

# The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Handing out fliers, Jennifer Boyd, left, a sophomore from Sugar Land, and Amy Galbreath, middle, a sophomore from Harlingen both in the Student Engineering Council, promote today's Amoco

Career Fair to Tracy Billingsley, a senior from Georgetown. The fair is from 2 p.m.-6 in Room 110 and 111 of the Student Services Building on Thursday.

WADE CALLISON/Special to The Battalion

## IFC to review racism charge on fraternity

By GARY P. CARROLL

City Editor of THE BATTALION

Chris Coon, director of communications at Sigma Alpha Epsilon's national headquarters, said SAE members "deeply regret and condemn the actions stemming from the Oct. 2 social event of its ... chapter at Texas A&M University."

The statement was in response to charges made by a Dallas-based band accusing the fraternity of racist activities stemming from a party in which fraternity pledges dressed up in native costumes, painted their faces black, and carried spears.

The SAE chapter goes before the Texas A&M Interfraternity Council Judicial Review Board today for possible reprisals concerning the incident.

In a phone interview with Coon, he stated there were no national by-laws outlining procedures regarding multicultural tolerance, but he did say the by-laws contained general comments and guidelines designed to uphold the integrity of the fraternity's mem-

bers. SAE was founded in 1856 at the University of Alabama and "does not restrict membership to anyone" based on racial background or heritage.

Executive Director of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, G. Robert Hamrdla, said he, along with each member of SAE, apologizes for the incident.

"In no way does this fraternity condone behavior that does not take into account the integrity of others," Hamrdla said. "The attitudes and actions stemming from this event do not reflect the beliefs or the mission of Sigma Alpha Epsilon."

"We're not taking it lightly," Coon said. "We think it's best taken care of on a local level first."

Coon would not comment on possible punishments the chapter could face, but he did say the national fraternity will be sending consultants in an effort to "re-educate and sensitize the members of our chapter at Texas A&M."

Gwen Davis, president of Kap-

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## NOW 'speaks-out' about campus rape

Group leads discussion to promote student awareness



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Lauren Katz, left, and Nancy Pattillo, watch as Jana Gandy demonstrates assault prevention devices.

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Students gathered at the Rudder Fountain area Wednesday for a campus rape speak-out sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women.

The event, which came in response to figures released over the summer by the University Police Department, was held to promote rape awareness among Texas A&M students.

Tara Odom, a senior psychology major, attended the speak-out because she was interested in what was being done as far as rape prevention on campus.

"I wanted to learn how to protect myself, and I was really interested in learning what self-defense devices would be recommended," Odom said.

NOW secretary Amy Owen began the problem by reading statistics about the number of rapes on the Texas A&M campus and nationwide, and a list of rape prevention recommendations to present to Texas A&M administrators.

Paula McCune, Assistant Director and Coordinator of Volunteers at the Rape Crisis Center, spoke to the gathering about the importance of reporting rape.

"Rape is by far the most serious violent crime on college campuses," McCune said, "and college students are more vulnerable to rape than any other age group."

McCune said that far too often rape victims remain silent, which can cause them long-term psychological, social, developmental and academic problems. She also said that students need to report the crimes in order to alert the police of the problem.

"The police can only help the community when they are aware of crimes being committed," she said.

Bob Wiatt, Director of Security and the University Police, also spoke about the importance of reporting sexual assaults to the police.

"Since January, one sexual assault has been reported on campus," Wiatt said. "In the same time period, the Bryan-College Station police have received 18 reports."

Wiatt believes that there are many more sexual assaults that are not reported, and that it is a woman's duty to report that she has been raped.

Other speakers at the speak-out included Dr. Wendy Stock, faculty advisor to NOW, and Dr. Brent Patterson, Associate Director of Student Affairs, who spoke to the students about how to report a rape.

Several Texas A&M students also spoke about their personal experiences with sexual assault, and accounts of rape were read by NOW members.

After the speak-out, students were given the opportunity to purchase self-defense devices that were on display. Jana Gandy and Jim Hapenney of J and J Enterprises were present to demonstrate the devices.

NOW president Tawny Britton was pleased by the amount of response to the speak-out.

"The turnout was excellent," Britton said. "I wasn't expecting this many people, and I was worried about the weather, but things really turned out great."

"The accounts were really moving, and the speeches really got to people. There are a lot of people interested in protecting themselves, and I think our speak-out really helped them learn how to stay safe."

An assault prevention workshop to educate students about the risk of sexual assault and avoiding such encounters will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Grove.

NOW will meet on Monday, Oct. 19 in Room 146 of the Memorial Student Center at 7 p.m.

## Greeks justify theme party

By GARY P. CARROLL

City Editor of THE BATTALION

Members of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity responded to accusations of racism at an SAE function October 2, and expressed concern over fair treatment of the Greek system at Texas A&M.

In letters to The Battalion, members of SAE said that the party was not intended to portray any negative historical event, par-

ticularly a re-creation of a slave hunt.

"... (The claim that the theme of the party was a parody of an African slave hunt, where the actives, dressed as slave hunters, were chasing slaves around is completely ludicrous," according to a letter from members of SAE.

