



# THE SIGMAN

## SIGMA FAIRS WELL IN SPRING RUSH



New Pledges: Back Row (l to r) Bill Patrick, Len Cercone, Chris Wines, Jim Nette, Herb Harper. 2nd Row: Stan Kley, Glen Berthet, Fred Buhler,

Bill Scovel. Front Row: Bob Scarff, Roger Preisnik, Mike Fast and Ted Theodore. Not Pictured: Bill Knotts, Doug Abbott, Steve Gordon.

### NEW PLEDGE TRAINING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

If my memory serves me correctly, it was around the end of February that Ervin Brown, then the newest traveling secretary of Lambda Chi, came to pay us an "official visit." It didn't take him long to gain our confidence. His sincere attitude and honest interest in our welfare soon led us to believe that the national had chosen wisely when they added Ervin to their staff.

As is the custom with traveling secretaries he stayed up half the night, slept until noon, and presented his changes for the house at the close of our regular house meeting.

I don't think I'll ever forget that little speech of his. Well, possibly I'll be able to forget it (with some repression), but I'll never be able to forget the reaction of the brothers to his first proposal. "Fellows," he said, "I'd like to have you hire a house mother." Well now, as "old dads" of Sigma you know how that hit the brothers. I thought a few of the boys were going to escort him up to showers without a second thought. But Ervin raised his hands for silence; he had another proposal. He thought our pledge training program needed changing. As you can imagine, his second proposal didn't meet with a much better reception than his first one.

Well, after a brief emergency huddle, we decided it would be best to adopt at least one of his proposals. It goes without saying which one we chose to follow.

Once the brothers started to organize a new pledge program we decided that it really was a good suggestion. Our program needed revision.

One of the first things we decided to change was the pledge discipline. Instead of our present "happy hours" we substituted extra work sessions. (This has worked out surprisingly well, and the physical condition of the house hasn't suffered any from it either.)

We've returned to the old demerit system too. Special executive committee action is taken when one of the men seems to be collecting demerits with excessive frequency.

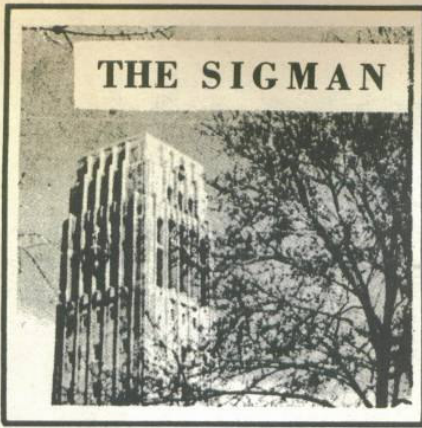
The policy of having each pledge live in the house for a week has also been slightly changed. Now they live in from Friday to Monday. The fellows seem to like this arrangement better. To make up for the other days, all the pledges eat supper with us Monday nights.

Now I don't want to leave you with the idea that all of pledging is a joy. Emma, who sees to it that we don't run over our budget, gets three square meals a day, finish all our spinach and drink our milk, still has plenty of "good ol' brownie mix at her finger tips"!

At the present time it looks as if the traveling secretaries really do know what's best for the chapter. But, between you and me, I hope we never get the opportunity to see if Ervin was right on his first proposal.

### SEVENTEEN MEN ATTAIN PLEDGESHIP

Spring Rush, aided by beautiful weather and good deal of spirit among the brothers, netted Sigma a total of 17 pledges. The highlight of the rushing program was our Saturday party including such activities as bowling, jam sessions, group singing, and even a good deal of entertainment provided by the rushees themselves. On the pledge roster we find STEVE GORDON '62 LCA, a freshman in Lit. school honors. Steve hails from Coldwater, Michigan, is interested in Pre-Med and plans on majoring in either Zoology or English. Past activities include, president of International Relations Club, chairman of his quad's homecoming display, and inter-house sports. Next we find MIKE FAST '62, BAD, another freshman in Pre-Bus from Jonesville, Michigan. Mike is interested in sports of all types with experience gained in high school where he received 12 letters. He finds student government interesting and plans on going into insurance after graduation. Following is CHRIS WINES '61, ENG, a sophomore in engineering from Baltimore Maryland. Chris is a transfer from Lehigh University where he studied engineering and played lacrosse. Music, scholarship, and social activities round our Chris' interests. Next is JIM NETTE '62, ENG, a freshman in Civil Engineering from Detroit, Michigan. Jim's main interests lie in the fields of music, sports, and social activities. Past experience comes from being social chairman of his residence hall, and past activities in high school. Following is BILL SCOVILL '62, LSA, a freshman pre-Med student from Ypsilanti, Michigan. High school activities include varsity football and swimming with further participation in the band. In the latter two, Bill was captain and president, respectively. Next we have LEN CERCONE, '62 LSA, a freshman in Lit. school from Detroit, Michigan. In high school he ran cross-country and track and was All-City in both. He was captain of the track team and took first place in the City meet. Here at the University Len is running



