

Honor Sororities Open to Coeds

In evaluating the campus and its students, the Office of the Dean of Women realized that there was a need to establish some women's association. There was a choice of either a social or an honor organization. The result was the establishment of Alpha Lambda, CWENS, Cap and Gown and Phi Delta Gamma.

The idea behind these groups is to couple scholastic achievement with service and leadership. "I feel our honor sororities are run much differently on this campus," Mrs. Pat Self, counselor of women and head advisor for all the groups, said, "This is related time after time when a transfer student remarks, 'I'm really impressed. At my last school, we had an annual meeting, maybe.'" These groups are actively involved with the academic disciplines and the Department of Student Services, and serve as an important duty on the campus.

The Freshman honor sorority is Alpha Lambda and any girl carrying 12 semester hours and receiving a grade point of 3.5 is eligible for membership. Last year some 140 coeds were initiated and about 150 are anticipated for this year.

Initiation, or tapping, is something very special. The active members go from class to class during the first part of the spring semester and publicly honor the new members.

Another important function of Alpha Lambda is their joint freshman tutoring sessions with the men's freshman honorary Phi Eta Sigma. Offered under the name TAMS, it is the only service of its kind offered on the campus. These two groups supply help in freshman level courses with a friendly student-to-student attitude.

During the early part of this year, when new students were arriving, it was fairly common to see Alpha members at the airport welcoming new Aggies who might have found the environment a little confusing. The girls also helped all summer with orientation. Co-advisers for the group are Mrs. Lew Rodenberger, English Department, and Dr. Hanna Levenson, professor of psychology.

The sophomore girl has a chance to become a part of CWENS, a national honor society which chooses its members on academic excellence, a desire to be

of service, and leadership. Applying at the end of her freshman year, a girl must have a 3.0 average, recommendations and an interview before a committee of advisors, club members and selected representatives of a related association. Only a certain percentage of the class can be initiated, according to CWENS national charter.

This group is extremely active on campus, being involved with Great Issues, the stage party at Commencement, Student Senate, stuffing envelopes for the Former Students Association, and hosting the first annual back-to-school orientation for new women students. "The faces of the girls showed they were really getting together as a community, that they had a feeling of belongingness," Mrs. Self said. Mrs. Mary Jo Hoffman also serves as advisor with Mrs. Self.

About one-third of all senior women are eligible for A&M's colony of Mortarboard, Cap and Gown. These women are chosen on the same basis as other honorary societies. These seniors are working closely with the Administration, offering suggestions on new programs and policies.

This past summer a number of the group helped Dr. Harold Powe, director of the University Hospital, to reorganize the University filing system and put it on microfilm. They also hosted a reception after each freshman orientation program this summer to offer assistance and to help the girls feel like they belonged on the TAMU campus.

Cap and Gown is currently working closely with the Hospital administration to develop a lecture-slide series dealing with health problems that the student population should know about.

Last, but certainly not least, is the newly organized Phi Delta Gamma, the graduate students' honor society. It is comprised of graduate student women, staff, and faculty that are engaged or have been engaged in graduate study. The association's goals are to provide a channel for awareness among university women and give them opportunity to find out what is occurring in all phases of academics. The first reception was held last Sunday at the President's home, with the formal initiation to take place October 20.

Abortions Unavailable in Bryan Area

By STEVE GOBLE

You can't get an abortion in Bryan-College Station unless your life depends on it.

Meanwhile, the abortion business in Houston is booming.

"We simply don't have the facilities for major surgery," says Dr. Hal Powe, director of the TAMU health center. "Abortions can involve serious medical problems — many people die from abortions. The health center was established to care for the sick and wounded," Powe added.

"No, definitely not," says Sister Mary Patricia, administrator at St. Joseph's. "We will perform abortions if they are medically or surgically indicated in

The previous Texas abortion law was overturned by the U. S. Supreme Court last January. The court ruled the state may regulate who performs an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy, which facilities may be used for an abortion during the second three months, and it may regulate abortions during the last three months to protect the health of the individual.

Marcy Crowe, administrative director at Cullen, says the center performs abortions for women pregnant for less than 12 weeks in three to six hours, under local anesthesia. The Cullen Women's Center, based in small, private Mercy

water injection and goes through labor. This requires two or three days at the hospital and \$400. Only 10 of the salt water-miscarriage abortions are performed per week at the center. Ms. Crowe said she has had to refer

a number of patients to either New York or California. The out-of-state abortions, plus airplane fare, cost about \$100 more, she said.

"This is a small hospital," says Ms. Crowe. "It's just not big

enough to handle everybody — about 400 a month."

Evidently, the Houston operation has become a center for abortions — Ms. Crowe says 25 to 30 per cent of the hospital's patients are from out-of-town.

Coed Undergoes Abortion

Birth control and abortion are becoming a greater cause for concern among an increasing number of students each year. Planned Parenthood and Family Planning, both in Bryan, are both sources of information and help concerning such problems. There is also a Woman's Awareness organization on campus which provides students with any pertinent facts or information on these subjects.

The following story is related as dictated by an A&M coed who underwent the traumas of abortion during the past year. — W. Ed. By KATHY MORGAN

"I was confused, scared, and broke," says Ms. J. "I went to a local gynecologist who confirmed that I was pregnant. It really freaked me out; everyone at his office began congratulating me and telling me how lucky I was. I left that place determined to have an abortion."

"I contacted the Austin Clergy Council. I was afraid to go because I figured it would be some sort of sermon on moral behavior. But it wasn't. The minister I saw was a really nice guy; he gave me my alternatives and we just BS'ed. An abortion in Dallas would have cost about \$800, so he gave me the number of Planned Parenthood in Los Angeles and wished me luck."

