

How the Greeks have grown at A&M

Sororities, fraternities—no small-time operation

By MICHELLE SCUDDER
Battalion Staff

Sororities and fraternities, once looked upon as small time operations at Texas A&M University, are growing. Some students are finding they are a good way to get involved and meet people in a large university. Panhellenic, the governing body for sororities, reports that about 700 girls are involved in sororities at Texas A&M.

Sororities began organizing as groups at Texas A&M in 1974, and the Bryan-College Station Collegiate Panhellenic was organized in 1975. At that time about 150 girls were involved with sororities.

The Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC), an organization composed of eight of 11 Texas A&M fraternities, estimates that about 250 men are involved in the 11 fraternities. The first organized fraternity rush was in 1975.

All sororities affiliated with national groups that are Panhellenic members are required to be members of Panhellenic.

However, fraternities have no such requirement. Kelly Stephens, IFC president said that IFC exists to organize rush and to gain enough support among the fraternities to present a unified front for university recognition. Both Panhellenic and IFC are composed of representa-

tives from the sororities and fraternities, but they act in an advisory capacity, as each sorority and fraternity is regulated by its individual chapter bylaws.

"Panhellenic's duty is to plan rush and carry it out," said Mrs. Jo-Ann Anthony, rush director of Bryan-College Station Collegiate Panhellenic. Panhellenic regulates the maximum number of girls each sorority is allowed to pledge.

"The pledge quota is derived by taking the total number of girls that accept their rush invitations and dividing it by nine, to come up with the maximum number that each sorority may pledge," Anthony said. Stephens said that the IFC has no limitations or quotas on number of rushees or membership quota of the fraternities.

Anthony estimates that the average monthly dues for sorority members is between \$20 to \$30, although no cost sheet has been compiled yet for this year.

"All the groups have bought land with plans to build houses, so dues have gone up from last year," Anthony said.

Stephens said monthly fraternity dues run between \$20 to \$30, also depending on the fraternity, and what they need to support their houses and activities.

Donna Danklefs, president of Chi

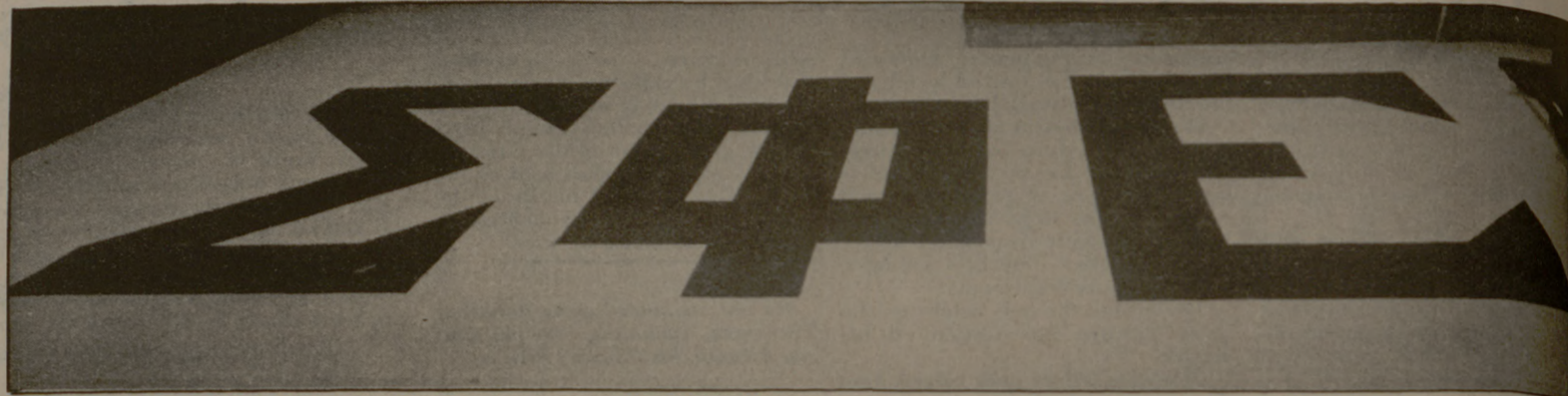
Omega, said that her sorority initiation fee is \$150, and dues are \$25 monthly. "Our dues go toward paying for chapter dinners, national dues, administrative costs and keeping up the apartment," Danklefs said.

