

Record turnout for rush

Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

Sorority Rush '94 ended Saturday with a record 543 women joining one of the 11 A&M sororities.

Panhellenic President Carrie Beyer said this year's record turnout of rushees and pledges exceeded most sororities' expectations.

"We have 681 women rushing this year," Beyer said. "That's more rushees than we've ever had in the past."

Rush chairwoman Jennifer Chavez said she credits publicity and the increased interest in A&M sororities.

"We notified people a lot earlier this year about the sororities rush week," Chavez said.

In the past, notice was sent to women once they signed up for orientation conference. This year, however, information was automatically sent to all incoming freshmen and transfer students, she said.

"We sent information to every female that had been admitted to A&M," Chavez said. "That's about 4,000 women."

Chavez said the early notification not only put them in contact with more women but also allowed them more time to

speak with the women about joining a sorority.

"We were a big part of the orientation conferences this year," Chavez said. "That gave people a chance to talk with us and ask questions to see what we were all about."

Beyer said she believed that the women rushing were pleased with the system this year because fewer women dropped out of rush week than in the past.

"These women have had very open minds," Beyer said. "We also have great rush counselors to help them along the way."

Chavez said the rush counselors have helped limit the number of withdrawals from rush week this year.

"They're a friend and a helping hand to the women rushing," Chavez said. "They're very well trained this year and important in meeting our goal of a successful rush."

Also, the A&M Alpha Gamma Delta chapter, which closed last year, will reopen in October and hold their own rush at that time, Chavez said.

"That's what we like to see — a growing Greek system," Chavez said.

Chavez said the sororities have also tried to cooperate more with

the community this year.

"Since interest is increasing, we're trying to cut down on the amount of traffic around the houses," Chavez said.

Two buses from A&M's Parking, Transit and Traffic Services were used to transport rushees from the Post Oak Mall parking lot to Athens Street. The buses ran continually from two hours before the rush parties began each night until each rushee was returned to her car.

Mall security was also used to ensure the women's safety, Chavez said.

"We're trying to be friendly to the community," Chavez said. "We know traffic has been a problem in the past, and we're trying to cut down on it."

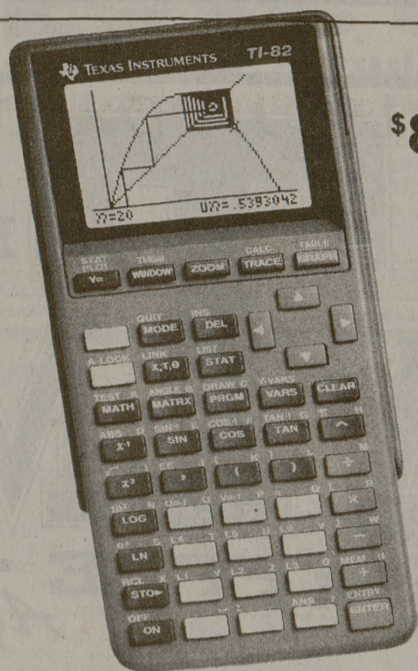
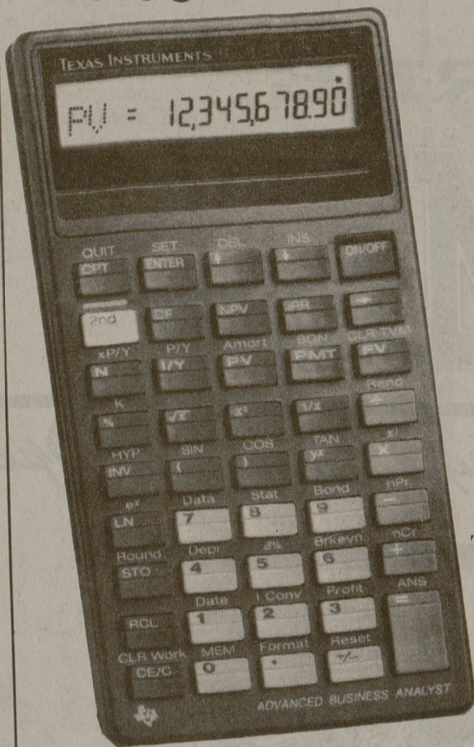
Lanita Hanson, coordinator of Greek affairs, said the sororities will try to be good neighbors.

"The changes that were made this year have completely alleviated any problems we had," Hanson said. "I imagine that the changes will be continued in the future."

Chavez said she agrees.

"We're exceptionally pleased with how rush has gone this year," Chavez said. "We've handled any situation that's come up."

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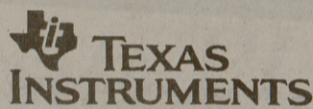
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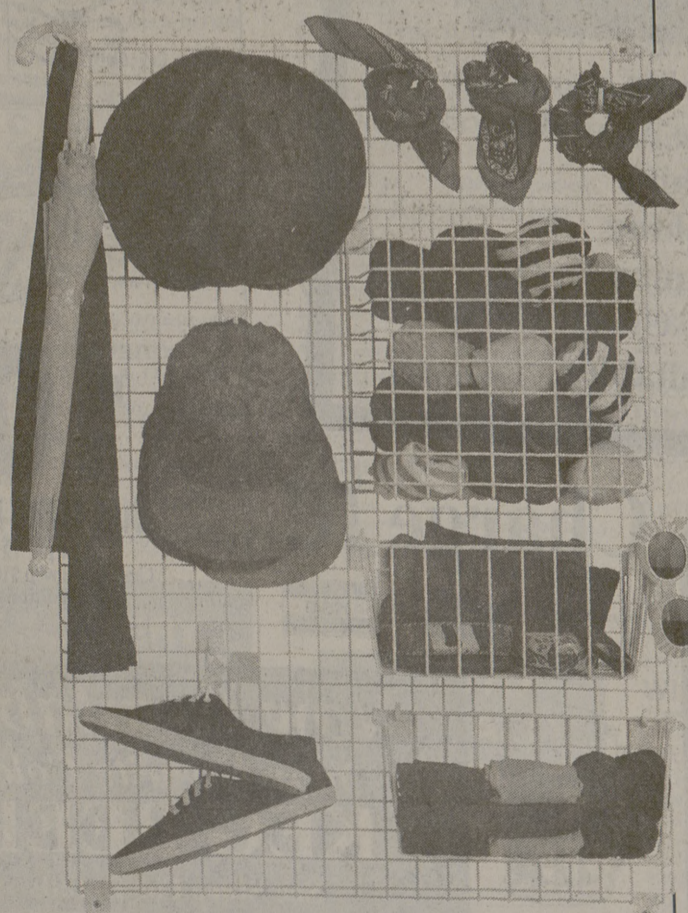
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sophomore bio-med majors Honey Adams and Nancy Williams speak with freshman rushee Stephanie Tuffley. Tuffley is a finance major. Adams and Williams are members of Alpha Chi Omega. This photo was taken at a rush party on Thursday inside the Alpha Chi Omega house.

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