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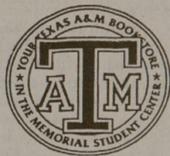
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STATE & LOCAL

Page 2

THE BATTALION

Monday, September 20, 1993

FRATERNITY RUSH

IFC concludes rush with 500 pledges

By Cheryl Heller

THE BATTALION



Varnell Hopkins III/The Battalion

Members of Sigma Chi hoist a pledge into the air during Bid Day Friday in front of the System Administration Building.

Texas A&M University fraternities wrapped up the University's largest fraternity rush in history Friday with a Bid House in front of the System Administration Building, Glenn Webb, interfraternity council rush chairman, said Sunday.

500 rushees who received bids from Texas A&M's 25 fraternities gathered at the System Administration Building where IFC members checked their records to confirm that they met new IFC rush regulations.

"Our new policy states that any fraternity members must be a student at Texas A&M, and that returning students must have a GPA of at least 2.0," Webb said.

After their records were confirmed, the rushees ran out to the System Administration Building lawn and joined members of the fraternity whose bid they accepted.

"It was great," said Donald Eknoyan, IFC internal vice presi-

dent. "All the fraternities went out, wearing their letters and being proud to be Greeks."

650 students went through fraternity rush this fall, which made it the largest number in Texas A&M's history.

"Both the big and the small chapters increased their numbers," Webb said. "Every chapter benefited."

Eknoyan attributed the increase to the first-ever open rush forum, which was held in order to increase overall fraternity membership.

"Our goal with the forum was to increase the number of men joining fraternities," he said.

"We thought that by starting out with the forum our numbers could go nowhere but up, but we never expected the incredible response we received."

"The IFC worked hard to make this a successful rush, but it's up to us to continue from here based on the success of this semester's rush," Eknoyan said.

"We plan to have an even bigger and better rush next year."

Clemency

Continued from Page 1

abuse since passage of the bill. Only three cases have made it to the governor's desk. Two have been rejected; one has been pending for about one year.

"We look for a pattern of abuse," Ober-Hauser said. "Just because you got into a fight one night is not justification for killing someone. Very few make it through all the documentation that's needed."

The recommendation then must go through several committees before landing on the governor's desk.

Wardlow has spent five years in the women's prison in

Gatesville for shooting her violently abusive husband in their Lufkin area home in 1985.

She was convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

The abuse and violence began, she says, a few years after she and Johnny Wardlow married in 1968 — she was 17, he was 25.

"He drank a lot and was constantly going to the bars," Wardlow recalled.

"He would come home and start breaking things, especially things that were important to me. Then he went from that into physical violence and sexual and mental abuse."

She describes the physical violence with an almost clinical coldness: the stitches to her chin, the bruises.

Her voice lowers and her eyes cloud over when recalling the sexual abuse.

"I've laid in bed with guns and knives," she says.

On Jan. 19, 1985, Wardlow, saying she feared that her husband, Johnny Wardlow, might finally carry out his longstanding threat to kill her, leveled a 12-gauge shotgun at the back of her husband's head and killed him.

After serving her time, she moved to Houston to live with relatives.

Now out on probation, Wardlow wants her right to vote and sit on a jury restored.

She also wants the ability to fill out a job application without labeling herself a convicted felon. And she wants to return to

prison, to counsel other women. But convicted felons are not permitted to visit others in prison.

Today, the assistant retail manager speaks to community groups and the police about her experience in order to increase awareness about domestic violence.

"Somewhere down the line we can put a stop to this or at least let battered women know that you don't have to put up with this," Wardlow said.

"There are places you can go, the police officers have to help you. When my case happened they didn't help, in fact they were told don't get involved."

Chuck McDonald, a spokesman for Richards, said the governor's staff is expecting to get Wardlow's clemency recommendation soon.

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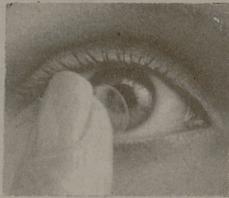
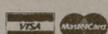
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