Immigration and undocumented immigrants are hotly debated issues in the United States today. While there are fights about immigration policy, it seems nobody wins. No true immigration reform has passed on the federal level for years. Because of the unsuccessful comprehensive immigration reform, activists have resorted to pushing piecemeal legislation, hoping it will squeeze through the House, Senate and the president's veto pen.

The Dream Act is one of these piecemeal acts that hopes to change a portion of immigration policy a little bit at a time. A fellow Texas A&M University student has told me her story and how the immigration debate is directly affecting her life. She hopes other Aggies will join her in supporting the Dream Act. This is her story.

When Ana was 10, she and her family came to the United States to reunite with her father. When she started school, she became determined to learn the English language and adapt to her new culture. In middle school, she was involved with extracurricular activities and excelled in school.

Once in high school, she continued her involvement and was one of the top students in her class. She focused her time on helping her community in activities, such as being a mentor to elementary children through Big Brothers Big Sisters. She was also a member of the National Honors Society and the captain of the varsity soccer. She ended her high school experience by graduating as the salutatorian of her class with a perfect GPA.

Now, as a student at Texas A&M, she continues to be involved by completing more than 90 hours of community service a semester, among other activities.

Ana is proud to be close to graduating and has the opportunity to apply to graduate school to work on her doctorate in public administration.

However, Ana is in a bind.

She finds her college experience restricted. She wishes to study abroad, but cannot do so. She is looking for an internship, but she cannot find one. She wishes to travel out of state to attend conferences for her major, but she cannot. She wishes that she could drive, but she does not have a license and is not allowed to have one. Ana is a highly qualified, active community member, but she cannot obtain work after graduation. Ana is an undocumented immigrant.

But, fortunately for Ana, Texas House Bill 1403 at least allows her to receive in-state tuition and apply for
scholarships. Other states do not. But Ana and thousands of others students will basically be forced to leave their homes when they finish their studies because they are not allowed to work in the United States without residency, even though they have spent most of their lives here.

These are highly qualified graduates that would increase the ingenuity in our country. The proponents of the act make the argument that these students are potentially to face the drain in our social service budgets, making it an asset in terms of payments of taxes and the attraction to a state of high wage employers seeking well-educated workers. These are hard-working, valuable members of our community.

This is where the Dream Act comes in. The Dream Act is proposed federal legislation that hopes to change this. It's relatively simple. After six years, if the student has obtained a bachelor's degree or higher or served two years in the Armed Forces and maintained good moral character, they would qualify for permanent residency. This would allow the opportunity for employment.

But Ana says we don't need to fear amnesty. The act creates zero incentives for an increase in undocumented workers crossing the border. There is a five-year residency requirement prior to the enactment, and you must show proof of this requirement for fulfillment. The Act allows permanent residency only to those who qualify.

Students at Texas A&M, like Ana, are working hard to promote the Act. B.E.S.O., Destino, Lambda Theta Phi, Chi Upsilon Sigma, Phi Iota Alpha and MAES are A&M organizations fighting for passage of the Dream Act.

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LOAD-DATE: November 28, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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 Poorly run panel does nothing for immigration debate

BYLINE: Staff Editorial, The University Star; SOURCE: Texas State U.-San Marcos

SECTION: EDITORIAL

LENGTH: 466 words

DATELINE: SAN MARCOS, Texas

The immigration debate is not an easy issue. There are multiple sides involved in trying to establish legislation that would fix the current broken system. Compromise has been difficult because many organizations and individuals want a voice. The debates about comprehensive immigration reform failed each time, first in April and later in June.

In an effort to educate others about immigration, Phi Iota Alpha hosted a forum to discuss the complex subject. It's great people are discussing immigration and trying to learn more, but the panel failed to provide any expert opinion on the subject. The audience was provided a synopsis of immigration in the U.S. and student representatives of the College Republicans and College Democrats provided their respective stances on the issue. While student opinion is important to include, particularly when a panel takes place on a university campus, experts or politicians who are knowledgeable or taking action on the issue should accompany it.

This isn't to say students know nothing about immigration, but the forum didn't have someone with credentials to speak on the subject. In an Oct. 10 University Star article, Michael Guzman, College Republicans chapter activist, compared the border fence to the Berlin Wall, saying instead of keeping people in, the barrier would keep people out. The Berlin Wall divided the German city for 28 years and guards were ordered to kill those who attempted to cross. Guzman did not say whether the same security guidelines should be used for a U.S.-Mexico border fence, but the Berlin Wall is associated with political strife and conflict. It wasn't a good comparison.

Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, which why we have the First Amendment. However, when a group is attempting to teach others about a complicated issue, and less-informed arguments are presented, it hurts the audience the group is trying to reach. A professor in the political science department would have been more than acceptable to include in the forum. Representatives from pro- and anti-immigration groups would have been a welcome addition, because they are constantly active in the debate.

Since the U.S. Senate was unable to reach a consensus, the issue will be one of the hot topics in the 2008 presidential election and until reform is achieved. The U.S. immigration system is broken and needs to be reexamined, but in order to fix it, the public needs to be informed of the reasons immigration is occurring in the first place.

There are a lot of arguments for and against creating a border wall, guest-worker program and/or paths to citizenship. In order to choose an effective law, people should be well informed, which means providing opinions and information from experts in public debates.
Immigration debate heats up Texas State U. campus

BYLINE: By Stephanie Kusy-Wilson, The University Star; SOURCE: Texas State U.-San Marcos

LENGTH: 526 words

DATELINE: SAN MARCOS, Texas

Currently 12 to 15 million illegal immigrants are living in the U.S. today and approximately 8,000 more cross the Mexican border daily, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

"It's our duty to inform the community on this issue," said Texas State University student Mark Hernandez, Phi Iota Alpha president and criminal justice junior. The Phi Iota Alpha Latino chapter held an immigration forum Tuesday night to discuss the facts on immigration and the possible solutions for border control.

A brief history of illegal immigration was given and current issues were explained followed by the College Democrats and the College Republicans elaborating on their platforms and how each party plans to handle the problems the nation currently faces.

Michael Guzman of College Republicans said building a fence along the Texas border would help eliminate the growing number of illegal immigrants. The borders along the U.S., Canada and Mexico are the largest unguarded borders in the world.

"The Berlin Wall was meant to keep people in," said Guzman, criminal justice junior. "Ours will keep people out."

Marisel Saucedo of the College Democrats disagreed, saying building a 700-mile fence would not only be expensive, but a temporary solution to a major problem. She said it would further be an embarrassment to the U.S.

Saucedo, sociology senior, said because of mismanagement, the U.S. has gone from an open-door country to a closed one.

"The Statue of Liberty now says, 'No vacancy,'" Saucedo said.

Saucedo said the Democratic and Republican parties need to form an international alliance with Felipe Calderón, president of Mexico, to work toward finding a solution to stop illegal immigrants from crossing the border. She does not see why the government cannot help more with the backlog of immigrants trying to obtain citizenship.

Another complaint brought up by students during the discussion was immigrants taking jobs from Americans.

Jaime Chahin, dean of the College of Applied Arts, said the U.S. currently has one of the highest unemployment rates in history, leaving the door open for immigrants to work here.

"They're the backbone of the economy," Chahin said.
Saucedo said many of the illegal immigrants do not want to live in the U.S. and only plan to stay temporarily. She said migrant workers only come here to find better work and pay to support their families living in Mexico.

Christina Zambrano, president of the Latino Student Association, said Americans need to stop and think why Mexicans are coming here. She said there is not as much opportunity for them in Mexico, but plenty in the states.

"We have to look at the system and make it more efficient," said Zambrano, digital and photographic imaging sophomore. "Guest-worker programs, I think, are a great start."

Students attending were engaged in the discussion, but found it difficult to find a definite method to successfully deal with the problems.

Guzman made the point Republicans want to let Mexicans cross the border, but only if they are working toward becoming citizens of the U.S.

"We don't want to close the border," Guzman said. "It's securing the border."

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LOAD-DATE: October 10, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2007 The University Star via U-Wire
Build a wall. Keep them out.

This is the mentality of some Americans who think illegal Mexican immigrants have no place in society north of the border.

Mark Hernandez, president of the Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha, will participate in the Immigration Forum Tuesday at the LBJ Teaching Theater. He said the purpose of this forum is to clear up any misconceptions people may have about the immigration debate.

"We want to help fill in the gaps for everyone about the legislation going on right now regarding what to do about immigration, so when people go to the polls in 2008, they are educated on the issue," Hernandez said.

The forum is being presented by the Latino Student Association, the College Democrats and Phi Iota Alpha. It will focus on conservative and liberal positions regarding how to address illegal immigration and options for immigrants other than deportation.

Hernandez said building a wall is not an efficient way to defer people from crossing the border under the radar.

"We have huge oceans on both sides of the United States. Immigrants can come through there. Not all illegal immigrants come from the south border," he said. "A wall isn't going to stop anyone. In my opinion it's a waste of our money."

To Hernandez, the situation is ironic because many people complain about illegal immigrants, yet Americans are willing to capitalize on cheap labor immigrants are eager to perform.

"There are people in the U.S. who feel that their lives and their way of living are at risk due to immigration, but people are willing to hire illegal immigrants for $3 an hour rather than a U.S. citizen for $8 an hour," he said.

He said in order to decrease illegal immigration, one has to look at the root of the problem.

"I'm for creating work permits that are easily obtained and for building Mexico's economy. If their economy was better, people wouldn't have a reason to come here looking for work," Hernandez said.

Another event featured for Hispanic Heritage month is the screening of The Lost City, a film about the Cuban Revolution, at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the LBJ Teaching Theater. Phi Iota Alpha will also be handing out fliers for El
D'a de la Raza, a celebration on Friday commemorating pride in one's respective Latin country.

Recent University of Texas Spanish graduate Ryan Simonson said the idea of a wall separating Mexico and the U.S. would harm foreign relations.

"It would not look good to other countries to see the U.S. putting up physical barriers around the border. It sends the message that no foreigner is welcome," Simonson said.

He said he does not support illegal immigration, but there should be easier ways for Mexican nationals to get work visas or even citizenship.

"Many people came to this country looking for a better way of life. That idea should not be exclusive to anyone," he said.

For Abby Moreno, vice president of Latino Student Association, Hispanic Heritage Month is about a celebration of culture and diversity.

"I think it is important to celebrate Hispanic heritage as it would be to celebrate any other culture," she said. "By celebrating, people become more aware and knowledgeable of the culture. Not all Latin cultures are the same."

Last week, Moreno participated in a discussion panel at Texas State addressing questions from an audience about common stereotypes associated with Latinos.

"Sadly a lot of people have stereotypes of the Latino community. Some people asked if all Latino women know how to cook or if men know how to fix cars," she said.

Moreno grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, where she used to cross the border into Mexico to grab a taco occasionally because it was so close to her home. She said attending Texas State has opened her eyes to the many different cultures that exist.

Moreno said she will be attending the Immigration Forum because she wants to become more informed on the issue.

"I want to see where both sides stand on the immigration debate. It's good to get people involved and have debates and discussion on issues like this," she said. "Students like us are trying to do something instead of just sitting back and watching the government make decisions for us."

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Syracuse Latino greeks host first 'step and stroll' show

BYLINE: By Christine Robertson, Daily Orange; SOURCE: Syracuse

LENGTH: 475 words

DATELINE: SYRACUSE, N.Y.

To some, strolling and stepping might just be ways of getting around.

The Latino Greek Council will hold Syracuse University's first Latino greek step competition Saturday.

The event will feature the national step and stroll teams of five of the LGC's six fraternities and sororities, including 2004 LatinosStep champions Lambda Upsilon Lambda.

The sororities each will step -- a dance that comes from African traditions -- and fraternities will perform a step-like dance called a stroll.

Hot 97's DJ C-Lo will provide music for the event.

The sororities will be judged by a panel of five judges, two of whom are members of the DanceWorks club. Each performance will be scored on creativity, synchronization and overall performance.

The fraternity that wins the stroll competition will take home $500. First place in stepping takes $1,000 and second prize is $500.

"People are very excited and looking forward it," said Diane Ceballos, president of the LGC. "That's giving us more confidence that it can become an annual thing."

LGC sold 150 tickets in the first two days, said Rebecca Rosa, LGC secretary. "It's very exciting," she said.

The event starts at 6 p.m. in Goldstein Auditorium, and is open to all SU students. Tickets will be sold at the door for $5 with an SUID and $8 without.

Last year, the National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) held a step show during Greek Unity fest. It invited other fraternities and sororities from State University of New York Oswego and Cornell University to participate.

"Last year's step show was amazing. It was really interesting to see the step culture," said Matt Abdifar, Interfraternity Council's vice president for external affairs.

NPHC and LGC both share stepping as a part of their culture. "It even goes back to NPHC organization," Rosa said. "It's really a part of our history and tradition."
But LGC plans to make Saturday's show a little different.

"It's going to be similar in the sense that we will be having stepping," Ceballos said. "We are incorporating the strolling on top of that."

The IFC donated $1,000 toward prizes. "I think it's a great way for us to get involved and show our support," said IFC President Mike Schottenstein. "Collaboration between councils is important."

The other $1,000 in prizes was donated from the Office of Student Life, Ceballos said.

The fraternities participating include Lambda Sigma Upsilon and Lambda Upsilon Lambda. The sororities include Sigma Lambda Upsilon, Omega Phi Beta, Lambda Pi Chi and Mu Sigma Upsilon.

The Phi Iota Alpha fraternity will not be participating because it doesn't have a national step or stroll team, Ceballos said.

Attending will count for a Diversity Education or a Chapter Choice program. Greek chapters must participate in a designated number of programs each year to remain in good standing with the university.

(C) 2007 Daily Orange via U-WIRE

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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The New Greeks

BYLINE: Marissa Villa, CONEXION

SECTION: CONEXIÓN; Pg. 20A

LENGTH: 792 words

Latino fraternities and sororities are expanding nationwide, and with that growth comes both benefits and challenges for the students involved.

Although Latino Greeks have been around since the early 1900s, only recently have they begun experiencing a tremendous growth across the country, according to "30 Years of Empowering Latino Students: The Latino Greek Movement," a study by Gina Garcia, a Retention and Assessment coordinator at Cal State Fullerton and Maricela Alvarado, an academic counselor for the Student Retention Services department at the same university.

At San Antonio universities, many Latino Greek chapters have been established since 2000, including Omega Delta Phi at St. Mary's University, which was established in 2005 and is still considered a colony. Members expect to be awarded chapter status next year.

The Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha, which became a chapter at the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2001, was established in 1931, but it wasn't until the 1970s and 1980s that Latino Greek organizations started booming. Other "mainstream" Greek organizations typically have histories that date back to the 1800s or early 1900s.

"It's not that they came later, it's just that we haven't had a large percentage of Latinos in four-year institutions," Alvarado said. "We had secret societies, they just didn't have the support."

Alvarado and Garcia conducted research on the effects Greek organizations have on Latino students since not much research had been conducted previously.

"I wanted to do it because I believe strongly that there are benefits" to being in a Greek organization, Garcia said. "There were some significant differences."

They found that Latinos who are involved in Greek organizations thrive socially and are more committed to their universities.

"They tend to be more connected to administrators so it makes sense that they are more committed to the institution as a whole," Garcia said.

Although there are benefits to being involved in these organizations, there are some challenges for the students involved.
Alvarado said many students in these organizations struggle with stereotypes that mainstream Greeks have, but some additionally struggle with the stereotype of not being Latino enough or being considered a sellout.

