



# THE SIGMAN



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CHAPTER

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

SIGMA ZETA

FALL 1976

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sigma started the school year as the recipient of the Grand High Alpha Award for excellence. We are striving to carry that excellence through the '76-'77 year.

## RUSH

A 21 member associate member class tops off the best 1st semester rush Sigma has had in years. We presently stand at 84 members, the largest Fraternity on campus. Sigma's growth is a reflection of the general rebirth of the Greeks at Michigan. The fraternities now are 1200 men strong. The sororities presently number over 800 women. Even our little sister program has shown a vast increase in size recently; close to 40 girls are Lambda Chi Crescents.

## THE HOUSE ITSELF

The house has seen some changes in the past few months, partly due to an Ann Arbor building code inspection. A fire wall had to be built at the top of the main stairs. Many small renovations and repairs were also needed to bring the house up to code, ringing up a total bill of \$2000. Special thanks go to Jack Morehead, Sigma 901, and Scott Kindra, Sigma 1189, for their diligent help in getting the house ready for the year. Other less needed renovations, such as a new brick patio, add favorably to the appearance of the house.

## FINANCES

Sigma is financially sound. This year we were able to afford many needed room renovations foregone over the past few years. Our house bills are still comparable to the 'dormitories' at \$190 per month, making our Fraternity a viable alternative to dormitory living.

## HAPPENINGS

After many good parties, a successful Homecoming, and a fun parents' weekend, we still have an exciting Christmas pledge formal to come. Our Halloween candy drive for Mott Childrens Hospital was a treat for many of the brothers. Highlights for next semester include a weekend chapter retreat and a Lambda Chi sponsored road rally for charity. We also are continuing, for the fourth year in a row, to sponsor a foster child from Guatemala.

Keeping the Lambda Chi reputation an excellent one is Sigma's goal for the year. We are striving to make your chapter at Michigan a place one is proud to live in - and come back to.

Yours in Z.A.X.

Michael R. French  
High Alpha

## "SIGMA SIGHTINGS"

Jamie Quakenbush (1970), Sigma 1050, works for Eagle Boys Village, Inc. as a casework supervisor, after several years in the Army. He was married last August, and he and his wife, Karen, live in Hersey, Mich. Bill Rice (1923), Sigma 131, is working as the executive secretary of the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., after spending 43 years with National Cash Register. Bill Snell (1974), Sigma 1213, is living in Gaithersburg, Md. and working in Washington, D. C. as a meteorologist. Ron O'Connell (1953), Sigma 619, is a stockbroker in St. Petersburg, Fla., after 20 years in the Air Force. Jack Whaite, Sigma 557, lives in Flushing, Mich., and is an account executive for 3M



Co. Albert Velluci (1970), Sigma 1058, is a nuclear pharmacist in Cambridge, Mass., and is president of Massachusetts Nuclear, Inc. Bill Cerny (1969), Sigma 1019, lives in DeKalb, Ill. with his wife, Pam, where he is station manager at radio station WLBK. David "Breeze" Breiholz, Sigma 858, is president of his own earthquake engineering firm. He and his wife, Susan, live in Rancho Palos Verdes, Cal., and have two children.

More "SIGMA SIGHTINGS" will be published in the next SIGMAN. If you would like to contact any alum, or submit an autobiographical form for publication, please write Scott Timmer, Alumni Chairman, at the House. Thanks to all who contributed!



### HOMECOMING SPIRIT STRONG

A large and enthusiastic group of Sigma alums, some from as far as California, returned to "dear Ann Arbor town" on Oct. 30 to take part in the events of Homecoming, '76.

Pregame activities on the campus included the traditional Mudbowl games, judging of the numerous lawn displays, and a parade down State St. The Chapter House featured an open house, brunch, and plenty of good conversation between alumni of all ages and undergraduates.

At the game, a top-ranked Michigan team was unhampered by a steady rain as they demolished Minnesota, 45 - 0. The bad weather drove many alums and actives back to the House and comfortable seats in front of the T.V., but the big win stopped it from dampening the spirits of Wolverine fans.

