

Students pay way

Sorority Row rises

by Barbie Woelfel
Battalion Reporter

Fraternity and sorority houses are popping up all over Bryan-College Station, and since Texas A&M University doesn't recognize the social groups, they must find their own sources of financial backing to pay for these houses.

One such house, located on "Sorority Row" at Athens Drive and Olympia Way in College Station, is owned by Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

The house was purchased through a loan made by the sorority's house corporation board. Members living in the house pay \$1,300 a semester, which covers board, utility bills and rent, said Louise Davis, a junior Kappa Alpha Theta member.

Part of the \$1,300 also goes to the house corporation board for loan payments on the house, Davis said.

The Theta house, located at 1503 Athens Drive, was built last summer. It houses 40 girls and one house mother who cooks for the girls.

The Chi Omega house, at 1501 Athens Drive, was built three years ago. Jennie Stewart, a junior Chi Omega member and house resident, said Chi Omega pledges began paying a house fee one year before the house was built.

Out of 80 active members, the 27 Chi Omega members living in the house also pay approximately \$1,300 a semester for rent, utilities and board, Stewart said. The sorority also has a live-in house mother who works on the house budget, makes purchases for the house and plans menus for three meals a day.

"We go on a point system to decide who can live in the house," Stewart said. "It includes grades, classification, offices held and number of years in the sorority. All officers are required to live in the house."

The Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority has its house at 1502 Athens Drive. Shannon Wilson, house chairman for the Kappas,

said Kappa alumni throughout the state, along with loan payments made by the house board and the corporation board, pay for the house.

Sorority Row is zoned primarily for sorority houses, therefore fraternity members must locate their houses elsewhere.

Steve Smith, social chairman and Intra-Fraternity Council representative for Sigma Chi, said the fraternity made its home four years ago in a seven-bedroom house located 1.5 miles out Dowling Road south of College Station.

"Since our fraternity is a non-profit organization, we must go through a housing corporation composed of alumni who make our house payments for us," Smith said.

Each of the nine men living in the Sigma Chi house pay \$95 for rent and \$100 for board each month, he said. Fraternity members remodeled the house a few years ago adding a bar and a deck, enabling the members to have parties in the house.

Gary Roden, Sigma Chi president, said the house and its five acres are worth approximately \$200,000.

Information on the value of the other fraternity and sorority houses was not available.

Pat McCaa, secretary-treasurer of Alpha Gamma Rho, said its members moved into their house at 418 College Main in September 1978.

Three loans made by an alumni corporation paid for the house, where nine undergraduate Alpha Gamma Rho members live. Each member pays \$100 a month rent, McCaa said.

But not all fraternities and sororities can afford to buy their own houses.

The Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, known as the Fijis, rents a five-bedroom house at 1414 South College in Bryan.

Lonnie Copps, Fiji president, said the organization has been renting the house since August 1978 and pays \$600 rent monthly, which is handled through a board of chapter members.

"We have two sets of income: rent and dues," Copps said. "Rent comes from four people living in the house who pay \$110 monthly. Certain amounts are set out from dues for utility costs, the house fund, rent and social activities."

The Delta Tau Delta fraternity rents its house from the owners of Texas Hall of Fame.

Rob Grammer, corresponding secretary and scholastic chairman of Delta Tau Delta, said the six-bedroom house, behind the Hall of Fame, houses nine people who each pay \$100 a month for rent.

Fraternity officers are required to live in the fraternity house, Grammer said.



The Kappa Alpha Theta sorority house is just one of the sorority houses along Sorority Row in College Station.

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Doc says use oil to fight cold weather

United Press International
CHICAGO — Vegetable oil — not petroleum jelly — should be used to keep lips and skin from cracking in the winter chill, a dermatologist says. That is, if you don't mind smelling like a tossed salad.

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