

# Sigma Chi 'Derby Days' to raise funds for charity

By Tom Cawthra  
Reporter

Der-bee or not Der-bee . . . That is the question — and it's also the theme of next week's "Sigma Chi Derby Days 1988."

Rodney Moss, president of the A&M chapter of Sigma Chi, said the fraternity expects approximately \$13,000 to be exchanged through business transactions and donations during the five days of activities, which will include skits, game competitions and social events.

Sigma Chi sponsors and organizes the event each year, inviting all the A&M sororities and groups of "independents" — women who are not affiliated with a sorority — to participate.

All Derby Days profits will be donated to the Cleo Wallace Center in Broomfield, Colo., a home for children who are emotionally disturbed or behaviorally disordered, Moss said. He said Sigma Chi is one of the center's biggest contributors.

A representative from the center will be present to judge three of the biggest events of the week — Butt Branding, Skit Night and the Derby Games, he said.

"Derby Days is held by every Sigma Chi chapter in the country at one time or another during the year," he said. "It's symbolic of what we as a fraternity stand for."

Moss said the week of activities mixes fun with civic responsibilities.

"It's one of the most important projects on our agenda," he said.

Ross Robinson, chapter vice president, said Derby Days will begin with an optional happy hour at the Parthenon club in College Station.

"There will be drink specials and the teams can begin earning spirit points by wearing their team shirts and showing lots of Derby Days enthusiasm," he said.

Robinson said "spirit points" are awarded and tallied by official Derby Day judges and "Derby Day Daddies" throughout the week. The team accumulating the most points by the final event wins and will be presented with an award Saturday night at the Derby Days Awards Ceremony.

Derby Day Daddies are fraternity representatives who plan the events and ensure that operations are carried out according to plans, he said.

John Akard, head of the scheduling committee, said the daddies have been working on this year's events since summer.

"We met with the president of Panhellenic (the governing body of A&M's sororities) in August to begin discussing Derby Days plans," he said. "We've worked long and hard towards this week."

Akard said the other daddies, Paul Cox and Scott Gregory, have specific duties such as planning the Derbee Daze Magazine and organizing T-shirt sales, but generally all their duties are shared as a team.

Akard said he doesn't mind the long hours of planning because those who participate during the week are enthusiastic.

"Most girls really get into it," he said. "It's a big deal for a sorority to win best overall and it looks good to have their Derby Days Queen candidate do well. That helps make this one of the biggest activities we do and probably the most profitable."

Profits come from sales of Derbee Days shirts, Derbee Daze Magazine ads and other activities, Gregory said.

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— Rodney Moss  
A&M Sigma Chi president

"The money we make from the T-shirts pays for a whole week of activities," Gregory said. "It's an expensive operation."

Cox said any extra T-shirt money is combined with other funds to compile the fraternity's donations from magazine advertisements.

"Through the magazine ad sales, we're able to put together a magazine that represents Greek life at A&M and put money towards our philanthropy at the same time," he said.

Derby Days participants are asked to contribute the magazine by submitting interesting Greek life information and unusual gossip, he said. The information usually comes from sorority event committees.

The participants are looking forward to the festivities.

Chris Keyser, a Chi Omega coach, said that last year his team sent him and four other coaches on a scavenger hunt in and around Bryan-College Station.

"We were told to meet at the Sigma Chi house to get up our first clue," Keyser said. "It eventually led us to a tavern in Snook where a lot of Chi Omegas were waiting for us."

Zeta Tau Alpha coach Chris Wohleb said, "Hello . . . We're starting this Friday — yes, five days early and we won't stop having fun until next Sunday."

Some coaches claim that they are going to be loyal to their teams at any cost.

Delta Zeta coach Lou McNeal said, "We got the Omega coaches with a pretty good joke, but they came back and painted Chi-O all over one of our crutches and apartment windows. That got a good rivalry going but we have yet to retaliate."

The 1988 Derby Days schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday: Derbee Days Kick Off (optional at the Parthenon)
- Wednesday: Sig House Decorating Contest (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) and Derbee Days Happy Hour at Zephyr's (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.)
- Thursday: House judging and Skit Night
- Friday: Butt Branding (queen presentation)
- Saturday: Derby Games, Award Ceremony and party

Akard said an addition to this year's Derby Days schedule is an on-going Golden Derby Hunt.

He said a special derby will be hidden somewhere on the Bryan or College Station and the teams will be given a new clue each day.

"The Golden Derby is worth 60 points, so that team really put a team in a winning position," he said.

Akard revealed that the first clue will appear in the Sigma Chi Derby Days advertisement in *The Battalion* next week.



(picture by A.R. Photography)

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## Medical examiner says marks on dead inmate not proven from hands

CLEVELAND, Texas (AP) — Marks discovered on the neck of a man found dead in a jail cell after a police search were not necessarily made by a hand, Auerillo Espinola, assistant Harris County medical examiner, said Tuesday.

Kenneth Simpson, a black drug informant, was found dead March 16 about five hours after he was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Officials said officers had to subdue Simpson at the jail after he was found smoking what police believed was marijuana.

At a news conference several weeks ago, Liberty County Justice of the Peace Charlie Morgan held both hands to his throat to demonstrate how a hand print was left on Simpson. Morgan said the autopsy, which said Simpson died of asphyxiation "due to trauma to the neck," also disclosed the hand print.

But Espinola said, "The bruises

may or may not have been caused by hands. We're not finished with the investigation. I've not ruled yet whether the death was accidental or homicide."

Seven officers present when Simpson was subdued have been suspended pending an investigation into the death. The official report of an autopsy performed on Simpson's body has not been released.

Morgan was out of town today and could not be reached for comment, his secretary said.

Meanwhile, a report filed by the Texas attorney general's office said a search of Simpson became violent.

"During a struggle to subdue the suspect, the suspect was asphyxiated," the report said. Spokesman Ron Dusek said the attorney general's office was required to release only two pages of the report because there is an ongoing investigation.

## Donations rescue zoo from closing

HOUSTON (AP) — More than \$75,000 in contributions from Houston companies and residents will enable a cash-strapped children's petting zoo to remain open, officials say.

"The generosity of the citizens of Houston have allowed us to put on more staff and have given us time to work with the City Council on a long-term solution," Don Olson, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said Tuesday.

More than 1,500 donations totaling \$40,141 poured in to a special fund for the Discovery Zoo, increase the amount raised over six days to \$75,257.49.

Last month, city officials announced the petting zoo would be closed by the end of April as part of efforts to cope with a city budget shortfall.

The fund-raising campaign began last Thursday, and organizers said \$60,000 was needed to keep the zoo open until Oct. 1.

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