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THE COLUMN

is a weekly informational email providing pertinent information to SMU fraternities and sororities on their individual operations, involvement in governing councils and engagement in the greater campus community. Fraternity and Sorority Life is committed to communication with our student leaders as well as alumni, parents, (inter)national organizations, and other key constituents that support our fraternity and sorority community. Check out the mission and guidelines for submission at: <http://smu.edu/fsl/thecolumn>

Trick or Treat on Greek Street an Inaugural Success

The IFC partnered with the Trinity River Mission to host Trick or Treat on Greek Street. Over 150 students ranging in ages from 5 to 13 came to campus on October 31, 2009. The IFC hosted a pizza party for the students at TRM located in West Dallas before having charter buses bring them to SMU. Once on campus, the students trick or treated at each of the IFC houses. The event was covered by local NBC, CBS and FOX news stations.

PRIZE DRAWING QUESTION!

If you read *The Column* this week, you should be able to answer the question below.

Reply with the answer to the bolded statement or question below to Josh at jschutts@smu.edu and your name goes in the drawing to be eligible for one of four \$50 VISA or AMEX gift cards in December (if you win). The only time limit for submission is the publication of the next edition. **ENTRYS LIMITED TO ONCE PER ISSUE.**

How much is the Wade family suing Phi Beta Sigma, Prairie View A&M and the pledge trainer for?

IFC Special Olympics Successful in Eleventh Year

This year marked the 11th anniversary of the IFC sponsored Special Olympics Volleyball tournament with the Greater Dallas affiliate of Special Olympics. This year, over 250 athletes participated in a day-long tournament held at an off-campus gymnasium and on two courts in the Dedman Recreation Center. Over 70 IFC members worked during the event as officials and score keepers, while many others remained to cheer the athletes on. The IFC also provided a pizza lunch from Dominos for the athletes and their families in Doak Walker Plaza.

Arkansas Bans Fraternity Socials until Spring Semester

Northwest Arkansas News - Fayetteville, AR - November 21, 2009

The University of Arkansas' Office of Greek Life, trying to send a "strong message" about student conduct, has banned the school's fraternities from all social activities until spring semester.

Greek Life Director Parice Bowser said the decision was prompted by a recent rape and hazing allegations made separately involving activities at two university fraternity houses.

Bob Biggs, executive vice president of Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity, said members of the Arkansas Alpha chapter of Phi Delta Theta came under fire earlier this week when 18-year old Nicholas Brown, a potential new member of the fraternity, was transported to the hospital and treated for severe alcohol poisoning. The incident occurred after a "Big Brother, Little Brother" function, which took place at the fraternity houses. Brown was transported to the hospital and upon arrival, had a blood alcohol content of .68 according to UA Police records.

Earlier in the semester, allegations of rape surfaced against two Razorback basketball players and one former player at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house.

GRE Word of the Week

esoteric (adj.) - pronounced eso-TERR-ik

Intended for or understood by only a chosen few; abstruse

Final Column of the semester

Don't forget to get your answers to the trivia questions in soon! We will draw for the gift cards on December 5, 2009! All answers must be in by December 4 to qualify.

This semester we will be drawing five (5) names for \$50 VISA or AMEX gift cards. Thank you to all who have been reading The Column and sending in your prize drawing questions. An email will be sent out after the drawing to everyone on the mailing list informing everyone of the fall 2009 winners.

Quote of the Week

“Guard your roving thoughts with a jealous care, for speech is but the dialer of thoughts, and every fool can plainly read in your words what is the hour of your thoughts”

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 - 1892)



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Parents Sue Over Prairie View A&M Student's Death

Houston Chronicle - Houston, TX - November 4, 2009

A 20-year-old Phi Beta Sigma pledge at Prairie View A&M University underwent systemic hazing - including a strict bread-and-water diet, paddling and mandatory rigorous exercises - that intensified until it culminated in his death, a lawsuit filed by his parents states.

Donnie Wade II, a biology major studying to become a doctor, died Oct. 20 following a pre-dawn exercise session with a group of his pledge brothers, investigators said. "I will not rest until I am sure no other families will go through what we have," sates Katrina Wade, the mother of the deceased student. Her husband, Wade I, is an associate pastor of the Dallas-area Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship.

The wrongful death lawsuit, filed Friday in Dallas County, seeks as much as \$97 million in damages from the national fraternity based in Washington D.C., the pledge trainer, Marvin Jackson, and Prairie View A&M.

The suit states that pledges were subjected to "instant, systemic and continuous hazing incidents" which included older pledges requiring him to run errands and purchase items including alcohol, a period where he could eat only bread and water, paddling, and finally exercise sessions. The second and last exercise session included an hour of nearly nonstop exercise including an "Indian Run" in which pledges must run in a line with the last one required to sprint to the front of the pack and this process continues. When that concluded, the group was ordered to do the "snake," which involved running up and down the bleachers and then was followed with pushups and jumping jacks.

The last exercise before Wade collapsed was called "6-inchers," during which he was required to hold his legs six inches off the ground while lying on his back. The pledge trainer, saying Wade was "just tired," laughed at the pledges assisting Wade by checking his pulse and splashing water on his face as he collapsed a second time, the lawsuit said.

A bystander offered to call 911 for an ambulance, but was told that would not be necessary. Instead, the group carried Wade, who had passed out, back to a car. They then drove Wade to his home, but after arriving, decided he didn't look well and two members drove him from Walter County to a hospital in Harris County, the lawsuit said.

The hospital report states Wade was dead when he arrived.

Spotlight: SORORITY

Gamma Phi Beta



Founded Nationally: Syracuse University, November 11, 1874
 Founded at SMU: 1929, Alpha Xi Chapter
 Colors: Light and dark brown
 Nickname: Gamma Phi
 Symbol: Crescent Moon
 Philanthropy: Campfire USA
 Council Membership: Panhellenic Council
 National Website: www.gammaphibeta.org
 Local Website: people.smu.edu/gammaphibeta

President: Erin McKie

Spotlight: FRATERNITY

Phi Beta Sigma



Founded Nationally: Howard University, January 9, 1914
 Founded at SMU: 1974, Kappa Tau Chapter
 Colors: Royal Blue and Pure White
 Nickname: Sigma
 Symbol: Dove
 Philanthropy: Sigma's Waging War Against Cancer
 Council Membership: NPHC - National Pan-Hellenic Council
 National Website: www.pbs1914.org
 Local Website: people.smu.edu/pbs1914

President: Linwood Fields

Kansas State IFC Bans Hard Liquor in their Houses

Kansas State Collegian - Manhattan, KS - November 3, 2009

K-State's interfraternity Council met Monday night to vote on a hard liquor ban. Brandon Harder, IFC president, gave a few words before the presidents voted to ban hard liquor in chapter houses. The final vote of the action was 15-7-1. This means that effective January 1, 2010, the only alcohol allowed in fraternities will be beer.

Harder said the ban was in the works for eight months. Harder said he and Brandon Cutler, assistant director for Greek affairs, have attended long meetings weekly which are the root of his frustration with the rise in conflicts of hard liquor. Each Monday, the two meet for an hour to discuss events that transpired during the weekend. Recently, the meetings are filled with negativity because of this reappearing problem.

K-State administrators were not involved in the decision. In an email from Pat Bosco, vice president of student life, he noted that "their self-governance was only as good as their decision-making ability."



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