



by Lydia Berzsenyi

**A**lpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Theta, Iota, Kappa, Lambda, Mu, Nu, Xi, Omicron, Pi, Rho, Sigma, Tau, Upsilon, Phi, Chi, Psi, Omega.

With these bright letters splashed across T-shirts, sweatsuits, car windows and hats, a new breed of college students has made their

presence known.

They are the Greeks. They come not from the sun-bathed islands of the Mediterranean, but rather from the sun-bleached sidewalks of Texas A&M University.

The Greek system has taken its place as the newest addition to the overflowing cup of traditions at A&M. The Greeks are bringing a new sense of

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fashion, belonging, brotherhood and socializing to life at this University.

Today A&M's Greek system has over 2,100 members, outnumbering even the highly visible Corps of Cadets.

Although the number may seem large, keep in mind that with A&M's 36,000 students, the Greek system still only represents approximately 6 percent of the total student body. Compared to other state universities (e.g. Baylor University which is 25 percent Greek), A&M is not exactly crawling with fraternity and sorority members.

The small size of the Greek system here may be partially due to the youth of A&M's Greek system. Although the first American fraternity was founded in 1776 in Williamsburg, Va., A&M did not foster its first Greek organization until 1896, when a group of students formed a fraternity they called Alpha Phi.

However, this fraternity was short-lived. In 1900 Alpha Phi merged with the Alumni Association.

**T**he Greek voice then remained silent on the A&M campus for the next half a century. Finally, in 1965, five students from Hart Hall decided they wanted to form an organization which suited their needs for friendship and brotherhood. They called this organization Phi Delta Sigma. In 1973, it became nationally recognized under the name of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Other fraternities soon followed, and A&M became home to the Greeks as well as the military.

Early in the history of the Greek movement at A&M, a chapter of the National

Interfraternity Council was founded to be the governing body of the fraternities. The IFC, now in charge of 21 fraternities, serves as a forum for discussion and for common action among the different fraternities, and between the fraternities and the community.

The IFC was not active at A&M until 1985 when John Koldus, vice president for student services, granted University recognition to social organizations. The IFC, along with several individual fraternities, obtained recognition and the privileges it entailed.

In September 1986 the IFC, in conjunction with the University, redefined the recognition policy concerning individual fraternities. They decided that fraternities would no longer be recognized individually. Instead, through membership in the IFC, a fraternity becomes affiliated with A&M.

University recognition entitles fraternities to the use of the A&M name to identify institutional affiliation, the right to hold meetings and functions on campus, access to free publicity, such as University calendars, the Student Organizations Guide and 'Inroll', and publication on campus bulletin boards.

**B**ut what about the flip side of the Greek system? What about the women? The female part of the Greek system at A&M is represented today by 11 sororities. They have not been a force at A&M as long as their male counterparts, due in part to the fact that women were not admitted until 1963.

Sororities descended on A&M in one fell swoop. In