"The majority of Greeks have cultural traditions which are traditions that only members can know and practice," she said. "Greeks have those traditions that are secretive where other non-Greeks don't have secretive traditions. That plays a big role."

Additionally, Alvarado said some university administrators are not familiar with the needs of students involved in Latino Greek life.

"It's important for universities to be educated on the emergence and growth that Latino Greeks are having on campuses," Alvarado said. "Greek organizations are not going away. They are going to continue and continue and continue growing on their campus."

mvilla@conexionsa.com

AND A MOVEMENT IS BORN

Although most Latino Greek organizations were established during the 'Latino Greek Movement' in the 1970s and 1980s, secret societies known as 'hermandades' have been around since the 1800s. Here's a look at the history of Latino Greek organizations:

1898: Union Hispano Americana, the first Latin-American student association, was organized at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

1916: Pi Delta Phi Latino fraternity was founded at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1919: Phi Lambda Alpha Latino fraternity was founded at the University of California at Berkeley.

1921: The three organizations formalized a merge and adopted the name Phi Lambda Alpha.

1931: Phi Lambda Alpha and Sigma Iota, another Latino fraternity, merged and officially established Phi Iota Alpha, which is still in existence today. UTSA has a chapter.

1975: Lambda Theta Phi, which recognizes itself as the first Latino fraternity, was established at Kean College in Union, New Jersey.

1970s to 1980s: Other Latino Greek fraternities and sororities began at universities throughout the country, including Kappa Delta Chi, which was founded in 1987 at Texas Tech University. The sorority now has chapters at St. Mary's University and UTSA.

1998: The National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations was established. The organization has 23 members, and promotes interfraternal relations.

Late 1990s to present: Local universities start establishing Latino Greek organizations. One of the newest in San Antonio, Omega Delta Phi at St. Mary's was established in 2005 and is still considered a 'colony', which means they are one step away from becoming a chapter.

Sources: phiota.org, lambdathetanu.org, omegadeltaphi.com, '30 Years of Empowering Latino Students: The Latino Greek Movement' by Gina Garcia and Maricela Alvarado

LOAD-DATE: September 27, 2007
Greek History

SECTION: CONEXIÓN; Pg. 20A

LENGTH: 300 words

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LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
University Wire
April 11, 2007 Wednesday

Baylor U. fraternity to hold annual tournament

BYLINE: By Star De La Cruz, The Lariat; SOURCE: Baylor U.

LENGTH: 588 words

DATELINE: WACO, Texas

Women from various campus groups will come together this weekend to test their skills on the soccer field in what has become a regular spring event.

Phi Iota Alpha will hold its third annual Fiota Cup, a Baylor University women's soccer tournament, from 4 p.m. Friday through Saturday evening behind the Baylor Sciences Building.

"There are nine teams registered that range from sororities to campus organizations," said Carlos Encarnacion, a sophomore and fraternity vice president. "This is more than we had the previous year it was held."

Each team is allowed to have up to nine players, but the game is five-on-five. The jerseys are provided by the fraternity, which members designed themselves.

Encarnacion said each team is assigned a soccer coach from Phi Iota Alpha to prepare the women and help even the playing field. Practices began the first weekend of March.

There is no charge to watch the games. The Fiota Cup tournament rules are the same as regular soccer rules, except the field and goals are smaller and there are two 20-minute halves with a 10-minute break in between.

"Everyone should come out and support their favorite team," Encarnacion said.

He said there is a "big trophy that gets passed on," and the winning team gets to keep the trophy and team members names are engraved on the bottom plate of the cup.

Encarnacion also said the first-place team receives a plaque and each member is awarded a medal.

Second-and third-place teams receive a plaque as well.

Sam Garcia, a senior and Fiota Cup chairman, said a lot of different elements went into planning the event.

"We had to field interest, send out e-mails and forms, reserve fields, order T-shirts and put together a schedule of games that actually worked out," he said.

On game day the fraternity must "make sure the fields are chalked, bleachers are set up and that the needs of the players are fully met," Garcia said.
He said members of Delta Epsilon Phi will referee the event, and the Medical Service Organization will be on hand to assist in any medical needs.

"The purpose of the event is to allow women who would normally not compete against each other, due to the division structure in intramural sports, the opportunity to meet a more diverse playing field," Garcia said.

There will be no stands at the event, but food and drinks will be provided throughout the tournament. Bush's Chicken will cater a group dinner Saturday after the championship game.

Garcia said he is excited to see how the tournament itself shapes up.

"With Alpha Chi Omega winning the tournament every year, it will be exciting to see if anyone can stop their run," he said.

Garcia also said he expects to see quality competition improve and exciting games from beginning to end.

"People should come and watch because it is athleticism at its best," he said.

"People always have a preconceived notion that women don't play as aggressive or as emotionally as men do in athletic events or that the games are less exciting. After watching the tournament, I'm sure that all these stereotypes will be erased."

Sara Perez, a senior and member of Gamma Alpha Omega, said this is the first year the sorority is participating in the tournament.

"We wanted to try something new and to support (Phi Iota Alpha)," she said.

Perez said she is excited to play the defender position, and her team is going to try to practice every day this week, even though they have improved since practice began.

"Hopefully our hard work pays off and we can give it all we got," Perez said.

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LOAD-DATE: April 11, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Consul praises Mexico's social reforms during speech at Boston U.


LENGTH: 383 words

DATELINE: BOSTON

Mexico has come a long way socially in the past 20 years, but progressive movements have been overshadowed by immigration policies with the United States, said the Mexican Deputy Consul Monday night at Boston University.

"A lot of people have in their mind the Mexico of 20 years ago," Deputy Consul Rodrigo Marquez said to more than 80 Boston University students. "Though we have a Catholic tradition, we also have a social openness. We are putting the question of gay marriage in the context of not only same-sex marriage but alternative relationships."

Alternative relationships include men and women who live together for a prolonged time and unmarried couples with families, he said.

"Conversations with a Consul" -- which offered traditional Mexican food to sponsor the "La Familia" spirit -- was the first in a series of events sponsored by BU Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha, which has three members.

"It is a marriage of convenience or inconvenience, depending on who you ask," Marquez said of the relationship between Mexico and the United States. "Sharing a 3,000-kilometer border, we cannot divorce."

Marquez stressed the need to raise awareness about Mexico's advances in the past few years, citing its open economy and political environment as progressive measures that go unnoticed under the glare of immigration policies.

"I agree with [Mexico's] stance on civil unions, and the U.S. could take a few hints about that," said Laura Cadena, a College of General Studies sophomore.

Howard Thurman Center Assistant Director Raul Fernandez, who helped organize the event with Phi Iota Alpha, said Mexico also has its own internal immigration issues with its southern and northern borders.

"They show us where we stand on issues, but also where we could stand if we lose our progressivism," he said. "They have migration to the north, they have migration from the south ... and they also serve as a transitory place for other migration. They have a unique perspective on the issue, and we can learn from that."

Fernandez said the Mexican government's slow response to recent violent teacher strikes in Oaxaca is similar to how the U.S. government responded to Hurricane Katrina.

"They serve as a mirror [to us] because they are so closely tied to us," he said.

(C) 2007 The Daily Free Press via U-WIRE
Consul praises Mexico's social reforms during speech at Boston U. University Wire March 6, 2007 Tuesday

LOAD-DATE: March 6, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Eliezer Hernandez knows that not everyone agrees with his view of diversity, but he says that's a good thing.

"That's my opinion and I'm entitled to it," Hernandez said. "That's what makes this country so great."

Following elections in December, the Auburn-Cayuga NAACP installed Hernandez, 34, as chapter president last month. He also teaches Spanish at Auburn High School, where more than 20 students recently held a short-lived sit-in after homeroom to protest what they said was the school's lack of Black History Month offerings.

Hernandez said that, as a school district employee, he cannot comment on the event. However, he said the students and administrators handled the situation well. He said a necessary dialogue has started between the administration and some of the protesting students - a fact confirmed by Principal David Roth.

"Even in the high school, there is a lot of talk about diversity, about equality, about treating one as one," Hernandez said.

Auburn schools to pay $14,000 for inclusiveness training

acR.R./bdr;"We've been doing that among the staff. The administrators went through training. We've been doing work in the name of diversity and we've been doing it for the sake of our kids, but we hadn't involved the students. We weren't doing it with them."

Hernandez is passionate about what he says is the key to success in diversity relations - building relationships.

"If we have a relationship, it doesn't matter if you're white or black," he said. "If there's anything that we all need to focus on, let's work on learning who we are."
Hernandez is Puerto Rican, and after moving from Puerto Rico to the Dominican Republic and to the Bronx, he moved Upstate to attend the State University College at Oswego. He moved to Auburn as a student teacher and was later hired.

In college, Hernandez was the national president of the Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha and was also president of the Latino Student Union for two years.

Two years ago, Hernandez said he was recruited by the local NAACP chapter to join the board. The organization was attracted to his leadership experience in minority groups. As president, Hernandez said he plans to increase the group's membership and work on its organization.

"If we can get more people to get involved in our committees, they get involved in the community," Hernandez said.

Planning begins in March for the chapter's annual fundraiser, the Freedom Fund Banquet. Proceeds from the event, planned for May 4 at the Springside Inn, will be used for the William and Helen Jackson Scholarship Award. Hernandez said the scholarship is a mission of the group because there are deserving students in Cayuga County whose financial needs may exclude them from further education after high school.

He says the scholarship is just one way that people in Auburn can support each other.

"We're all Americans. What I do here for the community, my involvement, is to improve the American way of life," he said.

"But I'm Latino, I have my culture. It's OK if I want to share that with you so that you can know about me. It's OK if you want to share your culture with me. That's where we start those relationships that I'm talking about."

**LOAD-DATE:** March 1, 2007

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**GRAPHIC:** PHOTO Stephen D. Cannerelli/Staff photographer ELIEZER HERNANDEZ is the new president of the Auburn-Cayuga NAACP. He is also a Spanish teacher at Auburn High School.

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Hundreds protest threats to lynch black student at Union College

**BYLINE:** By Dylan Breslin-Barnhart, Concordiensis; **SOURCE:** Union College

**LENGTH:** 795 words

**DATELINE:** SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

On Friday, Oct. 27, a student-led rally united hundreds of Union College students against intolerance and bigotry in a display of resolve that bolted administrators to their feet and grabbed the attention of two area newspapers and five television news channels. In an apparent effort to maintain the passion surrounding the rally, student leaders have kicked off an unofficial campaign of exposure.

At a meeting on the night of Oct. 23, various officers of groups including the Black Student Union, Inter-Fraternity Council, Student Forum, African and Latino Alliance of Students, Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity planned their next moves. In a continuing quest for accountability and fact, this diverse student panel decided to follow up the rally with a planned question and answer session between Union students, President Ainlay, and Dean Leavitt.

This forum will be open to all Union students and represents an opportunity for the administration to continue a dialogue regarding questions and concerns arising from the death threat e-mail scandal. The date and time for the question and answer session has not been finalized as of yet but will probably occur during the midday student lunch hour in the upcoming weeks.

Brian Gulack, '07, President of the Student Forum, emphasized the need for a continuance of student involvement in current Union politics. He does not want the student "response [to the hate e-mails to] ... die down" and referenced events in Union's recent past where students mobilized around an important cause only to abandon it soon after. Perhaps these fears speak to the importance of initiating a question-and-answer dialogue with the administration. Gulack added that "we need to increase communication between people on campus" in order to bridge the gaps "between people of different backgrounds." In other words, increased communication leads to increased understanding which results in increased tolerance.

Na'eem Muhammad,'08, President of Alpha Phi Alpha and chairman of the African and Latino Alliance of Students, commented with a similar sense of optimism but aimed more directly at the Union administration. Muhammad argued that the hate e-mail scandal put Dean Leavitt in "an awkward situation" because the "college hasn't put him in a position" with enough authority to cut through the bureaucratic red tape limiting his ability to effectively react. Muhammad said, "If [Leavitt] was allowed to do his job, he wouldn't have to say 'go to the President'” in response to requests that currently become just referrals up the bureaucratic command chain.

With localized command, the thinking goes, results might come faster. In such a case, perhaps Aldumen Gomez would have been provided a cell phone by now to minimize his isolation or maybe he would have received money for food upon being taken away from Union. According to conversation during Monday night's meeting, Union College
gave Gomez neither the phone nor initial food money, hence the reasoning behind Muhammad's argument for increasing Leavitt's powers so that the dean could directly authorize provisions for Gomez or anyone else in a similarly unfortunate situation.

Some felt that increasing Leavitt's power missed the point and advised the creation of a Dean of Multicultural Affairs such as at Union's competitor Hamilton College. Shanique Kerr, '09, co-chairwoman of the Black Student Union, mentioned that she had heard President Ainlay oppose such a proposition essentially on the grounds that creating a Dean of Multicultural Affairs would compartmentalize multicultural affairs; "he wants them to be a school-wide and not [a single] department issue."

Union currently remains rather publicly askew from President Ainlay's vision. In his inaugural address, Ainlay asserted that "because of its history, Union must set the bar of accountability high ... and similarly, Union students and graduates, too, have a responsibility to be more self-conscious and self-critical, to hold themselves to a high standard and to make a difference in the world they inhabit."

The difference a few are making continues to reverberate throughout the community. The Daily Gazette top story from last weekend reads in part: "Another student, senior Charles Sumpter, also left the college after receiving an e-mail last week from anonymous students who said they wanted to hang him. They called him a racial slur and said he was a 'faggot.'"

"We will make sure you find your way to the nearest tree before the term is over,' the e-mail read. Rather than raise the bar of accountability, these comments create a dangerous atmosphere of malevolence that causes students like Jessica Goldberg,'08, to second guess her classmates.

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BU College Republicans mock race preferences

BYLINE: By MARIE SZANISZLO

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 002

LENGTH: 345 words

Drawing attention to what they call "the worst form of bigotry confronting America today" Boston University's College Republicans are offering a "Caucasian Achievement and Recognition Scholarship" as a mocking assault on racial preferences.

Applicants must submit two essays: one describing their ancestry and another describing "what it means to you to be a Caucasian-American today."

The $250 scholarship also requires applicants to be at least 25 percent Caucasian.

BUCR President Joe Mroszczyk, a senior from Danvers, said the last requirement and the essays are based on prerequisites for the National Hispanic Recognition Scholarship.

"We think it's silly to quantify race like that, just as it's silly to give any scholarship based on race," said Mroszczyk, a political science and history major. "We don't think racial preferences are good or have a place on a college campus."

In a statement, Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore said he encourages debate, but questions the College Republicans' approach.

"Our goal is to try to increase diversity on the campus, and that usually means diversity from an ethnic and racial standpoint," Elmore said. "This scholarship does not further that goal."

David Coreas, a 21-year-old senior who is president of the Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha, said, "I think what (BUCR) needs to understand is that one of the main reasons there are culturally based scholarships is because certain groups are more likely to come from low-income backgrounds. The reason there are scholarships for Latinos is because the majority are poor."

Ronald K. Richardson, director of BU's African-American Studies Program, called the scholarship "silly" and "divisive," but said he plans to invite the College Republicans to a forum next semester on affirmative action.

"I think an open discussion would be helpful," Richardson said. "The reason we need affirmative action is because the black population was subject to systematic oppression.

