



# THETA DATA



*Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity  
Chartered 1853  
Ohio Wesleyan University*

No. 1

SPRING, 1973

## President's Report

As the newly elected President of Theta Chapter, I would like to heartily welcome all Beta alumni of Ohio Wesleyan University to take part in this newly formed Alumni Newsletter in the hope that more and more Theta alums will become active once again in the fraternal life. This newsletter formally marks the beginning of a phase of our Chapter's history where a Brother's fraternity experience is not simply a four year involvement, but rather a continuous participation in Beta Theta Pi.

Theta Chapter has in the past, and hopefully will always be, one of the strongest fraternities at Ohio Wesleyan. We realize that we had a marginal year as far as the number of pledges we took, but we also feel that the potential contribution these men can make to our house far overshadows their numbers. The overall fraternity program decrees that the number of men participating is dropping, therefore individual fraternities must expect continuously decreasing pledge classes. We feel that we can defy this speculation next year by initiating a forceful rush program. But this program must be supported not only by the undergraduate actives but also by the alumni. Your role may be greater than you realize. It is true we need your financial support to help subsidize rush functions, but of more important concern, we need your rushee recommendations, your ideas on rushing, and your physical presence. We are also trying to establish a social program where alumni join us at least once a term. One would be surprised at the effectiveness of alums on impressing freshmen at such engagements. Unity between alumni and undergraduates reassures freshmen that Beta Theta Pi is more than just a college activity. It is a fraternity for life.

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Pope

## Graduating Seniors

Graduation, a time of mixed emotions, comes June 10 for the seniors of Theta Chapter. Their leaving represents the loss of seven dedicated Betas whose presence is destined to be missed. Each has provided valuable service and leadership, not only to the chapter, but to the University as well.

Robert Walters has served Theta as a two-term President, pledge trainer and delegate to the 1972 convention at Asheville, N.C. In addition he serves on the All University Court, the highest court in the campus judicial system. From Lawrenceville, N.J., he plans to attend law school in the future.

Edward Close, Huntington, N.Y. is a past Vice-President, Corresponding and Recording Secretary of Theta chapter. As well, he has been a starter in the OWU lacrosse team for his four years and is servicing as captain this season.

Joseph DeMona has served the chapter as Pledge Trainer for two years and has been a member of numerous committees with the house. Law school is set as the future goal for the Wyckoff, N.J. resident.

J. Frederick Hoopes, a West Chester, Pa. native has been the Scholarship and Social Chairman in his four years at OWU. Mickey Mouse and the "golden oldies" depart with Fred in June.

Robert Harrison has served the chapter as Vice President, Social Chairman and delegate to the Sun Valley convention of 1971. He is a Boston, Mass. resident.

Christopher Browne, Coral Gables, Fla., has been a member of the campus security force during his entire college career. He hopes to be teaching in Ohio next year.

Frederick Yost is a past Corresponding Secretary of Theta chapter and has served on the social committee while at OWU. He lives in York, Pa.

## Theta Betas Boycott Meat

In keeping attune with the problems that confront the consumer, Theta Chapter joined in the national boycott of meat. Under the direction of Mrs. Wanda L. Wilson, the Chapter cook, and with the unanimous approval of the brothers, the Theta menu was void of meat. In place of meat, such culinary delights as tunafish casserole, baked chicken, spaghetti with mushroom sauce, shrimp, and a variety of egg dishes were served. Although most of the brothers looked forward to a good steak at the week's end, there was no noticeable weight loss in any member and all participants agreed that the boycott was of major importance and success.

In

## Memoriam



Theta Chapter housemother, Dixie Brannin passed away in the Spring of 1972. A beloved "member" of the house, Theta Chapter was Mom's primary joy. She is and will continue to be missed by all of us who knew her. With her passing the Chapter has voted against hiring another housemother. There is no one who could ever replace Mom.

In addition to their other activities, Walters, Harrison and DeMona have been a mainstay on the championship Beta volleyball team for three years.