The game was followed by a fine dinner attended by over 120 people. The traditional victory party rounded out the day's activities. Once again, the party, marked by a packed dance floor all night, was a great success.

The Active Chapter was honored and pleased by the presence and enthusiasm of the returning alums. The spirit of Homecoming was as strong as ever, and made Homecoming both enjoyable and a great success.

### HOUSE CORPORATION MEETS

The House Corporation Meeting of Oct. 17 proved productive.

The corporation will pay the \$2000 needed for the building code improvements. It was also decided to reinforce the big living room floor and replace the dining room ceiling. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, @ 3 PM.

### SIGMA ALUMS CONTRIBUTE

According to the "Alumni Loyalty Fund Annual Report", published in the August, 1976 "Cross and Crescent", Sigma alumni ranked an impressive 3rd among all chapters in total amount contributed, (\$1997.00), and 6th in participation (11.29%). Sigma members make up .89% of the total Lambda Chi Alpha membership, but contribute 1.79% of all funds sent to Indianapolis. Four alums, Jim Avery, Bill Hall, John Smith, and George Spasyk, joined the Founders Society, while 88 contributed to the Alumni Loyalty Fund.

Support of the Chapter House, though, is still not as strong as it might be. Dues payments totaled around \$1300. for last year. This reflects a participation rate of only around 12%. Most chapters have twice as many alums giving to the active chapter as give to the Alumni Loyalty Fund. Sigma is attempting to expand the Alumni Program, by improving Homecoming, starting an Alumni Awards Program, and, hopefully, by bringing back Founders Day this Spring. Suggestions from alums for the Alumni Chairman would be welcomed. Hopefully, later Sigmans will report a resurgence of interest and support for the Michigan chapter.

### CORPORATION OFFICERS

Frank Lude	President
Mike Barthalomew	Vice-President
William Hall	Treasurer
Paul Robertson	Secretary

### DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD

Claude Morehouse	Gary Greps
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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

Mike French	President
Jerry Olson	Vice-President
Mark Sellnau	Treasurer
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Rob Fuller	Rush Chairman
Bill Rosenau	Social Chairman
Greg Jones	Fraternity Education
Paul Johnson	Ritualist
Scott Timmer	Alumni Chairman
Jeff Rose	Academic Chairman
Greg Partridge	Steward
Ken Warner	Athletic Chairman
Scott Cassel	House Manager

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ken Johnson	Muskegon, Mich.
Jim Collins	Southfield, Mich.
Stan Buske	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Carter Agee	Detroit, Mich.
Peter Canzano	Springfield, Va.
Kurt Leimbach	Aurora, Ill.
Ryan Wilson	Newport, Mich.
John Wallbillich	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
John Ackerman	Indianapolis, Ind.
Hugh Sullivan	Bloomfield, Mich.
Lewis Clark	Ann Arbor, Mich.
Stew Elliott, Jr.	Waukesha, Wisc.
Fran LeVeque	Birmingham, Mich.
Don O'Callaghan	Birmingham, Mich.
Tim O'Hara	Birmingham, Mich.
Cris Thompson	Wilton, Conn.
Mark Johnston	Birmingham, Mich.
Craig Page	Saginaw, Mich.
Jeff Paulsen	Birmingham, Mich.
Dave Tiernan	Darien, Conn.
Bob Miles	Detroit, Mich.

We proudly welcome these new brothers to Lambda Chi Alpha at Michigan.

## ACTIVES STAGE CANDY DRIVE

Seventeen men of Sigma, dressed as clowns, surprised and delighted the children at Mott Childrens Hospital with Halloween candy last Halloween Eve.

A four week candy collection drive netted six hefty boxes of various candies from local merchants. A serenade of Christmas standards adapted to the holiday was delivered with the candy. Upon departure, the children were all smiles, and the brothers left with a warm feeling of satisfaction.

