

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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Divine differences of the Aggie Sisterhood Upperclasswomen find their places in non-traditional sorority recruitment

By Marianne Hudson
THE BATTALION

Allison Reynolds, a sophomore general studies major, is not a typical sorority pledge. Of the 739 female students who went through sorority recruitment in August 2002, 104 were sophomores, 10 were juniors and two were seniors, said Texas A&M Collegiate Panhellenic Council officials.

Reynolds, who recently pledged Delta Gamma as a sophomore, said there are advantages to not joining as a freshman. She said joining as a sophomore gave her time to decide where she wanted to get involved at Texas A&M.

"My freshman year I wasn't sure of what I wanted to get into," she said. "I didn't want to get too involved in too much too quick without thinking about what I really wanted. About the middle of my spring semester, I decided I wanted to do a sorority."

Reynolds said her roommates last year influenced her decision because they were both in sororities. She said already knowing people in the sororities made recruitment less nerve-wrecking.

"It was always nice to walk in a house and see someone I knew," she said. After a week of recruiting, Reynolds decided to join Delta Gamma, the sorority most of her friends belong to.

"By hanging out with them, I kind of knew Delta Gamma was the sorority I wanted before I rushed [joined] because I knew what it is about," she said.

Reynolds said some sororities cut upperclassmen no matter who they know because they want girls who will be part of their chapters for four years.

"Some won't even consider you if you are a sophomore," she said. "I know some sophomores who were cut because of their grades."

Liz Lozier, spokeswoman for the Texas A&M Collegiate Council and senior marketing major, said there are no recommendations for the grades a potential member should have. She said anyone with a 2.0 can go through recruitment. However, she said a low GPR can potentially have a negative effect on upperclassmen

going through recruitment.

"In our pamphlet, we say upperclassmen with below a 2.5 GPR may receive fewer invites to parties," Lozier said. "Different sororities have different standards. It is individual for every chapter on the GPAs required for incoming freshmen and upperclassmen."

Lozier said there are no rules requiring each sorority to take a certain number of upperclassmen, whether they have good grades or not. In contrast, she said the University of Texas (UT) makes exceptions for sororities who accept juniors. Sororities at UT are allowed to have "free juniors," who do not count against the number of women each sorority is allowed to take.

Reynolds said her sorority took 10 sophomores this year. She said she looks forward to getting to know both freshmen and sophomores in her pledge class.

"In Delta Gamma, you can't always tell what pledge class a girl is in because everyone is so close," Reynolds said.

However, after having been part of a sorority for a year, Gretchen Chabot, a junior community health major, said a pledge becomes closest to those in her pledge class.

"I feel closer to my pledge class than the girls my age in the sorority," said Chabot, who joined Kappa Kappa Gamma last year as a sophomore. "The girls in the pledge class above me treat me like I'm on their level."

Chabot said many of the women that joined with her as sophomores are very involved with the sorority.

Although it is easy to become involved as a sophomore, Chabot said she would have done things differently if she could do it over again.

"I would have rushed as a freshman because I would be the same age as some of my pledge sisters," she said. "I lead a different lifestyle than a lot of them because I'm a year older. I would have liked to have experienced the same things at the same time as them."

Reynolds, however, disagrees.

"If I had rushed as a freshman, I couldn't have told you which sorority I would have gone to. Rushing as a sophomore gave me a year to better understand each sorority and which one would be best for me."



JOSH DARWIN • THE BATTALION

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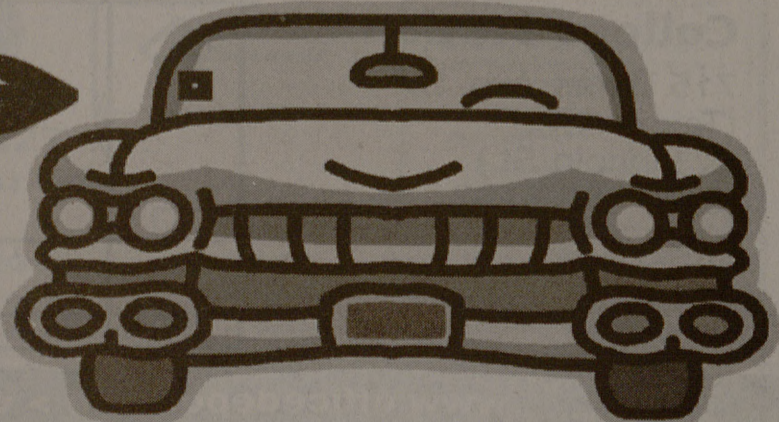
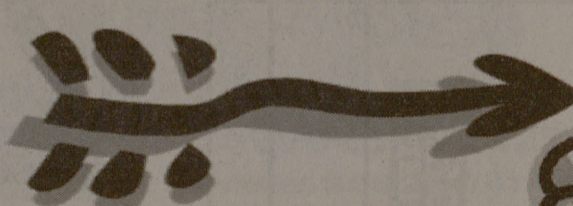
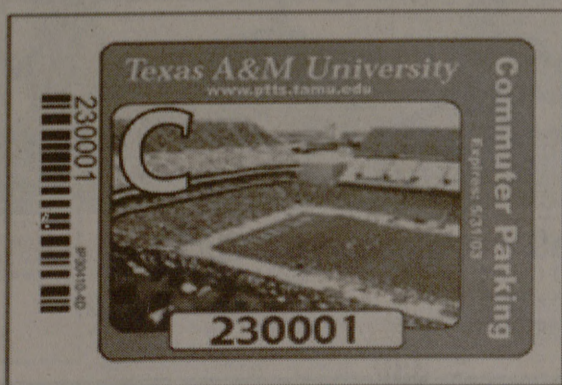
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