

Social clubs seek attitude change

By MERIL EDWARDS
Battalion Staff

Greek social organizations say they are not pushing for recognition by Texas A&M University, but they would like to be acknowledged.

National social fraternities and sororities are not recognized as campus organizations by the University administration, said Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student activities.

"It's been two years since a group applied for recognition," Adair said. "Occasionally, individuals will come in asking the reasons behind our policy, but there have been no other official applications."

Adair said she shows students the letter written by Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, denying recognition of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

In the letter, Koldus said that Texas A&M supports the premise that its social character was developed in the concept of togetherness — in that all students are Aggies and a social caste system would detract from this concept.

Sigma Phi Epsilon president Grover Ellisor said his organization's application for official recognition was mainly to get a feel of where the administration stood.

"I can't see now, though, where

recognition would help us that much," Ellisor said. "We're growing and getting bigger at a rate we can barely manage. We're doing fine except for maybe being able to advertise on campus."

"My concern if we were recognized would be the restraints and regulations the university would put on us."

Ellisor said the administration is negative toward Greeks, but its position doesn't affect his organization much.

"We'd like to be acknowledged," he said. "We love A&M and are Aggies just like everyone else. We're not like the Greek systems at other schools."

Ellisor said his group was criticized a lot at first for trying to undermine the system, but the attitude is better now.

"If A&M ever does change its policy toward Greeks, it will be a slow and gradual change," Ellisor said. "When a larger percentage of the students are involved then we'll receive more attention, but we're all right now."

Becky Bridges, Alpha Delta Pi president, agreed with Ellisor.

"We want to be acknowledged, but we don't want to be recognized right now because that means our funds would be regulated by A&M."

Bridges said the acknowledgement they're seeking is more of an attitude than a policy change.

"We want the University to be proud of us," she said. "They can acknowledge we exist as a student organization. We are a group of students enrolled in A&M."

Bridges said there are about 1,400 students involved in Greek clubs.

"I think most students don't feel Greeks are so bad anymore," she said. "We're interested in telling everyone that Greeks aren't just a party group. We place high priority on grades and service projects."

Bridges said her big project for the semester is trying to get Greek pictures in the yearbook.

But what about students not in a sorority or fraternity: do they agree with university policy toward Greeks?

"I'm glad they're not recognized," Vicki Maddux, a sophomore in management, said. "That's one of the reasons I came to A&M. I didn't want to go to a school where I wasn't accepted if I didn't belong to a sorority. I think they would divide the student body."

Blake Guillory, a freshman in mechanical engineering, disagreed.

"I don't have anything against Greeks. I think they should be recognized. They're a part of college life, they allow you to get closer to each other like a family-type atmosphere. I might like to join a fraternity."

Greek recognition would bring unnecessary competition to campus, said Bobby Page, a senior finance major.

"It's friendlier the way it is. I think they ought to be left on their own and the administration should keep a neutral stance."

Engineering prof receives grant

A \$20,000 grant in support of the Halliburton Chair of Engineering has been presented to Texas A&M University.

The Halliburton Education grant was made to Robert H. Page, dean of the College of Engineering, by officials of Brown and Root Inc. and Welox of Houston.

The 1979-80 contribution is the 15th annual grant to Texas A&M by the foundation.

Page said the funds will allow the new Halliburton Chair Professor, Dr. Stephen Riter of the Electrical Engineering Department, to perform studies in several areas. They will include the effect of public policy on technology, productivity growth and energy development.



Dedication ceremonies for Chi Omega sorority house will be held Saturday. The house was completed late in August. Twenty-seven members and a house mother are residents of the house.
Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Chi Omega dedication Saturday

Greek living growing in popularity

By CINDY COLVIN
Battalion Reporter

Since 1976, eight of the nine sororities with Texas A&M University chapters have bought property in an area located on Athens Way in College Station.

There is a growing trend for social fraternities and sororities to build houses. On April 22, 1976, the College Station City Council passed an ordinance to allow fraternities and sororities to build in designated commercial and apartment zones.

Chi Omega's house was completed in late August, after approval by the College Station Planning and Zoning Commission in March. The sorority first submitted plans in the fall of 1978, said Carolyn Storm, Chi Omega president.

Ordinance 1019 requires "one off-street parking space per 30 square feet of net floor space."

James Calloway, community development planner, said the ordinance was designed to assure that the construction of the house observed proper building codes for "mercantile occupancy," and to assure proper parking spaces for each house.

Alpha Phi sorority had difficulties in meeting the requirements when it bought property with an existing brick house, said Kathryn Williams, the sorority's pledge trainer. Because the construction plans called for a 20-foot extension on each side of the house, construction was delayed, Williams said.

In addition to having problems

with the existing structure's 20-foot extension, Calloway said a fire zone needed to be marked off in the parking area and curbs needed to be built.

Plans were finally approved Sept. 6, after three attempts. In the meantime, the sorority is making its headquarters in an apartment.

Since the house isn't built, four members live in the apartment and other members live in apartments or dorms on their own, Williams said. The house, when it's completed, will house 28 to 34 members.

The Chi Omega house is already completed and houses 27 members and one house mother, Storm said. The sorority plans to hold an official dedication ceremony on Saturday.

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