## SIGMA MEMORIES....

Dear Sigma Actives,

Last week at Homecoming at 1601, I got together with Al Grybas and Bill Vande Graaf for a 25th Anniversary "lie swapping" session and several of the actives wandered in and out expressing disbelief at some of the things that went on at Sigma Zeta during the 1947-1951 era. I was asked to write an article about this generation of Lambda Chi's, and I am happy to oblige.

My memories are all pleasant. It was the greatest four years of my life. The friendships (and there are many) still exist and are very strong, although when Al Grybas came into the house after the game and saw me and ran over and hugged and kissed me, I thought this was carrying fraternalism a little too far!

One of the greatest memories is our annual Homecoming displays. We worked hard and all night long to pull them together, but won twice in three years which made the effort worthwhile. One year, the motor running the tall Michigan football player's arms and legs went on the fritz just prior to the judges' car coming. Several actives went to the roof to "hand pull" the pulleys and we formed a relay team from two blocks up Washtenaw to let the crew know of their arrival. It worked, and we won. The working together and spirit that is generated cannot be underestimated in the total fraternal experience.

Probably the most moving experience of this era was the I.F.C. Sing victory in 1950. We had worked hard for three years under the direction of our Music M.A., Will Perry - with no success and this was his last year in Ann Arbor. We sang our hearts out (we had little talent) and hoped for a 3rd, or possible 2nd place finish.

When third and second places were announced and we did not win, we sighed and settled down to another defeat. When we were announced as winners, the entire chorus was stunned so much that it took us a full second or two to react, and then all hell broke loose.

That evening after the sing was the most memorable of my four years as a Lambda Chi, and the most beautiful fraternal experience of my life. We sang, we laughed, we had tears of joy, and then we ransacked every room in the house and drank all the booze, beer, wine, and everything with alcohol in it that we could find. We did this as a group of "brothers" and truly we were really brothers that night. The hardest part of the evening came around three in the morning when we (six of us) took twenty minutes to haul a passed out



Ben Gates (220 pounds) from the small living room floor to the third floor dorm.

Life 25 years ago at 1601 was quite different than today. No girls in your room, no drinking in the house, girls had hours at dorms and sororities (10:30 weekdays and 12:30 weekends).

If we wanted to have a booze party (and it took a special vote of the actives) and gamble on being caught and put on social probation, we had a special alarm system (loud buzzer) which was connected to the basement and second and third floors. (Not that we ever had girls upstairs you understand.) E. I. Smith (our resident Electrical Engineer) devised the system and pledges were on "duty" watching for the campus cops so that the alarm could be sounded. Remnants of this wiring can still be seen in various parts of the house - particularly the downstairs phone booth.

Speaking of social probation, can you imagine today not being allowed to have T.G.'s, parties, or any social activities? And all this over a six pack of beer? True story! During the summer of 1948, several brothers had just come home from playing softball and brought a six pack of beer.

It so happened that all were W.W. II veterans and over 21. One brother sat on the window ledge of his room with the window open and the Dean of Women (Alice Lloyd) came walking by and saw him, and the next thing we knew, we had six months Social Pro.

We had no cars allowed on campus, so any serious or other types of love making was in The Arboretum. Blanket parties were the order of the day (or evening as it were) and it took heavy snow and very cold weather to keep us away from The Arb. Last week, I asked several actives if they ever used The Arb anymore and all but one asked me, "What is The Arb?" How times change!

Probably the most "told" story about our era is the 1948 Homecoming "party". We had loads of alums back and had a lovely Ham and Turkey Dinner. Later that night, most of the actives in the house (all who ate Turkey) started a session of Montezuma's Revenge that kept the toilets full to overflowing the rest of the night. Men would wait in line and then go back to the end of the line so that they would be in position when Montezuma struck again.

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## Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

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Our cook had quarters in the basement and her "john" was put to use, as was the officer's suite. This was bad enough, but the phone calls and letters we received from the Alums make a story in themselves. Typical was one letter from a recent alum who now lived in Ohio. He said it took two days to get home due to the frequent use of gas stations, and finally having to stop from sheer exhaustion to rest for several hours in a motel. Other alums told tales that one might imagine of "not making it" to the gas stations, etc. Looking back, it was comical, but having been there, I can tell you that it was not funny at the time.

