad as it seems on paper. We won six out of the eight games we played; we scored more points than any other team in the Big Ten; and we had the leading scorer in the country—Tom Harmon—on the squad. Further, we beat the Big Ten champions, Ohio State, and also Iowa, the runner-up.

* * *

As usual, the Choral Union and the Michigan Oratorical Society have been treating us to the finest of professional talent. Cornelia Otis Skinner was here recently, and the New York Symphony Orchestra is scheduled to play here soon.

* * *

The architects and builders have had their heads together since many of you were here last. The net results are several fine new buildings. The Rackham Graduate Building which was completed a year ago, the Medical School Dorms were just completed this fall, and a new Dental Building and a new

News Of Interest To Alumni

1917:

L. E. ECKER is working with the Mack International Truck Co. in Detroit, Michigan. He has a son Richard, sixteen years old.

1919:

GLENN HOLCOMB is a Professor of Civil Engineering with the Oregon State College Department of Civil Engineering. He has a daughter sixteen and a son ten. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Elks, the latter of which he is Past Exalted Ruler. At present he is High Pi for Alpha Lambda Zeta, and president of their holding corporation.

1920:

CHARLES STETLER and his wife have been to most of Michigan's home football games this year at which times they never fail to visit the chapter house. Stetler is with the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation in Jackson, Michigan.

1923:

R. S. REED is Vice-President of the Kimble Electric Co. in Chicago, Illinois. He has a son six years old.

SMITH C. CHILDS is Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the William H. Coleman Co. in Jackson, Tenn. He married a Tennessee girl in 1926 and has two children, Mary Grace age 10½ and Josephine age 8½. He writes, "Some of the older brothers may remember Jake Hawkins who was in school at Ann Arbor for one year, joined with us and then transferred to Tulane where he graduated in medicine. He is now in Searcy, Arkansas, and I understand has a very nice practice there."

1925:

CLIFFORD PRATT announces the birth of a daughter, Jean, on October 19, 1939.

Health Service are nearing completion. New men and women dorms have been and still are being built throughout Ann Arbor.

* * *

The hockey team opened its season December 2nd by playing London, Ontario, and although they lost by a score of 3 to 1, they played well and showed potentialities of ruling the Big Ten ice this season.

1927:

LEONARD A. KELLER announces the birth of Timothy Williams Keller, 9 pounds, 5 ounces, on September 6, 1939.

1929:

CLAIRE WEBER is Manager of the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company in Cleveland, Ohio.

1931:

C. O. MARSHALL, JR., is with Marshall and Marshall, Patent and Trade Mark Law in Toledo, Ohio. He has a son Buddy age two.

1936:

DOUG STANLEY is with the Frigidaire Company in Dayton, O.

1937:

CHARLES PARKER was married this August. He is Personnel Administrator with the Michigan Civil Service Department in Lansing, Michigan. He said, "Come up and see us sometime. We have two extra beds."

1939:

CHARLES (SHORTY) WOLF is an Electrical Engineer with the Potomac Edison Company in Hagerstown, Md. "Congratulations to the newly married brothers."

RICHARD KNOWE is with the Oxweld Acetylene Company of the Union Carbide & Carbon Corporation in South Orange, New Jersey. He writes, "Say hello to all the fellows for me, and the new pledge class."

SIGMA, NO. 289, HAS TURNED PRO!

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his ability to sink putts," particularly since he had not played since last April.

Chuck's action will not juggle the amateur ratings in the state, however, since he dropped from these when he took the automobile position last year.

Nearly everyone is familiar with Chuck Kocsis' rise to the heights, first on the university golf team as one of the top golfers in the Big Ten and then later as one of the top amateurs in the state and nation, which was climaxed finally by his selection as the youngest member of America's Ryder Cup Team. Now that he is faced with greater competition for greater achievements, I know that fellows of Sigma Zeta and Lambda Chi's everywhere say,

"Good Luck, Brother Kocsis!"