

# A petition from BETA THETA FRATERNITY

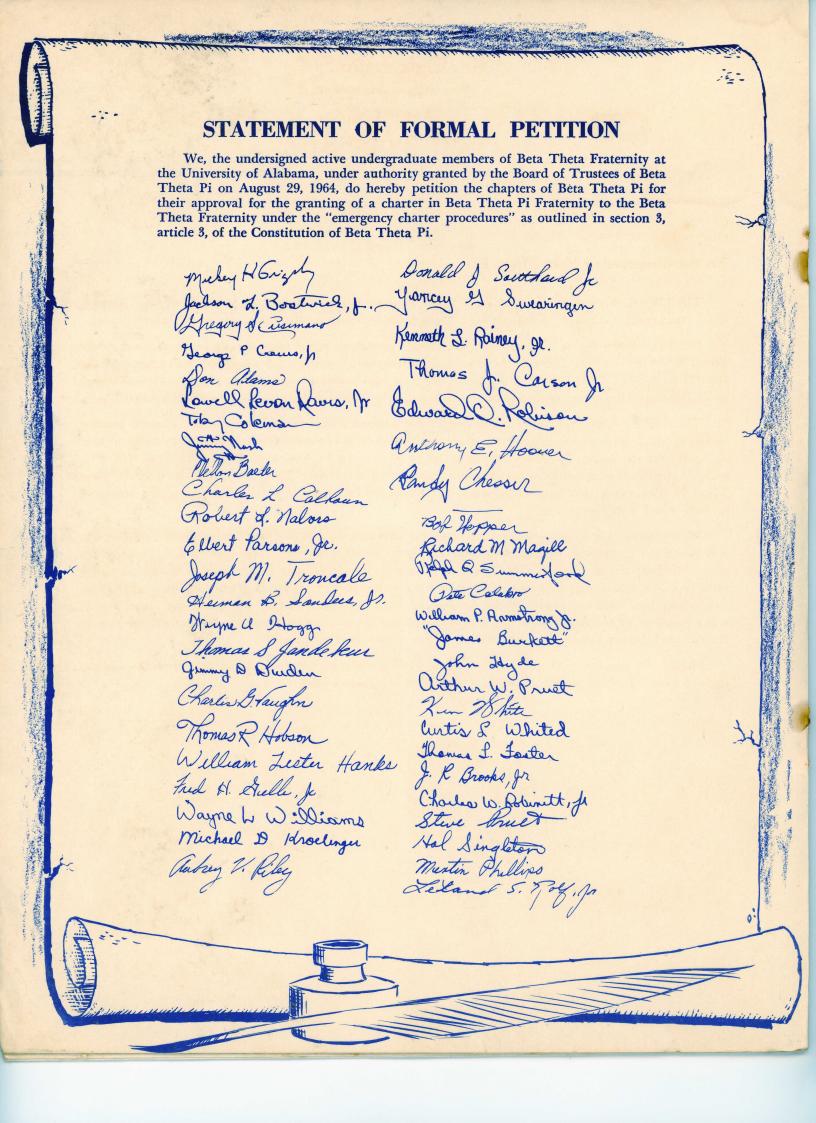
on the campus of

University of Alabama

to the chapters of

BETA THETA PI

October 1, 1964



Beta Cheta Fraternity University of Alabama Box 4095 University, Alabama

### To the Chapters of Beta Theta Pi:

The 125th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi held August 25th-28th at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, represented a major milestone for Beta Theta local fraternity at the University of Alabama.

Our chapter was highly honored when the 125th Convention voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Trustees of Beta Theta Pi that emergency chartering procedures be instituted with regard to the Beta Theta local at the University of Alabama. We were also highly honored again when the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Convention and instituted chartering procedures for Beta Theta.

The reason emergency chartering procedures were requested derives mainly from the chapter housing situation, which is covered in more detail in another section of this petition. Our new chapter house purchased in April from the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity must be paid for by November 26th of this year. The University's two-thirds loan on the house will not be approved until Beta Theta has been chartered by Beta Theta Pi. This means that Beta Theta would lose possession of its newly purchased house unless chartered by Beta Theta Pi before this date.

We were not able to petition the 125th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi due to the fact that our spring semester grades were not released by the University ninety days prior to the Convention. These grades were well above the all men's average; however, a clause in the Beta Theta Pi constitution states that notice must be given to each chapter ninety days prior to the convention of any local petitioning for a charter to that convention. Since our grades or chapter average was not released ninety days before the convention it was impossible for the Board of Trustees to authorize regular petitioning procedure for our chapter due to the fact they did not have official notification on our grades as of that time.

Should any member or chapter of Beta Theta Pi wish other information than therein available concerning our local fraternity, we would be most pleased to correspond further

Sincerely,

Bert Parsons President

Bert Parsons

## HISTORY, ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF BETA THETA

Delta The Bote Theta fraternity was founded at the University of Alabama in August, 1962. Previous to that time a group of young men, thirteen in number, had become interested in forming a Beta Theta Pi chapter at the University of Alabama and had contacted the national officers of Beta Theta Pi concerning the matter During the spring semester of 1962 several members of the Beta Alumni Association met with us along with the University Interfraternity Council and the Dean of Men and expressed the desire of Beta Theta Pi to form a chapter on the University of Alabama campus. General Secretary J Moreau Brown then met with the Interfraternity Council concerning the formation of a chapter at the University of Alabama. Dr Seth R. Brooks, President of Beta Theta Pi, visited the University in April, 1962, as Greek Week speaker and encouraged us greatly in our work at the University

At the last meeting of the University Interfraternity Council in May, 1962, we were awarded a "vote of confidence" by the members of the council to see if we could organize and begin operation of a Beta "colony" on the campus.

In August of that year several members of our group attended the national convention of Beta Theta Pi in Asheville, North Carolina, where we were awarded "encouragement without commitment" by the Board of Trustees of Beta Theta Pi. At that time we chose the name Beta Theta and were placed under the supervision of Beta Theta Pi.

In September, 1962, we returned to the campus inspired with enthusiasm from a great convention. We held rush without the facilities of a house, however, we were able to pledge ten fine young men during the first semester We designed our own badge, pledge pin and crest. A temporary house was finally obtained from the University and on November 1, 1962, Beta Theta formally opened its doors.

We participated in all fraternity intramurals and placed fourth in the fraternity intramural standings for the 1962-63 school year We fielded a strong basket-



Brother Bert Parsons, president and Brother Greg Cusimano, pledge trainer examine two of the main trophies received by Beta Theta during the last school year. Since our founding in 1962, Beta Theta has received two awards for scholarship, sports and special events.

The men of Beta Theta take their sports as seriously as they do their studies. Our basketball team is second to none in the intramural league. We won the first place spot this past season.







Pledge class wins first prize in the annual Auburn Effigy contest that is held prior to the Auburn-Alabama football game.

Half time at an intramural football game as the stars have a brotherly tussle over the water bottle.

ball team which lost the league championship game by two points in overtime. One of the most cherished achievements of our first year was the winning of the Sportsmanship trophy. This trophy is presented annually by the Intramural Sports Committee to the fraternity displaying the best sportsmanship in Interfraternity athletic competition. Another trophy found its way to the Beta House when one of our pledges captured the singles tennis championship.

The Brothers of Beta Theta made their presence felt on the University of Alabama campus. Two of the four male cheerleaders, including head cheerleader, were members of our chapter We had two Student Government Association appointments, one to the Bama Day Committee and one as chairman of the Fraternity Effigy Parade. Beta Theta placed second in competition for the annual Spirit Trophy We won first place in the Famous Persons Homecoming parade. And to top off a gratifying year, our spring semester pledge class topped the campus scholastically

The second year in the history of Beta Theta was a very busy one for each and every member of our chapter To begin with, Brothers Bert Parsons, Greg Cusimano, and Gary Blodgett attended the national convention of Beta Theta Pi at Bedford Springs in August.

In September Beta Theta returned to the campus and held a very successful rush week. During rush thirteen exceptional men were pledged. Another event of September was the initiation of our second pledge class. The Initiation Banquet was highlighted by the pledge class presenting a heavy oil portrait of Founder John Reily Knox. to the active chapter

We were visited in October by General Secretary Paul P Van Riper and District Chief Farris P Hotchkiss. Needless to say we benefited greatly from their visit. In November a fine effort on the behalf of the fall pledge class brought us a first place trophy in the Auburn Effigy Parade. This event is held annually the week preceding a football game with our cross-state rival, Auburn University

December was a very gratifying month for the members of Beta Theta. Our football team closed out a very commendable season, finishing third in our league. However, the highlight of the month occurred when the Delta Gamma Sorority presented the chapter with a monetary gift at our annual Christmas party This gift was presented for the specific purpose of going into our new house fund.

