

Fraternity

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pa Alpha Theta Sorority, the sorority participating in the mixer with ΣAE, said she hopes the fallout from the incident won't shade A&M and its Greek system in a negative light.

"Hopefully (the incident) won't reflect upon A&M as a whole," Davis said, "and obviously it's up to the (Interfraternity Council) judicial board to decide what comes out of this."

Dr. Michael Leese, Interfraternity Council Adviser at Texas A&M, said he did not want to speculate on the possible repercussions facing ΣAE either.

"It could range anywhere from a slap on the hands to expulsion or suspension from A&M," Leese said. "I think it'll be somewhere in between."

However, he said he would not be surprised if part of the penalty handed down by the IFC would require the ΣAE fraternity to present some kind of workshop on multiculturalism to the Greek system and other student organizations.

Leese said he hopes the punishment is severe

enough to get the attention of the Greek community and student organizations and make them aware that thought must go into these parties.

"In the three years I've been here this is the first case we've had that has involved the question of racial discrimination," Leese said.

According to Leese, racism is a problem not only associated with the Greek system, but is also prevalent in society in general.

"It's a problem with Greeks, it's a problem I think all over campus and it's a problem with our whole society," Leese said. "It's not something that just exists with one fraternity."

The ΣAE fraternity is scheduled to appear before the IFC Judicial Review Board today at 7 p.m.

The review board is comprised of 9 members of the interfraternity council with no more than one member representing any particular fraternity.

One member serves as the chief justice with 8 justices. According to Leese, tonight's board will operate with only eight members because one member of the board stepped down due to his membership in ΣAE fraternity.

Greeks

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to some people is all that matters."

Monk said he and his brothers understand they need to be aware of cultural sensitivities.

"We're really trying to let people understand that we realize it may not be right," Monk said. "And we're sorry."

Monk said he and his brothers also wanted people to understand they did not mean for their "Jungle Party" to offend anyone. Another letter sent to The Battalion by members of a Texas A&M sorority said the charges against ΣAE were "unsubstantiated."

The letter said the party was "simply a party with a jungle theme," and not a "celebration of one of the most terrible crimes against humanity" as a letter by a Dallas band member stated.

Jana Cox, co-author of the letter sent to The Battalion, said she doesn't feel the charges against ΣAE are fair and feels the band member making the charges is so far removed from the Greek system at A&M that his view was jaded.

"I didn't see any pledges being chased around or hunted. It was just a jungle party," Cox said.

"Yes, their faces were painted black, they were wearing grass skirts and they carried spears," Cox's letter stated. "But it appeared to us they were dressed more like members of a tribe than slaves."

"I don't think they're being treated fair," Cox said.

Both letters defended the integrity of ΣAE and its president Michael Hebert, and pointed out that numerous members of ΣAE and KAΘ are members of various campus and community service organizations.

"Having such an extensive involvement in activities outside the Greek community, we understand

A&M's tradition of promoting multiculturalism and (we) to promote this idea in every activity we participate in," Cox's letter stated.

"Greeks have enough negative publicity without unsubstantiated claims of racism."

Substantiated or not, the decision will be given to the evening by the Interfraternity Council Judicial Review Board. ΣAE is apt to face anything from suspension or expulsion from university to educating others on cultural awareness.

Heidi George, KAΘ vice president, said education is the key understanding cultural issues.

"I don't feel it's a lack of sensitivity, it's a lack of education," George said.

She said if certain members are negatively toward a certain aspect of multiculturalism, they should be educated.

"We should always be aware of cultural diversity."

Racism

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-ing moderate enough to appeal to Southern whites, said Impson.

"Perhaps Wallace went through some great conversion, perhaps he actually changed the way he thought about blacks," Impson said. "Either he's a pretty good liar or he's sincere. He's probably a pretty good liar."

Impson also cited examples of other politicians who were segregationists at one time and now supported civil rights.

Strom Thurmond, a third party candidate for president in 1948, ran on a platform opposing civil rights.

Now a Republican senator from South Carolina, Thurmond was among the strongest supporters of Clarence Thomas, said Impson.

As for how things are now,

Impson said that the formula for Democratic victory has again changed.

"There are a lot of people, like Jackson for instance, that are particularly satisfied with Bill Clinton," said Impson.

Clinton realizes blacks are nowhere else to go, so he will take down the rhetoric to appeal to more conservative southern whites and hope that black votes will not stay home, said Impson.

Impson said that he believes the "quota issue" is today's form of race baiting by the Republicans and also said he thinks the school choice issue has racial overtones that many do not realize.

"This business of the private schools, I think, is a way of promoting white flight out of inner city schools," said Impson.

Impson said he heard a leading Texas historian say segregated schools could again become the norm if we continue on the path we are on now.

EPA drops penalty on oil companies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has dismissed more than \$4 million in civil penalties against 38 oil and gas companies accused of releasing tainted water into a salt playa.

"The attorneys for the 38 producers had asked me to review it," said George Alexander, regional counsel for the EPA in Dallas, adding that the examination triggered the decision to drop the fines.

The EPA said 23 of the producers were Texas-based, nine were from New Mexico, three were in Oklahoma, two were in Colorado and one was in Wyoming. The penalties had been imposed Aug. 3. The companies allegedly contracted with B & E Inc., a Carlsbad trucking and disposal company, to discharge "produced water" into Laguna Quatro in southeastern New Mexico's Eddy County.

Produced water, sometimes called oil field brine, is highly salty ground water containing radioactive and other toxic pollu-

tants. The brine, a waste product of oil production, usually is injected deep underground where wildlife cannot be exposed. The EPA alleges the discharges in Laguna Quatro violated a general Clean Water Act permit the agency issued in the spring of 1990.

Alexander said Tuesday the general permit, which covers all production in New Mexico, allows all such produced water must be injected underground. He said that about a month ago, he reviewed the actions against the companies.

Alexander said he discovered the general permit that had been issued "was unclear whether it covered the individual producer or just the company, B & E. He discharged it."

The preamble to the permit when it was proposed stated it would not apply to oil and gas producers that shipped their water off with a licensed hauler, he said.

He said the discharges had been stopped, but he would look into the permit discrepancies.

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