## THE SIGMAN

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

EDITOR BILL WATSON

Alumni news will be gratefully accepted. Address all communications to THE SIGMAN, 1601 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

If you have any little tid-bits regarding past traditions and activities in the house, we would be very interested in your sending them to us for our scrapbook, which is being enlarged. Pictures would also be appreciated. Send any such information to the Sigman Editor.

CONTRIBUTORS: Hal Bay, Jim Farina, Rich Johnston, Bill Mitchell, Brian Hotchkiss, and Denny Shermeta.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

If you are going to have a change in your address, please drop a post card to: Sigman Editor, 1601 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, Michigan, at your earliest convenience. This applies especially to the men who are now serving in the armed forces, let us know where you are. Thanks.

### SPRING INITIATION

Richard Swager	'62 LSA
James Tanner	'60 BAD
John Winter	'61 LSA
Joseph Vojir	'61 LSA
David Matzen	'62 LSA
Donald Brown	Grad.

## HIGH ALPHA SPEAKS

The Spring semester of 1959 is well under way, and the new officers of Sigma are working hard to achieve the goals and ideals for which Lambda Chi Alpha stands. One of our main concerns is with our brotherhood and the fraternalism upon which we are founded. We, as officers, feel that brotherhood is the factor which binds and motivates us to the internal and external success we desire. By attempting to provide a strong, enthusiastic leadership, we hope to lead Sigma into the brotherhood it has maintained in the past.

At long last the "sweat session" days are gone from Sigma. After an excellent fall rush which got us 17 top notch pledges, the brothers decided that we could build a much stronger fraternity through a constructive pledge-training program. One of the main ideals of Lambda Chi is to build men, not to tear them down. We feel that "hell weeks," etc., do not accomplish this goal, and that the best way to gain respect is to deserve it. This pushes pledging up to a higher plane than it enjoyed back in the "good old days." Pledging is deserving of this plane, however, if we are to build mature fraternity men.

Here at the University of Michigan, scholarship is becoming more and more important. Last spring, Sigma took a nose-dive on grades and placed 38th out of the 42 fraternities on campus. The needed motivation evolved, and we jumped to 16th last fall. Our vice-president, Bill Mitchell, and his scholarship committee are working hard to see that the average is increased even higher this semester, but this, of course, is the hard work of each member.

Founder's Day was quite a success this year, but we want more of you alums to come back anytime throughout the year. The house definitely profits from the advice and the mature judgments which you have to offer. Besides the value we derive from your visits, we simply enjoy seeing you and hearing how you're doing. Be sure to plan on coming back to 1601 Washington next fall for our Homecoming celebration. We hope to make this the biggest and best Homecoming ever.

In activities, Sigma remains consistently high on campus. May 11th is the high night of the I.F.C. Sing, and we hope to end up on top this year. Any of you alums who could make it, to lend cheering support, would be greatly appreciated. We are also doing well in our athletic program and intend to end up high in I.M. sports.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow officers, brothers, and alums for the help and co-operation I've received so far.

Hal Bay-High Alpha

## LCA'S RIDING HIGH IN I.M. SPORTS



Lambda Chi, Bill Watson, winning 60 yard dash in I.M. track meet.

Intra-mural athletics in the halls of Lambda Chi this year are not being emphasized quite as much as scholarship and activities, but the men of purple, however, have managed to maintain a fourth place rank among the fraternities up to date. This gives us a rather bright outlook for we have always been very strong in spring sports. In fact, we moved all the way from fourth to second place on our spring strength last year.