January brought to a close another semester on the University campus but it did not bring a close to Beta Theta's activities. A delegation was sent to the District Conclave in Atlanta. This conclave proved to be very beneficial to the chapter delegation. Brother Mickey Kroelinger was elected to the position of Historian of Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, for the spring semester

February proved to be a very successful month for Beta Theta. Perhaps the most important event of the month occurred when we received full membership in the University Interfraternity Council. In the past the usual policy of the IFC has been to allow full membership only to fraternities with a national chapter, however, we were awarded full membership by a unanimous vote of the Council. Another event of the month was the initiation of our third pledge class. Distinguished guests at the Initiation Banquet were Farris P Hotchkiss, W & L 58, Chief of District X and banquet speaker; James P Ewin, Tulane '42, Chief of District XI, Dr Burton R. Morley, W Va. '22, our faculty advisor; Major Francis Newman, a Beta alumni, and Tom Mclendon, Assistant Dean of Men at the University Later in the month we were sect JIFC IEC Juliciany

visited by Mr. Peter F Grenier, Minn. '51, Vice President of Beta Theta Pi. We also drew to a close an undefeated basketball season climaxed by winning the league championship. The month was ended by the selection of Brother Joe Troncale as "Anchor Man"

by Delta Gamma Sorority.

With the month of March came the election of new officers. Brother Bert Parsons was elected President; Brother Toby Coleman, Vice President, Brother Mickey Kroelinger, Secretary; Brother Aubrey Riley, Treasurer; and Brother Don Adams, Rush Chairman. Brother Terry Moore, a member of the University baseball team, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the "A" Club. Brothers Mickey Grigsby and Charles Vaughn were elected Cheerleaders for the University of Alabama. Brother Grigsby was named Head Cheerleader and succeeds Brother Troy Hendrix, Ala '64, to that position. Brother Jim Mezrano was appointed Assistant Chairman of Campus Chest for the Alabama Student Government Association with Brother Greg Cusimano working as a committee chairman.



MIKE WILLIAMS
Air Force
Times Award

In April one of the greatest accomplishments in the chapter's history took place when we moved into our new chapter house located on Fraternity Row The house is a three story brick colonial home which sleeps twenty-two men. The first floor is air-conditioned and there is a large party room in the basement. The house was purchased from the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity in the latter part of 1963. During this month Brother Terry Moore was elected to Omicron Delta Kappa, national mens honorary Brother Charles Vaughn was appointed Chairman of the Famous Persons Contest for Bama Day Brother Greg Cusimano was appointed to the Interfraternity Council Judiciary. Brother Mickey Kroelinger was elected Secretary-Treasurer of his respective school and Vicepresident of Alpha Phi Omega, national service fra ternity. Another trophy was brought to the chapter house when we won the horseshoe championship. And, to top off the month, a delegation from the chapter went to the District XI Conclave in Nashville.

# IFC Editorial Bd

The month of May was devoted to preparation for examinations which paid off in big dividends for the chapter The chapter completed the year with a 1.4495 for the spring semester compared to the AMA of 1.39. The chapter ranked in the top third scholastically for the spring semester.



The men of Beta Theta take it easy after a hard day of moving into their newly purchased chapter house. Afterwards they were happy witnesses to the installing of the significant Greek letters over the portals of the house entrance.



One of the many social functions held by Beta Theta.

House occupied from November 1st, 1962, until April, 1964..

New Chapter House





### CHAPTER HOUSING SITUATION

On April 1, 1964, the chapter took possession of the new chapter house it purchased from the Beta Delta chapter of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity Prior to this time the chapter had occupied a temporary chapter house located adjacent to the University campus. The chapter had occupied the house since November, 1962, when it was leased from the University of Alabama.

The new chapter house was purchased from the Beta Delta of Alpha Tau Omega House Corporation by the Beta Theta House Corporation for a total purchase of \$19,000. As of this date, \$1,431.02 has been paid by the chapter on the purchase price.

