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# The Battalion

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The cowboy atop the Forest Science Bldg. seemed ready to lasso the moon when this photo was taken at 7 a.m. Wednesday.  
 Battalion photo by Susan Webb

## Fraternity seeks official recognition

By KIM TYSON  
 Battalion Staff

A fraternity has asked for Texas A&M University recognition for the first time and consideration of the whole "Greek" system is being made, Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said Tuesday.

Sigma Phi Epsilon, a national fraternity which has been operating off campus since 1965, asked for recognition Aug. 31, 1977, said Freeman Fisher, the fraternity's chairman in charge of the petition.

Although Koldus said he will confer with A&M President Jarvis Miller, he said the decision will be his. He said he will be meeting Miller at the end of the week and he hopes to discuss it then.

"One major reason we wanted to apply is to clear up any misunderstanding about fraternities," Fisher said.

Fisher said there are some benefits to University recognition that his fraternity would like to have.

"One is doing special programs and service projects," Fisher said. "The fraternities and sororities are well organized and would like to apply this ability to other A&M activities."

Fisher said last year his fraternity sponsored a balloon sale at the A&M/Rice football game, donating the \$900 they earned in profits to charity. This year, Fisher said the sale was turned down by the University Concessions Committee, mainly because they weren't a recognized organization. He said the sale had been held for the past four years.

There are 60 active members in Sigma Phi Epsilon, with 34 more pledged this fall. Fisher said from 60 to 80 percent are involved in at least one recognized organization.

Members of the fraternity include a member of the Corps of Cadets, an A&M basketball player, the vice president of Aston Hall, the president of the finance association, the chairman of the Recreation Committee and the A&M tennis player.

Fisher said he is not sure how A&M students would accept a fraternity's recognition.

"For one thing, any deviation from traditions at A&M normally raises a rumble," Fisher said.

"But with girls coming to A&M, enrollment increasing and the overwhelming majority of students off campus, I think the Greek system has a lot to offer."

Fisher said the fact that there are about 900 students now involved in fraternities and sororities shows that there is a definite need for them.

"I'd fail to see any reason for not being allowed on campus if we adhere to their rules and requirements for a recognized organization. I'd fail to see their grounds for rejection," Fisher said. "I'd want at least a statement explaining why."

Fisher and Koldus both said that this decision would set a precedent for the other fraternities and sororities. Most organizations seeking recognition apply to the Student Organizations Board (SOB), a student-faculty-staff group created by Dr. Koldus. But the Sigma Phi Epsilon petition was referred to him because it would

set policy for the whole university, Koldus said.

Other decisions that have come to him from the board include recognition of religious organizations and the Gay Student Services Organization.

When asked why he thought the fraternity wants to be recognized, Koldus said, "To lump it all together, to be much more visible." He said this visibility would include advertising, promoting activities and soliciting members.

"Their life-blood is membership, which means a great deal as far as recruitment."

Koldus listed the following benefits of university recognition: use of campus facilities, a faculty or staff adviser, opportunity to request student activity funds, ability to advertise on campus, use of the Student Finance Center and eligibility to petition for Student Programs Office space.

Fisher said the fraternity, if recognized, already has a faculty member to act as its official adviser.

Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student activities, said that the only restrictions on recognized organizations are they must keep funds in the Student Finance Center and bank through it. She said if an organization receives money from Bookstore profits, SOB would monitor how the funds are used. No money would be monitored if it is totally from the organization.

She said the only recognized social organizations are hometown clubs. But she said these differ from Greek organizations because they are not selective in their membership and are not a part of a national organization.

Koldus listed three things that are important for any organization: the chance

(See 'Greeks,' page 8)

## Student reactions to 'Greeks' vary

Texas A&M Students' views toward University recognition of "Greek" organizations appear to be mixed.

"My personal thought is that once the fraternities and sororities are here there would be some advantage to recognizing them because we would have some influence over them," Rober Harvey, student body president, said in an interview Tuesday.

Harvey said his reservation about having them recognized is that they might institute a "caste-system" on social life based on wealth.

Harvey said he is unsure of how other students feel about Greek recognition by the University.

"I think the majority of students are against fraternities and sororities if there are no concessions made on how they are operated on this campus," he said.

Harvey said many students he's talked to are concerned that members would put the national organizations ahead of A&M.

"They want to make sure the fraternities are Aggies first. If they can settle that in their minds they usually are for it (recognition)," he said.

Mike Gentry, corps commander, said the Corps "wouldn't like it" if the fraternity is recognized.