"But we want this program to be a place where people can find common ground," Richardson said.
Latino solidarity marks 75 years; Phi Iota Alpha fraternity traces its roots to RPI and a tradition of brothers helping brothers

BYLINE: By CATHLEEN F. CROWLEY Staff Writer

SECTION: CAPITAL REGION; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 745 words

TROY - Members of an international Latino fraternity helped build the Panama Canal. Four became presidents of Latin American countries. Today, many serve as engineers and businessmen in their communities.

This weekend, more than 100 members of Phi Iota Alpha gathered at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the organization, which traces its roots to RPI.

The event attracted about 60 members who graduated from RPI, and 50 Phi Iota Alpha alumni from chapters across the country.

Several alumni who attended Sunday's brunch at RPI's Heffner Alumni House said the fraternity was a home away from home for them.

"Hispanics are very close-knit with their families and have a very structured support system within their families, and when you leave home, you look for that support somewhere else," said Jason Martinez, who is now a teacher in the Bronx. "I found it here."

Martinez attended RPI in 1999 and 2000, but graduated from the City College of New York. He was born in New York City, and his parents are from Puerto Rico.

Felderi Santiago struggled when he first arrived at RPI in 1998. He was pursuing a dual major in electrical engineering and computer systems engineering, but he earned a C in his first computer science class.

He had never tried computer programming before, and he was lost. He sought out the Latino fraternity and the brothers became his tutors. He received an A in his next computer class and eventually graduated with a 3.3 grade-point average.

"Their help and focus helped me do well academically," said Santiago, who joined the fraternity.

Santiago is a computer systems consultant in Yonkers.

Even over a century ago, "RPI was one of the best universities in the United States, so Latin American countries sent their best students there," said Victor Marrero, a doctoral student and current president of RPI's Phi Iota Alpha
In 1898, a dozen or so Latin American students formed Union Hispano Americana, a secret society based on the ideology of Pan-Americanism, the unification of the 21 Latin American countries. Most of the students called one of those Latin nations home.

Little is known about the members, because they did not keep records, but in 1919, the group merged with two Latino fraternities, Phi Lambda Alpha of the University of California at Berkley, and Pi Delta Phi of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The new group called itself Pi Delta Phi and adopted the mission of Union Hispano.

At the same time, Louisiana State University's Sigma Iota international Latino fraternity formed. Initially, it grew rapidly, but by 1928, several chapters had fizzled out.

The groups negotiated a merger during a three-day convention in December 1931 at RPI, and Phi Iota Alpha was born.

The fraternity still maintained its philosophy of unifying the Latin American countries, but by the 1950s, the mission had transformed from political to economic unification, similar to the present-day European Union.

The 1960s were difficult for the brotherhood as the number of Latino college students fell dramatically during the Vietnam War. The last members of the RPI chapter and the LSU chapter graduated in 1973 and 1976, respectively.

"But the alumni network was alive," Marrero said.

In 1984, RPI's college newspaper profiled an alumnus and former brother of the Latino fraternity. The story caught the attention of about a dozen undergraduates who rekindled the fraternity. It spread across the nation again.

Most of the young men who joined after 1984 are American-born, Marrero said.

Today, there are 31 chapters and more than 400 active members and thousands of alumni.

The fraternity still works toward Latin American unification. Its members helped initiate a student-exchange program between RPI and universities in Venezuela and Puerto Rico.

The fraternity brothers also volunteer at Albany's Centro Civico Hispanoamericano and sponsor a summer camp there. They host discussions about Latin American issues on campus.

One of the main perks of membership is access to the extensive alumni network. Hispanic recruiters who come to campus job fairs are often members of the fraternity, and the fraternity's alumni try to open doors for the young Latino graduates.

Last year, four seniors who were members of Phi Iota Alpha all had job offers months before graduation. Each offer was arranged with the help of a brother.

Cathleen F. Crowley can be reached at 454-5348 or by e-mail at ccrowley@timesunion.com.
Latino solidarity marks 75 years; Phi Iota Alpha fraternity traces its roots to RPI and a tradition of brothers helping brothers

The Times Union (Albany, New York) October 16, 2006 Monday

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Conflicts cause rift in U. Alabama Hispanic student group

BYLINE: By Lori Creel, The Crimson White; SOURCE: U. Alabama

LENGTH: 1134 words

DATELINE: TUSCALOOSA, Ala.

After becoming one of the most visible groups on campus this year, less has been seen of the Hispanic Student Association recently thanks to disputes stemming from the end of last semester between its current and former leadership.

HSA members said they have noticed a conflict between supporters of former president Guillermo Puente and current HSA President Francisco Yegres that has been detrimental to the image of the organization, which represents the small but growing percentage of Hispanic University of Alabama students.

Kelvin Urday, a freshman majoring in biology and chemistry and an HSA member, said he doesn't think the organization as a whole is divided, but said he has noticed issues this year among older members of the group.

Urday said one source of the conflict could be the way elections were handled at the end of the fall semester. Because of the organization's constitution, any members, whether they were active or not, could vote in elections.

Urday said the fact that several members voted even though many other members hadn't seen them at previous meetings or events made the elections appear skewed. He said 10 to 15 people showed up who hadn't been involved throughout the semester and probably just voted for their friends.

"The conflicts that have happened this year have been disheartening," Urday said.

Urday and Puente both said they want to make changes to the HSA constitution to address elections procedures and other situations that could come about in the organization.

Omar Gonzalez, HSA vice president for external affairs, said during the election HSA followed the constitution Puente had helped to write and said that Puente suddenly became critical of the constitution after he lost the vote.

Assistant Dean of Students Corrie Harris said she was asked by Puente to serve as an objective proctor to hand out ballots, count votes and report the results during the election last fall. Harris said it would have been a conflict of interests for Puente, the outgoing president running for re-election, to count the votes.

Dean of Students Tom Strong said officials from his office are often asked to go to student meetings. Other student groups have experienced similar problems to those of HSA, he said.

"It's an organization with growing pains," Strong said. "We've seen that with other organizations."
Urday said the fact that HSA had fewer members last year probably made it more likely to experience problems because the members were friends.

"Anything that has ever been done has quickly impacted how those people work together," he said.

Gonzalez said most of the group's original members still work together in the organization, though Puente is no longer considered an active member because he has not participated in community service events.

Members said divisions between the up-and-coming Hispanic fraternities on campus, Phi Iota Alpha, of which Yegres is a member, and Lambda Sigma Beta, of which Puente is a member, might have contributed to the problems in HSA.

Puente said members of Phi Iota Alpha might have had a problem with having another Hispanic fraternity on campus.

"The fraternity there already, with three brothers, were threatened by a new fraternity coming up," Puente said.

Puente said the dispute has led HSA to experience a "low phase" in which it has not been as active as it could have been on campus and in the community.

"HSA has not been active at all," he said.

Yegres said the fraternities do not affect HSA. He said he doesn't wear his greek letters to HSA and wants to keep the organization separate from greek organizations. Yegres said his fraternity had already been established by the time of elections, but he has not made the fraternity affiliation an issue. He said HSA will not become a place to recruit for either fraternity.

"As president, I put HSA first," Yegres said.

Yegres said if Puente thinks the Hispanic fraternities are an issue, it's only his opinion.

"I'm just trying to deal with the situation - not take sides," he said.

Yegres said no one has approached him about having a problem, but he said he can tell there are some tensions.

"The way I see it, it is growing pains," he said.

Yegres said HSA went from being a special interest group to a coordinating body last spring, and the organization is still trying to find its identity. He said everyone has different opinions, and it is up to the organization's members to decide what direction the organization should take. He said the constitution shouldn't say that HSA is a community service organization or a stepping stone to the SGA because it is up to HSA members.

Adam Rankin, a member of HSA, said he has seen the number of people attending meetings decrease over the course of this semester. He said some freshmen who no longer attend meetings have told him that they don't know the purpose of HSA.

Puente said the president of HSA should take responsibility for member apathy and make changes to his agenda.

Jessica Quintanar, an active member of HSA, said the organization has definitely been affected by conflicts among members.

"There aren't that many Hispanics on campus," Quintanar said. "We should be united to actually get some stuff done on campus, and being divided does not help anyone at all."
Gonzalez said the organization has grown from about five active members last year to 15 or 20 active members this year.

Quintanar, who is a freshman, said most freshmen don't realize the reasons for the tension among older HSA members, which only became apparent to many of them during the fall election.

"Everyone started airing out all their dirty laundry, and it was not at all professional," Quintanar said.

Kyla Torres, a sophomore and an active member of HSA since last spring, said the organization is still active on campus and in the community. She said problems arose from a few angry e-mails that she said were too petty to detail.

"I think the so-called conflict in our organization has brought into question the integrity of our group and opened it to criticism," Torres said.

On April 30, members will participate in Brazos Abiertos, an event in conjunction with the Hispanic service providers and the Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center, to educate Hispanic community members about opportunities for higher education in the state, Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said the organization also holds monthly community service events at the Salvation Army.

Puente said as the organization grows, more members from different backgrounds and with different views will join. Puente said disputes can be seen in several active groups on campus but said it's natural and ultimately productive for people to have conflicting views.

"In a family, there are always problems, and those problems are what make the family better," Puente said.

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Recent editorials from Alabama newspapers

By The Associated Press

The Anniston Star on state license plates:

What next? First the state Legislature mandated that the words "Heart of Dixie" would appear on Alabama automobile license plates. Some folks protested that "Dixie" called back the days of slavery and lobbied for its removal.

The effort failed, in part because it was shown that the song that made "Dixie" famous was likely penned by a black composer.

Then Gov. Don Siegelman had the plates redesigned so that "Stars Fell on Alabama" could also be added. Just what that song - other than its title - has to do with our state is anybody's guess.

And now we learn that Rep. Steve Hurst, D-Munford, has pre-filed a bill in the Alabama House that would require "God Bless America" to be squeezed onto the plates as well.

Of course we hope that God will bless us, though one wonders whether this sort of thing will move the Almighty to overlook our faults and forgive us of our trespasses. Hurst, when asked why he felt this was a good idea, suggested that it was a way to "let all the people in America know that we are a Bible Belt state."

We'd be willing to bet that "the people in America" know that already. Wouldn't it be better for Hurst to introduce legislation to reform our anti-scriptural tax structure or better fund services for the "least of these" among us. Now that would be a way to "let all the people in America know" that we take the Bible seriously down here.

But no, he's introducing a bill that few in the Legislature will dare oppose, so it'll pass. Then we'll have to pay to have the plates redesigned to accommodate the words. Then we'll have to pay lawyers to defend doing this when someone takes the matter to court, as Hurst surely knows someone will.

And in the end we'll likely have to redesign the words off the plates and all that will have been accomplished is that politicians can thump their chests and boast of how they tried to acknowledge God.

One can only wonder, is the sort of acknowledgment God wants?
Consider some of the developments in the University of Alabama Greek system in recent years:

Two majority white Greek organizations - the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the faith-based Lambda Sigma Phi - accepted black members. Others have followed suit, although UA officials say they aren't keeping up with numbers.

Two racially integrated sororities - Alpha Delta Sigma and Delta Xi Phi - were established.

**Phi Iota Alpha** established itself as the first Latino fraternity on campus.

Sigma Lambda Beta is trying to establish itself as the first multicultural fraternity at UA.

These are positive steps that demonstrate a particularly stubborn pocket of segregation at the Capstone is breaking down - surely, if slowly.

"I feel it brings a lot more diversity to the campus," said Gibran "B.B." Hernandez, president of the group seeking to form Sigma Lambda Beta, according to The Associated Press. "It'll bring a lot more cultural awareness."

That's, of course, a good thing for students who are being groomed to compete in a global village.

The shame is that the University of Alabama fraternities and sororities are just now joining the 21st century and that they still have a way to go to create a system that doesn't discriminate based on skin color. What's happening now - admirable as it is - amounts to baby steps to a distant, distant destination.

But the journey has begun, and it must continue.

Remember, the Greek system at UA is more than a social network. The fraternities and sororities have had enormous control over campus politics and even in state politics.

Many of our government's most powerful leaders got their start in the University of Alabama Greek system. That the system remained staunchly segregated so long is an embarrassment.

Tim Hebson, associate dean of students, told The AP the fraternities and sororities are at last undergoing a much-needed transformation.

"We're really excited about where we're heading," he said.

The rest of the Alabama should be, too.

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The Decatur Daily on young hero:

Kelli Groves said she was nervous about intervening to save a 2-day-old infant's life Saturday afternoon at the
Somerville Piggly Wiggly.

Brooklyn Savannah was choking and turning blue, her mother, Misty Jennings, said. The two, along with the baby's grandmother, Deborah Massey, stopped at the store on the way home from the hospital.

The cry for help and hearing "My baby's choking. My baby's choking," sent the 17-year-old Brewer High School student into action.

Two weeks earlier, she had learned the Heimlich maneuver in health class. That's the highly effective technique that Dr. Henry J. Heimlich popularized as an alternative to the gut - but wrong - reaction to pound a choking victim on the back.

But she learned more. She learned that on infants, the balled up fist won't work. She also learned that if the victim is breathing, performing the Heimlich maneuver might not be the best first aid.

She made the decision not to perform the traditional Heimlich maneuver but to place the baby in her lap and gently pat its back. She knew to be gentle.

That worked. But if it had not, she was prepared to use her fingers under the baby's tiny rib cage to gently force out any obstruction.

The Spirit of America Festival has the Dr. Henry J. Heimlich Humanitarian Award that it gives from time to time. Next year, officials might consider awarding it to Kelli for her heroic action, not because she used the maneuver, but for exercising extraordinary judgment and applying the right help.

Reflecting on what she did, Kelli said, "It made me feel really good."

It's an awesome thing to save a life.

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The Gadsden Times on emergency responders:

Investigators continue to try to determine the cause of two recent wrecks involving fire trucks. A crash killed a Calera firefighter Monday morning, and a Blount County firefighter was seriously injured Thursday when the fire truck he was driving wrecked.

In Calera, the firetruck collided with an 18-wheeler at Shelby County 87 and the Interstate 65 South exit ramp. The volunteer firefighter was hurt when the truck rolled off a bridge over the Locust Fork River and went into the water. Christopher James Roy, 25, of Calera died at UAB Hospital Monday.

Royal Volunteer Fire Department Fire Capt. Mike Williams was being treated at UAB.

Anyone who has witnessed a fire truck - an ambulance, police car or other emergency response vehicle - trying to negotiate heavy traffic in a hurry has to wonder why crashes like these don't occur more often.

Fire trucks or ambulances often get held up behind vehicles that can't safely get out of their way quickly. But sometimes emergency responders get trapped behind motorists who don't seem to be trying to allow the emergency
vehicles to get past. Some drivers may choose to ignore the lights and sirens; some drivers seem to be genuinely oblivious to them, and drivers of the response vehicles are forced to drive over curbs or weave between vehicles to reach an emergency scene quickly.

Everyone's destination is important, but hardly anyone could argue the fire call or medical run the fire truck or ambulance is making is less important than the moment's delay getting out of the way could cause a driver.

Drivers should stay in the right lane in multiple lanes of traffic, and pull to the side when on a two-lane road if an ambulance, fire truck or police car needs to get by.

The trip these responders are making could be a matter of life and death for someone else. They already put themselves at risk to help others by responding to emergency calls.

They face enough danger when they get to the call. They don't need to face any additional risks along the way.

LOAD-DATE: December 2, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Diversity comes to UA

THE ISSUE  Fraternities and sororities at the University of Alabama are starting (finally) to diversify.

Consider some of the developments in the University of Alabama Greek system in recent years: Two majority white Greek organizations - the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the faith-based Lambda Sigma Phi - accepted black members. Others have followed suit, although UA officials say they aren't keeping up with numbers.

