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Richardson Building, Room 101

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Sorority house directors. . .
Moms away from home

By Traci Travis and
Dena Dizdar

THE BATTALION

It takes a certain kind of personality to manage fifty sorority girls, plan three meals a day, keep the financial books and deal with the daily problems of college life.

But sorority house directors, Barbara Hobson and Beulah Stewart think that their job suits them perfectly.

"I think it's the best job for a single woman," said Hobson, the current director of the Alpha Delta Pi house. "There are no strict duties and you're never tied to a desk."

Each director has her own small apartment inside the sorority house complete with a living room, bedroom and bath. This makes her available to the girls on a twenty-four hour basis.

A house director's duties vary from day to day and house to house. Each director is expected to choose the meals, purchase supplies and manage a house staff including cooks and a housekeeper.

For most of the house directors, it is a year-round job.

"During the summer, I supervise big house improvements," said Stewart, house director for Kappa Kappa Gamma. "I'm here twelve months of the year, except for when I go on vacation."

According to Hobson, house directors were much stricter when she was in college. Each girl had to sign in and out, she said, and the lights were always out at 10:30 p.m.

"The housemothers would actually walk up and down the halls making sure you were in bed," Hobson said. "They were not nearly as involved with the girls as I am."

Haven Holtan, a resident of the Alpha Delta Pi house, said that when she studies downstairs,



Kyle Barnett/Staff

Sorority house directors **Beulah Stewart** (left) and **Barbara Hobson** (right) act as both friend and mom for members of Kappa Kappa Gamma and Alpha Delta Pi respectively.

Hobson will often come talk to her about her day.

"She's like a normal person," Holtan said. "We treat her like a friend and a mom."

Being a member of a sorority is not a prerequisite for being a house director, Hobson said. As a matter of fact, Hobson was about to accept a bid from Alpha Delta Pi when she decided to get married instead.

"One of the things that I thought was very interesting was that my job turned out to be with the ADPi house, which would have been my sorority," Hobson said.

This gives Hobson a special link to Alpha Delta Pi, but both Stewart and Hobson agree that the most rewarding thing about

their job is the girls they meet.

"I'm always so glad to see them when they come back and bring their husbands and babies," Stewart said. "I've gotten close to a lot of the girls."

Hobson and Stewart have not only managed to grow close to their girls, but they also have a special friendship of their own.

Since her arrival to the Alpha Delta Pi house 2 1/2 years ago, Hobson has received a great deal of help and advice from Stewart, her next-door neighbor.

"When I first became a housemother, I had little or no experience," Hobson said. "I would go over to her house whenever I had a question because she had been the housemom for 8 years."

The housemothers get together

often to eat dinner or just a cup of coffee, but their interests and qualities can times make for a little competition.

"My license plate says MOM," Stewart said. "Zeta housemother's says MOM." I always tease her. "I got mine first."

But of all the functions directors perform, Stewart's role as more of a friend than a mother, is most important.

"They all have mothers of their own," she said. Carla Stroot, president of Alpha Delta Pi said, "She is like a second mom. She is for you if you have problems she is also there to keep you in line."

Trenches

Continued from Page 3

Searching for the cure

As the number of HIV infections increases daily, and with no known cure for the disease, Santos said the only way to slow the spread is to prevent it.

"It would be wonderful if you could have teens abstaining to protect themselves," she said. "But that is not happening. The sex drive is pretty strong and you have to educate kids about what their body is telling them. The 'Just Say No' campaign didn't work with drugs, and it is not working with abstinence."

"You have got to know that the individual you are having sex with is not HIV positive. You have got to be comfortable to talk about this. It is much more than a piece of latex."

But education has its problems to overcome. "There are so many different groups that need education that it is difficult to reach them, but it is not impossible," Davis said. "The only cure is education, if they know the facts, they can protect themselves."

Santos said a specific group that is difficult to reach is children.

"Starting at a very young age, you can talk about human sexuality on a general level but we are so afraid," she said. "There is pressure from a small group not to talk about these issues."

Garner said that those who do teach have to justify what they say.

"We teach abstinence and protection," she said. "People say you can't preach both sides. But I think you can. It is all based on the individual, not the whole."

Outside of education, Rabe said that people need to communicate and work together.

"I think that everyone needs to be more open and compassionate," she said. "More open with discussion of AIDS and more compassionate with AIDS victims. If we could drop the discrimination, that would be a big blessing. Because right now they are treated like lepers."

Davis said that people need to conquer their fears and help educate those who are not getting the message.

"I think the biggest thing to overcome is the fear that AIDS is a dirty word," Davis said. "It is a world-wide problem, it affects everybody."

Even if you're not HIV positive, it affects

"If we had more people that would be willing to come volunteer (at centers), especially minorities, it would make our lot easier because there are cultural barriers that we must overcome as well."

Is it worth it?

Fighting a seemingly endless war wears on anyone. But Davis said winning few battles justifies the sacrifice.

"Some days I (get frustrated)," Davis said. "but usually I don't. I look at where we years ago and where we are now, and made a lot of progress. You have to stay somewhere."

Garner also justifies her efforts by the small victories.

"One of my best friends wasn't practicing safe sex," Garner said. "It frustrated me she knows this is what I do, she hears me and she still doesn't do anything."

"You feel like you are banging your head against a wall but you get a few people who are moved by this and it makes this all worth it."

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Placement Orientation, 10 a.m., 225 MSC
Job Search Strategies, 3 p.m., 225 MSC
Career Decisionmaking, 5:30 p.m., 225 MSC

February 10, 1994
"How To" Complete A Disk Resume, 10 a.m., 308 Rudder
Placement Orientation, 11 a.m., 225 MSC
Resume Writing Workshop, 3 p.m., 402 Rudder
"How To" Use A Co-op Career Fair, 4 p.m., 601 Rudder

February 11, 1994
Placement Orientation, 9:30 a.m., 206 MSC
Successful Interviewing Workshop, 11 a.m., 229 MSC
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February 14, 1994
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