

Fraternity sponsors scaffold-sit 120-hour fund-raiser to benefit organization for disabled

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity will sit on a scaffold for about 120 hours to raise money for handicapped and disabled people. The 24-hour scaffold-sit fund-raiser, located near Rudder fountain, will begin April 27 at noon and run until midnight on May 2. A table will be set up in front of the scaffold for donations by students, with all proceeds benefiting People Understanding the Severely Handicapped (PUSH).

PUSH, a private non-profit organization, is the national service project founded by Pi Kappa Phi in 1977.

The organization is responsible for various projects and programs that create a better un-

derstanding of people with disabilities. Robert Thompson, a Pi Kappa Phi member on the PUSH committee, said trophies will be given to the fraternity, sorority and dormitory that donate the most money.

"The purpose of the scaffold is to attract students for donations," he said. "It's basically a big-donations event."

Information concerning PUSH and disabled people will also be available, including brochures and a video.

Thompson, who was in charge of organizing the fund-raiser, said the committee hopes to raise at least \$500 for PUSH. Most items were donated, he said, including the scaffold and flyers.

Their mission can be divided into three goals: service, volunteerism and education. In service, PUSH provides adaptive recre-

ational opportunities such as a fully-accessible public park and adaptive saddle equipment for an equestrian program in Texas.

Volunteerism is the second part of the mission. Thousands of college students donate their time and talents to serve people who are disabled, especially children. Activities include "adopting" a little brother or sister and building playgrounds.

The final area is education. Fraternity members try to educate disabled children on living with their disability through various activities, including a puppet show with disabled and non-disabled puppets.

"We get to see first hand what we are helping out with," Thompson said.

"We enjoy what we're doing," he said, "and especially seeing smiles on the children's faces."

Del Valle redistricting proponents await election

AUSTIN (AP) — Minorities in the Del Valle Independent School District are hopeful that an upcoming school board election under a court-ordered redistricting plan will give them equal representation for the first time.

The district of 5,000 students, at least half of whom are minorities, has had only one non-white on its seven-member board.

Three plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in 1989, charging that the at-large system of selecting the board members diluted the voting strength of minorities.

The lawsuit also asks that all trustees be elected through single-member districts.

After the board and plaintiffs failed to develop a compromise plan, a state district judge in February ordered a May 2 election under a temporary plan that included six single-member districts and the president elected at-large.

Six minorities, the most ever to seek office in a single race, are seeking places on the board, and at least two seats are being sought only by minorities.

The possibility of having four minority board members has resident Mario Soriano, who has two children in the district, optimistic.

"Minority board members know the needs of minority students better because they are minorities and they come from the same communities they represent," he said.

Critics blast 'soft money' system

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas companies and wealthy Texans have funneled over \$1.7 million to the national political parties since last year under a system that critics charge gives the rich undue political influence.

The so-called "soft money" is the only type of political contribution not covered by federal law.

It gives as special interests and the wealthy free rein to donate as much as they want as long as the money does not benefit a specific candidate.

Corporations and unions are major soft money contributors because they are barred from giving directly to presidential and congressional campaigns.

The party faithful also uses soft money to go beyond the limits on individual contributions.

Federal law limits individual contributions to \$1,000 per candidate per election, and to no more than \$25,000 per year.

Since the beginning of last year, Texas interests have contributed \$1,749,764 to national Democratic

and Republican soft money accounts, according to Federal Election Commission records.

The political parties use the money to pay for voter registration drives, conventions and other activities not linked to individual campaigns.

The lion's share of the Texas soft money goes to Republicans, with GOP interests receiving \$1.62 million — or 92.8 percent of all contributions made since the beginning of last year.

Democrats pulled in \$126,388, or 7.2 percent of the soft money donated in Texas in the period ending in February, the latest month for which computerized FEC records are available.

The non-partisan lobbying group Common Cause wants to shut down the give money pipeline, arguing that at the very least it gives the appearance that the government is for sale.

President Bush has threatened to veto the bill, which also would set voluntary campaign spending limits and replace soft gifts with public money.

Rape suspect remains jailed

Wife claims authorities ignored repeated warnings about husband

PEARLAND (AP) — James Edward Bergstrom remained jailed without bond Sunday in connection with as many as 23 sexual assaults around southern Harris County.

But his wife, Linda, said it took years to convince authorities that she was married to a serial rapist.

"I knew who I was living with," Mrs. Bergstrom, 28, told the Houston Chronicle. "It was like living through a nightmare."

Bergstrom, a 28-year-old lab technician and former Navy seaman, was arrested April 1.

