

All-U party for Paddy

By GIGI SHAMSY
Reporter

Three pallbearers approach a women's dormitory and solemnly ask a young woman to come with them to a party because there has been a death — Paddy Murphy is dead.

Not the beginning of an ordinary weekend for the members of Texas A&M's Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity or their dates, either, for that matter. More than the fraternity party with the required theme, this weekend will become a unique event with an all-university party, 300 kegs of beer and a lively wake to ignite the festivities.

Social chairman Ray Walker said that before the weekend is over the men will form a funeral procession through campus, witness a showdown between gangster Paddy Murphy and Al Capone and pose as corpses in a morgue.

Paddy Murphy was a legendary gangster of the 1920s who may have been an SAE, Walker said. Murphy traveled throughout the southwest leaving a trail of crime behind him until he was killed by an antagonist's gun wound. Social chairman Mark Rudolph added that Murphy allegedly supplied the fraternity with booze which he bootlegged across the country.

Walker said the fraternity at Texas A&M will honor Paddy Murphy by inviting students to a party at the Brazos County Pavillion on Friday, March 22.

"We'll have 300 kegs of beer and dance music provided by the band 'Ultimate Force,'" Walker said. "The profits from the dance will benefit the Boy's Club of Brazos County."

There will also be soft drinks and food provided by Randy Sims Bar-b-que.

He said the party will cost more than any previous party,

but he hopes it will be a large fundraiser. Sororities will set up dunking, ring-toss and other game booths outside the Pavillion to raise money also for the Boy's Club of Brazos County.

"Fraternity members will also patrol the parking lot looking for guests who may have had too much to drink," Walker said. "We will offer a taxi service to these guests by driving them home."

This party will kick-off the Paddy Murphy celebration continuing with a private wake, funeral and evening party on Saturday Walker said. The preparations and the private Paddy Murphy party itself are unlike any party on campus.

Each fraternity member is allowed to invite a female as a guest to the private party. She will receive a call from a fraternity member asking her to remain at home until they arrive to invite her. Soon, a coffin carried by the men appears outside her home. Walker said the men have been known before to carry the coffin up four flights of stairs.

She is escorted to the coffin which contains the body of Paddy Murphy and she is serenaded with Paddy Murphy songs. The young woman is then asked to kiss Paddy Murphy's corpse (the SAE president) as a sign of acceptance to the party.

Last year, Walker was the fraternity president and fondly remembers playing the role of Murphy's corpse.

"I had a ball when I was being kissed," he said. "Luckily, I was wearing dark sunglasses so no one could see my eyes during the kissing."

On Saturday at 11:30 a.m., the women will be picked up by Cadillacs driven by fratern-

ity members and taken to Kyle field. Then they will all proceed to a rented hall for the private wake. Here, the women become spectators to a reenactment of a post-poker game showdown where Paddy Murphy kills Al Capone's brother. Soon, Al Capone appears with revenge burning in his heart and combats Paddy Murphy. After the fraternity members brandish real pistols loaded with blanks, Murphy and Capone struggle until Murphy falls to the ground whispering "I'll see you burn in Hell, Capone."

