

21 fraternities will affiliate with A&M through council

By Dawn Butz
Staff Writer

Texas A&M fraternities belonging to the Interfraternity Council have agreed to affiliate with the University under the umbrella of the council, which is the governing body of the fraternities.

The 21 member fraternities voted at the IFC's Sept. 21 meeting to accept the proposal from A&M.

Last year, fraternities were invited to become recognized student organizations. But because of the University's fiscal policy that requires student organizations to bank through the Student Finance Center, only half of the fraternities sought recognition.

Under new provisions offered by Greek organizations, the IFC will remain a University-recognized organization and will have the authority to recognize its member fraternities.

Todd Ousley, student activities adviser, cited two differences between recognition and affiliation, one being that individual fraternities do not have to bank in the finance center but instead will be able to continue their own financial structures off campus.

The other difference, he said, is that the groups won't have on-campus advisers unless their national groups require it. However, Ousley said many do.

Affiliated groups will receive the same recognized student organization privileges, including half-price advertising in *The Battalion*, build-

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— Todd Ousley, student activities adviser.

ing use, around-campus advertising, University vehicle rental and pages in the yearbook.

"What that means for groups like Phi Delta Theta that are currently recognized by the University is that they are going to have to go through a process of changing that to an affiliation," Ousley said. "For most of them it's not going to matter because the only thing they ever did was put a little money on campus — if anything — and their faculty adviser was an adviser in name only. The real power was off campus."

"It was decided that fraternities and sororities function differently from the kinds of organizations that we have recognized by the University. They've got a strong national structure with rules and regulations and policies and procedures, especially financial procedures.

"So, it was redundant in one sense, and in another it was placing a less-developed system on top of a more well-developed system they already had."

The finance center is set up to assist student organizations that don't

have the regulations and procedures the Greek organizations have, Ousley added.

"In looking at dealing with national Greek fraternities and sororities, we decided that it would be in the best interest of both A&M and the fraternities that we do something to kind of clean up that relationship," he said. "What we decided is that fraternities will receive the rights of recognized organizations by being recognized by the IFC."

Ousley said sororities have the same option; if Panhellenic — the governing body for the sororities — chooses to become recognized by the University, then all the sororities will have an affiliation with the campus. But he said Panhellenic is not acting upon this.

"We've made some efforts to communicate with the individual sororities as well as Panhellenic, and quite honestly I don't think we've been received as openly as we should have been," Ousley said.

"We've made some mistakes in the past and we recognize that," he said. "Now is the opportunity for us to begin to work together."

Ousley said the IFC officers were looking for a way to integrate the system. Because half the groups were recognized, the other half were not communicating, and rules were being twisted around.

He said he believes the new arrangement will allow everyone to work together instead of in different directions.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday:

CRIMINAL TRESPASS:

• Seven University of Texas students were arrested by University police after they were caught in the steam tunnels. The men said they had walked to A&M from Austin and were in the tunnels because they had heard it was "the thing to do at A&M."

They were taken to the University Police Department, where it was found that four of them had given false names and dates of birth. All seven were taken to the Brazos County Sheriff's Department, where they were jailed for criminal trespass and/or failure to identify themselves.

TERRORISTIC THREAT:

• Somebody reported a bomb was set to go off in a dormitory. The building was evacuated and searched by police. No bomb was found, and the students were allowed to return to their rooms.

HARASSMENT:

• A woman reported she has been receiving several prank phone calls daily. The caller doesn't say anything, but the woman said she occasionally hears music in the background. Police informed her of the procedure for setting up a phone trace.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT PUBLIC INTOXICATION:

• While patrolling the campus, two University Police officers reported they heard someone shouting obscenities. When they went to investigate, they said, they saw two men walking between Crocker and Moore halls holding another man's arm behind his back and pushing him forward. The officers reported that when they approached, one of the men told them to mind their own business.

The officers reported the man being held broke free and ran away. One of the officers chased and caught the man and gave him a citation for disorderly conduct. The other men were given tickets for public intoxication and were released to the custody of the head resident at their dorm.



Photo by Tom Ounbey

Linda Gale White, wife of Gov. Mark White, met with teachers Tuesday in a campaign stop at the Brazos Center. White, who says she makes a point of scheduling her last stop each day so teachers can attend, said teachers are concerned with classroom discipline and the amount of paperwork they must complete. She said the anger teachers expressed over competency testing has subsided as they have realized that Gov. White really supports education.

Senate OKs increase in gasoline, sales tax

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate approved an \$872 million increase in sales and gasoline taxes Tuesday by a 25-5 vote, clearing the way for adjournment of the Legislature's special budget session.

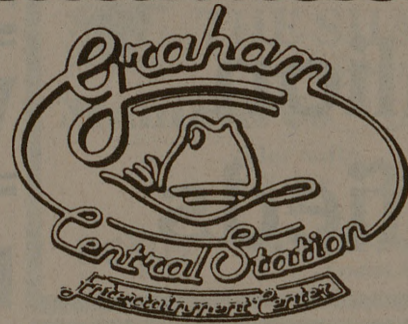
The temporary tax bill, which backers said would help offset the revenue shortfall caused by slumping oil prices, was one of the last major measures awaiting a vote before the special legislative session could end.

Passage came after a filibuster by Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson, slowed action on the tax bill for over 5 hours.

Despite overwhelming Senate support for the tax hikes, Brown said he wanted to emphasize that some lawmakers believed higher taxes could have been avoided this year.

"When you say someone opposed the bill, that's a debate," Brown told reporters before he began. "When you say he filibustered, that means something else."

The temporary tax package would raise the sales tax from 4½ percent to 5½ percent, and add 5 cents to the dime-per-gallon gasoline tax. Both would take effect Jan. 1 and expire on Aug. 31.



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