

State and Local

Alpha Gamma Rho buys 'frat row' site

By Olivier Uyttebroeck
Staff Writer

The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity became the first at Texas A&M to commit itself to a 'fraternity row' site, buying two acres of land adjacent to Southwood Valley, immediately east of Wellborn Road.

The fraternity purchased the lot June 5 from Area Progress Corp., a development company owned by William Fitch who has developed hundreds of acres in south College Station, including the Southwood Valley residential area.

A 30-bedroom house has already been designed and may be completed as early as December of this year, said Richard Williams, Alpha Gamma Rho vice president. He said the fraternity's national organization has guaranteed the \$650,000, 30-year mortgage on the house.

Pat Victory, co-adviser for Alpha Gamma Rho, cited other developers' zoning difficulties as one of the reasons the fraternity decided to go with the Wellborn Road property.

The Area Progress development covers approximately 20 acres with room for eight lots. Fitch has also

agreed to provide a commons area that the fraternities can develop into a recreation facility.

Victory says his fraternity hopes that other fraternities will follow their lead and buy lots near theirs.

"I'll go out on a limb and say that there will not be a fraternity row unless somebody puts up the product for them."

— Real estate developer Don Jones.

Phil Ljungdahl, financial controller for Area Progress, says he has spoken with the Sigma Chi fraternity and expects them to make a final decision this week on a 2.5 acre lot.

The Battalion was unable to contact Sigma Chi officials to comment on their decision.

But there are other local developers that are still attempting to develop their own fraternity row.

One local land developer, Don Jones, is skeptical that other fraternities would be able to afford the 20 percent down payment necessary to build a fraternity house, the cost of

which runs \$400,000 to \$500,000. Jones and his father Edsel, who have developed land southeast of A&M between Wellborn Road and F.M. 2818, have been planning a fraternity row between Luther St. and

Walden Pond apartments for 18 months.

The Jones' approach is different from that of other fraternity row plans. They are negotiating with developers in Austin and San Antonio to build the houses and then lease them to the fraternities.

Don Jones says few fraternities will be able to persuade their national organizations to bankroll the large down payment necessary for purchasing a lot and building a house. Often the down payment alone can run as high as \$100,000.

"I'll go out on a limb and say that

there will not be a fraternity row unless somebody puts up the product for them," he says. "Fraternities don't have financing power but what they do have is leasing power."

He estimates that the total cost of the project would amount to roughly \$7 million.

He adds that lenders have been hesitant to make real estate loans since the real estate market went bad in 1983. State and federal government examining commissions have in fact placed a moratorium on many lending institutions preventing them from making real estate loans, he says.

Rezoning approval has proven to be an obstacle for rival developers L.G. Crum and William Scasta, who would like to turn a 10 acre lot immediately east of Texas Ave. between Holleman Drive and South-west Parkway into a fraternity row.

At an April 17 Planning and Zoning Commission hearing, the rezoning was opposed by a group of area residents who feared that the zoning change might open the way for apartment construction on the property, City Manager Al Mayo says.

What's up

Friday

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up applications. For more information call 846-5051.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE: any junior or senior in department of biology, chemistry, mathematics or physics who entered his current major prior to catalog 107 and who has not previously taken the English Proficiency Examination should plan to do so this semester. The exam will be administered by the English Department on July 1. Please see Marilyn Radke in 151 Blocker for details and questions. Advance registration is required.

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION TENNIS ASSOCIATION: will sponsor a tennis tournament June 27-29. Applications can be picked up in the Intramural office. Entry fee is \$10. Deadline for application is today. For more information call 846-4489 or 693-3969.

TAMU CHESS CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder. For more information call Luis, 846-5903.

Saturday

SAILING CLUB: will hold an outing at Lake Somerville at Overlook Park from 9 a.m. Saturday until noon Sunday. For more information call Tim, 696-8642.

Monday

AGGIE TOASTERS: will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 120 Blocker. For more information call Robin, 779-3089.

Tuesday

MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE: Bill Crawford of CNC Photography will speak on the Fujichrome contest and slide shooting and its intricacies.

Wednesday

ON CAMPUS HOUSING INFORMATION: students currently living on-campus are required to indicate their Summer II housing intention on Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Residents of Hobby, Neely, McInnis and Schumacher must sign-up in the C-1 Lounge. Residents of Spence, Briggs, Underwood, Lacy, Fountain and Keist must sign-up in the A Lounge. For more information contact your resident hall staff.

MSC SUMMER DINNER THEATRE: will present "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" by Neil Simon in 201 MSC. The show will begin at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

B-CS to see Olympic flame's trip to Houston

By Mary Frances Scott
Staff Writer

The Olympic flame will blaze through Bryan and College Station July 17 on its way to the opening ceremonies of the U. S. Olympic Festival in Houston.

After the lighting ceremony June 21 at the permanent Olympic flame atop Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, Colo., the torch will begin its 4,600 mile trek through 250 cities before reaching Houston.

The flame will make a four-hour trip through Bryan-College Station and the Texas A&M University campus before completing its month long relay across Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

Jack Kelly, executive director of the festival, was in College Station Wednesday for a press conference at the Chamber of Commerce. Kelly said he is hoping for that "Cotton Bowl spirit" among both the runners and spectators involved in the local part of the relay.

Eighty-six runners will relay the torch from the Southwood Athletic Field in College Station, through the Texas A&M campus and back to

Highway 6 in north Bryan. Two-runner teams will carry the 6-pound torch for each half-mile leg through the area.

Along the way, there will be a ceremony at the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce where the torch will be presented to both local mayors.

The torch will be carried not only by runners, but also by canoeists, bicyclists, swimmers and horseback riders.

Once the torch arrives in Houston on July 25, it will be used for the official lighting of the U. S. Olympic Festival flame, signaling the beginning of the ten-day competition which will include 34 sporting events.

The Olympic Festival is a showcase of the nation's best amateur athletes and is held during non-Olympic years to promote Olympic talent. Past performers at the festival include Mary Lou Retton, Carl Lewis and Al Oerter.

Tickets for the various events range from \$4-\$12 and can be bought at Ticketmaster and Ticketron outlets.

'Cyanide theft wouldn't be hard'

AUSTIN (AP) — With authorities now saying the cyanide death of a former University of Texas student likely was suicide, a newspaper reported Thursday that students and teachers say stealing the lethal poison from a UT lab wouldn't be hard.

Federal officials announced Wednesday that the cyanide which killed former chemistry student Kenneth Wayne Faries, 24, matched a sample from UT chemistry labs.

Travis County Medical Examiner Robert Bayardo, who originally ruled Faries' death last month a homicide, said he only was waiting for the paperwork before changing that ruling to suicide.

Cyanide was found in an Anacin-3 capsule in Faries' apartment, and the incident prompted the capsules to be removed from store shelves in Austin. But tests on other capsules found no poison.

Bayardo said Faries planned the suicide carefully, making it appear to be a homicide.

The Daily Texan reported that faculty and students say someone who wanted to steal something from a chemical lab at UT would just need knowledge of the chemical store-room and its operations.

Chemistry professor Daniel Ziegler said students have free access to the chemicals during class.

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

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