The purchase of the house was approved by the University but the two-thirds loan requested by the chapter from the University has been turned down until Beta Theta is charterted by a national fraternity, specifically, Beta Theta Pi. It is the policy of the University to grant loans to only fraternities which are chartered by national organizations. In other words, a loan from the University of Alabama is dependent on the chapter being granted a charter Our purchase contract specifies that the full amount of the purchase price is due on or before November 26,

1964, or the contract is void. The chapter has talked with the officers of Beta Theta Pi concerning a request by this chapter for the additional one-third loan from the general fraternity for the purchase of the house. It is our understanding that this also is dependent upon the chartering of the chapter by Beta Theta Pi.

The chapter housing situation has been discussed at length with the Board of Trustees of Beta Theta Pi and it was also presented on the floor of the 125th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi this summer at Oxford, Ohio, by representatives of our chapter attending the convention.

The house itself is a three story brick house located on Fraternity Row It sleeps twenty-two men plus it has a sleeping porch which can accommodate up to fifteen more boys. It has a large living room, dining room, library, television room, card room and house-mother quarters on the first floor There is also a full basement which has a large party room. The first floor and basement are completely air-conditioned.



JAMES A. MEZRANO



JOSEPH M.TRONCALE



TROY C. HENDRIX



JAMES F. GARBE



ELBERT H. PARSONS



GREGORY S CUSIMANO



JAMES M. NEWTON



ROBERT L. NABORS



GERALD A.MORSE



19



University
of
Alabama



HERMAN B. SANDERS JR.



THOMAS M. WILLIAMS



WALTER G.MCQUEEN



JAMES R.MOODY



THOMAS J. CARSON JR.



WAYNE A.HOGG



FRED H.GIELLE



W. RICHARD MOEBES



WILLIAM L. HANKS



LOWELL L DAVIS JR



CHARLES L.CALHOUN



WAYNE L.WILLIAMS



C. RANDY CHESSER



TONY E. HOOVER



TOBY F. COLEMAN



EDWARD O. ROBISON



JAMES E.MC CAIN



JIMMY N. NASH



GARY E.BLODGETT



ROBERT G.THOMSON



CHARLES G.VAUGHN



TERRY L.MOORE



GEORGE P. CREWS JR.



CLELLON K. BAEDER



YANCEY G.SWEARINGEN



DON ADAMS



MICHAEL D. KROELINGER



AUBREY V. RILEY



THOMAS R. HOBSON



JIMMY D. DURDEN



KENNETH L.RAINEY



DONALD J. SOUTHARD JR.



MISS. HELEN MURRAY

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

President—BERT PARSONS

Vice-President—Toby Coleman

Secretary—MICKEY KROELINGER

Treasurer—Aubrey Riley

Rush Chairman—Don Adams



Denny Chimes—famous University of Alabama landmark.

### **Beta Theta House Corporation**

The new chapter house was purchased through a chapter house corporation, incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Alabama. The corporation was formed in February, 1964, for this purpose when our faculty advisor, Dr. Burton R. Morley, W.Va. '22, and three chapter fathers incorporated for the chapter. Dr Morley now serves as the corporation President with the three fathers plus Brothers Greg Cusimano and Bert Parsons serving on the Board of Directors of the house corporation.

The corporation purchased the house through its officers. However, the land the house is situated on remains the property of the University of Alabama. No land is sold to fraternities. Fraternities receive a lease to the land from the University

### Scholastic Position of Beta Theta

Scholarship has constantly been progressing at the Beta Theta house. Due to the efforts while organizing our chapter during its first semester on campus, the chapter fell below the all men's average for the fall of 1962. During the spring, however, efforts were made to improve this position, resulting in the pledge class ranking first for all fraternity pledge classes for the spring semester, 1962-63, and the chapter average being about equal the all men's average.

During the fall of 1963-64 our chapter average again dropped slightly below the AMA, which incidentally was the highest AMA ever recorded at the University During the next few months the chapter worked on a strong scholarship program for Beta Theta which proved highly successful. The spring semester of 1964 Beta Theta had a 1.4495 (on a 3.0 point system) while the all-men's average was 1.39. The chapter ranked in the top third scholastically out of 27 fraternities.

