

The Battalion

Vol. 71 No. 27
8 Pages

Friday, October 7, 1977
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Inside Today:

Getting off to the jazz, p. 5
Stepping off to the Texas Aggie Band, p. 6
Looking off to the Texas-OU clash, p. 7



No': University's reply to fraternity

By KIM TYSON
Battalion Campus Editor

Texas A&M University has denied official recognition to a national fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, which has been operating on campus since 1965. The rejection was issued this week by John Koldus, vice president for student activities, in a letter to Sigma Phi Epsilon president John Gilbert. The fraternity asked for recognition on Oct. 31, 1977. It was the first Greek organization ever to officially apply for University recognition. That recognition would have given the organization the right to use campus facilities, opportunity to request student activity funds, ability to advertise on campus use of the Student Finance Center and the right to an official adviser.

Koldus said in a prior interview that he was considering the Greek system as a whole and not just the fraternity that applied.

In the one-page letter Koldus explained the reasons for his denial of recognition. He wrote, "During its long history, the university has developed its own unique approach to providing outstanding curricular, service, research, and student activity programs. Traditions have been developed which were considered to support the uniqueness of the institutional program, gave it strength and character, and were considered to be in the best developmental interest of the entire student body."

Koldus said Texas A&M has chosen for more than 100 years not to include the national social fraternity and sorority system as part of its education program.

"The university has supported the premise that its social character was developed in the concept of togetherness in that all students were Aggies and that a social caste system would detract from this most important concept which welded together the students that attended Texas A&M."

"Suffice it to say that for over 100 years, this institution has been most successful in accomplishing this task."

He said, "as an administrator, it is my responsibility to attempt to perpetuate these traditions which have added not only

to the character of the institution but to its strength."

Koldus was out of town and could not be reached for further comment.

Freeman Fisher, spokesman for the fraternity, said his fraternity definitely would not seek legal action to get University recognition, but that he was unsure whether the decision would be appealed to Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller.

Fisher said he did not agree with Koldus' reasons for refusing recognition.

"I'm unhappy with his reference that we would form a caste system on campus. We

are not here to undermine tradition and we're not here to undermine the togetherness of A&M," Fisher said.

"As far as the caste system is concerned, I think that the caste exists on campus anyway as far as between dormitories, grade classification and between the Corps and non-regs."

"He (Koldus) mentions it was a tradition to not have fraternities and sororities on campus for over 100 years, but none have ever applied until this year," Fisher said. He said he believed the rejection re-

sulted from the fraternity's selection process for members.

"I think the main basis for rejection was the misconception that we discriminate against various religions, races or socioeconomic status."

"But I think our selection process is less stringent than Town Hall, OPAS or SCONA (all recognized organizations)."

Fisher said his fraternity would like to compromise by working with the school, possibly through an inter-fraternity council.

Health Center alters policies, raises fees

By ELLIE LAPORTE

These are changing times, and changes have even become evident at the Beutel Health Center on campus. The center has recently made several policy changes, such as charging for all shots, dispensing medicine through the university pharmacy and raising student health center fees.

Students who used to receive free all-inclusive shots at the center are now required to pay a fee of \$1 per injection, said Dr. Wade Goswick, director of the health center.

Goswick said the policy was changed because he did not feel it was fair for some students to bring chronic illnesses, such as asthma or migraine headaches, to school and expect other students to "foot the bill" through their health center fees. Another recent policy change made by the health center concerns the University pharmacy. The pharmacy will no longer refill prescriptions or supply medications for chronic illnesses, Goswick said.

One reason for this change is because "a number of students grossly abuse the services by obtaining medication they do not really need," Goswick said.

In addition, prescriptions must be filled by a pharmacist or a physician for his own patients; nurses are no longer allowed to dispense medicine in the pharmacy.

Beginning January, health center fees will be increased from \$14 to \$15.

The need for health center income has been higher than actual income has been, Goswick said. "We were on the verge of losing money we didn't have to supply services."

Besides offsetting the rising costs of today's services, such as laboratory

tests, X-rays and medication, the increase in fees will help offset salary increases the center must offer to attract good doctors, Goswick said.

The fees, which students are required to pay, cover expenses for the many services the center now provides to students without extra charge. These include: an unlimited amount of out-patient visits, medication from the university pharmacy, X-rays, laboratory tests, physical therapy, 10 days of in-patient care (after 10 days students must pay \$22.50 per day) and consultations with specialists (no charge if the center sets up the appointment).

