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What's up

Thursday
PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY: Scholarship applications for graduate study are available in 219 Engineering Physics Building. For more information contact Dr. Thomas Kozik at 845-2410.

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

Restoration efforts on monument stall as officials argue

FORT WORTH (AP) — Officials in this city named for Maj. William Jenkins Worth have run aground in their negotiations to restore a dilapidated monument marking his New York City burial site.

Leaders in the two cities cannot reach agreement on which comes first — restoring the monument or placing a historical marker at the site.

Bill Turner, a Fort Worth businessman and student of Worth's life, likens the war hero's markerless monument to "an American battleship without Old Glory flying."

But Paul Gunther of New York's Municipal Art Society thinks the monument needs to be repaired before a marker is placed at the site. Erecting a new marker at the rundown monument, he said, is like "gilding a pigsty."

Worth, born in 1794 in Hudson, N.Y., was seriously wounded in the War of 1812. He was promoted to major for bravery and later became the first commandant of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His students included Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.

Then in 1842, Worth was responsible for ending the Seminole War in Florida. In the Mexican War of

1846-48 he led the conquest of Mexico City.

Shortly after he died of cholera in 1849, an outpost on the banks of the Trinity River was named Fort Worth in his honor although Worth had never visited the area.

Earlier this year, New York City officials began an adopt-a-monument program that tries to locate groups to pay for restoration, and targeted 20 statues near ruin, including the William Jenkins Worth Monument.

Repairs for the monument, near the intersection of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, were estimated at \$150,000.

Turner helped create a trust fund for the repairs and, in June, he delivered a check for \$1,000. But a letter arrived later suggesting that \$1,000 doesn't get much done in the way of a marker and asking for design specifications.

Since then Turner has returned a letter, waited three months and gotten a request to fill out a 30-page application for erection of the marker.

Opposition remains and the trust's money is still unspent, but Turner is undaunted.

"You need to label a product before you can sell it," Turner said. "That monument needs a label."

Hazing leads to suspension of fraternity

SAN MARCOS (AP) — A Southwest Texas State University fraternity chapter has been suspended for two years after members admitted a hazing incident that included a mock burial of a pledge.

The 20-year-old Tau Kappa Epsilon pledge wasn't injured.

But the incident "had the potential for causing him emotional harm," said John Garrison, dean of students.

Tuesday's action marks the second time in three weeks that a three-member panel of university officials has suspended a fraternity chapter for participating in hazing, officials said.

"We certainly take no pleasure" in the suspensions, Garrison said. "We do mean business," Garrison said. "We will not tolerate hazing."

The pledge was forced into a car, handcuffed, driven to a rural area northwest of San Marcos and told he was going to be buried, Garrison said.

Fraternity members removed the handcuffs, sprayed his chest with red paint, tied his hands with a bandanna and made him lie in a wooden box, nailing the lid shut, Garrison said.

The box, which had air holes, was placed in an 18-inch-deep hole, he said.

"They lowered him into a low place in the ground and kicked some dirt on top of the lid," Garrison said.

The fraternity members then left, but another pledge was instructed on how to help free the trapped pledge.

"I'm convinced they did not intend to hurt the guy or emotionally scar him," he said.

"It was still reckless and dangerous," Garrison said. "They were playing mind games with him."

The 15-year-old fraternity chapter will lose its recognition as a university organization and will not be allowed to recruit or participate in school functions during the suspension.

Official calls dropout rate dangerous 'ticking bomb'

AUSTIN (AP) — The state and nation must address the dropout problem or face serious economic consequences, Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby told a legislative panel Wednesday.

"I see it as a bomb, ticking," Kirby told a meeting of the Joint Special Interim Committee on High School Dropouts.

"Unless we make some changes, unless people become well-educated and productive, the quality of life in this country is going to deteriorate," he said.

As the population ages, fewer Americans will be of an age to work, so it is important they receive an education that will help them find jobs, he said.

The problem is dramatically demonstrated in the changing Texas economy, Kirby said.

"We used to be able to get by with large numbers of our people dropping out, because they could always find a job in the cotton patch or the oil patch," he said.

"The jobs are not going to be there in the future, either in the oil industry or agriculture, for our undereducated," he said.

"If we want them to be able to make a living in this state, they're going to have to have at least an adequate education," he said.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby urged committee members in a letter to work with the Texas Education Agency to develop a dropout reduction program "that is second to none."

Thirty-five percent of Texas students do not complete high school, Hobby said.

Nearly two-thirds of the state recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a welfare program, and 85 percent of prison inmates did not graduate, he said.

The State Board of Education, in its long-range state plan, has a goal of reducing the state dropout rate to 5 percent in 1997-98.

A new state law also requires the education agency to develop a dropout program that includes standardized, statewide records and evaluation of remedial and support programs for students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Austin residents who are working on diplomas after having dropped out of school told the lawmakers about programs that worked for them.

Vivian Scales, 18, is working to earn her high school equivalency diploma at the Creative Rapid Learning Center.

Scales, who dropped out of school in the eighth grade to have her first child, said she could not go to high school partly because of concerns over child care.

Michelle Maldonado, 16, went through a program sponsored at her high school that is associated with the learning center.

She said the program helped her regain confidence and focus on school work after having missed school in the ninth grade after a knee injury. Maldonado said she was unable to catch up with her ninth grade school work after the incident.

"I was scared to raise my hand because I was afraid everybody in the class was going to laugh at me if I got the answer wrong," she said. "I felt bad about myself."

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