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The rest of the Alabama should be, too.
In an article published Sunday about multicultural fraternities at the University of Alabama, The Associated Press reported erroneously that Phi Iota Alpha is the first Latino fraternity to be inducted into the North American Interfraternity Council. Victor Ramirez, Phi Iota Alpha's national operations manager, said it is the first Latino fraternity to be recognized under the University of Alabama's Interfraternity Council.
UA Greeks increasingly more integrated

BYLINE: AMANDA THOMAS, The Associated Press

SECTION: WIRE STATE; Pg. 20A

LENGTH: 718 words

DATELINE: TUSCALOOSA

Multicultural and Latino-based frats slated for campus

By AMANDA THOMAS

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA - The University of Alabama, a landmark in the fight over racial segregation, is increasingly becoming a cultural melting pot - in the very Greek system where none of the all-white fraternities or sororities accepted a black for decades.

Phi Iota Alpha has established itself as the first Latino-based fraternity on campus, and Sigma Lambda Beta seeks to be the first multicultural fraternity in the state. This is just two years after Alpha Delta Sigma and Delta Xi Phi, two racially integrated sororities, were established.

"I feel it brings a lot more diversity to the campus," said Gibran "B.B." Hernandez, president of the group seeking to form Sigma Lambda Beta. "It'll bring a lot more cultural awareness, which is what (the university) is seeking."

Racial segregation in the Greek system at the university - where Gov. George Wallace tried to block the enrollment of two black students in his 1963 "stand in the schoolhouse door" - drew wide notice in 2000 and 2001 when Melody Twilley, a black honors student, was rejected by all of the university's white sororities.

That helped forge the creation of Alpha Delta Sigma, a local sorority that describes itself as "diversity-based," in 2003. That same year Delta Xi Phi, a national sorority whose mission is to "increase multicultural awareness," was established.

"We're in the middle of making a lot of changes in our Greek organizations," said Tim Hebson, associate dean of students. "We're really excited about where we're heading."

The university has long wrestled with integrating its Greek system, once delaying rush from late summer until after classes start in the fall to encourage more students to take part and encouraging the white groups to seek out qualified minority members.
But the delayed rush was short-lived amid complaints from students and faculty that it created academic hardships for students dealing with rush activities while getting their first college classroom work.

After that, two majority-white Greek organizations, Lambda Sigma Phi, a faith-based group, and Gamma Phi Beta, an international sorority, accepted black members. Since then, university officials said, some other majority-white Greek organizations have pledged black members. Precise numbers weren't available; the Greek Life office said it does not keep track of race.

The two integrated sororities formed in 2003 are still small, compared to the longstanding Greek organizations at Alabama. But their size is similar to other multicultural sororities nationally. Alpha Delta Sigma has eight members, two of whom are black, while Delta Xi Phi has 13, two of whom are black.

Leaders of the 20-member interest group forming Sigma Lambda Beta said it attracted members because of its success nationally and because it was not exclusively Latino.

The interest group, which is the starting point to create a chapter, had dinner last week with traditionally white Chi Omega at its sorority house, marking the fraternity's first formal social event on campus.

"I think it is a great addition to the Greek system," said Chi Omega President Mary Ila Heard.

Sigma Lambda Beta members say its openness to different races is its main selling point. Treasurer Brett Jenkins, for example, who describes himself as Irish and English but not white, admits to a bit of culture shock when he came to the university.

"All of a sudden it's 80 percent white. It just didn't have the diversity or the sense of integration that I wanted," Jenkins said.

Rafael Hernandez, a Sigma Lambda Beta brother from Florida State University who is heading the expansion process at Alabama, said the fraternity is always happy to expand.

"This is especially true when expanding to states with as much resistance to cultural growth as Alabama," he said.

Anthony Atala, Sigma Beta's district governor for the Southeast, said there are plans to establish future chapters in Alabama.

**Phi Iota Alpha**, which established a chapter at the university Oct. 21, is also the first Latino fraternity to be inducted into the North-American Interfraternity Council, which boasts 5,500 chapters on 800 campuses in the United States and Canada, with a mission to enhance the benefits of fraternity life.

LOAD-DATE: April 13, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: hut

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Victor Ramirez, Phi Iota Alpha's national operations manager, said the fraternity was requested by a group of students who wanted to make a difference in the lives of Latino students and the Latino community both on and off campus. He said it was a pleasure to establish a chapter "in such a prestigious school with so much history and support for Greek organizations."

Ramirez said the fraternity believes there is a need for education and awareness of the Latin American culture in Alabama and many other parts of the South.

"We decided to bring Phi Iota Alpha here because we wanted a medium for Latinos to be heard," said Daniel Asper, president of the university's chapter.

The fraternity, however, is not exclusively for Latino students. Asper said non-Hispanic students are among those interested in pledging in the spring.

End ADV for Nov. 19-20

LOAD-DATE: November 20, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: AP Photo planned
Hispanic, diversity-based UA frats add new flavor to Greeks

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

November 19, 2005, Saturday, BC cycle

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Latino artist kicks off Fiota culture week at Baylor U.

**BYLINE:** By Kelly Myers, The Lariat; **SOURCE:** Baylor U.

**LENGTH:** 481 words

**DATELINE:** WACO, Texas

Members of **Phi Iota Alpha** welcomed artist Sam Coronado Monday night as part of the fraternity's Fiota Week, an annual celebration of cultural awareness.

Coronado is an associate professor in the visual communication department at Austin Community College and founder of the Serie Project, a nonprofit organization designed to create and promote serigraph, or silkscreen prints by Latino artists.

"We brought Mr. Coronado and his art to Baylor in an attempt to further diversify the campus's cultural awareness," said David Trevino, Waco sophomore and Fiota Week chairman. "His Serie Project and serigraph studio in Austin are a prime example of the Pan-American ideals and goals our fraternity strives for on a micro level."

This was the first year a guest was invited to speak during Fiota Week, said Antonio Sandoval, San Antonio senior and president of **Phi Iota Alpha**.

He also said Coronado was selected because his work embodies the values and ideals the fraternity wishes to portray.

"We wanted to do something different this year, so we decided to focus on Latinos in fine arts," Sandoval said. "We felt that Mr. Coronado fit perfectly into our theme because ... he's someone who could bring his art and explain it to the Baylor community as well as explain the struggles and successes of Latinos in art."

Coronado spoke on the history of Latinos in art and gave examples of their contributions to mainstream art in the United States.

"I enjoyed viewing his artwork and hearing his insights into the Latino culture," Waco senior Andy Padilla said.

Fiota Week will continue at 8 p.m. Tuesday with a free Latino Greek Unity Mixer at Click's Billiards. The mixer will be hosted by both **Phi Iota Alpha** and Omega Delta Phi.

Trevino said the mixer will provide fraternities and sororities with an opportunity to interact in a positive environment, while furthering their relationships within their specialized niche.

He also added that although the mixer is specifically for the multicultural Greek organizations, anyone interested in learning more about the culture is welcome to attend.
"This mixer is being used to show the unity among the Latino Greeks," Sandoval said. "We may all be wearing different letters, but behind all that we must remember we all share a common ground -- our strong Latino roots."

Fiota Week will conclude with a showing of the film Romero at 7 p.m. Wednesday at North Village Community Center. Sandoval said the film is a true story of the Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero. He explained the film chronicles Romero's leadership against political unrest during the 1980s.

"The film depicts an honorable attempt to help the oppressed and poor of El Salvador to escape the injustices of a tyrannical regime," Trevino said. "This struggle is still seen in many Latin-American countries today but ... often goes unnoticed by the rest of the world."

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LOAD-DATE: November 15, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2005 The Lariat via U-Wire
Is there enough interest at Iowa State University to support a multicultural fraternity aimed at Latino students?

That's the question facing Juan Guardia, a graduate student who held a recent meeting about opening a chapter of Phi Iota Alpha, the oldest Latino fraternity in the United States.

The fraternity has gotten approval to become a part of the ISU Greek Community by the University Committee on Fraternities and Sororities and the Multicultural Greek Council.

However, no prospective members attended Guardia's meeting.

That doesn't appear to have stopped his enthusiasm.

"It's great to give Latino students options," said Guardia, who studies educational leadership and policy studies. "Each organization is unique in its own specific facet."

So far, Guardia said three men have contacted him to join the fraternity. He said he hopes more will be interested.

The fraternity is open to any male undergraduate, graduate or alumnus, although it is historically Latino. Division of race is not the basis of the fraternity, Guardia said.

"It is a way to embrace the tradition and culture," he said. "It is great to be around members of our community as well as members of other communities."

According to the fraternity's Web site, its purpose is to promote personal growth and development nurtured in a group environment by focusing on members' academic, professional and social lives.

The Interfraternity Council supports expansion of the Greek community, including non-traditional chapters, said JD Greiner, president of the council.

"If they can find the men they need to start their chapter, then they have the approval to do so," said Greiner, senior in agricultural engineering. "This is definitely one of the areas we've wanted to expand."

Greiner said the fraternity can eventually become a colony and then an official part of the Multicultural Greek Council and the Greek Community.

Guardia, who joined the fraternity last spring when he learned of it through a colleague, said the process of
becoming a member is completed within a semester.

He said Iowa State chapter's addition to Phi Iota Alpha is part of the fraternity's expansion to the Midwest.

"There are chapters in the East, South and California, but we want to work our way to the Midwest," Guardia said.

On the Net:

Iowa State University: http://www.iastate.edu/

Phi Iota Alpha: http://www.ph iota.org/
New Latino fraternity at Iowa State U. hopes to recruit, open doors on campus


LENGTH: 585 words

DATELINE: AMES, Iowa

Iowa State University could soon be home to a new multicultural fraternity, although questions exist over whether enough members can be found.

Phi Iota Alpha, the oldest Latino fraternity in the United States, has been given approval by both the University Committee on Fraternities and Sororities and the Multicultural Greek Council to become a part of the ISU greek community.

On Friday, Juan Guardia, graduate student in educational leadership and policy studies, held an informational session, although no prospective members attended.

He was the one who brought the fraternity to the attention of UCFS earlier this fall.

"It's great to give Latino students options," Guardia said. "Each organization is unique in its own specific facet."

Although historically Latino, the fraternity is open to any male undergraduate or graduate student or alumnus.

According to the fraternity's Web site, the purpose of the fraternity is to promote personal growth and development nurtured in a group environment by focusing on each member's academic, professional and social lives.

JD Greiner, president of Interfraternity Council, said the council supports the expansion of the greek community, including non-traditional chapters.

"If they can find the men they need to start their chapter, then they have the approval to do so," said Greiner, senior in agricultural engineering. "This is definitely one of the areas we've wanted to expand."

The Multicultural Greek Council was approved this fall by IFC for non-traditional greek chapters at Iowa State.

"It allows everyone to find a house that is best for them in the community," Greiner said.

UCFS seeks what is best for the greek community, Greiner said, and accepts proposals to expand the community.

Greiner said the fraternity can eventually become a colony and then an official part of MGC and the greek community.
Guardia joined last spring when he learned of the fraternity through a colleague.

"The process to become a member is completed within a semester," he said.

To be considered for membership, each candidate must be interviewed by Guardia and the Midwest Governor, Felderi Santiago, before filling out an extensive application to be sent to the national office in Ohio. If approved by national officials, the potential member will receive a bid.

Once the bid is received, the potential member will begin the educational process to learn more about themselves, the fraternity and the Latino culture, Guardia said. Once this process is complete, the member will "cross" in a secret ceremony.

Until the member "crosses," outside members are not informed of the membership. After the ceremony, the member is allowed to wear the letters of the fraternity.

Guardia said three men have contacted him to join the fraternity, and he would like to see the number increase.

Because the names of the people requesting membership cannot be identified until after they "cross," they were unable to be reached for comment.

Guardia said the fraternity is not based on a division of race.

"It is a way to embrace the tradition and culture," he said. "It is great to be around members of our community as well as members of other communities."

The addition of the chapter to Iowa State is part of the fraternity's expansion to the Midwest.

"There are chapters in the East, South and California, but we want to work our way to the Midwest," Guardia said.

Thirty-one undergraduate chapters are located in the United States, in addition to five alumni chapters.

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LOAD-DATE: October 24, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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STUDENT OF CHANGE
DAVID BLANDING IS ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY, AND STILL HE FEELS HE ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING TO PROVE.

BYLINE: By Irene Sege, Globe Staff

SECTION: LIVING; Pg. F1

LENGTH: 2138 words

David Blanding, cellphone at his ear, strides across Commonwealth Avenue and darts into a CVS to buy candy for an evening meeting of the Boston University student group Latinos Unidos. By the time he leaves the store, Blanding's encouraged the black high school girl working the cash register to apply to BU.

Time was when Blanding would have been an unlikely recruiter for the school from which he's about to graduate. As a freshman, he was so disappointed in the dearth of diversity he found at BU that he almost transferred.

As one of the several thousand black and Latino students attending the elite colleges for which the Boston area is known, Blanding, a 20-year-old black New Yorker, arrived at BU seeking an urban university livelier and more heterogeneous than the small, overwhelmingly white Westchester County private school he'd attended since eighth grade.

He was eager to study where Martin Luther King Jr. earned his doctorate, hesitant to believe his grandparents' impression of Boston as a racially divided city, and hopeful after attending a reception during orientation that drew a small but diverse group that included Asian, Indian, Latino, and black students.

"Then I turned around," Blanding recalls, "and I was alone."

Not only was BU less diverse than he'd hoped 2.5 percent of 16,000 undergraduates are African-American and 5 percent are Latino but living in overflow housing at the Hyatt, across the Charles River from the campus bustle, and working weekends in the dining hall exacerbated his isolation. Yet he never sent the applications to other colleges lying on his desk.

"I was angry on both ends, with the general population at BU for not being as diverse as I had hoped. I was angry with myself for not having done extensive enough research. And I was angry with the black and Latino population for not being vocal enough," Blanding says. "Then I began to realize and it's one of the reasons I didn't transfer what happens if every school is just like this? What happens if the workplace is just like this? I'm going to have to learn how to adapt."

Adapt he did.

After a shaky start academically, Blanding made the dean's list last year. He's president of Latinos Unidos, a member of the black student group Umoja, secretary of the Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha. He's a Big Brother and a
lead tutor in a Chelsea after-school program. He's found mentors, among them the African-American dean of students, whose "Coffee and Conversation" sessions he regularly attends. Blanding was one of two student speakers at BU's Martin Luther King Day commemoration in January. He's a political science major eyeing a political career and mulling joining Teach for America before law school.

Yet as comfortable as Blanding is with all kinds of people and as confident as he is of his place here, he remains attuned to the racial undercurrents that have him feeling he must constantly prove himself. Just as in high school, where he was among a handful of minority scholarship students enrolled through a program designed to prepare youngsters like him for colleges like this, fitting in has been a fitful process.

"The turnaround came when I started to realize this was my environment and I could have an effect on what was going on. Once I gained that ownership, I was able to be more open and do more things," Blanding says. "This is my school. I'm a shareholder in this large corporation. I might as well do something meaningful with it. Since then I've been much more involved on campus. Out in Boston as well. Making this my city."

By the time Blanding arrived at BU, he'd already undergone the culture shock of moving from impoverished black and Latino communities to the predominantly white, affluent Hackley School. Weekdays he lived at the prep school, where "people are driving Lexuses and BMWs and Hummers at 16 and I was still using a bus pass." Weekends he traveled 3 1/2 hours, via public transportation, home to Brooklyn. He was living with his mother, who died last winter of a brain hemorrhage. Previously, he'd resided in the Bronx with his Cuban-born grandmother while his mother battled drug addiction. His father was incarcerated for robbery for much of his childhood.