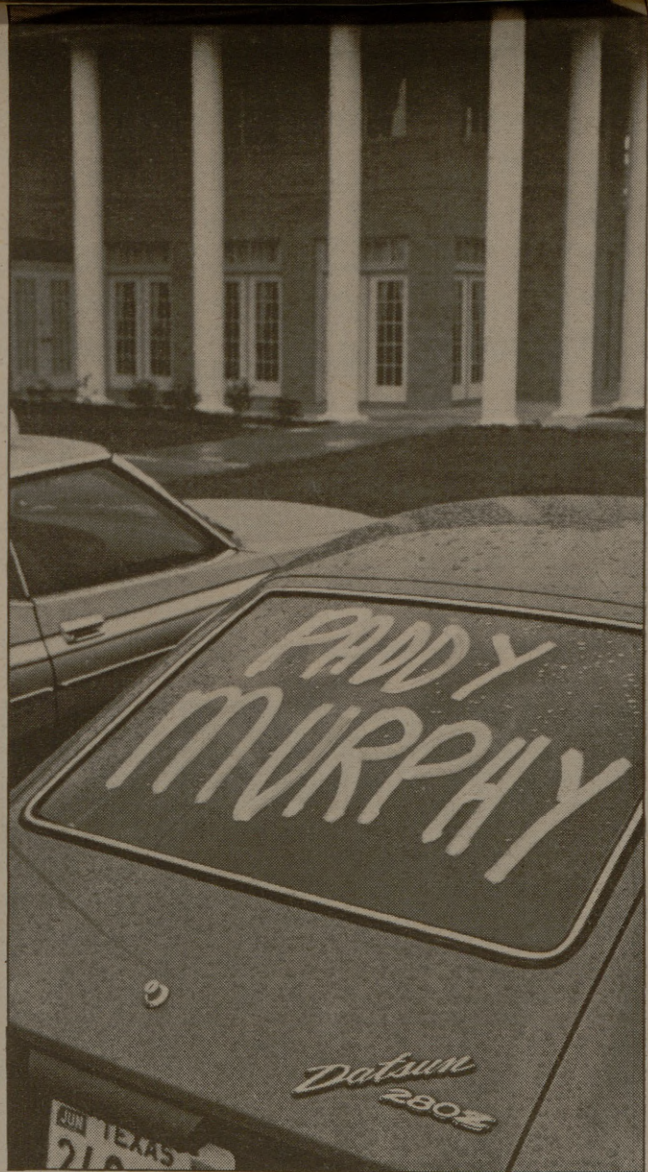
The women are then driven home where they prepare for the night's funeral.

"The girls go all out and get dressed up like mourners with veils, long cigarettes and feathered hats," Walker said. "Dolores Hajovsky, one of the fraternity little sisters, is infamous for blowing soap bubbles to show her grief every year," he said.

The men stage a funeral with organ music piped into the speakers until it is suddenly interrupted by soul music. A fraternity alumni disguised as a preacher then dances to the coffin and delivers a light-hearted eulogy. The fraternity pledges, dressed as angels, prance around the female guests supplying beer.

After the eulogy, the pledges take the fraternity members to an adjacent room where they put the men on tables, remove their shoes and put numbered toe tags on their feet. The women then enter this room with their numbered invitation in hand and try to determine their date by matching the invitation number to the toe tag number.

"When the girl finds her guy," Walker said, "the party begins." ♪



SAE's hold an annual Murphy celebration

'Carnival' coming to Rudder

The Texas A&M University System has begun a cultural exchange program between its schools. The program was first conceived by Chancellor Arthur Hansen's wife and will involve students traveling to other schools and performing.

The Tarleton State University cast and crew of the musical "Carnival" will be the first production in this unique cultural exchange. "Carnival" will be performed in Rudder Auditorium at 8 p.m., March 25.

The show, written by Michael Stewart, has nearly 100 people involved as cast and crew members. The performing cast alone includes about 75 actors and actresses, many playing two or three roles.

"It's sort of like directing a small war," said director and

Tarleton State University Associate Professor of Speech Dr. Mary Jane Mingus. On stage, the war comes together in a kaleidoscope of excitement and color.

"The costumes, of course, have a lot of color and sparkle, but basically, the carnival affects we create are done with light and color changes," said Mingus. "We use technical devices to play the same kinds of illusions on the minds of our audience as real carnivals often do. It has the same attractions as a circus or carnival — the kind of magic that appeals to children of all ages, always has and probably always will."

The story of "Carnival" begins when the uncurtained stage lights up as roustabouts carry in poles and canvas and

erect a carnival before the audience.

An orphan named Lilli, wide-eyed and chalk-faced, wanders onto the carnival and is enchanted with the idea of joining the magic. The character is unsuccessful at several jobs with the raffish, run down and third rate troupe. But she is still dazzled with the spirit of the jugglers, animal acts and aerialists.

Finally, she becomes the center of rivalry between the troupe's magician and the crippled puppeteer.

The musical score for the show was written by Bob Merrill, and while many of the songs may not be immediately recognizable, "Love Makes the World go Round," is familiar to everyone. ♪

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