Recent results posted by Sigma are as follows: A close third place in the Indoor Track Meet, behind the Phi Delts and the SAE's, on the fine showing of Brother Bill Watson, who captured a first in the 60 yard dash, tying the I.M. record set by Tom Harmon in 1938. Stan Fuller, Doug Roderick, Dick Hansen and Jim Tanner were the other point men. Sigma also placed second to the Sig Eps in the Fraternity Relays. The paddle-ball team has now advanced to the semi-finals, with hopes of winning the championship.

Tennis, golf, and horseshoes will all be especially strong sports for us this spring. The golf team consisting of two members of last year's Freshman Varsity Squad and three other excellent men is very optimistic in looking towards the trophy. Tennis should be bolstered with the addition of two excellent freshmen, both capable of playing tennis for the freshman squad. In horseshoes, Brother George Volis will attempt to overcome his psychological barrier, and bring home that Golden Horseshoe (Campus Championship). Lambda Chi has always been strong in softball too, so as you see, things are looking quite bright as far as I.M. sports are concerned. Let us hope that we will have continued success, and enjoyment through U. of M.'s excellent intra-Mural program.

by Denny Shermeta,  
Athletic Manager

### POSPECTIVE LCA'S?

ALUMS! If you know of any good prospects for Lambda Chi who are coming to the University, or are already here, write a letter to Rich Johnson, our Rushing Chairman. This is an excellent way of picking up good men!

## WHAT ARE THE ALUMS DOING?

Perry J. Lockwood...

Perry Lockwood, known to all of us as Sigma 1 is now partly retired in Fort Meyers, Florida after practicing dentistry in Detroit for 37 years. At the present time Perry is the president of the SPEBSQSA, Inc., Fort Meyers Chapter. (Let's see if you can guess what SPEBSQSA stands for.)

Ray B. Watters...

Ray Watters, Sigma 6, is now residing in Akron, Ohio where he is very active in local government. Ray has served as County Prosecutor, and is now a Municipal Judge in the Common Pleas Court, as he has been since 1937. Ray is a former High Alpha. He has a son Ray, Jr., who is associated with the Quaker Oats Co.

Samuel T. Page...

Sam Page of Plymouth, N. H., Sigma 60, is now in his own words a "lazy loafer." But we don't feel that this is true because he is operating his own Winter Sports project—namely a 950 foot ski-tow and a lodge with a capacity of 48 people. Sam was remarried in 1950.

## NEW OFFICERS LEAD SIGMA

With the January elections, Sigma Zeta has selected a group of officers that are outstanding as far as capability and ambition are concerned. The new officers are striving to maintain a close brotherhood internally, and a top horse on campus as far as activities and reputation are concerned.

The office of High Alpha has been bestowed upon Hal Bay, Hal, who is from Grosse Pointe, has served the chapter very well as Social Chairman for three semesters. He is a Psychology major taking many journalism courses on the side.

Bill Mitchell, last years Sigman Editor is the new High Beta. A junior in Chemical Engineering, Bill, a native of Detroit, is very interested in maintaining the function of the Scholarship, Public Relations, and By-Laws committees, and keeping them at the same high standards set by last years Veep, Dick Thompson.

The new High Tau is Jerry Montry from Carlton, Michigan. Jerry is a junior in Bus. Ad. School, which qualifies him very well for the job of Treasurer. Jerry was very active on campus last year, being associated with the Michigan Daily's business staff, and Block M, operated by the Wolverine Club.

Bill Schepers, who hails from Grand Rapids, is High Gamma for the coming year. Bill is known to all around the house for his handiwork

Allen D. McCombs...

Allen, Class of 1935, is now residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which he is a branch manager to a company. Allen and his wife Amy have two boys, Michael and James who have been active in school. Mike and Mrs. McCombs visited the house last fall and we neglected to mention it in the last Sigman. Allen is a former neighbor of one of our present actives John Gregg.

Dave Heidrich...

Most of the fellows around the house now remember Dave, Sigma 760. Dave is at present an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and is stationed on a carrier, the "Bonnie Dick." Dave was married last August to Mary Ann McCormick, who is now living in Oakland California.