Ken Monk, SAE member and co-author of the letter, said the letter reflects the dominant feeling of the fraternity.

"We talked about it with numerous people and a lot of discus-

sion took place among brothers," Monk said. "That's the way we feel."

Monk's letter apologizes for any insensitivity the fraternity showed during the theme party.

"Sigma Alpha Epsilon sincerely apologizes to those whom (the) costumes offended. The fact that we did not assume that such costumes would be offensive was ignorant on our part," the letter said. "The fact that it is offensive

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## Politicians straddle issues

Graduate student speaks on racial politics, politicians

By WILL HEALY

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Racial politics drove the political career of former Alabama governor George Wallace, said a Texas A&M graduate student Wednesday.

John Impson, a Ph.D. student in history, spoke to the MSC Political Forum on the politics of race, emphasizing the subject of his dissertation, George Wallace.

Impson said Wallace began his career in the early 1950s, first running for Governor of Alabama in 1958 as a relative moderate, opposing integration, but also taking a stand against the Ku Klux Klan. Wallace lost in 1958, but won in 1962 after changing his position to make himself the most extreme racist on the ballot, said Impson.

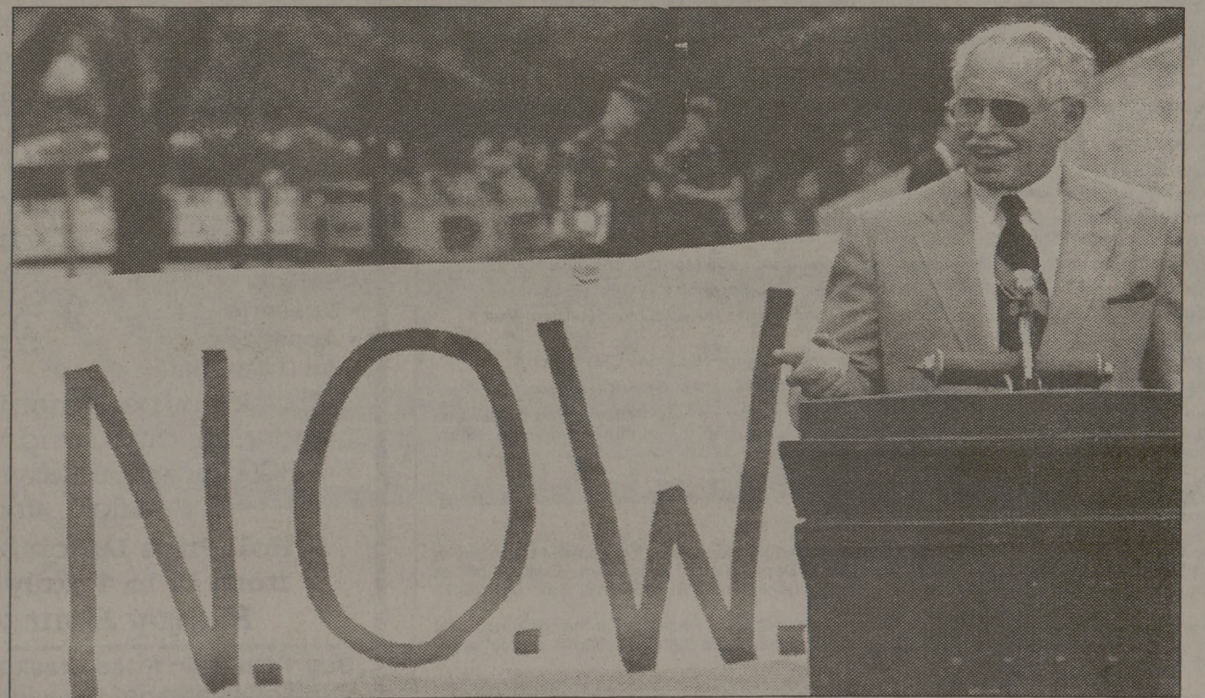
Wallace held to this position when he tried to prevent an African-American student from entering the University of Alabama in 1963. He lost this battle when President Kennedy sent federal troops to allow the student to enroll.

This stand led him to become the nation's leading spokesman for segregation. He participated in the Democratic primary for president in 1964 and ran for the office as the American Independent candidate for president in 1968, said Impson. He toned down his rhetoric with a "law and order" platform before having his thunder taken away by Nixon, said Impson.

He ran again in 1972, but was stopped with an assassination attempt that paralyzed his legs but not his political career. He was reelected governor in the 1970s before making another political comeback in 1982. Wallace changed his position on civil rights again, taking a stand that directly contradicted his 1962 position. He was elected governor with 90 percent of the black vote, said Impson.

"The political environment in Alabama changed a lot between 1962 and 1982," said Impson. Wallace realized he could not win without the black vote and repented for his sins, said Impson. He used the same formula for Democratic victory that Jimmy Carter earlier used: reaching out to blacks while be-

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Bob Wiatt, Director of Security and the University Police, speaks to a crowd about the dangers of rape.