### The Fraternity System at the University of Alabama

The fraternity system is an old and strong institution which is an integral part of the University of Alabama. It began in 1847 with the establishment of a chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon on the University campus. It has grown and expanded today into a very strong Greek system at the University composed of 27 fraternities and 16 sororities. The fraternities are organized and governed through the University of Alabama Inter-fraternity Council while the sororities are governed through the University Panhellenic, composed of representatives from each sorority chapter at the University

The fraternity system at the University is now coordinating a self evaluation program for each fraternity. This is a program through which the University and the IFC are working with the different fraternities in helping them solve certain chapter and IFC problems and make the system stronger than ever before.

Beta Theta has received the full support of the University IFC and entire Greek system which was shown last spring when the Council voted unanimously to extend to Beta Theta full membership in the council, a courtesy which is usually extended only chapters which are chartered by national fraternities. This full membership was granted Beta Theta due to its outstanding record of accomplishment while at the University.





### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

In 1819 the Congress of the United States donated forty-six thousand acres of land within the State of Alabama for the endowment of a seminary of learning. The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama was created by the General Assembly of the State of Alabama in 1821, and on April 19, 1831, the University was opened for the admission of students. On April 4, 1865, most of the University buildings were burned to the ground by a body of Federal cavalry. The erection of new buildings was begun in January of 1867 and classes were resumed in April, 1869. On February 25, 1884, the federal government donated seventy-two sections of public lands within the state to the University of Alabama in restitution of its loss in buildings and equipment when the campus was destroyed in 1865.

The University of Alabama is located at Tuscaloosa, a city of approximately sixty thousand in the west central part of the state. University grounds comprise approximately four hundred twenty acres, and in addition, the Northington campus, a married students section, consists of approximately one hundred fifty acres.

University centers are maintained in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Gadsden, Dothan and Montgomery There is a branch of the Montgomery center in Selma, Alabama. The University of Alabama Medical Center, comprising the Medical College of Alabama, the School of Dentistry and the University Hospital and Hillman Clinic, is located in Birmingham, Alabama. The Research Institute is located in Huntsville, Alabama.

The University of Alabama is dedicated to the continued intellectual and social development of the people of the state through instruction, research and service. It also accepts responsibility for assistance to the regional, national and international communities. Primarily, the University endeavors to provide expert teaching, supported by adequate facilities, within a congenial climate of learning. Towards these diverse ends, the institution offers wide opportunities, from freshman through post-doctoral programs, including advanced research and continuing education course, both on and off campus. Excellence is the goal in all University activity

In achieving its purpose, the University offers a variety of programs designed to accomplish the following analysis and transmission of knowledge and ideals, stimulation of the intellectual growth and creativity of the individual, development of professional abilities, addition to the sum of knowledge; application of knowledge; and development of enlightened and thus more responsible citizens.

The University's purpose and programs are based on constitutional and legislative mandates and authorizations. They are undertaken with regard to the purposes and programs of the separate land grant university and other educational institutions within the state. The University administers its programs through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Chemistry, Commerce and Business Administration, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Extension, Home Economics, Law, Libraries, Medicine Mines, and Nursing, and through a Graduate School, a Research Institute, and the University Hospital and Hillman Clinic.

### BOYLAN AND KING Public Accountants - Fraternity Auditors P. O. Box 1225 - University, Alabama 35486

July 23, 1964

Board of Trustees Beta Theta Pi

### Gentlemen:

At this time I would like to offer for your consideration the following statements relative to the financial condition of Beta Theta on the University of Alabama campus.

At May 31, 1964, the balance sheet showed assets of \$4,215.17, liabilities of \$99.97, and total net worth of \$4,115.20 (a working capital ratio of approximately 4.2:1). Accounts owed by active members represented only 0.8% of their gross income, while a net profit of \$3,727.57 was verified for the period ended May 31, 1964.

Comparing the current assets and liabilities of Beta Theta to that of the close of the academic year 1962-63, the financial condition has improved considerably The cash in the checking account on May 31st, 1964, is \$2,155.03 compared with \$412.44 May 31st, 1963. An escrow deposit to Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity was made in the amount of \$1,431.02 during the current year and is included in the assets previously set forth.

Again I would like to point out that in my opinion, the financial position or condition of Beta Theta, University of Alabama, is stable at June 1, 1964.