Lawrence W. Hester...

Larry, Sigma 533 is now assistant Personnel Director of the Michigan Carton Co. in Battle Creek. He is also a violinist in the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra. Larry and his wife, Silver have two children, Carol Ann, 7, and Mark Evan, born on March 5th, 1958.

along the carpentry line. Bill is also in Bus. Ad. and is a junior.

The office of Rushing Chairman is being filled by Rich Johnson, who incidentally did a terrific job during Spring Rush, which he handled. Rich is from Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is a Sophomore. He wants to pick up some good men during open rush.

Jim Farina, also a sophomore, and a Pre-Med student is our new pledge trainer. He is starting a new type of pledge training program, which he tells you about in this issue. Jim is from New Buffalo, Michigan.

High Epsilon for the ensuing year is Chuck Busch, Berkley, Michigan. Chuck is now a sophomore in Engineering School after transferring out of Lit. School. Chuck has many good ideas for social functions this year.

Last, but certainly not least of our elected officers is our High Phi, John Braidwood, a junior in forestry school. In John's hands, will be the important job of seeing that our Ritual is executed properly.

The newly appointed officers are as follows: Jim Miller, House Manager, Brian Holzhkiss, Steward (Brian is replacing Mike Foy, who is unable to remain in office), Bill Warnock, Cross and Crescent Representative, Denny Shermata, Athletic Manager, Dan Terry, Librarian, Doug Gadowski, Historian, Frank Grantto, Dog Trainer and Bill Watson, Sigman Editor.

## SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Rich Johnston and Dave Carpenter and their dates enjoying themselves in the T.V. room, which has new furniture.

The social season for Spring semester at the LCA house got off to a swinging start with a Dixieland Party. A Dixieland Band provided the music, and although everyone was exhausted afterwards, a good time was had by all.

Chuck Busch, our social chairman, came up with a novel idea, as social chairmen usually do. This was to have a party with a theme following the "Milky the Clown" television show from Detroit. The brothers and their dates dressed up as little kids, and played little children's games. This sounds silly, but everyone there had a tremendous time.

It was decided that our pledges should have a better chance to get acquainted with some of the sorority pledges, so the Delta Gamma pledges and the Lambda Chi pledges had a joint work session. Afterwards the DG pledges and some of the actives had lunch here at the Lambda Chi house. All wasn't work though, for the DG's stole some of the actives paddles, and the brothers in return kidnapped "Hannah," the Delta Gamma's mascot.

All of the brothers are looking eagerly to Pledge Formal which will as usual be the highlight of the semester.

With this well rounded social program, the brothers have a chance to relax and have fun, and escape the tensions of university life, temporarily anyway.

## MYSTERY SOLVED

Some light has finally been shed on the mystery of the battered old airplane propeller that has been lying around the LCA house for many years.

Due to our inquiry in the last Sigman, we received two letters informing us that the propeller was given to the house by K. E. (Tuffy) Porter, one of the earliest members of Sigma Zeta. Ken Porter was in the Air Corps during the first World War and reportedly was an ace in the old Lafayette Escadrille, at the same time as Eddie Rickenbacker was gaining his fame as an ace pilot. Ken donated the propeller to Lambda Chi when it was located at 1511 Washtenaw, next door to the Chi Omega Sorority house. Whether the prop was a trophy from one of his victories, is not definitely known.

Our thanks to Alumni G. C. Harris and F. P. Zimmerli for sending us this information.

## CHAPTER WELCOMES ALUMS: FOUNDERS DAY

The fiftieth anniversary of Lambda Chi was celebrated on a beautiful warm day here in Ann Arbor on March 22. Sixteen Sigma alumni came back to the chapter house to commemorate in the inception of our fraternity. Those present were Dave Merriman, S 286; Weldon Hare, S 384; Ross MacNaughton, S 395; Claude Morehouse, S 551; Neil Cords, S 671; Les Knowlton, S 673; Ralph Richter, S 680; Hal Cruger, S 683; Jim Pickard, S 685; Fred Walker, S 707; Bob Yanko, S 714; Don Scotilla, S 722; Stan Head, S 726; Fran LeMire, S 729; John Walper, S 730; and Tom Smith S 764.