Danklefs said that Chi Omega usually has two social activities a month, such as mixers with a fraternity, Corps unit, or residence hall on campus, and sometimes weekend retreats for the sorority members.

Cindy Wilcox, president of Phi Mu sorority said the initiation fee for her sorority is \$60, and monthly dues are \$25. Wilcox said the money is budgeted mostly for parties and rush. "The girls never have to supply anything at the parties and activities; everything is paid for with the dues," Wilcox said. "Money left over is put into a fund for housing."

"Some of the national sororities have a national philanthropy, and the collegiate chapters participate in that also," Anthony said.

"Other sororities leave it up to the locals as to what kind of service project they want to participate in," Anthony said. For example Chi Omega sorority does what they call a Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter kindness, in which they help locally where service is needed.



The Greek letters of Sigma Phi Epsilon are proudly displayed on the floor of the Sig-Ep fraternity house located in Bryan.

Sigma Phi Epsilon is one of 11 fraternities at Texas A&M, in which an estimated 250 men are members.

Greek Village

Sorority housing planned

By ANDY WILLIAMS
Campus Editor

Today the field contains oak trees, grass and the beginnings of a couple of roads.

In about five years, if the plans of eight of Texas A&M University's nine sororities are realized, it will be covered with their members' houses.

The groups bought land in a planned development called the Greek Village. College Station's city council approved its final plan last summer.

The 12 acres of land are about a mile southeast of the campus. It lies

between University Oaks Boulevard, Munson Drive, Dominik Drive and Stallings Drive.

All nine sororities are now renting special-sized apartments in the Sausalito complex. But the steady increase in sorority membership has made continuing that practice unrealistic, says Brenda Zieren, president of the local Panhellenic Housing Board.

The board is made up of a representative of each sorority, and the decision to buy land in the development was made through it.

"Most of the apartments are much too small," Zieren said. She said the

groups "really need a place to go."

Only Alpha Phi has decided what kind of housing it will have when the development is finished. It bought the only existing residence on the land. Chapter president Laura Brockman says her group will have only six or eight living in the house and will use the place mostly for meetings and other functions.

"We're not going to have a large sorority house like the ones at some universities because so many of the students here already live off campus," she said.

Other groups have no definite plans.

Jeanne Graham, president of Zeta Tau Alpha, says her group is considering a house which will be used chiefly as a meeting place and would house 25 to 30 women.

"But all this is very tentative," she added. "All that we've done is purchase the lot." She said the house will probably be paid for partly from accumulated dues and partly from a loan.

Zeta Tau Alpha general adviser Sharon Watson says that even though the purchase of the lot is not final, the condition is that the street be paved and completed. The land owner is to be paid within three days of the completion of the street.

The land has been divided into 10 lots, two of which remain unsold. Two streets, Athens and Olympus, are under construction, says Zieren, and all but the Delta Zeta house will face Athens.

Phi Mu is the only sorority at Texas A&M which didn't buy a lot in the development.

"It's still being talked about," said Cindy Wilcox, president of the local Phi Mu chapter. "But we feel that the price is too high for the land that's being offered. Also, we are at a membership of 23, and would like to be larger before we try to support a project like this."

Wilcox said that the lease on the Phi Mu apartment will be up in a year. "By that time, we hope to have another option."

Recognition: pros and cons

By MARILYN FAULKENBERRY
Battalion Staff

This fall the sororities at Texas A&M University completed their fourth formal rush, still an unrecognized student organization here.

But unlike the fraternities, the sororities are not pushing for University recognition. They have never applied for recognition and are not sure they're going to.

Jo Ann Anthony, rush director for the sororities at Texas A&M, said there are pros and cons to official recognition.

The major advantage is that with recognition, the sororities could use University facilities to hold their meetings and to post notices. The main disadvantage is that most sororities are financed through their respective national organization and to be recognized would have to be financed through the student financial office.