A quick glance of these brothers will indicate their service to Theta Chapter and their dedication to Beta Theta Pi. They will be missed next year.

## THETA DATA

Published by Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at Ohio Wesleyan University for its members and friends.

News and picture contributions are solicited at all times. Address all contributions to Alumni Relations Office, P. O. Box 886, Delaware, Ohio

## Undergraduate Officers

## President:

Robert L. Pope '74 Simsbury, Conn.

## Vice President:

J. Richard Vince '75 Springfield, Ohio

## Treasurer:

Gary D. Rafsky '74 Miami Beach, Fla.

## Corresponding Secretary:

Mark A. Lee '74 Greenwich, Conn.

## Recording Secretary:

Thomas M. Stinson '75 Sewickley, Pa.

## Pledge Trainer:

Robert Randall '75 Cherry Hill, N.J.

## Rush Chairmen:

John Sherman '76 Southampton, Pa.

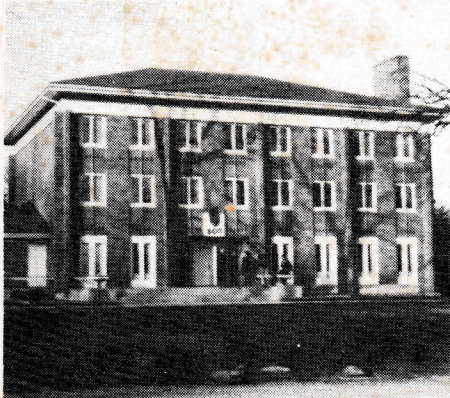
Jack Salerno '76 Gaithersburg, Md.

## Public Relations:

Charles Hackett '74 Hollis, N.H.

## Social Chairman:

Robert Harrison '73 Boston, Mass.



How long has it been since you were here? Drop back anytime!

## Inter-Fraternity Council

James "Jay Bo" Bowie, a junior from Cleveland, Ohio and member of Beta Theta Pi was elected President of IFC for the coming year. Jay Bo hopes to re-organize the rush system and make Greek life more attractive to incoming freshmen. In addition to this office, Jay Bo has served his chapter and his University well as anyone who knows him will testify. His indefatigable spirit, and the bottle of "white liquid" under his arm are a frequent sight at Westleyan athletic contests.

Assisting Bowie on IFC is another Beta. Charles Hartigan, class of '75, was elected as Rush co-chairman. He previously served Theta in this capacity before his election to the campus office.

## Treasurer's Report

The financial situation of Theta Chapter continues to be one of stability and soundness. In comparison with the other fraternities at Ohio Wesleyan, Theta Chapter ranks highest on the campus in financial ability, lowest in amount of debt, and lowest in housebill charged. Further, Theta Chapter has no major outstanding debt, either with the university or anyone else, and was the first house asked and considered to participate in the university's "Houseleasing Policy" due to the chapter's fine monetary status and ability. Yet, the picture is not all that bright. The increasing costs of food, supplies, entertainment, and maintenance all take their effect on the chapter's financial position.

Theta Chapter is one of the few fraternities to operate its own kitchen and employ its own cook (most houses now utilize the university's food service). The chapter runs this operation using only the funds provided by the university for this service. It has not been, and hopefully will never be, the policy of this house to subsidize its kitchen operation through the utilization of funds from the Brother's Housebill (a policy followed by most other houses having their own kitchen operation). It is our belief that kitchen expenses should not be taken from a social or a house operation fund. Finally, it is important to remember that a private kitchen in which the house members and not a food service dictate what is served is not only important to the brothers but attractive to potential pledges.

In social function, Theta Chapter continues to lead the campus. Not only are events frequent (usually one each weekend) and exciting but, they are the talk of the Ohio Wesleyan student-body. Never a weekend passes without a major Theta Chapter happening. Yet, these functions are financed only by the Brother's Housebills. There are no "Pass the Hat" or "Buy Your Own" functions. Further, it is most important to note that social functions are a major part of our Rush Program, and the significance of Rush need not be dwelled upon.