Respectfully submitted, Robert L. King, Auditor

### LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

### J. MOREAU BROWN, III Advisory Council Beta Theta Pi

September 10, 1964

Mr. Bert Parsons Beta Theta Fraternity University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, Alabama

#### Dear Bert:

I wish to express to you and to your brothers in Beta Theta my delight at the favorable action of the 125th General Convention which brings Beta Theta closer to Beta Theta Pi.

You and Greg, and all of your brothers, have obviously done an outstanding job. Your enthusiasm and ambition, and especially your desire to be an official part of Beta Theta Pi, have certainly been recognized by the delegates.

You have always had my support and I most earnestly hope that the Trustee's action will result in your unanimous acceptance into Beta's official family

With every good wish,

Cordially J Moreau Brown

### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

August 12, 1964

Board of Directors
Beta Theta Pi
c/o Dr. Paul P Van Riper
Mallott Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

### Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to call to your attention the dynamic expansion and meaningful adjustment of the Beta Theta Colony at the University of Alabama. It is my opinion that Beta Theta can easily and should rightfully be termed one of the leading social fraternities represented on our campus.

The efforts of Messrs. Cusimano and Parsons while developing their chapter are truly outstanding and noteworthy During this past year, I have heard many prominent faculty members and student leaders speak very highly of these two fraternity men. The Interfraternity Council feels that they should be considered a genuine credit to your national fraternity.

Because of Beta Theta's thoughtful contributions to the Tuscaloosa community it was recently unanimously accepted by the Interfraternity Council as a full active member

It is with the utmost enthusiasm and pleasure that I recommend this fine colony so strongly to you. If I can furnish any specific additional information, I would be delighted to do so.

> Sincerely yours, John M. Klyce, President

### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

Dr Paul P Van Riper Malott Hall, Cornell University Ithaca, New York

Attn. Board of Trustees, Beta Theta Pi

Dear Brother Van Riper

Some time ago I wrote to you in regard to the progress of Beta Theta at the University At that time I strongly supported the petition of the local for a charter from our fraternity on condition that the scholastic standing be brought up. The chapter made a good effort and did achieve a good standing. Copies of the official computations have been sent to you. The chapter has worked hard and in my judgment the results attained justify favorable consideration by us at this time. These boys really want Beta and I sincerely feel that their scholastic standing, the good location of the house, the sound financial condition of the chapter and its great pride in Beta will result in a chapter of which we may be proud.

It is my definite understanding that the University financial officials have agreed to make a loan to the chapter in the amount of two-thirds of the balance due on the purchase price of \$19,000.00. This will amount to approximately \$12,000.00. This loan is conditioned upon the granting of a charter by Beta Theta Pi. The University is definitely interested in having a Beta Chapter on the campus. The Dean of Men has repeatedly encouraged the local in its efforts. The Interfraternity Council has granted the local full membership standing. I should mention also that the chapter has planned adequate financing to cover interest and amortization payments on the loan.

I urge the Board of Trustees to approve the petition of the chapter and I sincerely hope that the convention will vote to grant the charter

Yours in —kai— Burton R. Morley West Virginia 1922

### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

Board of Trustees 208 East High Street Oxford, Ohio

### Gentlemen

I understand that the Beta Theta, a local fraternity at the University of Alabama, is petitioning for a charter from Beta Theta Pi.

Since the organization of this group in 1962, they have demonstrated positive leadership on our campus. This office and the University considers Beta Theta an outstanding organization worthy of your consideration.

They have met an initial scholarship problem by hard work and have succeeded in obtaining a 1.4495 average this past spring semester This average computed on a three-point system is above the all men's average which was 1.3911 Beta Theta ranked ninth out of twenty-seven groups. There were six other fraternities below them that were above the all men's average.

Beta Theta has been approved by the Interfraternity Council for petitioning Beta Theta Pi; the University also approves.

I highly recommend this group to your fine fraternity

Sin<mark>cerely,</mark> John L. Blackburn Dean of Men

We have member We received official notification that we had been awarded a charter on Oct 26, took place formal metallation took place last weekend chimaxed by a barquet and dance held at the Stafford (the attended by over 300 Beta alumni, + under graduates 7 Uni serrity officials.

THAMAS BANGE

This WAS AN Extractinary APPROVAL
By The BOARD OF TRUSTERS OF
Beta theta Pi