John J. Koldus, vice president for student services, said that if the sororities were to ask for recognition they would be denied on the same basis Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity was denied last year.

Sigma Phi Epsilon, the first Greek organization to ever apply for University recognition at Texas A&M, was denied recognition last fall.

In a letter to the fraternity, Koldus said he felt A&M has a unique approach to developing comradery. For 100 years, he said traditions at this University have been successfully developed, and along with them strength and character. He said he thought all students are Aggies, and that all Aggies are equals, and that any type of "social caste system would detract from the total character and strength of this University."

Koldus said because all fraternities and sororities have a "black ball" system of one type or another, recognition would be difficult. He said that while honorary organizations have criteria for membership such as grade point average, no student can be kept out of a recognized

organization simply because the members don't want him in.

However, Koldus said Friday that he doesn't know if the University would ever recognize the Greek organizations. "One never knows," Koldus said. "Some day some compromise may be worked out one way or another."

Koldus said he was in a fraternity in college himself, and can see a lot of positive friendships and activities that arise from the organizations. He said they can become negative if too much partying interferes with school, but that depends on the people, and not the organization, he said.

Koldus said he didn't think the Greek organizations had a place within the University system at this time.

Bob Kamensky, corps commander, said he didn't think women

"I realize now they (sororities) do fit at A&M. We don't want to take over the University and advertise ourselves with T-shirts. We want to support the Aggies and the community."

---Carol McCurry,
President of Kappa
Kappa Gamma

needed sororities to be a part of the University. "The traditions are not so male oriented anymore," he said. "Women in the corps are an example; they had five rough years but they're in stride with the men now."

Kamensky said there are five organizations on the University in which anyone can find a place: the Corps of Cadets, the MSC Council and Directorate, Student Government, the Resident Hall Associa-

tion, and the Off-Campus Student Association, by far the largest group.

He said nothing was organized for off-campus students for a long time, and that fraternities and sororities took a foothold and developed instead.

"If someone wants to be part of a group he can join any of the five, and there's no need for a social organization to pop its head up on campus," he said.

"I see fraternities and sororities as a setback to A&M in general," he said.

For the women who join sororities, it is an easier way to make friends, especially as Texas A&M continues to grow. Shelley Killingsworth, president of Delta Zeta, said when she came here in 1975 it was "easy to meet guys because the activities and traditions at this University are structured around males, but difficult to make close girl friends." She said she could have made them without the sorority, but not as quickly.

Carol McCurry, president of Kappa Kappa Gamma, a large sorority, said the friendships she has made are worth the price. She said at first she didn't want to join a sorority, because she had always heard the girls were "snotty," and didn't think they had a place at A&M.

"I realize now they do fit at A&M. We don't want to take over the University and advertise ourselves with our T-shirts," McCurry said. "We want to support the Aggies and the community."

McCurry said she thought the sorority could more effectively serve the University and community if it could use its facilities and advertise its activities on campus. She said two years ago the Kappas were going to raise money for bonfire on campus, but couldn't because they weren't recognized.

Ray Daniels, president of the MSC Council and Directorate, said there is already a shortage of meeting room space and areas to post notices. He said priorities for this

space are based on functions the group has for the University.

Cindy Wilcox, president of Phi Mu, said, "We don't want to push our way in — we want them to accept us. It's unfortunate they think we're strictly social. However, we are selective about who we want."

"They say their emphasis isn't social, but it is. I couldn't talk to the girls because I didn't feel comfortable with them—some of them are your friend strictly because they have to be."

---Former sorority member

We want girls who show the interest in the sorority and the University. They must be enrolled in at least 12 hours. We want girls with generally the same goals and ideals.