As a poor, black student in a college that's largely well-to-do and white, his color, Blanding says, trumps his class. "My class I can't necessarily see," he says, "so racial issues are always going to be more pervasive. They're just much more obvious and much more fundamental."

Blanding entered BU determined to dismount the racial seesaw he'd ridden in high school. At home in the city, family and friends accused him of "acting white" or "talking white." At Hackley, where, he recalls, classmates would say " 'Wow, you're a gangster' as if to glorify it," he often felt "too black." Gradually Blanding learned to flip with ease between a "street" self that would "speak slang and curse and be angry and rambunctious" when he was home and a "professional" self that was "charismatic and sophisticated" at school. He graduated Hackley finally able to be himself in either setting.

"I made a conscious decision when I came here that I was no longer going to continue with that dialectic between the two worlds I was coming from," Blanding says. "It doesn't have to be a struggle. You don't have to compromise yourself," he adds. "I don't feel part of either of those roots, but I also don't feel constrained by them either. I thought before I was half and half and I would never be a part of either one. Now I feel I can command both in a way that few other people can. That gives me great power, and it gives me a lot of confidence, and it gives me a lot of focus, and it gives me a lot of motivation."

So, when Blanding slips into Dean Kenneth Elmore's "Coffee and Conversation," he sports the look he's favored since freshman year, a Yankees cap askew atop a do-rag, well aware that his headgear is more loaded than the bandana the white friend beside him has tied over his long hair.

"I'm a thug if I wear my cap and do-rag, but I still wear it. I will never sacrifice my integrity," Blanding says. "I argue with people about this all the time. I still genuinely believe I can persuade people that I'm actually smart, that I actually have something substantive to offer even in a do-rag."

Blanding has five Yankees hats and multiple T-shirts from programs where he's worked as a tutor but owns no BU apparel.
"You'll see white students wearing BU sweatshirts, and they buy this at orientation or the first time they visit the school, and I don't think I've ever seen a black student walk around with that," Blanding says. "It's not because we don't love BU. I happen to love BU," he adds. "It's a subtle thing, that identification with the school."

It's a striking observation from a student pleased to be on a list of students who might appear in a recruitment video. Blanding does, however, own four Phi Iota shirts. The fraternity chapter draws members, mainly Latino, from BU and Northeastern, and the brothers are planning a citywide party Saturday expected to attract Latino students from several colleges.

Blanding joined Phi Iota after growing up with Puerto Ricans in the South Bronx and meeting Latinos at BU. "I'd never really entertained a difference between blacks and Latinos until I came to college and I noticed that people separated," he says.

As an isolated freshman, Blanding befriended co-workers in the dining hall, and they introduced him to Boston's minority neighborhoods. Sophomore year, he began seeking student groups black, Caribbean, Latino that would be both haven and springboard in a large school.

"Plenty of people say, 'Why are black people so concerned with always having another black person or so concerned with asserting their blackness, because we're white students and you don't see us going around saying we're white.' At the same time, you are the majority," he says. "I don't think white people have to deal with this notion of being an outsider."

Blanding was a sophomore in 2003 when Elmore was appointed dean of students. "To be honest with you, I was happy because the man was black," Blanding recalls. "I knew this was someone I could go to and establish a rapport. He would be as enthusiastic, because he was new, as I would be about building a relationship."

Elmore became a mentor, as did the black woman who heads the Howard Thurman Center, which hosts multicultural programs, and the white woman who heads the tutoring program where Blanding works.

"Junior year was really a big step. I started getting in touch with deans and personnel and administrators at BU and trying to really get them to know who I was and get to know who they were and work with those people," Blanding says. "If I know this is Dean Elmore's school, this is Dave Blanding's school every bit as much. If people don't know what I've done on campus, it's hard for them to join with those organizations, and that's how freshmen feel isolated. In the future, if I need a recommendation, I need to know who to get them from."

Before convening the Latinos Unidos meeting, Blanding and other leaders circulate among the 60 in attendance, offering handshakes of welcome, creating the refuge Blanding yearned for as a freshman. Later, when the discussion turns to stereotypes outside the Latino community and within it, Blanding mentions running into people in the Bronx he hadn't seen in a while.

"They said, 'How much time did you do?' I said, 'I'm in college,' " Blanding recounts. "I got angry about it. It's not just white people who have misconceptions. We think when we come back to the 'hood, we're coming from prison. When we act intelligent, we think we're acting white. It comes from us."

Blanding arrives promptly for his 1 p.m. course, "The American Military Experience," acutely aware he was late a few times early in the semester, a transgression he says is made all the more obvious by his race. The subtext he senses is an attitude about affirmative action that he heard in high school and assumes that some harbor here.

"I can't get away with things that white students do because I'm going to be more noticeable. I have to be on my toes," Blanding says. "You walk in and people say, 'Oh, it's a black person walking in late. He's on CP time, or he's not as smart or as qualified. He's not taking it seriously.' "

"You'll see white students wearing BU sweatshirts, and they buy this at orientation or the first time they visit the school, and I don't think I've ever seen a black student walk around with that," Blanding says. "It's not because we don't love BU. I happen to love BU," he adds. "It's a subtle thing, that identification with the school."
Blanding belongs to one of the most underrepresented groups on campus. "To see a black American male is definitely rare," he says. "Yes, affirmative action has made diversity an advantage, but not to the extent that it would make being white a disadvantage by any means."

What Blanding notices, research confirms. Only 12 percent of young black men age 22-34 have graduated from a four-year college, according to Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies, compared with 21 percent of young black women, 25 percent of young white men, and 33 percent of young white women.

"Every day I have to be conscious of the fact that I'm black. I have to be conscious of the fact that I have to think of the future," Blanding says. "Part of the reason I'm so eager to do well and go to the best schools is not only because of what I want to do but because I'm black. It's going to be much more pressing for me to prove myself."

He still berates himself for skipping classes and letting his grades slip to a 2.0 second semester freshman year. "I was unhappy, and I sort of gave up," he says. He gradually worked his way to an A- average last year, which he's determined to meet or exceed this year to push his overall GPA above a 3.0. "Sometimes," he says, "I look and think everyone is walking around with a 3.0 or better, and it really unnerves me."

As Blanding looks ahead to graduation, he remembers the first-grade assignment in which he said he wanted to be president of the United States.

"Part of me really, really meant it. Part of me was trying to think outside the box and not come up with police officer or firefighter," he says. "I wrote about how I'll follow in Martin Luther King's footsteps."

Blanding still has the same dream. Does he think the country will be ready for a black president?

"Martin Luther King once said a true leader has to be not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus," he says. "It's not about waiting for people to be ready. It's about making people realize that they're ready."

SIDEBAR:
COLOR ON CAMPUS
PLEASE REFER TO MICROFILM FOR CHART DATA.

LOAD-DATE: October 19, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

NOTES: HOW WE LIVE HERE
Fifth in a series of occasional articles about blacks and Latinos living in metro Boston

GRAPHIC: PHOTO CHART

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Hispanics joining fraternities

BYLINE: By LIZ DOUP, Knight Ridder News Service, Wire Services

SECTION: LIFE; Pg. D03

LENGTH: 811 words

DATELINE: FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

The story begins: "FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - Evelinda Gonzales landed at the University of Miami without a parachute.

Coming from Arizona, she was far from home. The other students were strangers. Compared to the Southwest, she didn't find many who shared her Mexican-American heritage.

Looking for a safe place to land, she joined a Hispanic sorority, Sigma Lambda Gamma, and immediately felt like she belonged.

"It was exactly what I needed in my life," says Gonzales, 20. "I feel at home with them."

As more Hispanics head to college - roughly 10 percent of Hispanic high school graduates now aim for higher degrees - more and more Latins are going Greek.

An estimated 30,000 students and grads are members of Latin fraternities and sororities, says Jeffrey Vargas of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations. That's up about 10,000 from the mid-'90s.

"What's great is, you don't have to start from scratch," he says. "A social network is already established for you. You have friends who remind you of who you are and where you came from."

You needn't look far to find Latins bonding at Greek-lettered groups at colleges throughout South Florida, from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton to the University of Miami in Coral Gables.

In many ways, these groups are like the age-old frats and sororities. They do community service, from volunteering at Ronald McDonald House in Fort Lauderdale to handing out food at a hurricane shelter in Pahokee, Fla. They wear Greek letters on their T-shirts and pins on their lapels.

But it's the cultural connection and shared values that bind these students.

"When you grow up in a minority culture, it's a big part of your life and how you see the world," Gonzales says. "When you don't have that around you, it's disruptive. My sorority offers me so much support. I know I can always hang out with my sisters."
Gonzales’ sorority sisters are a cultural mix, typical for Latin chapters whose members are also African-Americans or have roots reaching to the Caribbean, the Philippines - places all over the globe.

Some have Anglo members, too, who want a group that's more open club than closed clique.

Eric Hildwein’s heritage is European. But Hildwein, 23, joined Latin frat Lambda Theta Phi at FAU, whose members’ ethnicities include Peruvian, Haitian and Polish.

"We're open to everyone,” he says.

For certain, some older Greek organizations reflect more diversity in South Florida than their counterparts around the country.

Matt Berry, 21, is one of the 49 members of a traditional frat, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, at the University of Miami.

He counts blacks and Hispanics among his fraternity brothers. But he agrees that all Greek organizations are not as diverse.

"You can get the idea that some fraternities only want white, Protestant guys from New Jersey," he says.

Another difference is size. In contrast to traditional Greek organizations, with memberships of 50 or more, the Latin groups are small, often fewer than a dozen members. But that’s part of their appeal to some.

"Some fraternities are so big you can have 150 guys wearing the same letters,” says Ricardo Rodriguez, 20, a University of Miami Phi Iota Alpha member. "That's the only thing that unites them. We're more close-knit."

Otto Gudiel, 23, recalls how one brother's mother invited all eight members of his University of Miami frat, Lambda Theta Phi, to her Miami home for dinner. She cooked a Nicaraguan meal that included a meat dish with rice and beans. For dessert: "my favorite, homemade tres leches," he says.

In addition, some brothers share political beliefs and see education as a way of improving the world.

"I'm from California, where we have a sense of struggle," Gudiel says. "We think things need to change."

Some members of these Latin groups represent the first generation in their family to attend college, and it's viewed as a privilege, not a birthright.

"We feel like we're lucky to be here," Gudiel says. "For a lot of other students, it's like, 'Oh, it costs $30,000 or whatever. My daddy will pay it.’”

Aware that Latins, as a group, drop out of college at a higher rate than non-Latin whites, the Latin Greeks stress hitting the books. They require that grades be kept up, and members often help each other with tips about professors and classes.

"We have regular study sessions in the library,” says Venessa Santiago-Perez, 21, a member of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. "One of the sisters always buys pizza."

Already, they're learning the power of fraternal connections when it comes to networking.

Gudiel recently attended an engineering conference in Washington, D.C., wearing his fraternity pin. After a frat brother from a Tampa chapter recognized the pin, he helped Gudiel navigate the conference and gave him tips on job interviewing.

Says Gudiel: "It's the kind of thing we do for each other."
Sarah Parsons was elected president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Central New York Inc. for the 2004-2005 term. These agents were elected to the 2004-05 slate of officers: John Moreland, of Sinclair and Andrews Inc., as vice president; Rhonda Cabrinha, of Ellis, Moreland and Ellis Inc., as secretary; and Linda Dardaris, of Haylor Freyer & Coon Inc., as treasurer. Nancy Pizzuti, of Haylor, Freyer & Coon Inc. is past president.

The state Department of Transportation recognized these organizations for their contributions to the Adopt-a-Highway program: American Legion Vernice Shuttle Post No. 13; American Society of Civil Engineers, Syracuse section; Apostolic Lighthouse Pentecostal Church; Apulia United Methodist Church; Baldwinsville Kiwanis Club; Baldwinsville Lions Club; Barton & Loguidice P.C.; Blasland, Bouck & Lee; Boy Scout Troop No. 66; Boy Scout Troop No. 369; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Cicero Elementary Runner’s Club; Cicero Lions Club; Central New York Parrot Head Club; Cornell Alumni Association of Central New York; East Side Manor Adult Residence; Fabius-Pompey Boy Scout Troop No. 115; Fayetteville Central City Lodge No. 305; Fayetteville/Manlius Rotary; First Baptist Church of Manlius; First United Methodist Church, Minoa; Hancock & Estabrook, LLP; Home Depot of Camillus; Immanuel United Methodist Church; The Inn Between Restaurant; Kay-R Electric; Knights of Columbus No. 4114; Knights of Columbus No. 5186; LaFayette Historical Society; Lincoln Republican Club; Liverpool Elks Lodge; Manlius Professional Firefighters; Marcellus Faculty Association; Martisco Lions Club; Mattydale/Hinsdale (Plank Road) Chamber of Commerce; Member Support Services (HPC); Morning Star Lodge No. 524; state Association of Transportation, Engineers; Nine Mile Creek Conservation Council; Nortrip Masonic Lodge No. 998; Ohio State Alumni Club of Central New York; Oneida Lake Association; Onondaga County Deputy Sheriffs’ Police Association; Onondaga Ski Club; Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity; Phi Sigma Pi; Penn State Alumni Association of Greater Syracuse; Pompey Historical Society; Pompey Lions Club; 27th Regiment Corps of Cadets; Robert P. Halloran Squadron, Arnold Air Society; Rotary Club of Baldwinsville; The Royal Treatment; Rural Metro Medical Services; Skaneateles Boy Scout Troop No. 61; Skaneateles Masonic Lodge; Skaneateles Rotary Club; The Skeele Agency, Inc.; South Onondaga Fire Department; Southern Hills Garden Club; St. Mary’s Church/Secular Franciscan Order; Syracuse Harley Owners Group; Syracuse Ski Hawks; Syracuse University Army ROTC; Telephone Pioneers of America; Temple Adath Yesheran; Tully Trailblazer Snowmobile Club; United Auto Supply; United University Professions; U.S. Navy Recruiting Station Syracuse; West Genesee Teacher’s Association and Zonta Club of Syracuse.
Latino fraternity plans girls' soccer competition at Baylor U.

BYLINE: By Kirsten Pasha, The Lariat; SOURCE: Baylor U.

LENGTH: 295 words

DATELINE: WACO, Texas

Baylor women's organizations will compete Friday and Saturday in the Fiota Cup, a campuswide 5-on-5 soccer tournament.

Phi Iota Alpha, a Latino fraternity, will host the eight-team, 20-game tournament at the Texas Christian Academy field.

"We want to give the women here a universitywide event," Robert Lopez, a San Antonio junior, said. "We want this to be annual and become a rivalry where female organizations will have friendly competition."

Six greek teams and two open teams, each with a minimum of 10 players, are coached by a Phi Iota Alpha member, according to Lopez, Fiota Cup coordinator.

"Girls don't have any opportunities like this except intramurals," John Lugo, a San Antonio senior, said. "They also don't have anything too tangible if they make it far. That's why we're having a trophy and plaques."

According to Lopez, teams will compete for a cup, which will have each champion's name engraved and will be displayed year-round in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The organizations paid $140 for the jerseys, and the proceeds will go to Cesar Chavez Middle School, where Phi Iota Alpha members volunteer weekly.

