

CS City Council gives approval for construction of 6 frat houses

By ROBERT MCGLOHON
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council gave the go-ahead Thursday for the construction of six new fraternity houses, and it turned down a request by Texas A&M University for an internship slot in the city's finance department.

The request for permission to build the fraternity houses came from David B. Lewis, the owner of 6.56 acres of land west of Cornell Drive in southeast College Station. Lewis told the council he would like to extend Cornell Drive with a cul-de-sac and build as many as six fraternity houses on 1-acre lots around that extension. To do so requires the land be rezoned from R-4 (low den-

sity apartments) to R-5 (medium density apartments).

The six fraternity houses would contain approximately 20 living units each, Lewis said. Low density apartment zoning allows a maximum of 104 units.

The city staff told the council the rezoning request was consistent with the city's planning and development policies and compatible with adjacent land uses.

Lewis said he already had been contacted by three existing fraternities in College Station about the construction of new houses.

The council approved the request unanimously.

The request for an internship slot in the city's finance department came from Charles W. Wiggins, coordinator of Texas A&M's Masters of Public Administration Program. In a letter to the council, Wiggins noted that interns had been hired by the city from time to time in the past and that an internship is required by the University's MPA degree program.

Wiggins said the internship would encompass the coming fall and spring semesters at a cost of about \$9,000.

The council failed to approve the request with 3-3 vote. In favor of the motion were Mayor Gary Halter and

councilmembers Robert Runnels and Patricia Boughton. Vicky Reinke, Gary Anderson and Lynn McIlhane opposed the measure.

McIlhane expressed concern about the funding of the internship program. The city's general contingency fund, now at about \$200,000, should be reserved for more important projects, McIlhane said. "I don't know if this is really a priority item," she said.

Reinke opposed the request because of its "unfortunate" timing. The request should have been presented to the council in time to be included in the city's yearly budget, she said.

Court sentences Vatican Bank official

United Press International

MILAN, Italy — A senior Vatican Bank official and 21 other people were sentenced to a total of 122 years in prison by an Italian court Thursday on fraud and other convictions linked to the 1974 collapse of an Italian bank.

The Milan court sentenced Luigi Mennini, the managing director of the Institute for Religious Works, or Vatican Bank, to seven years in jail on a charge of "aggravated fraudulent bankruptcy" of the Banca Privata Italiana.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican. Newspaper

reports have said Mennini was living in Vatican City — a sovereign state — to avoid authorities.

The Banca Privata owned by Sicilian financier Michele Sindona went bankrupt in 1974, leaving debts of some \$250 million.

Sindona, 63, a former financial adviser to the Vatican Bank, is currently serving a 25-year term in a New York state prison for fraud in connection with the collapse of his Franklin National Bank in 1974.

He is expected to be extradited to Italy within a few months to stand trial for the collapse of the Banca Privata.

Judicial authorities last September decided to try Sindona separately from the 26 defendants in the case, most of whom were former associates of the financier.

State prosecutor Guido Viola told the court in his summation that at the time of the bank's collapse, the Vatican Bank was used to illegally export the Banca Privata's capital abroad.

Mennini, a member of Banca Privata's board of directors, was appointed managing director of the Vatican Bank by Pope Paul VI in 1963.

In 1981, the Vatican said it hoped Mennini, 73, would be able to give "adequate and justifying clarification" for the fraud charges against him.

When Sindona returns, he will also stand trial on a related charge of ordering the 1979 murder of Giorgio Ambrosoli, a lawyer who presided over the liquidation of the Italian bank.

Prosecutors say Sindona ordered William Arico, an American accused of Mafia activities, to shoot and kill Ambrosoli in Milan.



Photo by PETER ROCHA

I'd Rather Be Sailing

The sailing club recruits new members by the Rudder Fountain under sunny skies Thursday. Members give lessons, have use of boats, and go on weekend outings.

FERRARO

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dale's press secretary Maxine Isaacs said the former vice president toasted Ferraro, saying "We made history today. We are the future."

Back home in Queens, a proud mother, Antoinette Ferraro, said of her daughter: "Words can't express the way I feel. I never thought I'd see the day, I'm so happy for her and I know that she can make it. Walter Mondale and Gerry will be president and vice president in November."

Top Mondale aides said the campaign had been in touch with nearly 1,000 party officials and convention delegates Thursday and that the response to the Ferraro selection was treated enthusiastically.

"I think this will bring out more voters," said campaign manager Robert Beckel.

But conservative critics said Mondale could alienate as many voters as he attracts with Ferraro and abortion emerged early as a volatile issue facing the new Mondale-Ferraro ticket.

Anti-abortion leader Phyllis Schlafly said at a San Francisco news conference Ferraro's rocket-propelled career in national politics will make it clear that "women's rights means the right to kill unborn children."