In conclusion, what I am essentially trying to explicate is that Theta Chapter is financially stable and is a campus leader but, it achieves this status on its own. Theta Chapter

operates void of alumni contributions. Ranking highest in the fraternity financial situation at Ohio Wesleyan is in truth only the ability to meet expenses at a break-even point. This type of condition necessarily limits Theta Chapter to do only the ordinary and obtain only what most of the other houses obtain with alumni support and contributions. It is my belief that Theta Chapter is not ordinary or mediocre; it is a talented, strong, hard-working, dedicated, and concerned chapter. With strong alumni support in the form of contributions and participation in house affairs, Theta Chapter will be able to use its resources to their fullest extent and obtain the greatness due it. Finally, I ask you to consider the meaning of our motto Beta Theta Pi.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Rafsky '74  
Treasurer

## Elections

This spring term Theta Chapter elected a new dynamic slate of officers to continue the trend of unsurpassable Theta leaders.

Leading the new officers is Robert L. Pope, the new Chapter President. Pope, a junior from Simsbury, Conn. has served the house as house manager, hell master, and alternate delegate to the 1971 Sun Valley national convention. Brother Pope is a mathematics and economics major.

Gary D. Rafsky, a junior from Miami Beach, Fla., was re-elected to a second term as house Treasurer. In addition to serving as Treasurer, Brother Rafsky served as alternate delegate to the 1972 Asheville convention. In addition, he serves as a justice on the University's Campus Judiciary, and is a politics and government major.

J. Rick Vince was elected as the house's Vice-President. Rick is a sophomore from Springfield, Ohio and is majoring in politics and government. Brother Vince also has the proud distinction as being one of the "stalwarts" on the offensive line at Ohio Wesleyan's Battling Bishops football team.

Brothers Mark A. Lee and Thomas M. Stinson had the fine honor of having their positions of Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary re-affirmed for another term. Brother Lee is a junior from Greenwich, Conn. and an

**ELECTIONS** continued economics major. Mark has previously served as Scholarship Chairman and Corresponding Secretary. Brother Stinson is a sophomore from Sewickley, Pa. Tom is a journalism major and has been the past sports editor of the Ohio Wesleyan Transcript. Tom now serves the Transcript as an assistant editor.

Brother Randall "Nine" Houlas was re-elected as Scholarship Chairman of the Chapter. Randy, a sophomore from Brecksville, Ohio has previously held this position and also serves the house in his position of Steward.

Charles Hackett, a sophomore from Hollis, N.H. was elected to the position of Public Relations Chairman. Brother Hackett, a major in advertising and agriculture, will lend his great experience and knowledge to this position.

Brothers John A. Sherman of Southampton, Pa. and Jack P. Salerno of Gaithersburg, Md. were elected as Theta's Rush Co-Chairmen. Both these Brothers are freshmen and their new ideas and enthusiasm will certainly yield another strong pledge class.

Finally, Brother Robert "Rocky" Randall, a sophomore from Cherry Hill, N.J. was elected to the position of Pledge Trainer. Bob's excellent and complete knowledge of Beta lore certainly make him most capable of educating another class of Beta pledges.

These officers have a tough role to fulfill, they must replace an outstanding slate of Theta Beta officers. Much thanks and gratitude is due Robert H. Walters '73, President; Edward C. Close '73, Vice-President; Gary D. Rafsky '74, Treasurer; Joseph J. DeMona '73, Pledge Trainer; Thomas M. Stinson '75, Recording Secretary; Mark A. Lee '73, Corresponding Secretary; Randall "Nine" Houlas '75, Scholarship Chairman; Charles A. Hartigan '75, Rush Chairman; and James A. Bowie '74, Public Relations Chairman.