"I called them and they told me to be in L.A. around 10 a.m. A guy named Paul was to pick me up in the Planned Parenthood van. I was told not to eat anything for 24 hours prior to the lab tests I would have to take."

"When I flew into L.A., it was foggy and dismal, adding to my nervousness. Paul was about 30 minutes late to pick me up. Waiting in his van with another girl, I saw Paul coming towards us with 15 more girls. I later found out that Englewood Hospital, where I went, did about 50-60 abortions a day. I never knew that many girls chose abortion, but it made me feel a little less insecure."

"We drove to the small hospital and had extensive lab work and

then met with a Planned Parenthood counselor, Marie, who explained what we could expect and said not to be afraid. After we had filled out forms and talked a while, we had to have an examination by the resident gynecologist to see how far along we were. This was the deciding factor as to what type of abortion we were to have."

"If the girl is three months pregnant or under, she can have a D&C in which the fetus is vacuumed out and the patient is ready to go in about 30 minutes. This is done for \$150, on an outpatient basis. Four months up to six months requires the saline injection method, the kind I had, which cost \$350. The pain and symptoms of this method are almost the same as having a baby."

"About one hour after my injection, I had severe contractions and could not sleep. The next day I went into labor and continued for 10 hours straight. Finally, I knew that I was ready to expel the fetus and this great surge of

relief flooded over me. About 8 a.m. I went into surgery to have the placenta removed since it wouldn't come out with the rest of the fetus, but I was under anesthesia by then."

"All the girls that had the saline method, except me, were in and out within a day or so. I had complications and stayed 3½ days."

"They made reservations on the 7 p.m. flight for me that night after making sure that I was completely recovered. I really don't see how a person can ever recover from something like that."

"The money for my abortion was borrowed from my best friend who was kind and generous enough to help me out. I am still working hard to pay her back," finished Ms. J.

"The A&M student who was equally responsible for the pregnancy was also of great comfort to me; he said, 'I'd help you if I could, J. But I've got to make car payments, you know,'" she added.

A Coed's Campus

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order to save life, but we will never permit elective abortions."

According to Bryan Hospital administrator T. P. Lackey, no abortions have yet been performed there. He doesn't rule out the idea, but such a procedure would require the consent of two doctors and the hospital's surgery board.

He added that abortions at the hospital would be "quite unlikely" until the Texas Legislature sets guidelines for the operations.

Hospital near the Astrodome, performs abortions during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Ms. Crowe said the center gives D&C abortions, using a vacuum aspirator, for \$145 during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. D&C is also used for the 13th and 14th weeks, but it costs \$250 and a scraping technique is used.

During weeks 15 through 20, Ms. Crowe said, the center uses an induced miscarriage method, in which the woman gets a salt

Birth Control Facts Presented

There are a few ways to avoid potential pregnancies:

One is abstinence. Another is to use "the pill" or condoms or IUD or any of the other products of the technological vastness of present-day birth control.

Kim Peoples, a member of the health committee of Women's Awareness Workshop here, says people interested in information on birth control, cancer, VD, etc., can get it from WAW either at its MSC office-cubical or during one of its meetings.

"I don't want people asking me how to get abortions when they could have asked me two months

ago for birth control information," she says.

The University Health Center performs tests for syphilis, gonorrhea and pregnancy for free, and a pap smear (to check for cervical cancer) for \$4.

"Birth control is easy to get in this town," says Ms. Peoples. "It may cost some money, but you can get it."

At Skaggs-Albertson's, Ortho Novum (birth control pills) are \$1.49 for a month's supply.

"Sit down and think about it before you have sex," Ms. Peoples says. "Be prepared. It's like skyjumping — you wouldn't want to jump out of a plane without a parachute, would you?"

Hospital Gynecologist Leaves Position

Aggies will no longer be able to see a gynecologist at the University Health Center.

Dr. Robert H. Benbow, university gynecologist last year, says he will no longer go to the university to see patients. He had been coming to the health center two mornings a week.

Dr. Hal Powe, health center director, said Tuesday that Dr. Benbow will remain a consultant to the center; students will be able to see him in his office for free.

"I didn't have the time," Dr. Benbow said, explaining that his university duties interfered with his private practice.

Women's Awareness Workshop co-chairpersons Judi Wooten and Jill Parker expressed disappoint-

ment with Dr. Benbow's decision.

"This is a shame, especially since the health center fee is compulsory," said Ms. Parker.

Dean of Women Toby Schreiber said she was also disap-

pointed with Dr. Benbow's decision, but added, "We are indebted to Dr. Benbow — he is a reliable and competent physician who has given us a great deal of his time with very little remuneration."

Academy Enrolls First Woman

The Texas Maritime Academy has enrolled its first woman, Susan Jean (Sudi) Carter, who already has her sea legs.

Miss Carter, formerly of Dallas, has served as a crew member aboard a racing yacht since 1970 and logged more than 400 days at sea in all kinds of weather.

She joins the TMA ranks as a sophomore, having previously attended John Brown University at

Siloam, Arkansas, and the University of Southern Mississippi at Biloxi.

"The other students seem to accept me," she added, "but they continue to ask why I'm here."

The answer to that question is that she hopes to sign on as a navigator aboard a commercial vessel after graduation. She is majoring in marine transportation.

**1974 AGGIELAND
Class Picture Schedule**

FRESHMEN

A-M	Sept. 10-14
N-S	Sept. 17-21
T-Z	Sept. 24-28

Pictures will be taken from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

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PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz