

Council more active in coordinating fraternities

By JEANNE ISENBERG
Staff Writer

The Intefraternity Council is seeking changes in coordination, cooperation and visibility in the 19 Greek fraternities at Texas A&M, Ronald Schultz, the group's president, says.

"The IFC is beginning to take on a bigger role coordinating the fraternities than it has in the past," Schultz says. "We've taken the lead as far as recruiting and advertising to let interested students know, exactly what will go on with rush and in the fraternities."

"The IFC also is distributing a schedule for the rush parties this semester, and we're working to set an air of cooperation among the fraternities so that people will see we really are coming onto campus."

The IFC is responsible for the governing of the fraternities. The council consists of representatives from each IFC fraternity as well as elected officers.

Schultz, a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, says the IFC meets bi-weekly to discuss a variety of issues affecting the fraternities but soon will begin meeting on a weekly basis.

The IFC also works as an arbitrator or a communication bridge between the different fraternities, Schultz said, or between the fraternities and the community.

Also, philanthropic organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Schultz says, can get in touch with the IFC when they need help with projects. The IFC then distributes the projects to fraternities.

The IFC was one of the first Greek organizations to receive recognition from the University. Nineteen fraternities, each of which must be a national fraternity, make up the IFC, Schultz says, but only eight of those have been officially recognized at this time.

However, all of the fraternities will probably be officially recognized within two years, he says.

"A lot of them are just taking a wait-and-see attitude right now," Schultz says. "No one is really sure what university recognition entails."

"I don't think that anyone questions that the benefits of recognition are better, but the policies are still confusing."

"The University isn't sure about how it'll run things, and neither is the IFC. You can look at all the other schools with Greek systems, but so many of them have had their systems for so long — some of them for literally a century or more."

"Texas A&M has a very young Greek system still, and it has to be an A&M Greek system, which is unique. It has to incorporate A&M traditions into the system, and fraternities just want to see how the University and the Greek system work together, how they'll interact. That's going to take some time."

The IFC also has a few more changes on the way for the system which, Schultz says, should make some improvements.

Rush now has a designated beginning and ending date, which was established by the IFC. It began Wednesday and will last until Feb. 9.

Rush got off the ground Wednesday at 5 p.m. with a general information session given by all 19 of the IFC fraternities at Rudder Tower.

Representatives from each of the fraternities broke the ice for potential pledges by giving out information about rush and fra-

ternity life, answering any questions and just talking and meeting interested people.

"Rush in the spring is usually really light," Schultz says, "but I think this is one of the most successful ones we've ever had."

"This used to be done off campus at the Aggie Inn and the turn-out was OK, but now with University recognition, having it on campus spread the word."

Also, a lot of effort was put into rush this year and this may be one of the largest rushes we've seen."

Another possible change for A&M fraternities could be an alcohol-less rush, Schultz says. He says the possible change is not due to the attorney general's interpretation of the liquor law but to a decision of the IFC itself.

In November the state re-interpreted existing liquor laws as saying organizations using membership dues or activity fees to buy alcohol were "selling" liquor. The state requires a license to sell liquor.

"There's been a lot more emphasis lately on the idea of a dry rush," Schultz says. "A dry rush would be one without any alcohol. The national fraternities have really

been pressuring for it, and I think it's a good thing."

"It's one thing to have alcohol at a social function where everyone knows everyone, but at a rush party, there are so many people going in and out, people you don't know. It's too difficult to take responsibility for all those people."

"A few of the fraternities are phasing in dry rushes this semester, and I think that eventually it will really take hold."

Schultz also says that no rush parties will be held at the same time as Silver Taps this semester, which has created some bad feelings in the past. With the new scheduling system more evenly balancing the parties from day to day, IFC fraternities are keeping the first Tuesday of every month, the night of Silver Taps ceremonies, free.

"I've been around the fraternity system a long time," Schultz says, "and I've seen lots of changes."

"Once people see that fraternities and sororities can be a real part of the school, they'll see that there can be such a thing as A&M fraternities and sororities — Aggie fraternities and sororities."

Paramedic says job not glamorous

Associated Press

HOUSTON — On television the victims are always eager for help and grateful to their rescuers. And the heroes are happy and fulfilled by the rewarding nature of their work. But, according to Houston Fire Department paramedic John Fryer, that's not what it's like on television.

"I've been cussed at, spit at and shot at," says Fryer, 27. "A lot of times they (the victims) just don't want you there; they might be drunk and get beat up or shot in a bar fight and all they can think about is getting out of there."

Fryer says that often older people who have been frequently hospitalized don't want to make a return trip with paramedics.

When the patient asks them to do what they usually do, Fryer says. In cases where there could be serious consequences, the patient is asked to sign a release. But, after a call to a supervisor, those who are in imminent danger are usually transported anyway.

"It usually ends up that they aren't really even mad," Fryer says. "They just want someone to make them go."

On a recent call to the home of an elderly woman who had varicose veins in her legs and large open sores, he found one of the veins had

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— John Fryer, a Houston Fire Department paramedic.

ruptured and she had just lost a great deal of blood.

"We spent 30 minutes trying to get her to go," he says, "and then we decided it was in her best interest and just took her. I think she was glad, though."

But the lost time it takes to cajole a patient is an added frustration in a job where there are frustrations enough.

Fryer says he often hears another ambulance being called in when he is occupied with something relatively minor.

"We make calls where the people don't need an ambulance and they know they don't," Fryer says. He says he and his partner rushed to a man's home at 3 a.m., not knowing what to expect. It turned out that he had cut his hand on a garbage can and didn't have anything with which to bandage it. Since the stores were closed he called an ambulance. Fryer

says he just gritted his teeth and gave the man a Band Aid.

There is a \$75 charge for ambulance service, but when no one is transported to a hospital there is no charge — and that means some people make unnecessary calls without penalty. People often call for medical advice, like a woman who called an ambulance because she wanted paramedics to inspect a two-inch cut on her son's foot.

"She just wanted to know if she should take him to the doctor for stitches," Fryer says.

The public doesn't understand that those minutes spent unnecessarily could mean the difference be-

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— John Fryer.

tween someone else's life and death.

Every minute counts to the victims of cardiac arrest, or stoppage of the heart; if basic life support (like cardiopulmonary resuscitation) isn't started within four to six minutes

there will be irreversible brain damage. In August there were 53 cardiac arrests out of about 5,000 responses made by ambulances. About 45 of the victims died. The recovery rate is 46 percent when CPR has been started within one minute.

Fryer says he picked up one man who had only superficial stab wounds to the chest, but he became so anxious about his condition that he went into full cardiac arrest on the way to the hospital.

Some of the most difficult calls are wrecks, Fryer says. Many times the driver has been impaled by the steering wheel or stick shift of a car and paramedics must carefully cut the object from the car, leaving it intact in the victim. Fryer says the object can't be pulled out because that's what is keeping the person from bleeding to death.

But motorcycle wrecks tend to be the worst, Fryer says. He says once he went to the scene of a motorcycle wreck in which the bike chain was wrapped around the driver's leg. He says he had to hold onto the leg to keep it from coming off when it was freed from the chain.

Fryer, who has been a paramedic for 14 months, has one of the busiest in the city, making between 330 and 350 calls a month. He says on a recent Saturday he made 22 calls in a 24-hour period.

Legislature must find funding for new prison

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Legislative leaders, with the blessings of Gov. Mark White, approved Thursday a compromise plan to build a new prison unit and let the 1987 Legislature decide how to pay for it.

White and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said they would keep looking for other ways of financing the multi-million-dollar prison expansion without a lease-purchase agreement, as the Texas Department of Corrections first proposed.

"We have been told that it (lease-purchase of new prison unit) is constitutional, but we have doubts that this was what the authors envisioned when they drafted the 'pay-as-you-go' provision of the Texas constitution," Hobby said.

Gov. White, Speaker (Gib) Lewis and I will continue to work with the prison board in hopes of finding other ways to deal with this dilemma."

White said he was not against a lease-purchase proposal but was for building a prison as quickly and as cheaply as possible.

At last week's Legislative Bud-

get Board meeting the attorney general's department said state Supreme Court decisions indicated a new prison could be built on a lease-purchase basis, just as state office buildings have been constructed for other state agencies.

The alternative presented by the LBB called for the TDC to sign a "turnkey" contract with a private firm to build a new maximum security prison unit on prison land, plus 10 new low security dormitories to relieve overcrowding. There would be no payment for construction until June 15, 1987.

Alfred Hughes, chairman of the TDC board, said, "This will allow the 1987 Legislature (which meets in January) to decide whether to pay for the building or to agree to a lease-purchase plan for the next two years."

Last week Hughes said the TDC board had decided to build the new prison units on a lease-purchase plan, signing a two-year lease on the estimated \$118 million project with an option to buy.

ALPHA TAU OMEGA

RUSH CHAIRMAN
Steve Price 693-2968

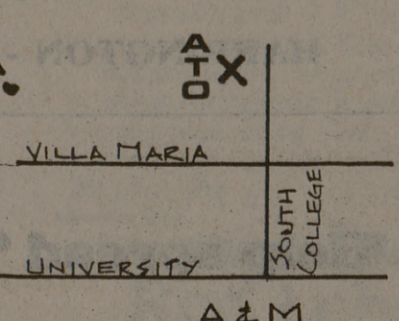
ATO HOUSE 779-9219

- JAN 28 DAY PARTY 4-6, HAPPY HR AFTER
- JAN 29 ONE NIGHT IN BANGKOK
- JAN 31 COUNTDOWN TO PADRE
- FEB 3 INVITATIONAL 4-6
- FEB 5 DAY PARTY 4-6, HAPPY HR AFTER
- FEB 6 DEER HUNTER PARTY
- FEB 8 SOUTH OF THE BORDER



SAT. JAN. 25 8:30-12:30 AM.

FREE SHISH KEBABS FOR ALL, LEIS FOR EVERYONE, PLENTY OF AUTHENTIC HAWAIIAN SLENNERY AND THEN SOMETHING A LITTLE EXTRA.
ATO - THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME!



A&M