Spectators are encouraged to come watch, and meals will be catered by Fiota Cup sponsors, Bush's Chicken, Dubl-R Burgers, Coffee Haus and El Siete Mares.

"We needed an opportunity for women's organizations to unite together," Cristina Luna, an Alamo senior and tournament participant, said. "I admire what [Phi Iota Alpha members] are doing, and hopefully it will bring organizations together."

After the tournament, Phi Iota Alpha will host a campuswide foam party at the Youth Education Center at 12th Street and LaSalle Avenue.

According to Lugo, the party will start at 10 p.m., and the cost at the door is $5 per person.

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Latino fraternity plans girls' soccer competition at Baylor U. University Wire March 25, 2004 Thursday

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President of Honduras to speak at LSU

The president of Honduras, Carlos Roberto Flores, will give the address at LSU’s spring commencement ceremony May 19 in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

Flores is a graduate of LSU. His son Carlos is expected to receive an international finance degree from LSU in August but will participate in the May ceremonies.

While at LSU, Flores helped the Honduran Students Association become active on campus and helped create Phi Iota Alpha, a fraternity of Latin American students. In 1973 he married Mary Carol Flake Flores of Pineville, who was also attending LSU. She holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing and textiles.

Flores, who was elected to the Honduran presidency in 1997, attended LSU in the 1970s, receiving degrees in industrial engineering and international trade and finance.

Following his graduation, he returned home to work on La Tribuna, the largest newspaper in the country. As president, chief executive officer and publisher, Flores championed freedom of the press and free elections.

Turning from publishing to politics, he served in the ministry of President Roberto Cordova from 1983 to 1987 in a position equivalent to that of vice president.

LSU awarded Flores an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at its May 1995 commencement ceremony.

Commencement exercises begin 8:45 a.m. May 19.

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THE NEW GREEKS AT FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES SUCH AS LAMBDA PHI EPSILON AND SIGMA IOTA ALPHA, LATINOS AND ASIAN-AMERICANS CAN FIND THEIR NICHE

BYLINE: By Vanessa E. Jones, Globe Staff

SECTION: LIVING; Pg. F1

LENGTH: 1914 words

Two years ago, Fannie Sanchez arrived at Boston University, a campus that was 1,500 miles and a world away from Miami-Dade Community College, where she had started her higher education.

While ensconced at the Miami school, where students spoke her language and understood her culture, the 22-year-old native of Honduras thrived. But on BU's predominantly white campus, her sense of isolation was intense. "I felt I had to find Hispanics," Sanchez, a senior, says shyly in a voice a few steps above a whisper. The comment brings nods of recognition from Barbara Escobio, a Harvard University junior; Idania Ramirez, a recent BU graduate; and Michelle Sazo, an alumna of SUNY Albany, as the Latina women relax with Sanchez in the basement of Escobio's Harvard dorm.

Like Sanchez, these women had battled alienation by joining student organizations focused on spreading awareness about Latino culture. And, like Sanchez, they had found the groups wanting.

"The males are, like, sometimes . . .," Sanchez says of Latinos Unidos, a coed club at BU, fumbling for words.

"More chauvinistic?" Sazo, 31, suggests archly as laughter bubbles from the group, memories of Latino machismo bonding them. It's with women like Sazo, Escobio, and Ramirez that Sanchez finally found the community and support she desperately craved. In the spring of 1998, Sanchez became their hermana (Spanish for sister) by joining the Latina sorority, Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha (SIA).

An increasing number of Latinos and Asian-Americans, both female and male, are finding their niche in sororities and fraternities. At least seven Latino and two Asian-American Greek organizations have been formed by students at Harvard, BU, Tufts University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the past few years. The growth here reflects a boom that's occurring throughout the country, particularly in the Northeast and California, as the number of Asian-American and Latino college students rise.

Internet pages like latinoGreeks.com introduce newcomers to various Latino Greeks organizations, their social or community events, and the professional network they offer after college. It's now estimated that there are more than 60 Latino fraternities and sororities nationwide, says Monica Lee Miranda, vice chairwoman of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, a group started in 1997 to unite far-flung Latino Greeks.

And those numbers will probably increase. "There are a lot of locals that we have yet to find," says Lee.
number of Asian-American sororities and fraternities is harder to estimate because they don't have an umbrella group. However, the national Web page of the Asian-American fraternity Lambda Phi Epsilon, which has a chapter at BU, lists 17 of them.

No 'Animal House'

These new societies, alternately called ethnic Greeks or culturally based Greeks by people in the field, weren't created in the image of mainstream Greek organizations, whose activities have become synonymous with behavior immortalized in the movie "Animal House."

"We have a pledge process that's dry," explains Kenny Chan, a former president of Lambda Phi Epsilon, which began at BU in 1996. "No one's permitted to drink. No one's permitted to smoke. We don't believe in that at all."

Instead, they take their cues from the African-American Greeks that began popping up on campuses in 1906. The emphasis is placed on academics and leadership.

Students mentor local youths and educate peers about their culture by inviting local Asian-American women to discuss their experiences in the business world or holding rallies to promote awareness about Vieques, the Puerto Rican island the US Navy has used for bombing practice for more than 50 years.

"The majority of these students are first-generation college students," says Danny Oliveira, assistant coordinator of fraternity and sorority life at San Diego State University, which has experienced an explosion in culturally based Greek organizations. The college now has 11 Asian-American and Latino Greeks on its campus, up from four in 1990.

"They have a real personal sense of responsibility," Oliveira says of the students turning to these organizations, "in terms of ensuring that their brothers and sisters and cousins after them can come to college and have a support system that's going to help them survive and graduate."

The origins of culturally based Greek organizations are as varied as the number of groups. Armed with a two-inch black binder, Edward Sazo, husband of Michelle, proudly explains the complicated birth of his Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha.

The group started in 1901 as Union Hispano-Americana, a secret society of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute international students. Sazo, a graduate of Rensselaer who guided the pledges of BU's charter chapter into the organization in 1996, thumbs through pages showing photographs of grave-looking members outfitted in suits and ties. These men merged their group with other Latino fraternities they found around the country until it became Phi Iota Alpha in 1931.

The group was inactive for 11 years before being revived at Rensselaer in 1984. Most of the Greeks active in this area are satellites of national organizations that started in the 1980s and 1990s. Now these Asian-American and Latino groups are fanning into Texas, Michigan, and Pennsylvania with bases at New York University, Columbia University, University of California, Berkeley, and Baylor University.

Miranda and Oliveira attribute the growth to the surge of Asian-American and Latino students at colleges. In 1990, the fall enrollment of Hispanics at higher education institutions was almost 800,000, according to the US Department of Education. In 1997, those numbers had reached 1.2 million. Asian-American enrollment during that same period leaped from almost 600,000 to 850,000.

The promise of friendship

Yet there are other factors encouraging students to go Greek. Some join because, unlike student organizations, these groups offer a sustained level of activity and an almost cliched promise of friendships that last beyond college.
"Other Latino-based organizations on campus are more social clubs," complains Christina Rodriguez, 24, an active SIA alumna who was on SIA's founding line at BU (the chapter currently has two members). "People go there in the beginning of the year and there's like 50 members. At the end of the year, there's like two."

In contrast, Edward Sazo speaks fondly of the 25 Baylor brothers who knew who Sazo was when he visited the school. He mentions the Harvard brother who offered him a place to stay for three weeks when Sazo's company transferred him to Boston from Texas.

"These guys make me feel like I have a home away from home," says Sazo, whose wife, Michelle, helped students at BU and Harvard form SIA chapters at their respective schools in 1996. "We look alike, we share the same language. I feel comfortable with them."

Students also turn to the Greeks for unity. There isn't a shortage of cultural groups for people of Korean, Japanese or Chinese descent at BU. The problem is, "Everyone is doing different things," says Ernie Kang, 19, a BU sophomore who joined Lambda Phi Epsilon the second semester of his freshman year.

The fraternity, which began its life at UC-Berkeley in 1981, brings together Koreans, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipinos, and Japanese, says Johnny Lin, 21, the BU chapter's current president. It tries to be the bond linking the various Asian-American student groups.

The doors are open

Like mainstream Greeks, ethnic sororities and fraternities welcome members from other racial and ethnic groups. Lambda Phi Epsilon has a white brother. An alumni of Phi Iota Alpha is Nigerian.

At SIA meetings, you'll find Harvard junior Ourania Tserotas, the daughter of Greek immigrants who grew up in an African-American and Latino neighborhood in Chicago, and Carla Moore, a Harvard junior from a Latino neighborhood in Queens, who jokes, "I didn't figure out that I was white until I was like 14."

Harvard doesn't recognize Greek organizations. The cost of a fraternity or sorority getting caught sponsoring events or representing themselves as a Harvard entity is so harsh the Harvard students who make up Phi Iota Alpha, formed in 1996, chose not to participate in this story. But Tserotas and Moore were drawn to SIA because they felt a kinship with its members.

"New York Puerto Rican culture is so not at Harvard," gripes Moore, 20, who helped organize the Vieques event. "None of the [SIA] sisters were from New York, but they were similar. We had something in common."

One thing these students have in common is a desire to do academically well at school. Ten of Lambda Phi Epsilon's 16 members were striving toward that goal a few days ago in a basement of BU's Theology building. Deep into a mandatory two-hour weekly study session, their heads were bent over computer science, law, and economics books.

"If you study in a dorm there are a lot more distractions," explains Jason Hua, 19, a BU sophomore, citing such evils as computer games, television, and ICQ, the instant e-mail system.

Making the grade

Students in most culturally based Greek organizations must have specific grades to join and, sometimes, to continue membership. They range from minimums of 2.67 at Alpha Rho Lambda, a Latina sorority at Tufts, to 2.8 at Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, an Asian-American sorority at BU consisting of ten sisters.

Jesse Saucedo, 22, president of BU's Phi Iota Alpha chapter, credits the frat with teaching him about time management, presentation skills, and teamwork. Such training helps the students become leaders on campus.
Sanchez, for instance, started a program at BU to help ease transfer students into the BU community. She's also president of the school's step squad and an active member of Latinos Unidos and UMOJA, a black and Latino student group on BU's campus.

At other times, the students focus on the surrounding Latino or Asian-American community. In November, Alpha Rho Lambda's six sisters organized an evening of song, dance, and poetry at Tufts to raise money for a three-year-old scholarship that provides a Latina with book money during her first year of college.

Ramirez and Escobio, SIA members, act as mentors in the Viva La Cultura program. Run by Sociedad Latina Inc., a youth organization based in Mission Hill, it combines mentoring with a film and book club.

A scene from the film "Stand and Deliver," a recent Viva La Cultura subject, was frozen in pause on a television screen in Sociedad Latina's office a few evenings ago. Spurred by the film, Ramirez and Escobio joined six teenagers and five 20-something women in a discussion that ranged from the increasing importance Latinos place in education to the lack of emotional support provided by some Hispanic parents.

The 16-year-old, who Ramirez started mentoring a few months ago, was absent due to illness. But weeks earlier, she was looking forward to helping the teen wade through the college process, a type of aid Ramirez, a 22-year-old New Yorker, didn't have when she was in high school.

"You want to show youngsters that they can be more," says Ramirez, explaining the role she plays in the Hispanic community as a college-educated Latina. "They can go to college, they can become professionals, they can go beyond their communities and do better things with themselves."

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 2000

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: PHOTO. 1. GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JONATHAN WIGGS/ Sorority outreach: Yonayra Corchado working with her mentor, Barbara Escobio, a Harvard University junior. 2. GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/PAT GREENHOUSE/ Raymond Yu and other members of Lambda Phi Epsilon study at BU. Johnny Lin goes over work for his computer organization class. Lambda Phi Epsilon runs a mandatory two hour weekly study session at BU.

Copyright 2000 Globe Newspaper Company
Latino Heritage Month spices things up for Columbia U. students

BYLINE: By Whitney Smith, Columbia Daily Spectator

SOURCE: Columbia U.

LENGTH: 884 words

DATELINE: New York

The steps of Low Library at Columbia University set the stage for the soft rhythms of a cumbia band and a wide sampling of authentic Latin American food on Saturday. Cascarone confetti decorated bystanders' clothing and hair as they munched on quesadillas, "the Mexican version of a grilled cheese," according to Jorge Herrera, CC '01, who helped out with cooking.

Carnaval was among the first of many Latino Heritage events that will be held this month.

Elisa Melendez, CC '01, was among the revelers. "They had crafts for kids and native dancers, which attracted children of all cultures," Melendez said.

Shana Inofuentes, CC '00, a member of the Native American Council, explained the connection between the Native American dancers and Latin America. "A lot of the area called Latin America is inhabited by people of native descent. A lot of tribes still exist and consider themselves sovereign within Latin America," Inofuentes said.

As the Native American Council caters to all people of indigenous heritage including those with Latin American native heritage, the overlap of both cultures is celebrated during Latino Heritage Month.

A particular event that serves as an example of the blend between Latino Heritage Month and Native American History Month is the Candlelight Vigil, which will reflect on the devastation of native cultures in Latin America.

Organized by the Latino Heritage Month Committee, the events of the month include events sponsored by other groups such as the Chicano Caucus, Accion Boricua, and the Alumni of Color Outreach Program. "We are really trying to build a sense of community for the Latino community on campus and increase our visibility at Columbia," said Gabriel Pitta, CC '01, chair of Latino Heritage Month.

Herrera recognized the importance of the advancement of the Latino community on a more global scale. "I'm learning in my classes what the Irish and Jews had to go through," Herrera commented. "Currently, we [Latinos] are striving for the ability to advance economically, politically, and socially."

The significance of Latino Heritage Month is not limited to the Columbia community. On Sept. 14, the national opening of the commemorative month, President Clinton stated "during National Hispanic Heritage Month, we reflect on the history of a people who were a part of this land long before the United States." He continued, "Hispanics were among the earliest European settlers in the New World, and Hispanics as a people--like their many cultures--share
a rich history and great diversity. This diversity has brought variety and richness to the mosaic that is America and has strengthened our national character with invaluable perspective, experiences, and values.”

Herrera echoed the President’s sentiments. “This is our month for the entire country to see that we are a great culture among cultures in our American society and that we have a deep-rooted history and a promising future that deserves recognition,” he said.

Upcoming events include the Latino Alumni Reception on Oct. 7, whose guest speaker will be Alfred Ramirez, president of the National Community for Latino Leadership and executive director of the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

The following Saturday will boast the Little Olympics, which is a day for the Phi Iota Alpha Fraternidad, Inc. to bring children from Harlem and Washington Heights to play at Columbia. "The kids get t-shirts, food, a day at Columbia University, and a good time,” said Alicia Pentz-Lopez, CC ’00. Pentz-Lopez is responsible for the organization of the Latino Alumni Reception, as well as Strangefruit, an event showcasing poetry and other forms of expression jointly organized by the United Students of Color Council, Phi Iota Alpha, and Queers of Color.

Greek life has also played a historical role in the month's events. The Phi Iota Alpha fraternity, the only Latino fraternity on campus, was founded in 1995 by members "dedicated to empowerment of the Latino community."

The most heartily anticipated night of Latino Heritage Month will be Oct. 22, which will feature the Latino Heritage Month Keynote Speaker and hold the Latino Pride Showcase.

The night begins with a dinner at which Antonio Pantojas from ASPIRA, an organization dedicated to education among Puerto Rican and Latino youth, will speak. The evening will close with a chance for students to express their own talents and appreciate the talents of their peers at the showcase.

No matter what the event, the motivation remains the same: to promote unity and pride in the University's Latino community.