"Eventually there should be and will be a charge for the things that we now provide free of charge," said Goswick. A so-called "user fee, where the people who use the services would be the ones to pay for them, would be established, he said.

Reps oppose closing of tower

Texas A&M University is taking an active interest in keeping Easterwood Airport's control tower open.

Thursday the University sent two representatives to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hearing in Kansas City to state A&M's position on the possible closing of the tower.

Ed Davis, director of management services at A&M, and Howard Vestal, A&M's president of business affairs, will represent the University and the Bryan-College Station area at the hearing.

"It will be our contention that Easterwood Airport is a victim of timing in that the FAA report did not take our growth into account," Davis said.

The report he referred to is a recent FAA study that suggests Easterwood's tower is not providing enough services to justify itself economically.

The study is one of five FAA options that will determine the fate of 73 control towers in the country, including Easterwood's. Under this option, the FAA would close all 73 towers in question.

The FAA has presented its five options for public comment, and A&M is using this opportunity to express its views.

"We find that out of the 73 towers, Easterwood's is number three in order of magnitude," Davis said. In other words, Easterwood's tower is more profitable than 70 of the 73 towers, he said.

"The FAA study shows that Easterwood's tower would lose about \$8,000 over the next 15 years," Davis said. "That would only amount to a little over \$500 per year, and if our growth rate were taken into account that would probably be a gain instead of a loss."

Martell was referring to a letter from the attorney at Hassle Free, the student-run organization for handling apartment dwellers' complaints, that accused Martell of unfairly charging tenants for fuel adjustments.

"That was just one issue that created a lot of hard feelings," Martell said. Records show that Martell was passing on directly the costs charged him by the utility companies.

"The utility company was charging a flat fee on a per kilowatt-hour basis," Martell said. "We just passed that cost on."

Martell said his company is just now recovering from the publicity generated by the fuel adjustment fees. He admitted that he made a mistake handling the situation, and said if the situation were to arise again, he would find a place large enough to assemble his tenants and explain the situation.

"We might be laughed at, but we are trying to upgrade a product here and we will do whatever it takes to make our people happy," he said.

Residents in Sevilla have mixed reactions toward Martell management.

"It has taken some time to get things done, but they are pretty good," said Paul Michael, a sophomore majoring in aerospace engineering. "The rent seems high and the response to complaints seems low at times, but I am satisfied."

Paul Burns, a junior computer science major, reported a different story.

"I have complained several times about holes in the wall and broken towel racks," he said.

Peggy Cowgill, manager for Sevilla, readily admits that maintenance is the number one concern for Martell.

"The biggest and hardest problem we had was just getting people moved in during September," she said. "The apartment complexes were, for the most part, left vacant during the summer months and we were deluged with problems when the new tenants moved in."

Cowgill blamed the slow response to problems on the volume of requests she receives opposed to the number of maintenance men at her disposal.

"We are just now getting to repairs reported at the end of August because of our ordering of priorities," she said.

The management repairs broken appliances and air conditioners first, before taking on repairs such as walls and peeling wallpaper.

The problem of maintaining all Columbia Properties falls to Margie Sikes, property manager for Martell. She said a new maintenance program may be expected as of Oct. 15.

"We are going to have two people on call at all times to handle emergency repairs and minor appliance repair," said Sikes. Major repairs will be handled by outside contractors with experienced, trained repair crews.

Maintenance costs are mostly incurred by the owner of the complexes, but in some cases where damage is caused by the tenant, repair costs are deducted from a security deposit.

"We have \$30,000 in deposits and use only \$3,000 of those deposits to make repairs," said Martell. That works out to each tenant forfeiting, on the average, 10 per cent of his security deposit.

"To make up for the inconvenience of collecting security deposits, we pay five per cent interest on the deposits," Martell said. He is the only apartment manager in College Station to pay interest on any type of deposit.



Good times and all that jazz

"Kid Thomas" Valentine plays into his hat as the rest of the band joins in. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band from New Orleans played before

an enthusiastic crowd in Rudder Auditorium Thursday night. See related story, page 5.

Complaints not voiced in right way

Tenants, managers: bad communication

By MARK POWER

Apartment dwellers may have a lot to complain about in College Station. But sometimes residents fail to voice their complaints to the right channels.

"There has been quite a breakdown as far as communication," said Bob Martell, president of Columbia Properties. "Unfortunately, it's like the tenants are on one side and the management on the other. That is not really true."