A Harris County grand jury has indicted him on 15 counts, including charges of aggravated sexual assault, aggravated assault, attempted sexual assault, burglary

and aggravated robbery in several parts of Harris County.

"I am angry," Mrs. Bergstrom said. "I'm angry that those girls had to get hurt. Why wouldn't they listen?"

She called local police regularly, offering to show them the houses of potential victims which he playfully pointed out.

She also called "every time I found something" that would suggest her husband was committing crimes, which included handcuffs, rope, a plastic gun and a ski mask in his car.

Officers didn't seem interested, she said.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she first spoke with authorities more than three years ago when her husband

was suspected in nearly a dozen rapes attributed to the "Redwood Rapist" in Washington state.

"I come home to see girls in suits. They told me that James was seen watching a 53-year-old lady undress. They said they thought he was the 'Redwood Rapist.' Evidently they had been watching the apartment," she recalled. The Navy already had moved the couple when similar allegations arose involving a 16-year-old Naval wife.

But prosecutors were unable to make a case against Bergstrom in the rapes because victims were unable to identify their ski-masked attacker. Bergstrom got probation for trespassing at the time.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from April 6 to April 10:

Misdemeanor Theft

Krueger Hall bicycle rack - A pink Firenza 18-speed girl's bicycle was stolen.

Netum Steed Research and Conditioning Laboratory - A key ring with four keys was stolen from an unsecured property shelf.

West side of Dunn Hall - A black Schwinn High Plains 21-speed boy's bicycle was stolen.

North side of Clements Hall - A black unknown brand boy's 10-speed mountain bicycle was stolen.

USDA Toxicology Complex - A Crimestoppers tip and subsequent investigation led to the procurement of an arrest warrant for the individual responsible for the theft of a 60-lb jackhammer from the USDA Toxicology Complex on February 27, 1992. The warrant was served and the subject incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Attempted Misdemeanor Theft

Aston Hall - Two individuals were observed by witnesses attempting to carry away a 1985 Honda moped. Realizing their detection, the subjects dropped the vehicle and fled the area on foot.

Misdemeanor Theft - Recovered Property

Law Hall - The victim's blue 10 speed Huffy bicycle that was stolen from the south side of Law Hall was recovered in the Zachry Engineering Center bicycle rack.

Misdemeanor Theft - Failure to ID to Peace Officer

Spence Street - Two individuals observed stealing a red Rincon Giant boy's bicycle by a Security Officer were arrested. They were transported to the Brazos County Jail and incarcerated.

Misdemeanor Theft - Burglary of Vehicle

Parking Area 89 - A Kenwood stereo cassette player, Alpine

amplifier, Majestic crossover and two Kenwood speakers were stolen from a 1977 Chevrolet by a thief who broke out the driver's side window to gain entry.

Burglary of Vehicle

Parking Area 46 - The victim's black leather wallet and contents were stolen.

Felony Theft

Thompson Hall - Three CRT Super VGA 14" color monitors were stolen from a first floor room.

Harassment

Beutel Health Center - Two individuals were identified as the persons responsible for placing harassing telephone calls.

Fire

Richardson Petroleum Engineering Building - A small fire erupted in an eighth floor laboratory during an experiment. The fire, which caused no damage to any property, was extinguished by the experimenter.

Driving While Intoxicated

East Main Drive - A motorist was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Criminal Mischief

Corpus Quadrangle - Three individuals were observed opening the fire hydrant near dormitories eight and nine. Physical Plant personnel were contracted to shut off the flow of water.

UPD, Student Affairs committee plan class on cycling Thursday

The University Police Crime Prevention Unit and the Department of Student Affairs Security Committee are sponsoring an adult bicycle seminar from 4 to 5 p.m. April 30 in 701 Rudder.

The program, created and presented by Texas Department of Safety Trooper Eddie Carmon, will cover bicycle citations and other campus issues and provide brochures and campus maps.

If you or a member of your household owns a bicycle, then this program is for you.

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MSC CAMAC Latino Theatre Group presents:

La Mano

A two-act play focusing on the plight of two brothers trapped in the struggle for survival in the barrio.

Tuesday, April 28, 1992
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ALL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

RUN, DON'T WALK...

To reserve a table now for MSC FALL OPEN HOUSE. (First Come, First Serve). Pick up an application in your box in the finance office of the MSC or in room 223H of the Student Programs Office.

Fall Open House will be on Sunday, September 6, 1992, 2pm-6pm.

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE TO RESERVE A TABLE IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1992

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