Another time I am reminded of today (Nov. 3rd) is the election of 1948. The house was almost all Republican. Harry Hutchinson was the only man living in the house who was a Democrat. He kept telling us how Truman was going to upset Dewey, and we really put him down. We were unmerciful in our verbal attacks against Harry. The Saturday prior to the election, a recent grad, Joe Cote, came back to the house and joined Harry in holding up the Democratic Party, and promised to come back the next Wednesday and haunt us when Truman won. He gave Harry some needed moral support, but we again really put them down.

Well, the upset of the century took place and a very glum group of Lambda Chi's sat at lunch the next noon hardly talking at all - when down the steps bounced Joe Cote and Harry Hutchinson - banging pots and pans, yelling, blowing whistles, etc. They gave it to us but good! Never have two men so easily conquered forty. It was a sad day in Ann Arbor, but a great memory looking back. Brother Truman became well known as a Lambda Chi after that time, and we all let everyone know that he was one of us.

One more story to illustrate some of the things that went on at 1601.

Charlie Reymes had an "uncle" (he said) who was Vice-President of the then newly opened Shamrock Hotel (now the Shamrock Hilton) in Houston, Texas. Charlie's "uncle" wrote a letter to him asking him if any of the Brothers would be interested in Summer jobs as waiters, busboys, bell-hops, etc. Eleven of us (me included) signed up and told all our friends and relatives when the second letter came informing us that we were all accepted.

A third letter gave travel information and what dates we were expected to arrive, etc. Then one Friday at dinner, after we all had sat down to eat, down the steps came Charlie with eleven huge "all day suckers" which he calmly and quietly placed in front of eleven startled and (after the truth hit home) angry brothers. As the realization set in that we had been duped, we went from P.O'd to frustrated laughter over the greatest hoax ever perpetrated at 1601.

If I may take a moment to be serious, I would like to say that the friends I made in college (most of them Lambda Chi's) have lasted these 25 years, and seeing Al Grybas, Bill Vande Graaf, Gordie Ironside, Ben Gates Chic Griffin, Neil Cords, Jim Fish, and all the others last weekend just goes to reinforce my gratitude to the brothers that asked me to pledge Lambda Chi Alpha in 1948.

The true meaning of Fraternalism will probably not come to you active brothers until much later in your life, but, I can assure you that you will get many times more out of your Lambda Chi years than you can ever imagine, and the more active you are, and the more you put into your years at 1601 the stronger will be the bonds and the more lasting the rewards.

Thank you for asking me to write this "missive" and for the fine reception you gave the alums last weekend. We look forward to seeing you again.

Yours in Z.A.X.

Gary M. Hicks, '51  
Sigma 590

*Editor's Note:*

This great letter was solicited by Tim Cleary, editor of the "Forum", the campus Greek newspaper. If any alum would like to write a letter for the next Sigman, please contact me, Scott Timmer, at the House.

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## ENGINEERING TO MOVE TO NORTH CAMPUS

After a seventy-year residence in the West Engineering building, the College of Engineering has begun to finalize plans to build new facilities on North Campus. All



phases of this long awaited move are proceeding well, and within the next few years the college's major departments will reside in new, well equipped buildings.

When "West Engin" was built, the college was generally known as the finest engineering school in the country. Unfortunately, largely due to outdated facilities, this ranking has fallen somewhat. The present Dean, David V. Ragone, as Dean Mortimer Cooley did in 1903, sees new facilities as a necessity to attract the top caliber faculty and students that keep the quality of the school high.

If the fund raising drive continues as well as it has so far, two buildings will be started to house the Chemical, Materials, Mechanical, and Civil Engineering Departments. Also, the Administration, a new television center, and the Humanities Department will move North.

How will this affect fraternities, and Lambda Chi Alpha, which include approximately 30% engineering students? A time will come soon when we must assess our position in this regard. Whatever is decided, however, the new facilities will help keep the University of Michigan up to the standard of excellence that we have come to expect.

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