Martell manages six large apartment

complexes in College Station: Sevilla, Scandia I, Taos, Aurora Gardens, Sausalito and Sundance.

"The tenant wants a fixed packaged product, and we are trying to provide one," said Martell. He rejects the idea that his tenants are unsatisfied.

"I admit we have been very defensive about our image, but for good reason. We have been accused in the past of unfair rates and fuel charges by attorneys armed with half truths," said Martell.

done, but they are pretty good," said Paul Michael, a sophomore majoring in aerospace engineering. "The rent seems high and the response to complaints seems low at times, but I am satisfied."

Paul Burns, a junior computer science major, reported a different story.

"I have complained several times about holes in the wall and broken towel racks," he said.

Peggy Cowgill, manager for Sevilla, readily admits that maintenance is the number one concern for Martell.

"The biggest and hardest problem we had was just getting people moved in during September," she said. "The apartment complexes were, for the most part, left vacant during the summer months and we were deluged with problems when the new tenants moved in."

Cowgill blamed the slow response to problems on the volume of requests she receives opposed to the number of maintenance men at her disposal.

"We are just now getting to repairs reported at the end of August because of our ordering of priorities," she said.

The management repairs broken appliances and air conditioners first, before taking on repairs such as walls and peeling wallpaper.

The problem of maintaining all Columbia Properties falls to Margie Sikes, property manager for Martell. She said a new maintenance program may be expected as of Oct. 15.

"We are going to have two people on call at all times to handle emergency repairs and minor appliance repair," said Sikes. Major repairs will be handled by outside contractors with experienced, trained repair crews.

Maintenance costs are mostly incurred by the owner of the complexes, but in some cases where damage is caused by the tenant, repair costs are deducted from a security deposit.

"We have \$30,000 in deposits and use only \$3,000 of those deposits to make repairs," said Martell. That works out to each tenant forfeiting, on the average, 10 per cent of his security deposit.

"To make up for the inconvenience of collecting security deposits, we pay five per cent interest on the deposits," Martell said. He is the only apartment manager in College Station to pay interest on any type of deposit.



"I'm the supervisor"

The new library construction has attracted the attention of many a passersby, but Thursday the project was being observed by a self-proclaimed supervisor. Liudas Motekaitis, 5, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Ramunas Motekaitis of Bryan, spent several hours watching and commenting on the early phase of the project. The completion date is Spring 1979.

Israel, Palestine headed for peace

United Press International

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization appear headed toward a compromise that will allow a resumption of the Geneva peace talks with West Bank mayors taking part in a Palestinian delegation.

Both Israeli and PLO officials said Thursday they were willing to accept an arrangement in which the Palestinian mayors of towns on the West Bank of Jordan would join the talks, perhaps as part of an all-Arab or Jordanian delegation.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, in appearances in Chicago and Atlanta, said the Jewish state will allow the PLO to designate delegates to Geneva, as long as they are not PLO members.

"If the PLO would authorize them or say we think they would represent its position, then that's their business. But as far as we're concerned, they must be non-PLO leaders of the Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank," Dayan told a news conference in Atlanta. "We would take them at face value."

Dayan said even if a representative is "a sympathizer with the PLO — we shall accept him."

U.S. officials in New York went one step beyond Dayan's comments, saying Israel had agreed to accept low-ranking PLO members mingled with other Palestinians in a group officially called "Palestinian representatives."

The officials said the Palestinians would form part of an all-Arab delegation and later split off with the Jordanians to discuss the future of the West Bank and compensation for refugees.

One element of the compromise, U.S. officials said, is that it will not be detailed in any official agreement, and another is that neither side will discuss it publicly until there is agreement. The officials said that could take weeks.

At the United Nations, a high PLO official said Thursday "all Palestinians are members of the PLO" and that the West Bank mayors could be included in a delegation to Geneva.

But Zehdi Labib Terzi, the PLO's Permanent Observer, said the key to the PLO's participation in a resumed Geneva conference would be "an official invitation to the PLO to participate."

"We will insist that a formal invitation to the conference must be extended to the PLO," Terzi said in an interview at U.N. headquarters. "Once it is extended, the PLO will designate its delegates."

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, the central figure in intensive diplomatic negotiations over the past 10 days, expressed guarded optimism in a New York speech to American ambassadors, but said, "Many uncertainties and difficulties lie ahead."

"But when we look ahead, and compare it to the last year, the outlook in the Middle East has improved," Vance said.