The afternoon was spent in an informal and relaxed manner. After a general before-dinner bull session, we ate a delicious steak dinner. Hal Bay, our present High Alpha, spoke briefly about the things we have been doing as a house and what we plan to do in the future. No Householding Corporation meeting was held as such, but some of the members of the Corporation who were present sat down with our officers and discussed a few of the more serious aspects of fraternity such as rushing, pledgship, and public relations. Many men stayed around until nearly supper time playing cards and enjoying the chance to catch up on each other's latest activities.

We realize that many more of you would have liked to come but didn't get invitations soon enough. We apologize for this, but the Post Office let us down—the letters you received were mailed Thursday, March 12, in the morning. We have learned a lesson and hope to make allowances for this type of thing in the future.

by Brian Hotchkiss,

## LCA 16th IN SCHOLARSHIP

We of Sigma are happy to report that during the fall semester, we moved to a rank of sixteenth among the 42 undergraduate fraternities on campus with a grade point average of 2.49.

This semester we have made a few changes in our scholastic program that should provide an even better basis for good scholarship. First, we are establishing a study table for our pledge class in one of the University's classrooms. The pledges' attendance at these study sessions will be greatly emphasized, although not required until such time as their grade point average slips below a 2.2 when they will be required to attend.

Also beginning this semester, we are awarding a series of scholarship awards. The Householding Corporation has allocated one hundred dollars for such awards provided that we match this sum. Feeling very grateful for the hundred dollars, we have matched it and divided the awards into 3 classes: Highest number of honor points, greatest improvement and pledge with highest averages.

It is our feeling that these changes, along with a good attitude towards scholastic improvement, will move us higher than last semester.

by Bill Mitchell

## SEVENTEEN MEN Con't.

freshman track and is planning on majoring in either political science or economics. Now we have BILL KNOTTS '62, ENG, another freshman in Engineering, from Royal Oak, Michigan. In high school, Bill played football, basketball, and baseball being captain of the football team and treasurer of his high school class. Here at the University Bill is interested in sleep, grades, and food. BILL PATRICK, '62 LSA, a freshman in Pre-Med from Traverse City, Michigan, is interested in athletics and social activities. In high school Bill played basketball, football, and baseball with memberships in the varsity club, student council and national honor society. DOUG ABBOT '61, ENG, a Junior in Electrical Engineering from Detroit, Michigan is a transfer from Capitol University. Doug's interest lie in the range of outdoor activities such as skiing, boating, etc. The big U. scholarship and social activities round out his aims. BOB SCARFF '62,

LSA, a Pre-Dent, freshman from Port Huron, Michigan, has had past activities including football, basketball, band and student council. Here at the University Bob is planning on participating in intramural sports, dance bands, and social activities. TED THEODORE '62, ENG, freshman engineer from Joliet, Illinois, participated in his high school student council, choir, and tennis team. After graduation, Ted is planning to do aircraft research in California. Next we have STANLEY KLEY '62, LSA, a Pre-Med freshman from Detroit, Michigan. In high school Stan took part in dramatics, glee club, president of his sophomore class, treasurer of the school in his senior year and member of the student council. In his residence hall, Stan has been athletic representative and is now academic chairman. HERB HARPER '62, ENG, a freshman engineer from Montclair, New Jersey, played soccer in high school for two years, with further participation in student council and was one of his school's representatives to New Jersey's Boy State. ALFRED BUHLER '62, LSA, freshman Lit. school student from London England, has had past experience in administrative positions in youth clubs and took part in publishing his high school annual. Here at the University Fred is interested in majoring in Political Science and intramural sports. GLENN BERTHET '61, ENG, a sophomore in engineering from Detroit, Michigan has had past experience in baseball and Hi-Y club. Here Glenn participated in the freshman baseball team and was on the house council for the resident halls. DON CHALFANT '61, ED, sophomore studying for the ministry hails from Clairton Pennsylvania. Here at the University, Don is running Varsity track. ROGER PRELESNIK '62, LSA, a Pre-Dent freshman whose home is in Grand Haven, Michigan was active in high school activities taking part in varsity tennis and basketball with participation in the capacity of vice-president of the student council.

By Rich Johnson  
Rush Chairman