"I think the anti-fraternity sentiment is that they don't want the encroachment of a Greek-type social atmosphere on the A&M campus."

"As it turns out in other universities, you're nobody unless you're in a fraternity or sorority," Gentry said. "At A&M, people who aren't like in the Corps can still be in an organization. All Aggies can look at each other equally."

Mike Mitchell, president of the Off Campus Student Association, said he thought if his council was representative, most off campus students would not object

to the fraternity being recognized.

"If we were to recognize these organizations and include them, perhaps we can help the fraternities and sororities as a whole to orient their interests in the tradition of Aggieland," Mitchell said.

"We need to take fraternities and sororities into the fold of Aggieland or we're going to go find that when they get big enough we won't be able to do this."

"Mainly, it's because it is just not an Aggie tradition," Senior Frank Harrison said.

Some student base their opposition on experiences with high school friends who have joined fraternities and sororities at other schools.

"I've noticed a lot from friends of mine at other schools that the fraternity makes their whole life," said Beau Meyer, civil engineering major.

"I think they are more interested in putting up a front, rather than coming down on a one-one-one level," Harrison said.

"A&M has really done well without them and we're unique in this aspect, I hope it will stay that way," Meyer said.

Not all fraternities and sororities want to be recognized by the University, either. Bob Limbacher, president of Sigma Chi, said his fraternity would not like to have restrictions placed on their funds by the university.

Chris Clements, president of Kappa Alpha, said that they are making no moves now to apply.

The sorority presidents of Alpha Delta Phi, Chi Omega and Kappa Alpha Theta said they would probably not apply for recognition, even if recognition is approved for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Lauri Holford, president of Kappa Alpha Theta, said she had heard administration officials had not informed entering freshmen of the availability of fraternities and sororities.

## Community agency provides free transportation services

By COLIN CROMBIE

Oleta Turner is a 67-year-old widow, inconvenienced by the lack of public transportation in Bryan-College Station.

"I don't mind walking when it's walking weather," Turner said. She frequently has to do her shopping. But she doesn't go to Bryan or see a doctor very often, she

has a kind of a desperate feeling to know when to go to the doctor and can't go. "I'm sure there are others like me," Turner, who lives alone in College Station.

The Brazos Valley Community Action Agency (CAA) provides two free transportation services for the elderly and the physically and mentally handicapped, said Transportation Coordinator Lee Watson.

Turner said she does not use the CAA services very often. The services are Project Independence Years for Profit.

Project Independence is primarily concerned with taking customers to their doctors and to medical facilities for rehabilitation, Watson said.

A second concern is taking the people who are serviced to government offices such as social security and welfare, she said.

A visit can be made to a grocery store if there is time.

Years for Profit provides transportation for the physically able to nutrition centers in Bryan and College Station, or takes food to the physically disabled, Watson said.

CAA operates two vans in Brazos County, one with a hydraulic lift. But Watson said there are not enough vehicles.

"I think we're in desperate need of public transportation," she remarked.

Oleta Turner said she remembers "a real system back then," just after the Second World War, that ran every 15 or 20 minutes.

The last attempt at public transportation was an experiment by Roy Ellis in July and August of 1976. Ellis said he never went to full operation, but would have charged a 50 cent fare while servicing Bryan, College Station and Texas A&M. He said he had no meaningful financial information concerning his two months' trial.

Greyhound Bus Lines and Central Texas Bus Lines have at least six buses each day connecting Bryan and College Station, but the only stops are at the depot and the fare is a \$1.10 minimum, said Greyhound agent Sam Enloe.

He added that there are no extension services for the Bryan-College Station service and the outbound services are already extended.

A charter and rental bus service is provided by Transportation Enterprises Incorporated, said Ed Blosser, manager of the Bryan-College Station branch. The charge varies, Blosser said, but gave \$9 for three hours for an in-town bus as an example.

Tim Rodriguez owns three taxicab companies in Bryan-College Station, United, He-T-Way, and Diamond. His fares are 75 cents per mile and 75 cents for the first trip, and are as low as he can put them, he said.

Blosser and Rodriguez are both involved in a management contract. This is

a system whereby Bryan and College Station, should they decide to begin a public transit system, could lease the transportation equipment to an operator, guaranteeing payment of the probable deficit.

"An individual operation rarely succeeds," Blosser said.

The cities have the capital and can get federal funding but to prevent another governmental department it is best to have a public transit system managed by an outside company, he added.

