

Greeks seek greater role on campus

By TANYA SASSER

Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

Alcohol policies, university relations and Greek visibility on campus were among the topics discussed as more than 20 national Greek leaders joined Texas A&M Greeks in an effort to improve the Greek system during the National Interfraternity Conference Sunday in the Memorial Student Center.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss problems, such as alcohol abuse and negative attitudes towards Greeks, and to work together to develop solutions.

Jamey Webster, president of the Interfraternity Council said there were a few main problems that needed to be addressed.

"The number one biggest point was our alcohol policies," he said.

"In a lot of ways, A&M is doing better than any other school," Webster said. "The University of Texas doesn't even have an alcohol policy set up. They are nowhere near the stage we're at."

A&M's alcohol policy states that no keg beer is allowed at social functions. Fraternity and sorority members that are over 21 years of age are allowed to consume alcohol at functions as long as proper identification is

shown at the door, Webster said. "There are always problems with minors consuming alcohol at social functions," he said. "The consensus yesterday was that this is not only a Greek problem, it is a University problem."

Another topic discussed was that of university relations with Greeks.

"While Greeks need to get more involved with the University, the University needs to open its doors more to the Greeks," Webster said.

Webster, a former member of the Corps of Cadets, pointed out that the recruitment film shown in Rudder has no Greek representation.

"There is a whole lot of information geared towards the Corps," he said. "I think it's time it was shared. Ten percent of males and 12 percent of females on this campus are Greek. That should be represented in the film."

Dr. Mike Leese, coordinator of Greek affairs, said the number of former Corps members that are active Greeks is growing, increasing ties between the two groups.

He said the current number is about 20 or 25.

Julie Greaves, president of Chi Omega, said the forum was very beneficial to both

fraternities and sororities.

Important ideas about alcohol awareness and university relations were brought up in the open forum atmosphere. Greeks should all be working on ways to improve their chapters, she said.

"The reason this was important is because it was a chance to unify everyone on the policies," she said.

"We came together on ideas to improve. It is good to understand that we're all working for the same thing," Greaves said.

Webster hopes the Greek presidents relay the ideas about ways to improve the Greek System to their chapters.

He said this was the first time men and women from all the chapters were able to sit down and talk about problems and possible solutions.

Dr. Mike Leese, coordinator of Greek affairs, urged students to take advantage of every possible opportunity to make Greeks more visible.

He told students to let themselves be known as Greeks in Fish Camp, The Big Event and all of the other activities they are involved in.

"There are a lot of opportunities out there," he said. "You simply have to take advantage of them."

Police suspect Senate candidate in shooting

Bullet wounds wife of representative

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAITLAND, Fla. — A legislative candidate Monday denied any involvement in the shooting of his opponent's wife, although police said they found a gun hidden in his apartment and a bullet-riddled blanket in his car.

Police said Eric Kaplan has so far declined to cooperate in their investigation into Sunday's shooting of Attorney Judith Starks, wife of Republican State Rep. Robert Starks.

Kaplan's attorney issued a statement saying Kaplan denied "any involvement and knowledge concerning this matter."

Kaplan is the Democratic candidate for the suburban Orlando seat.

Mrs. Starks was shot through the calf early Sunday as she sat up in bed.

Five shots were fired from the back yard into the couple's home.

Mrs. Starks, 47, was treated at hospital.

No arrests were made and authorities were awaiting crime lab results.

"It appears that we're building a very strong case against Mr. Kaplan. We hope that the crime lab tests will solidify our case against him," Seminole County Sheriff Spokesman George Proechel said Monday.

Proechel said an eyewitness followed Kaplan's vehicle to Kaplan's apartment complex in Casselberry, where police recovered a five-shot .38-caliber revolver and a handwritten note with Starks' address on it.

In Kaplan's car, deputies found a blanket riddled with five bullet holes, apparently used to muffle the gun, authorities said.

Detectives attempted to question Kaplan late Sunday, Proechel said, "but he isn't cooperating and has hired a lawyer."



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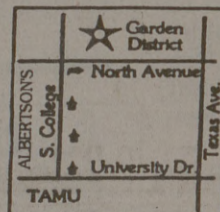
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