

Hazing allegations lead to suspension

University officials have temporarily suspended the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

By **MARISSA ALANIS**
THE BATTALION

Phi Gamma Delta fraternity was temporarily suspended because of an alleged hazing incident on Jan. 8, 1997. The incident is under investigation by the Brazos County Sheriff's Department and Texas A&M University officials.

The campus chapter was suspended after University officials discovered that the Brazos County Sheriff's Department was conducting an investigation based on a report that pledges were subjected to a "hosing down" with a water hose outside the fraternity house.

Jon Price, A&M Interfraternity Council adviser, along with the Department of Student Life, launched a joint investigation into the alleged hazing incident based on the findings of the sheriff's department.

"When there are any concerns of an improper activity, as a condition to join an organization or affiliate with it, that is grounds to initiate an investigation," Price said.

The fraternity is temporarily suspended by A&M and its national chapter pending the results of the investigation.

Members of the fraternity declined to comment.

On the day of the alleged hazing incident William Walker III, a Phi Gamma Delta fraternity pledge, died at Columbia Medical Center in College Station after suffering an acute asthma attack. So far, there is no indication that the two incidents are related.

Chris Kirk, Brazos County sheriff, said the department must determine whether the two events were related by reviewing evidence such as the medical examiner's report.

"Did the incidents that occurred that day contribute to his death or cause his death — are among the number of things that we're investigating," Kirk said.

Kirk said Walker's death initiated an investigation, since the department is required by state statute to investigate any unattended death.

Kirk said the sheriff's department's investigation will not be concluded until a secondary forensic pathologist's report arrives. The case

will then be presented to the grand jury, which will determine if any criminal offense occurred based on the testimony and evidence.

"They either come back and say there was no bill (criminal offense) or true bill," he said.

Kirk said when criminal statutes such as hazing, are violated certain elements need to be proven to determine if there was a criminal offense.

One of the elements the grand jury will need to prove is the "culpable mental state" of the fraternity members — whether they intentionally, knowingly or recklessly contributed to Walker's death.

Price said the University is responsible only for investigating policy violations and is not responsible for investigating criminal activities.

University regulations define hazing as "any intentional, knowing or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of Texas A&M University, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization ..."

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Campus groups plan Black History Month celebrations, events

By **MARISSA ALANIS**
THE BATTALION

Knowledge and enrichment of the minds of individuals at Texas A&M is the purpose of Black History Month, celebrated throughout February.

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson established the first Negro History Week Celebration during the second week of February. The week later expanded into a month.

In conjunction with the theme of "Uplifting the lives of African-Americans. Enriching the minds of all," the week of Feb. 10-14 was designated Knowledge Week by the MSC Black Awareness Committee and the A&M chapter of the NAACP.

Donovan Wheatfall, president of the A&M chapter of the NAACP and a junior business analysis major, said Black History Month allows African-Americans to reflect on their past so they can use it as a guide for the future.

"We always talk about history in the context of yesterday," Wheatfall said. "That's what we're focusing on. How do we use the history to help us now?"

Wheatfall said a book titled *Miseducation of the Negro* discusses how African-Americans were knowledgeable about European philosophers and inventors, but did not know about their own history.

"To be truly educated is to know about yourself," he said.

A showing of the movie *Sankofa* on Feb. 10 will give African-American students at A&M the opportunity to learn about their history. The movie illustrates the modern reality of

African slave descendants.

Wheatfall said celebrating Black History Month does not mean African-Americans are trying to be superior, but rather, it shows what African-Americans have contributed to society.

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Donovan Wheatfall
A&M chapter of the NAACP president

Wheatfall said many people have no problem saying things like "Michael Jordan dominates the basketball court," because they accept that he dominates the NBA. He said, however, some people do not want to admit that African-Americans excel in other areas.

"I dare them to say African-Americans dominate the hospital room or courtroom," Wheatfall said.

Tonya Moreland, committee director of publications and a junior speech communications major, said Black History Month teaches children about the African-Americans who have made contributions as astronauts or inventors, rather than focusing on entertainers.

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Rogge Heflin, THE BATTALION

Game Day

Nate Hillard, posing as "King Dregan" in the black suit, defends himself against Hans Ratliff, posing as "Simon Dracol" in the red suit, during a flourentine sparing exhibition at Simpson Drill Field Saturday. The exhibition is part of WarCon '97, a gaming convention sponsored by MSC Nova.

Regent Brisco ends six-year term

By **ERICA ROY**
THE BATTALION

Alison Brisco's term as a member of the Board of Regents will end this year. She served the Texas A&M University System for six years.

BOARD OF REGENTS CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Gov. Ann Richards appointed Brisco and Chairman of the Board of Regents Mary Nan West to the Board in 1991, making them the third and fourth women appointed to the Board.