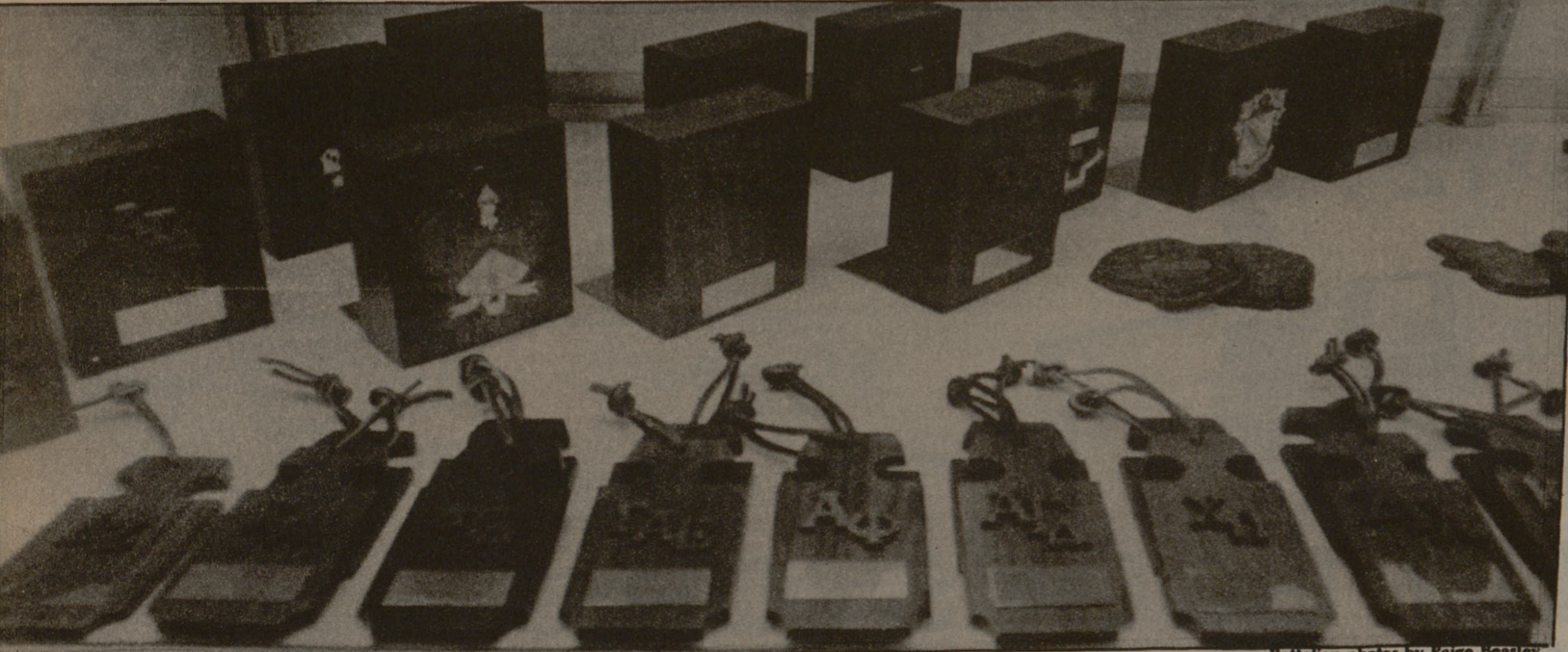
"We want to make ourselves better women," she added.

"We really do realize that college is first," she said. "Usually the dean of women at other universities will look out for sororities. It would be nice to have that support and counseling."

In contrast, Shelley Killingsworth said, "I don't see where it hurts the Greek system to not be recognized here. I'm not interested in recognition at all."

The presidents of Phi Mu, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Delta Zeta say that contrary to popular belief, member selection is not based on parents' occupations or income, or wardrobes or cars. McCurry said choices are made during the first four parties of rush week. The choice of sororities is narrowed from nine to two.

Before a girl can be signed as a



Sorority and fraternity memorabilia abound at Texas A&M University. Among the items sold at local bookstores and shirtshops bearing the emblems of different sororities and fraternities are plaques, pledge paddles, bookends, jewelry, beach towels, hats, shirts and key chains. Sororities began organizing at Texas A&M in 1974, and fraternities in 1975.



A Texas A&M sorority tradition is to welcome new pledges by decorating their doors. These two Mosher Hall roommates did something a bit unusual—they pledged different sororities, Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Delta Pi.