## Intramurals

After a quick start, the Beta's intramural success has faltered. This Fall the football team finished 5-2, losing only to the Phi Delt and the Fijis in a divisional play-off game. Beta was ranked 3rd in total intramural scoring. But the Winter proved poor as the basketball team,

laden with individual talent, faltered as a unit. The Betas also made poor showing in both the wrestling and swimming championships. A strong comeback this Spring in both softball and volleyball could capture a first place finish in the total standings.

## Lacrosse Stars

Theta Chapter has placed six players on Ohio Wesleyan's Lacrosse team. The squad is currently ranked 17th nationally according to a pre-season poll.

The team is led by Co-Captain Ed Close '73, former chapter vice-president. Close plays defense and has started for OWU for all of his four years.

Brothers Charlie Hartigan and Peter Tracy play mid-field for the Bishops. Both have seen extensive action thus far this season.

Pledges John Hildebrand '76, Luke Tennis '76 and Scott Keen '76 all have garnered success this season. Hildebrand stars at crease attack and has proven himself a fine athlete. Tennis meanwhile is on the second attack team. Highly touted freshman Scott Keen is the team's starting goalie. Unfortunately, Keen has contracted mononucleosis and will miss the majority of the season.

This year's team is probably the best OWU has ever produced. The squad was undefeated in a pre-season trip to Baltimore and has been picked to win the Midwest Lacrosse Association Title.

## Alumni News

A retired geological engineer, ROBERT C. LAFFERTY '28 is a member of the Explorers Club of New York City, Exchange Club, and Elks Club. He and his wife, the former Jeanne Corder, are enjoying their retirement at 198 S.E. First St., South Patrick Shores, in Eau Gallie, Fla.

A physician specializing in urology, WILLIAM G. PLAVCAN '55 graduated from Temple Medical School in 1959, and spent 10 years in the U. S. Navy, resigning with the rank of Commander. He's a member of the American Urological Assn., a Diplomate-American Board of Urology, and Fellow-American College of Surgeons. Bill is married to the former Carol Cooper, Alpha Chi Omega, OWU. The Plavcan residence is at 3 Spring Creek Rd., Hagerstown, Md.

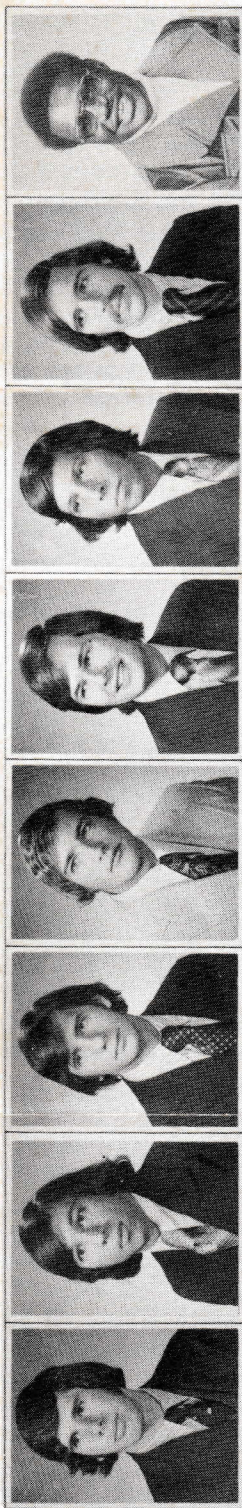
THOMAS R. SHANK '52 is Vice president of Spoerr Vaults, Inc. in Sandusky, Ohio. He and his wife, Joan (Gamma Phi Beta, OWU) make their home at 2017 Hull Rd. in Sandusky.

A retired newspaper publisher, ARTHUR S. LITTICK '16 published papers in Rockville, Ind. (*Tribune*, 1925-30); Hoopston, Ill. (*Chronicle-Herald*, 1930-46), and was vice president of Zanesville, Ohio Publishing Company from 1946 to 1971, when he retired. Art began as a science teacher in Ardmore and Tulsa, Okla., and was a sergeant in the Signal Corps during World War I. He and his wife, Nellie (Kappa Kappa Gamma, Okla. Univ.) reside at 1205 Eastwood Dr. in Rockville, Ind., where he's a member of the Rotary Club, and enjoys a game of golf in his leisure.