Regents appointed in the past have always been A&M graduates. Brisco and West were not.

Brisco said despite not being an A&M graduate she was able to take part in the activities and spirit of A&M.

"I think we (West and Brisco) are leaving now, six years later, with both of us feeling very much connected to the institutions and traditions," she said.

Brisco, an investment banker and vice president with Lehman Brothers in Houston, chaired the Finance and Audit Committee for four years. Brisco said, as a banker, she was interested in the way A&M conducts business. She has tried to open up opportunities for the University to work with more minority- and women-owned businesses.

"I've worked really hard to make sure we (A&M System) have the reputation of being open and accessible ...," she said.

Dick Lindsay, the deputy chancellor

for finance and operations, said Brisco was responsible for increasing investments from \$450 million to almost \$900 million while she chaired the Finance and Audit Committee.

Lindsay said Brisco's efforts helped implement private housing on four of the A&M System campuses.

Lindsay said Brisco is also one of the campus leaders responsible for getting Martin Luther King Jr. Day recognized as a holiday.

"I'm going to miss her terribly," he said. "She's done a super job. She has been both a great leader and supporter of what we have tried to do."

Brisco said the most rewarding aspects of being on the Board of Regents were bringing a different perspective and point of view to the Board and helping the A&M System.

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Financial Aid Office holds 'Money Gras'

By **REBECCA TORRELLAS**
THE BATTALION

Financial Aid Awareness Week begins today, and the Texas A&M Student Financial Aid Office will participate in "Money Gras" to educate current and future college students about financial aid.

Free programs will be held this week and on Feb. 13 for anyone seeking information about scholarships, grants, loans and student employment.

Stephanie West, a financial aid counselor, said this event will answer any questions students may have about different kinds of financial aid.

"The purpose of this is to help current and prospective students and parents find out about the opportunities for school finance based on their specific offers," West said.

An open house on Tuesday will feature information booths, a scholarship drawing, music and door prizes.

Separate sessions during the open house will cover planning for application to college, tuition, general financial aid, the federal student aid application, the loan process, scholarships and student employment.

West said the Student Financial Aid Department awards more than \$2 million in scholarships.

"More than half of all college students receive some form of monetary assistance to help them pursue their education," West said. "Without it, many students simply wouldn't be able to attend an institution of higher learning."

There will be information tables at the Memorial Student Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this week for students and parents seeking information and advice on scholarships, grants, loans and student employment.

Several events are planned during the week to help students obtain information about financial aid.

A scholarship search open house will help students learn to use a national data base to find scholarships that are best suited for them.

A financial aid teleconference will help students fill out the federal student aid application via video teleconference.

A hot line sponsored by the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators will be in operation Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8 and 9, to answer questions about the financial aid process.

Business Student Council hosts career fair

By **JACKIE VRATIL**
THE BATTALION

Motorola, Northwestern Mutual Life and Perot Systems are among the companies that will visit the Texas A&M campus this week for the 1997 Spring Career Fair hosted by the Business Student Council.

The fair will provide booths for 100 companies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the day in the Wehner building. Students can buy tickets to attend banquets in the evenings at the Hilton and spend time familiarizing themselves with a specific company.

The Spring Career Fair is one of two the Business Student Council hosts; the other is in the fall.

Michelle Skinner, publicity chair for the fair and a senior marketing and English major, said in addition to the two major fairs, campus business societies bring in speakers and recruiters to provide information about companies seeking future employees.

Skinner said the company booths and banquets are a great way to put a face with a name.

"The banquet gives the students a chance to talk to the recruiters more on a one-to-one basis," she said. "It also is a chance to talk to the recruiters without having five other students waiting behind you."

Ryan Hill, president of the Business Student Council and a senior accounting major, said A&M's fair is one of the only career fairs directed by students.

"They (companies at the career fair) have even told us that we are more professional than some of the other fairs where adults were in charge," he said. "Other schools have even called us to find out how we do it so they can do it, too."

Skinner said businesses involved are pleased with the student-run event.

"When the recruiters find out we put the whole thing on, they are impressed," Skinner said. "It reflects positively on the University and therefore makes the re-

cruiter more apt to hire."

One of the Business Student Council's major goals is to emphasize that the fair is not just for graduating seniors.

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Financial Aid Awareness Week Schedule

- **Tuesday, Feb. 4** - A scholarship search open house will be held at the Texas A&M Student Financial Aid Office in The Pavilion, room 208, from 5-8 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 6** - A financial aid application teleconference will be held at Bryan High School from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8 and 9** - A student financial aid hot line will be in operation from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 13** - A financial aid open house will be held on the second floor of the MSC from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

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