"I don't think a public transit system will hurt my business. It will increase it," Rodriguez said, and optimistically viewed his prospects of being awarded a management contract.

But D. D. Williamson, planning engineer of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, pointed out that decisions on a public transit system and on the type of operation have first to be made by the Bryan-College Station city councils before a decision can be made on the operator.

Michael Beal, local chairman of the March of Dimes, said that there should be

an alternative transportation system. It would alleviate the difficulty of the low-income segment of the population of getting to work, he added.

He said that job transportation would tend to have the effect of lowering the welfare rolls in the long run by making more job opportunities available.

Kent Potts, chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Bryan Planning Commission, also said that public transportation between home and work would help the employment situation of low wage earners.

"I have some (workers) that could be accommodated by public transportation," said Potts, who owns a local nursery.

Oleta Turner was in agreement with the officials' statements.

"It's bound to put lots of people to work," she said.

"The cities would be capable of bringing it about," she said.

"I believe I'd ride it a lot," Turner said, remembering the days of regular public transportation when she made four or five trips a week to Bryan.

## 'Happy Hour': no time for cheap liquor

By GLENNA WHITLEY  
 Battalion Staff

At Happy Hour business picks up. Lines stretch from one end of the huge room and back again. Some people stand on tables waiting impatiently. Others mill around, gripping about the long delay.

"This is ridiculous. I've been waiting an hour and a half, can you believe?"

"This place smells like one giant armpit."

They wait for their name or code to be called. "Smith, 1972, Max, Adams," shouts one of the men behind the counter.

Happy Hour isn't an opportunity for imbibing cheap alcoholic drinks. Students and faculty come to this room on the second floor of the Texas A&M University Library between 8:30 and 10 each week night and 12:30 to 1 each afternoon. They come to run their computer programs for free.

As people hear their code word announced, they reach through the crowd for their computer print-outs, results of assignments in classes ranging from agriculture to nuclear engineering. Some use the computer for personal research and games. And they don't have to pay for the computer microseconds they use.

During regular hours, computer time is paid for with an account set up in each department that requires computer use in their courses.

As each program is running special code and account number, the amount of money used for that program is computed and deducted from the department's account.

Happy Hour, however, is paid for through the office of the vice-president for academic affairs. In a busy month, the bill can amount to about \$4,000.

Almost one-third of the programs run in a 24 hour period, are run during Happy Hour.

The free computer time is meant for

students not taking any courses in which funds are allotted for computer work, but who want to use the computer anyway.

But many students who are in a class with funds set aside for computer use take advantage of Happy Hour to conserve the class's funds.

"It is true that some departments are

using it for instruction," said Dr. Dick Simmons, engineering professor and director of the Data Processing Center. "That happens when you have an unpoliced Happy Hour. But we'd rather not put restrictions on it."

The Amdahl 470 computer can execute programs in seconds, but the backlog of

jobs and the waiting time results because the printer is much slower than the computer.

"The problem is not the printers, it's the number of key punches and the physical space," Simmons said. "When the new library opens we'll have even less room." The Remote Computing Center will be



A long line begins to form as students await noon "Happy Hour" in the Remote Computing Center in the library.  
 Battalion photo by Susan Webb

moved to the basement of the building it now occupies.

Simmons said the DPC was not consulted about the space reserved for the RCC when the new library was planned. Dr. Irene Hoadley, library director, just informed him of the decision after it was made, he said.

Hoadley said the decision to move the RCC to the basement was made by the architects and systems planning people, and the DPC officials were asked about the plan.

The reason the RCC was moved to the basement was to provide it with an outside entrance, Hoadley said.

"The RCC used to be open until 2 a.m., but the library started closing earlier," Simmons said. The outside entrance will allow the center to stay open later than the library.

The earlier closing time is one of the reasons lines are longer at the RCC said Steve Candler, remote operator. The Teague Computing Center in the Teague building has been closed to undergraduate users, and this also creates overcrowding.

Simmons said the undergraduates crowded out the graduate students and commercial customers running their programs at Teague, so it was made off-limits to undergraduates.

"The problem with Teague is space, too," he said. Simmons said he put in a request for enlarging the space in Teague.

Another remote center is in Zachry Engineering Center, but it is also not large enough to handle the hundreds of students using the key punch machines and printer.

Future remote computing centers could alleviate the overcrowding problem. The Business Administration building being planned will have a remote center. And the College of Agriculture is considering installing one in the new Agricultural building, Simmons said.