A department store executive, DANIEL G. RANSOM '51 is president of The William Hengerer Co., Buffalo, N.Y. He and his wife, Betty, live at 7307 E. Quaker Rd., Orchard Park, N.Y.

TOM V. MOOREHEAD '20 and his wife, Louise, live in Zanesville, Ohio where Tom has his own insurance agency, The Moorehead Co., Inc.

PAUL T. MAHON is an attorney with the firm of Mahon, Tudor, Van Dyne & Evans in Kenton, Ohio. He writes: "I was admitted to the Bar in December 1913 while in my senior year at Cincinnati Law School and have practiced continuously since 1914. In the last few years I have not worked so much and let my younger partners carry the load. Having no particular hobbies my time is largely spent in reading and travel, both in the USA and abroad. (With my daughter and her husband, Bob McCulloch, Phi Gamma Delta). I was in Ireland, the home of my ancestors. We were there three weeks. I recommend it to all of you - go in the fall when we were there. Last September I enjoyed an afternoon with Brother Clay Littick, Theta '13. Most of my contemporaries "sleep the dreamless sleep" but they will never be forgotten. With best regards to all of you." "Paddy", as he was known during his collegiate days, is a member of Phi Delta Phi, legal fraternity (Hamilton Chapter, Univ. of Cincinnati), Chairman of the Board Emeritus of Kenton National Bank, member of Hardin County and Ohio State Bar Assns., and Scottish Rite Masons. His address is 527 N. Main St., in Kenton, Ohio.



CHARLES A. HARTIGAN RUSH CHAIRMAN  
 JOSEPH J. DEMONA PLEDGE TRAINER  
 MARK A. LEE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
 EDWARD C. CLOSE VICE PRESIDENT  
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 THOMAS M. STINSON RECORDING SECRETARY  
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FREDERICK A. YOST  
 TOM L. FUSIA  
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# Beta Theta Pi



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# Ohio Wesleyan University



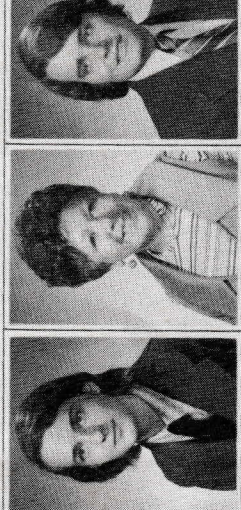
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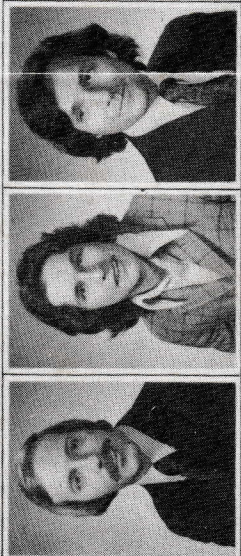
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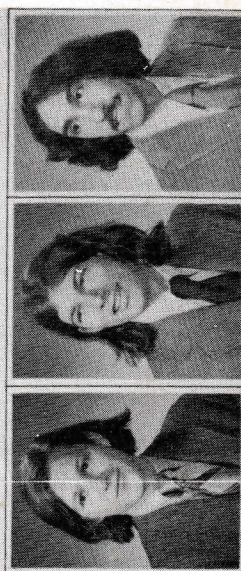
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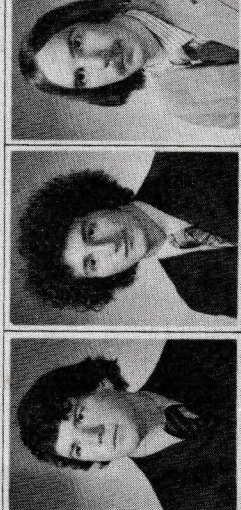
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