OSU Greek House
To Close Due to
Lack of Enthusiasm

By Kathy Kaufman
Staff Writer

The Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority house will close within two weeks despite a five-month effort to revive enthusiasm among members, according to Alex Thomson, Assistant Dean of Students.

Eight chapter members were disaffiliated last week after a series of interviews, conducted by national headquarters representatives. Of the 21 chapter members interviewed, at least six other members chose to disaffiliate themselves from the chapter.

Thomson explained that a decline in “attitude, atmosphere, concern, and interest” were major matters in the decision to disaffiliate the girls.

The girls have been instructed to leave the house as soon as possible. Thomson said. He said that most members should be gone by next weekend, although extensions may be granted if needed.

The decision to close the house was made after four sorority national headquarters representatives conducted 10 to 15 minute interviews with each member last weekend.

The girls were then informed that the entire chapter was closed, and those wishing to be reinstated were scheduled to be interviewed at Stouffer’s University Inn last Sunday and Monday nights. The girls were questioned about what they could contribute to the chapter and if they would consider returning next year.

The representatives then announced the names of the reinstated girls. According to a sophomore member, who asked that her name be withheld, no explanations for the reinstatements, or reasons for the disaffiliations were given.

The former member, who said she chose to disaffiliate, claimed the chapter did receive a written statement saying the girls were “not fulfilling their sorority obligations.”

Thomson said that he had realized the problem existed for some time. In the fall, he and several others planned a series of programs, hoping to “promote positive thinking.”

Various workshops were scheduled to be headed by chapter officers, but the anonymous source explained, “I was on both the food and social committees and neither one ever held a meeting.”

Thomson said the local Alpha Epsilon Phi chapter also hosted a national conclave with girls from other chapters, in hopes that some of the others’ enthusiasm would be contagious. But he felt there was no response to the programs during this four to five month period in the chapter as a whole, although there was some improvement by individual members.

Thomson explained he had to make a choice to “either let things die as they were doing or try to salvage what was there with people who were willing to work and build.”
April 2, 2001
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University cracking down on hazing violations
Fraternity, sorority temporarily suspended

COLUMBUS -- A fraternity and a sorority at The Ohio State University have had their status as recognized student organizations temporarily suspended while the university investigates separate allegations of hazing in both organizations.

The president of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (TKE) received a letter on March 28 and the president of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority received a letter on March 29 from Interim Vice President for Student Affairs William H. Hall notifying them of the decisions, which became effective immediately.

During the period of temporary suspension, the chapters are not eligible to participate in any recognized student organization activities, including intramural sports, chapter social events or social events with other student organizations.

Hall's letter to the chapter presidents said, "All hazing and other risk management violations, as well as other inappropriate actions, must cease immediately. While our policies on these issues are clear, let this letter serve as a statement that The Ohio State University will take swift and immediate action on violations of the Code of Student
Hall also has sent a letter to all fraternity and sorority presidents at Ohio State expressing his disappointment that reports of dangerous and inappropriate behavior by members of the Greek community continue to surface. There have been numerous allegations that pledges (prospective members of fraternities and sororities) have been encouraged to take part in activities that were degrading and/or potentially harmful to their physical or mental health. Investigations of these reports have substantiated instances of sleep deprivation, alcohol violations, disruption of a university class, and coercion to participate in humiliating activities.

Recently the University Judicial Panel ruled that Delta Chi fraternity had committed hazing violations and put the group on probation for one year. In December, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was sanctioned for hazing. Several other fraternities have been sanctioned in the past year for violations of the rules governing student conduct.

"There is a disturbing trend of irresponsible, immature and frankly dangerous behavior within the Greek community," Hall said. "I had hoped that the message would have been received by now that hazing is absolutely not tolerated. It is incompatible with the standards, missions and values of Ohio State University and of each of the national fraternities and sororities that our chapters are affiliated with. Furthermore, there is no such thing as an acceptable level of hazing. When you unlock that door, you create an atmosphere that can all too easily lead from relatively silly pranks to tragedy."

Hazing is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, which defines it as "Doing, requiring or encouraging any act, whether or not the act is voluntarily agreed upon, in conjunction with initiation or continued membership or participation in any group, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm or humiliation. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, use of alcohol, creation of excessive fatigue, and paddling, punching or kicking in any form."

For the past few months, Student Affairs staff members have been working diligently with the Greek community to implement the standards of excellence in the Greek Life Task Force Report. This report, which reflects two years of collaborative effort, became effective March 19.
It sets out a vision for the Greek community that aligns its mission with the university's and reestablishes fraternal values. It contains a template for each chapter to set and attain goals related to academic achievement, personal and community development, community service, financial stability, and risk management.

Hall said the university prefers to work with the Greek community in a positive, rather than a punitive, manner but will not back down on enforcing the Code of Student Conduct and the standards set forth in the Greek Life Task Force.

"While I understand that there are many fantastic things occurring in the Greek community, the negative incidents continue to bring us down," he said. "This must stop."

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For more information:
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Greek Life Task Force Website: http://www.osu.edu/student-activities/Greek/taskforce

The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct http://www.osu.edu/units/stuaff/csc.php

For additional releases go to: http://www.osu.edu/osu/newsrel/
COLLINS

Mary Sue Collins, age 57, Wednesday at Park Medical Center. A member of Tabernacle Baptist Church where she served faithfully in the Angelic and Mass Choir, as a Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher, a member of the Hospitality Committee, Discipline Class, Missionary Society and the Lord's Supper Pageant. She was Co-Chairman of the Mary M. Meyers Retreat of the Women's Auxiliary of the Eastern Union, Missionary Baptist Association and Auxiliaries, Inc. A member of the Zodiac Club. Employed by the Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc. in Food Services, former employee of Alpha Epsilon Pi of Ohio State University as House Manager, as a cook for the Red Door Tavern and Presutti. Survived by her loving and devoted husband, Calvin Collins, Sr.; beloved children, Robin (Kim) Young, Kevin (Rebecca) Collins, Calvin (Devon) Collins, Jr., Craig (Tonia) Collins and Kellie Collins; grandchildren, Anthony, Justin, Kelli, Craig Jr., Jazmin, Kevin II, Bethany and Bryan; brothers, Warren (Sylvia) Jones, James (Loretta) Lake; sisters, Barbara Mae (Robert) Jenkins, Mildred Davis and Victoria (Lendyburgh) Talley; aunt, Rose Lake; four sisters-in-law; three brothers-in-law; many nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends including a special friend of the family, Jason Fuller. The family will receive friends Monday 7-9 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2108 Woodward Avenue. Funeral 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Church. Rev. Odell Waller officiant. Interment Glen Rest Memorial Estates. Arrangements by C.D. WHITE & SON FUNERAL HOME, 1217 Mt. Vernon Ave.