The No. 2 slot — like the presidency — has been a white male preserve since the nation was founded. Mondale was under tremendous pressure to make history and pick a woman this year, although the deci-

sion was bound to draw criticism that it was politically motivated.

Ferraro, 48, a three-term member of Congress from blue-collar Queens, is a tough political fighter who balances the ticket not only by being a woman, but as an Italian Catholic from a big Eastern state — three more key elements of the Democrats historically winning coalition.

Not only did Mondale make history by choosing a woman, he broke tradition by announcing his decision before the convention — a move seen as being aimed at bringing the party together for a harmonious meeting.

Rarely do running mates come from the House, although Sen. Barry Goldwater picked Rep. William Miller of New York in 1964 and Franklin Roosevelt picked House Speaker John Nance Garner of Texas in 1932.

After Mondale's announcement, the pair went to a private luncheon with their families. On Friday they planned to go to Mondale's boyhood home of Elmore, Minn., for a homecoming before going on to Lake Tahoe, California where Mondale will spend the weekend before arriving at the Democratic convention in San Francisco next Monday.

In Washington, Reagan said, "I'm looking forward to running against and campaigning against the Democratic ticket." Asked if he thought the announcement was historic, he said, "Yeah, like appointing Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court."

Most polls in recent weeks have shown Mondale trailing badly, but a Washington Post-ABC poll Wednesday showed the gap had narrowed to 7 percent. The poll also showed 37 percent said they favored a woman on the Democratic ticket and 18 percent were opposed.

In San Francisco where he was preparing for the start of the convention, Democratic chairman Charles Manatt hailed the selection of Ferraro as "a bold stroke" that could win the 1984 presidential election for the Democrats.

Rep. Ferraro had been the strong favorite of women's groups and had also won early backing from House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York.

In his selection process in which he interviewed candidates at his North Oaks, Minn., home, Mondale talked with only one white male — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas. The rest of the field included women and minorities — Hispanic Mayor Henry Cisneros of San Antonio, black Mayors Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Wilson Goode of Philadelphia, Mayor Dianne Feinstein of San Francisco, and Gov. Martha Layne Collins of Kentucky.

Mondale aides said his two main rivals for the nomination — Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado and civil rights leader Jesse Jackson — were never in serious consideration for the vice presidency. The two men who could do the most to divide the party at the convention were high in their praise of the Ferraro selection.

"Geraldine Ferraro would make



Rep. Geraldine Ferraro

an excellent vice presidential nominee, and her selection is a significant advance for women in American politics," Hart said in a statement.

"It's a step in the right direction and as far as I'm concerned a real victory for the rainbow coalition," Jackson said on ABC, calling Mondale's decision "courageous."

In making the announcement, both Mondale and Rep. Ferraro sounded a theme that was likely to be a rallying cry for Democrats in the fall election: that the Democrats are the party of all the people.

"History speaks to us today," Mondale said. "Our founders said in the Constitution: 'We the people.' Not just the rich, the men, the white, but all of us."

TEXANS

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"Other nations have shown that strength, suggesting that Mondale might be writing off southern voters."

"I'm relieved it's not a Texan — relieved it's not Bentsen or Henry Cisneros," George Strake said. "I think it's an attempt to play to his strengths in the Midwest and industrial states. I congratulate him on a bold move."

But Robeck says Ferraro will prove to be an asset to the Democratic ticket.

"Ferraro's presence will add some excitement to the Mondale ticket that was sadly lacking," Robeck said. "I think she will lose some votes and gain some votes because she is a woman, but it will be a net advantage. In Texas, I think you will be surprised."

State Rep. Neeley Lewis, D-Bryan, said Ferraro appeared to be qualified and applauded Mondale's decision to choose a woman as his running mate.

"Unquestionably the day was coming when that artificial barrier would be broken — it's just as well that barrier is behind us," Lewis said.

While Ferraro may have broken through a barrier, Rep. Phil Gramm, the Republican candidate for the Senate, said ability would be a more persuasive factor than sex in the election.

"Having come to Congress with Geraldine Ferraro and having served with her on the budget committee, I congratulate her on the high honor of being selected," Gramm said.

"I do not believe that voters will be swayed one way or another by the fact that Geraldine Ferraro is a woman," he said. "I think they will judge her candidacy on the basis of qualification and experience."

"I do believe that George Bush brings more to the Reagan ticket because of his long and varied experience and his proven effectiveness." Other Republicans agreed with the comparison between Ferraro and Bush.

"When the dust settles, I think the issues will be experience and records," Strake said. "Bush is a Texan with vast experience in foreign affairs."

"I don't think Ms. Ferraro is as qualified as George Bush," Wilkins said. "Bush has four years experience as vice president."

But Everett said Ferraro's qualifications are sound.

"She's going to be sort of a good ol' boy or Tip O'Neill wouldn't have endorsed her," she said. "She was a prosecuting attorney and understands law and order issues. And she is a mother of three children and understands women's issues."

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