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A&M builders claim top honors in nation

Student chapter of NAHB receives scholarship, plaque, national recognition

By KATHERINE COFFEY
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M student chapter of the National Association of Home Builders was recently selected as best NAHB chapter in the nation.

The chapter was awarded first place for the first time at the national conference Jan. 18 to 21 in Atlanta. The chapter received a \$500 scholarship and a plaque for the reward.

Last year the organization received honorable mention. It also has been awarded third place in past years.

Britt Jenkins, president of the chapter and a senior construction science major, said the NAHB national office elected a board to choose the best chapter based on four criteria: campus activities, chapter activities, community services and involvement with the local chapter.

Each university chapter mails an application to the national board in Washington D.C., and the award is announced at the annual national conference.

Jenkins said A&M's biggest competitors are Michigan, Louisiana State University and Brigham Young University.

Jenkins said NAHB activities have included building wheelchair ramps for the elderly in the Bryan-College Station community, a car wash to raise money for the Atlanta trip, a resume program for club members and the Kurten Project.

"The Kurten Project is where we help the city of Kurten tear down unneeded buildings and help them assemble a community center in place of the old building," Jenkins said.

Another activity, "Project Pride," involves the students in the College of Architecture volunteering their time on weekends to keep the architecture buildings clean.

"We volunteer our time to fix lights, pick up trash and keep the buildings looking clean because the buildings are open 24 hours every day and tend to start looking bad," Mike Howard, a senior construction science major, said.

The NAHB student chapter also is helping the Home Builders Association (HBA) with a product show on Feb. 16, 17 and 18 at the Brazos Center.

Money raised from concessions will be given to NAHB for its scholarship fund.



In addition to NAHB's fund-raising, it will compete in the Texas Home Show in Houston Feb. 24 and 25. Four students

were chosen for their carpenter skills and will compete against other Texas schools, said Dr. Larry Grosse, NAHB faculty advisor.

visor.

The program is sponsored by the Greater Houston Builders. Each school's team will be given a list of materials and then have to construct a playhouse within a limited amount of time, Grosse said.

Other competitors include East Texas State University and the University of Houston, he said. The school with the first place playhouse will raise up to \$5000 when the construction is auctioned, Grosse said.

With all the activities and fund-raising that NAHB is doing, its main purpose is to help members get experience not offered in the classroom, Jenkins said.

"Our club's main goal is to further students' education because experience helps you to understand what the actual construction process of a project entails," Jenkins said.

Howard said the organization has more interest for construction science majors, but it helps further networking capabilities in the architecture field.

Grosse said about 125 members representing both construction science and environmental design majors are in the organization.

Police question suspects in shooting death

HOUSTON (AP) — Four suspects were being questioned Monday in connection with the weekend shooting death of a 15-year-old boy during a late-night robbery at a McDonald's restaurant, police said.

Leshon Reagins was shot in the back early Sunday when he and two friends unknowingly interrupted the robbery, authorities said.

"We have not filed any charges, but we are interviewing suspects," Houston Police Sgt. John Silva said.

Police said Reagins and two teenage friends entered the north Houston area McDonald's just before 11 p.m. Saturday. While one friend went to the restroom, Reagins and a second teen went to place an order, but found no one behind the counter or in the customer seating areas.

When Reagins' friend yelled for service, police said a man armed with a pistol and wearing a mask emerged and told the teen-agers to leave. As the two boys fled, the suspect fired one shot, hitting Reagins in the back, said homicide Lt. Dale Atchetee.

Three of the suspects had rounded up about 10 people, most of them employees, and forced them to lie on the floor in the back of the restaurant, police said. The suspects took an undetermined amount of money and fled in a late-model car, police said.

Fraternity paper fund drive to benefit local charities

By KATHERINE COFFEY
Of The Battalion Staff

Growing concerns for the environment could label the '90s the decade of conservation, and a Texas A&M social fraternity is taking the initiative to get involved with the trend.

Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, known as Fiji, is sponsoring a paper fund drive this month and hopes to raise \$1,000 for the Brazos Valley Food Bank and United Way,

John Yates, Fiji social service chairman, said.

"We are helping with the Brazos Valley United Way and the food bank because we feel it is a noteworthy cause," Yates said. "The United Way and food bank distribute money to the needy in the community because they know where the needs are. We just raise the money."

The fraternity got the idea of the paper fund drive when some members became interested in conservation and thought of different social services that could benefit

from the fraternity raising money, Yates said.

Last semester the Fijis had a mock paper drive and raised \$50, he said. The money went to help the Brazos Valley Animal Shelter.

The paper drive was started this semester when A&M's Association of Former Students began collecting papers and giving them to the fraternity.

The fraternity has collected additional papers, and Yates said they already have raised a good sum of money.

He said the sponsors, who are the Ptar-migan Club, On The Double, Triangle Bowl and C.C. Creations, are matching funds raised from the paper drive. The Fijis plan to advertise this week for additional sponsors.

Anyone wanting to donate papers can do so during on-campus pick-up days, which are Feb. 28 and March 1 and 2. Tables will be set up in the Memorial Student Center for those wanting to drop off any unwanted papers.

Fiji President Wesley Ward said paper

fund drive efforts are for a really good cause.

"I feel since I've taken office that social services have become more of our main purpose," Ward said. "Even though we have parties and have fun, we also donate time and raise money for the needy," he said.

Yates said that anyone interested in donating papers to the drive can contact the Fiji house at 693-2244 for any questions.

Fraternity members also will be available to pick up collected papers in Bryan-College Station.

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