"The recurring question is why have a month dedicated to Latino heritage,” Herrera begins. "It is important to remind others that we have our own identity. Within the Latino culture there are many subgroups, including Mexicans, Cubans, Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, etc. We can be grouped together through our common language, and past and current oppressions. We are still striving to succeed in a country that passes bills to end bilingual education and have single-language voting ballots which basically does not recognize our heritage. We are striving for what everyone deserves--an opportunity to succeed.”

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LOAD-DATE: October 4, 1999

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Latino-based fraternity to receive charter at Baylor U.

**BYLINE:** By Tres Garza, The Lariat

**SOURCE:** Baylor U.

**LENGTH:** 392 words

**DATELINE:** Waco, Texas

**Phi Iota Alpha** will be celebrating its official charter Thursday. The small ceremony will take place in the office of Dub Oliver, director of student activities.

The Latino-based social fraternity, formerly know as Phi Lambda Alpha, will be the first fraternity at Baylor primarily composed of minorities to be recognized by the Interfraternity Council.

The group's president, Jacob Davila, a Brownsville senior, is looking forward to the change.

"We think the presentation of our charter will be special because we are the first minority organization to achieve that kind of status," Davila said.

Davila, along with five other students, formed Phi Lambda Alpha in 1996. The purpose of the fraternity was to educate young Latino men and other Baylor students about the Latino culture.

"We started with the intent that someday there would be an established organization for young Latino men on campus that others could look up to," Davila said.

Hector Sabido, a Waco sophomore, said he was attracted to the fraternity because of its strong Latino background.

"There weren't that many Latino-based organizations on campus, fraternity-wise, but with these guys I sense the real meaning of brotherhood for life," Sabido said.

In the past three years its membership has grown to 20 and consists of Latino, Indian, black and Asian men, most of who hold leadership positions in other organizations.

The merger of the national fraternities Phi Lambda Alpha and Sigma Iota took place in 1931. The members only found out about this merger last year and changed their name in May.

They were one of the last Phi Lambda Alphas to completely merge and take on the new name.

"We were like a missing link," Davila said. "Basically, we got in contact with the national headquarters and found out that what we used to be, Phi Lambda Alpha, had merged with Sigma Iota."

The transition to **Phi Iota Alpha** was not an easy one. The members basically worked alone to get their official
"We have gone through a lot trying to get it done on our own," Marcus Jasso, an Humble senior, said. "It probably would have taken 10 years if we hadn't realized we had a history."

**Phi Iota Alpha** will be taking part in Fraternity Forum and is open to anyone interested in gaining insight into the Latino culture.
Syracuse U. students accuse police of brutality

BYLINE: By Ron DePasquale, Daily Orange

SOURCE: Syracuse U.

LENGTH: 1082 words

DATELINE: Syracuse, N.Y.

At about 1 a.m. Sunday, friends gathered at 222 Clarendon Ave. to throw Jason Ferreira and other seniors a graduation party.

Now, Ferreira may not graduate and several students are alleging police brutality after the Syracuse Emergency Response Team raided the Phi Iota Alpha house at about 2 a.m. -- hours after police cleared rioters from nearby Livingston Avenue. About 35 students, mostly Latinos, were gathered inside.

The events that witnesses say unfolded that night have students in an uproar.

Police say they acted justly by arresting four people at the house. Students who were at the Phi Iota house say riot police used unnecessary force to break up a harmless party that had nothing to do with the riot.

"They came in with riot gear like this was a crack house," Emmanuel Rivera said about 30 minutes after police left. "People were just sitting around having a good time."

At 2:20 a.m., students embraced each other as they tried to understand what happened. People burst into tears and cursed the police. A shattered picture of Jesus hung on the wall, broken when police shoved a student into it, students said.

Police arrested Ferreira, 21; Javier Grullon, 18; Shawon "Caesar" East, 25; and Carmen Aquino, 19, on various misdemeanor charges. SU has temporarily suspended Ferreira, Grullon and Aquino, all of whom are students.

The university on Monday put all students charged with a felony or misdemeanor in connection with the Livingston Avenue riot on interim suspension.

A Syracuse police report states that "a large and unruly crowd of people" were inside and in front of the house, and that noise could be heard from a block away.

But students said a Syracuse police car sat outside their house for hours, and neither of the officers in it at any time told them to be quiet. They say only three students sat outside on the front steps, and the doors were closed.

"They were watching us and didn't say a single word," Henry Alvarez said Sunday morning. "They didn't even give us two seconds to tell people to get out of the house. They hit me with the nightstick and told me to 'Get out you fucking 'Spic,' hitting people with sticks for no reason."
According to the police report, police told East to quiet down and leave the party. After East reportedly refused to put his hands behind his back, officers forcefully arrested him for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and a noise violation, the report said.

"They just put him in the mud and beat him," Rivera said.

Ferreira had finished showering and was drying off in his bedroom when he said he heard a knock on the door. Ferreira said riot police entered the room and arrested him, handcuffing him so tightly that he could not feel his hands.

Police charged Ferreira with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and a noise violation. They also arrested his girlfriend, Aquino, for disorderly conduct after she protested Ferreira's arrest.

Grullon was booked on disorderly conduct. He said police went after the three biggest men at the party.

"I got arrested for asking a question, 'What's going on here?"" Grullon said. "They surrounded me.

"Police are supposed to be professional and maintain their cool, but we were treated like we were animals."

Jorge Reyes said he was disgusted by the police's brute force against women.

"I asked why are you pushing and hitting girls, and they just said, "Step back, step back," he said. "For God's sake, they were hitting women."

Jim Parenti, a spokesperson for Mayor Roy Bernardi, said the mayor commended police for their actions in the university area that night.

"The mayor feels the police did an outstanding job," Parenti said. "The police showed a lot of restraint."

Rivera, however, said the scene at 222 Clarendon was quite the opposite.

"I feel like the army came in here, like we're terrorists," he said.

Riot police, acting on orders from Syracuse Chief of Police Timothy Foody to restore order to the area, also entered 959 Ackerman Ave.

Senior Nathan Gibbs, who lives in the house's second-floor apartment, said the street's atmosphere had calmed by 3 a.m. when riot police arrived. Police arrested five students -- three for noise violations and two for disorderly conduct.

A party took place earlier and only five people remained sitting on the house's porch, Gibbs said.

"There were 12 people left, and half of them were sleeping," Gibbs said. "They kicked in the front door and a bedroom door and woke people up."

Michael Kimball, an unclassified undergraduate, spent the night in jail after being charged with a noise violation.

"Fifteen minutes after we were asked to go inside, the riot police stormed in," he said. "It wasn't called for at all. They just went through the whole house. It's just not necessary."

COMING TOGETHER

As students begin to regroup and determine exactly what happened at 222 Clarendon, community members and university officials are offering their assistance. A meeting of about 50 concerned students, civic leaders and university personnel took place in the Hendricks Chapel Noble Room on Monday night.
The meeting, which lasted almost two hours, gave everyone a chance to tell their story and determine how to proceed, students said.

Hendricks Chapel Dean Thomas V. Wolfe, Director of Public Safety Robbie Robinson, Multicultural Affairs Director and Associate Dean of Student Relations Irma Almirall-Padamsee and local religious leaders attended, as well as members of local government.

Alexis Carrero, a senior social work major, said the meeting went well and that the university is listening. The students' main goal is to make sure Ferreira graduates and the other students can continue their education. They could file police brutality charges later, they said.

"We're being held under the code of conduct and we're trying to tell them that we didn't break it," Carrero said. "We're trying to help those who have done nothing but work hard to continue their education."

With final exams, papers and graduation, the Clarendon incident could not have happened at a worse time, students said.

Another meeting is scheduled for today at University United Methodist Church, 1085 Genesee St.

As court and university hearings loom for the four arrested students, all students involved are still in shock and even "traumatized," they said.

"We're tired and angry," Carrero said. "We're emotional and scared. We're trying to make sense of all this."

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LOAD-DATE: May 4, 1999

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Phi Lambda Alpha changes name, goes national

BYLINE: By Diane Tyson, The Lariat

SOURCE: Baylor U.

LENGTH: 165 words

DATELINE: Waco, Texas

The Latino fraternity at Baylor University previously known as Phi Lambda Alpha is the first minority organization to join the ranks of national fraternities and is now operating under the new name Phi Iota Alpha, said Dr. Richard Duran, fraternity advisor.

The fraternity has been active on campus for two years and has 23 members.

Fraternity members opted to join with Phi Iota Alpha, a member of the Interfraternity Council, which will in turn help the fraternity organize university events and increase membership, said Carlos Riojas, fraternity vice president and a Hewitt senior.

Phi Iota Alpha is a culturally diverse organization within itself, counting among its membership not only Hispanics but Asian, Indian and African-American members as well.

Riojas said the fraternity expects its merger with Phi Iota Alpha, the largest Latino organization in the country, to result in new opportunities for promoting cultural understanding.

(C) 1999 The Lariat via U-WIRE

LOAD-DATE: April 30, 1999

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
Syracuse U. frat hosts domestic violence workshop

BYLINE: By Justin Silverman, Daily Orange

SOURCE: Syracuse U.

LENGTH: 451 words

DATELINE: Syracuse, N.Y.

Multicultural fraternity Phi Iota Alpha will host a workshop Wednesday to inform students that domestic violence affects minority communities differently than the larger white population.

"We are looking to see how people of color are affected by domestic violence and the differences and similarities that exist with the majority culture," said Karen Fernandez-Chosgrove, a marriage and family therapy graduate student participating in the event.

Domestic violence within the majority culture includes the influences of classism and sexism, but minority communities must also address racism, Fernandez-Chosgrove said.

"When we look at domestic violence in the broad sense, we leave out the voice of the minority community," she said. "This community tends to have different needs."

But Phi Iota Alpha member Jason Ferreira said he created the workshop - 8 p.m. in Room 207 in the Hall of Languages - to address the influence of domestic violence in every student's life.

Although the issue pertains most directly to women, domestic violence affects everyone, said Ferreira, a senior marketing student.

"This is an issue that is out there because it affects a lot of women," he said. "But it is present in everyone's life. I want them to walk away from the workshop with an understanding of how bad domestic violence can be and how close they are to it."

Domestic violence transcends physical action and includes emotional threats, Ferreira said. Students may be an aggressor without realizing their actions, he added.

"Most people think of it as very intense and extreme," Ferreira said. "They don't think of arguing and yelling as a form of domestic violence."

Kenneth Hardy, a Syracuse University child and family studies professor, will direct the workshop and speak on domestic violence in the minority community through an open discussion, Ferreira said.

Several Phi Iota Alpha brothers have classes with Hardy and decided he was best to lead tonight's discussion, Ferreira said.
"In his classes, he speaks of people not being educated enough to raise a family," he said. "We want people to walk away with an understanding, an open-mind and an increased awareness."

By focusing on domestic violence at the minority community level, students will gather a broader understanding of their culture, Fernandez-Chosgrove said. Students can also learn to help increase the awareness of their peers, she added.

"I hope that people walk out of this workshop with a broader understanding of domestic violence in their culture and how issues affect their culture," she said. "And I hope we can begin looking into issues of diversity and helping others."

(C) 1999 Daily Orange via U-WIRE

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 1999

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
Several Boston University student organizations last week began collecting bottled water, baby formula and other supplies to send to victims of Hurricane Georges.

The Red Cross plans to collect the supplies from BU greek, Latino and minority organizations and ship them to storm-pelted Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Vicky Escrojin, a College of Arts and Sciences sophomore, said she distributed relief-effort fliers to encourage support for people like her grandmother, who lives in the Dominican Republic.

"My grandmother's house was blown away in 120-mile-an-hour winds, and the people with houses have no electricity," Escrojin said. "The food supply is low, since most of the food plantations have been flattened out."

Residents of Puerto Rico are fighting each other for supplies, said College of General Studies sophomore Ismalis Mendoza, who has not heard from her cousin since her house in Puerto Rico "fell apart." Mendoza said she will speak with CGS deans and student government officials about aiding the efforts.

"Things are getting insane," she said.

Organizers set up drop boxes Friday in South Campus, Towers, Myles Standish, Warren Towers and Sleeper Hall to collect bottled water, dry milk, baby formula, canned goods, toiletries and first-aid items.

Latino fraternity Phi Iota Alpha is planning a fundraising dinner and others are organizing a program that would allow students to convert convenience points into relief money for hurricane victims. The groups would then buy supplies to ship to the Caribbean.

Information about the efforts will also be available at the George Sherman Union Link starting tomorrow.

"Bottled water is mainly needed down there right now because mudslides have contaminated the local water supplies in many areas," said Raul Fernandez, a senior in Metropolitan College who has linked BU organizations with the Red Cross and Casa Latina, an organization at the University of Massachusetts.

While people who want to help often think of giving money, it is better to send supplies, Fernandez said, because there is very little the victims can buy.
Boston U. groups to aid victims of hurricane

BYLINE: By Catherine M. Croteau, The Daily Free Press

SOURCE: Boston U.

LENGTH: 364 words

DATELINE: Boston, Mass.

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INTEREST GROWS IN ALANA WEEKEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT OSWEGO STATE CELEBRATES AFRICAN, LATINO, ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES.

BYLINE: JIM EMMONS The Post-Standard

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 567 words

The State University College at Oswego will hold its annual ALANA Conference this weekend, turning the campus into a hotbed for multicultural activities Thursday through Sunday.

The conference celebrates African, Latino, Asian and Native American heritage, and has begun to reach students well beyond Oswego. Organizers expect this year's conference, the 12th, to draw at least 100 students from other SUNY campuses, including Plattsburgh, Brockport, Albany, Delhi and Potsdam.

The conference also welcomes non-students. If you would like to learn a Latin dance, take a workshop on African mask-making or enjoy a Japanese theater production, those are just a few of the options. Here's the full lineup:

Thursday

Opening talk by Lloyd Elm, a member of the Onondaga and Oneida nations, 7:30 p.m. He'll discuss the balance between physical, spiritual and intellectual being, in a talk titled "Human Potential: The Complete Human Being."

Friday

Workshops and exhibits take place throughout the day, focusing on cultural and leadership issues. Highlights include: an African mask-making workshop with art professor Natasha Hopkins, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and "A Vision of Our Souls," an exhibit of Latino art, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

A dinner and late-night party. The dinner will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and feature a variety of entertainment, followed by a party. The evening will include:

A dance performance, featuring Explocion Cultural, a professional Latino dance troupe from New York City, from 5:45 to 7 p.m.

A keynote speaker, Louis Perego Moreno, at 7:15 p.m. Moreno is executive producer of Skyline Community, an education and support group for minority youths and women.
Dance, poetry and theater, from 8:45 to 10:30 p.m. Students will perform African dance, recite poetry and perform a short play, "Seven," about the African-American experience.

Strolling and disc jockey contests, 11 p.m. Greek sorority and fraternities will compete at strolling, a kind of line dance, followed by the DJ contest and dancing. Dancing continues until 4 a.m.

Saturday

International food tasting, sponsored by the Caribbean Student Association and United Latino Women, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

An animal presentation by Jarod Miller, an animal handler and SUNY Oswego alumnus, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Miller will show domestic and wild animals from Asia, Latin America, Africa and North America.

A Latino dance workshop in salsa, bachata and merengue, taught by Explocion Cultural, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

An Asian performance, from 3:45 to 5 p.m. A visiting Japanese theater group, Jyou, will perform "The Matsuyama Mirror" and "Shibahama."

Dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by a late-night party. The evening will include:

A keynote talk by Karim Razzaq, an administrator for Cush Campus Schools, an independent school in Central Brooklyn, at 6:30 p.m.

A fashion show, sponsored by the sorority Phi Iota Alpha, from 9 to 10:30 p.m.

A dance party with Cocoa Channel, disc jockey for Hot 97 in New York City, from 10:30 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Sunday

A continental breakfast and round-table discussion, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

All activities take place in Hewitt Union. The cost is $10 for dinner and $5 for after-dinner dancing, or $20 for dinner and dancing for both Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information, call ALANA’s directors Rosana Urena or Esperanza Davis, at 341-3203.
Hispanic heritage mural finally done

**BYLINE:** LAURA LEE; Staff writer

**SECTION:** CAPITAL REGION, Pg. F2

**LENGTH:** 390 words

**HIGHLIGHT:** After efforts to find a public wall fail, El Centro created a roving work which will be on display during the annual festival

The unveiling of a new mural representing the migration of Hispanics to Troy will be one of the highlights of this year's "Street Festival," sponsored by El Centro as part of the annual Hispanic Heritage Festival on Sept. 19.

The mural, painted by artist Natalie Saxton de Perez and members of the community, has been planned for three years.

"We received a small grant from the RCCA to paint a mural, but we've been trying for three years to find a building," said El Centro board member Pat Caracena. "Every building in Troy is historic, you can't just choose a wall and paint a mural."

Instead, the organization decided to create a "roving mural," which will be loaned out to local businesses and organizations.

Another change for the festival is its Riverspark location. The first Street Festival took place six years ago in El Centro's parking lot. As the fair got bigger, the lot seemed smaller. Last year the event was moved to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, but organizers felt the school was too far off the beaten path for many festival-goers.

With its new location, the celebration has room to expand. There will be more vendors and booths than ever before, Caracena said.

There will be music and dancing in the street and games and prizes for children. The Teatro de Baile dancers will perform and roving troubadours will provide traditional Mexican and Puerto Rican folk music.

The event began as a way to celebrate El Centro's support services and its association with RPI's Phi Iota Alpha fraternity which, with El Centro, coordinates tutoring and internship programs.

"Every year we hope that it will be a fund-raiser, but it is first and foremost a celebration," Caracena said. "Sometimes we break even, but we don't make a lot of money."

The event is not only for the Hispanic community, others are welcome to attend and learn about Latino culture and heritage.
Last year about 400 people attended the festival. This year, with its larger grounds, organizers hope to have more than 1,000 visitors from throughout the region, Caracena said.

The event will take place rain or shine.

"If it rains bring your umbrella," she said. "We have a Catholic priest on our board of directors and he takes care of the weather. It's never rained in the six years of the festival."

LOAD-DATE: September 4, 1998

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

NOTES: Rensselaer TU Rensselaer TU

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FRATERNITY HAS BALL CELEBRATING HERITAGE LATINO STUDENTS AT OSWEGO STATE SERVE TRADITIONAL FOOD AND SHARE THEIR CULTURE AT A SCHOLARSHIP DANCE.

BYLINE: LUIS PEREZ The Post-Standard

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 451 words

DATELINE: OSWEGO

Eliezer Hernandez, the youngest of four children, grew up in a single-parent home in the Bronx. When he finished high school, he almost didn’t go to college.

Eight years later, Hernandez, 25, is a graduate student and leader of a Latino fraternity at the State University College at Oswego.

Saturday night, Hernandez and about 250 other students and college officials celebrated the Latino culture at the Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity scholarship ball. Hernandez is a founder of the fraternity at SUNY Oswego and national president of the 21-chapter organization.

The ball is cited by officials as an example of campus activities that help make SUNY Oswego welcoming to Latinos and other minorities. Money raised from the ball will be used for scholarships for incoming minority students.

Monico Soto, an admissions counselor, was one of only a handful of minority students on the Oswego campus in the early 1970s, he said.

"When I first came here, there were about 25 to 30 Hispanic students," Soto said. "They were mostly exchange students."

Soto, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, returned to his alma mater about five years ago to focus on recruiting minority students to campus. Today, 905 of about 6,800 students are people of color and about 250 of those identify themselves as Latinos, Soto said.

"Hispanic Outlook on Higher Education," a trade publication, recently touted SUNY Oswego as a campus where Latinos can excel. The number of Latino students is still small, but the programs offered on campus help create an attractive environment for Latinos, Soto said.
"Basically, Hispanics feel welcomed," Soto said. "It's not because they're Hispanic, but because of the services and attitudes of the general student body."

Hernandez said he was initially hesitant to move away from his family to attend SUNY Oswego. When he arrived on campus, he said, he looked for an organization that could be a surrogate family. He discovered it in founding the fraternity.

Hernandez remembers when only six or seven people attended meetings of the Latino Student Union. Hernandez, who is the former president and current treasurer, has seen the organization grow to more than 80 people attending some meetings, he said.

Dr. Tracy K. Lewis, coordinator of the Spanish program, was the keynote speaker at the ball. The Latinos on campus "have a real sense of who they are, and a sense of dedication to their community," Lewis said.

The ball was an opportunity for Latino students to show off their culture. The food was prepared by the fraternity brothers, who got up at 7 a.m. to cook. Lewis gave his talk between performances of the traditional Latin dances: the mambo, salsa and merengue.

LOAD-DATE: January 30, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; PETER CHEN/The Post-Standard; Rafael Rodriguez, left, dances with Jesenia Henriquez after they were named Latin King and Latina Queen of the third annual Phi Iota Alpha; Fraternity scholarship ball Saturday night at the State University; College at Oswego. Both are 21-year-old seniors at the college. Color.

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Newly elected President of Honduras Carlos Roberto Flores holds two degrees and an honorary doctorate from LSU, and the new first lady of Honduras is a former Pineville resident with an LSU degree.

Flores, formerly the president of the National Congress of Honduras and owner of the Central American country's largest newspaper, "La Tribuna," was elected president on a platform dealing with issues that included health, public safety and moral values.

He attended LSU in the 1970s, earning bachelor's degrees in industrial engineering and international trade and finance.

While at LSU, Flores helped the Honduran Students Association become one of the most active organizations on campus and helped create Phi Iota Alpha, a fraternity of Latin American students.

In 1973, he married Mary Carol Flake Flores, who lived in Pineville and was also attending LSU. She holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and textiles.

After graduation and their wedding, the couple moved to Honduras, where Flores championed freedom of the press and free elections.

Flores delved into politics, becoming the youngest person in the history of Honduras to serve in the ministry of President Roberto Suzaio Cordova, in a position equivalent to that of vice president.

He then served as president of the Central American Parliament, was a three-term representative to the national congress, and was president of the national executive committee of the Liberal Party of Honduras.

Flores was also instrumental in establishing the National Institute for Professional Development in his country, training employees and keeping them up to date in their respective fields, and was a member of the National Association of Private Industries of Honduras.
LSU awarded Flores an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at its May 1995 commencement ceremony.

SUBJECT: FOREIGN; OFFICIAL; BIOGRAPHY  PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); POLITICS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); FREEDOM OF PRESS (71%); EMPLOYEE TRAINING (69%);

LOAD DATE: December 09, 1997

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Initiation rites involving alcohol not limited to MIT

BYLINE: Harvard Crimson Staff Reporters, Harvard Crimson

SOURCE: Harvard U.

LENGTH: 1797 words

DATELINE: Cambridge, Mass.

Last Friday night, 18-year-old Scott Krueger was rushed to Beth Israel Hospital after the MIT student was found unconscious amid vomit and bottles in a Boston fraternity house basement. He died three days later.

The incident occurred at a celebration for pledges of the Greek society Phi Gamma Delta. Krueger reportedly consumed 16 drinks during the festivities.

Although authorities have yet to conclude whether Krueger was forced to drink, the incident--along with other recent alcohol-related fatalities on campuses nation-wide--has raised questions about the role of drinking in the initiations of American fraternities and sororities.

Here at Harvard, where fraternities hardly exist, students say annual initiation rites involving the heavy consumption of alcohol are practiced nonetheless.

Members of various Harvard organizations recount rites of initiation that encouraged or pressured them to engage in a variety of embarrassing and potentially dangerous activities, many including alcohol.

According to a student punching a final club, for example, part of the club's initiation is a trip to the oceanside home of a club alumnus, at which new members must do keg stands in the Atlantic.

Sports teams also involve alcohol in their initiations.

One male varsity sports team requires new members to participate in an elaborate scavenger hunt through Cambridge for approximately 35 items. Drinking is encouraged.

"We had to pose naked in [public]?and take a Polaroid picture of it," says one team member, on condition of anonymity. "For every minute we were late [getting] back we had to drink. If you didn't want to drink, you didn't have to; you had to eat tabasco sauce or do something worse."

After the scavenger hunt, new members were given clothing to wear for the next stage of the initiation.

"Some of us had to wear frilly women's underwear," the student says. "Two guys were handcuffed together."

And the drinking continued.
"The ones of us who were drinking had to consume a large amount of alcohol and do keg stands," he says.

During the keg stand, he explains, new members were held in the air by their teammates and given the nozzle of the keg, which they then held in their mouths and drank from for as long as each could take.

After the cross-dressing and keg stands, the team "had a party," the student adds, at which "anytime anybody saw you walking around they'd put a drink in your hand."

The student says all team members participated in the initiation voluntarily, and that it could not be considered hazing as a result.

"No one refused to do all of it, [although] not everyone did the drinking," he says. "It was a friendly atmosphere. There was a big feeling of bonding."

Hazing is illegal under Massachusetts state law, which defines the practice as "any conduct or initiation into a student organization which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person." The law specifically includes the forced consumption of alcohol among potential means of endangerment.

Athletic Trials

One female varsity athlete says initiations get a bad rap that they do not deserve.

"Initiation is supposed to be a fun thing," the student says, on condition of anonymity. "No one's ever forced to do anything."

Her team's initiation includes a treasure hunt in which members drink at each stop and a version of Russian Roulette played with glasses of vodka and water.

Another female varsity athlete who spoke on condition of anonymity says that although sports teams are not supposed to have initiations, it happens anyway on her team?with the knowledge of the coach.

Although alcohol is a central element of the initiation, she adds, team members who do not want to drink do not have to and the choice to abstain is respected.

Other teams also permit students to choose not to drink at their initiations.

"One or two guys didn't want to drink, so they didn't have to," says a male varsity athlete of his team's recent initiation. "The rest of us drank tequila. You had to tell a joke, and it if wasn't funny you had to do a shot."

The student says he lost count of how much he had to drink, but it was probably seven or eight shots.

"I didn't feel uncomfortable about it," he says. "It was fun, bonding stuff. It was voluntary."

One male varsity sports team gives new members the choice to drink, says a member who spoke on condition of anonymity. If students agree, however, they are likely to drink a large amount.

"At my initiation, 12 people were locked in a room with a keg and told to finish it in half an hour," he says. "We figured out that that was about 13 or 14 beers per person, not counting the beer that spilled."

Most of those drinking seemed to like the ritual, the athlete says, and no one needed medical assistance.

In earlier years, the student adds, the team's initiation also included "ass-chugs," in which new members drank beer poured through the buttocks of other team members.
The men's varsity swimming team also has an initiation ceremony that once involved the heavy consumption of alcohol.

New members of the team compete to be elected "Ironman," a position considered to be of great honor, according to swimmer David O. Schwartz '97-'00.

Until the arrival of the current coach, Schwartz says, teammates would get the Ironman drunk before the workout so that he would be led to vomit once the meet began. The Ironman would also be forced to do shots during the meet.

Despite changes in the initiation process, the swimming team still requires new members to jump off the high diving board naked, Schwartz says.

Members of many teams say alcohol is a presence at initiation ceremonies, but that there is little pressure to drink.

At a recent women's water polo initiation, according to team member Leslie Bennett '00, players sat in a circle and told stories.

"The water polo initiation involved alcohol, but there was no pressure to drink and everybody was relaxed," Bennett says. "The intent was not to embarrass anyone but rather simply for the upperclassmen to get to know the first-years."

Low Tolerance

Yet representatives of many Harvard organizations?including fraternity and sorority chapters not officially recognized by the college?say drinking is emphatically not a part of their initiation rites.

"Our initiation process has absolutely nothing to do with alcohol," says Ethan G. Drogin '98, president of the Harvard chapter of the residential fraternity Sigma Chi. "We don't force people to drink in our chapter at any time."

Drogin, who is a Crimson executive, says the initiation, which he characterized as "more of a ceremony" to culminate nine weeks of pledgeship, "is a special moment not to be marred by alcohol."

A member of the Phi Iota Alpha fraternity says the organization does not permit brothers to drink while wearing the fraternity's letters.

"Our fraternity is a Latino fraternity; the process is more educational, learning about the culture," he says. "Our processes are totally dry rush."

"We wouldn't want to embarrass ourselves, nor cause a tragedy like the one at MIT and other various colleges," he says.

Instead, the student says, the initiation involves "research projects" involving public service in the Latino community.

"We don't shave heads," he adds. "We wear a shirt and tie and work on projects together. Through working together, that's where we build up friendships."

According to Elizabeth A. Hanselman '99, a member of the Harvard chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, the sorority also has a "very strict no hazing policy."

Members of several sports teams also say alcohol does not play a role in their initiations.

For example, at the initiation to a male varsity athletic team held in winter the night before an important meet,
first-years were taken to the river and asked to tell a story. If the upperclass team member did not like the story, he would spray the first-year with water from a large fire hose.

One sophomore says new members of his a cappella group are put through an alcohol-free initiation.

New singers are woken up at 5 a.m., blindfolded with a T-shirt, sung a congratulatory song and taken to the International House of Pancakes for breakfast, he says.

According to football player Damon Jones '00, Harvard's football coaches, following National Collegiate Athletic Association guidelines, are very strict about prohibiting any hazing or initiation rituals.

But Jones says football players do attend the initiation of the cheerleading team's new members.

New cheerleaders, Jones says, play a version of the game "Truth or Dare."

"The cheerleader would ask the football player a question," he says. "Regardless of the answer, she would take whipped cream and put it somewhere on his body and lick it up, and then put a cookie in his mouth and take it out with her mouth."

This year's cheerleader initiation, Jones adds, did not involve alcohol.

Not a Harvard Problem?

Several students say excessive drinking in initiation rites can happen on any college campus, including Harvard's. But students also say it isn't likely to happen in their own organizations.

One member of a final club, who chose to remain anonymous, says the MIT incident was "pretty extreme," but that Krueger "just drank too much."

"Yes, it could happen here," Drogin says of the fatal incident, "but I don't think it could happen in our chapter."

"Everyone's going to be more aware of it," the member says of the risks of drinking, "not that more care needs to be taken."

This week, Dean of the College Harry R. Lewis '68 and Dean of Students Archie C. Epps III discussed alcohol use at Harvard with the house masters, Dean of Freshmen Elizabeth Studley Nathans, Harvard Police Chief Francis D. "Bud" Riley and representatives of the athletic department, Lewis writes in an e-mail.

"Hazing and alcohol abuse will not be tolerated at Harvard," he adds, "and I urge any student who can provide advice on how these dangerous practices can be prevented to contact me or Dean Epps."

Anne L. Schafer '99, a member of Project ADD, a campus peer alcohol and drug education group, says student groups should be aware of the dangers of drinking.

"Alcohol is often a main part of initiations and drinking is often used as a social glue, bonding groups together," Schafer says. "But it can be very dangerous, as seen at MIT."

"We urge Harvard student groups to be aware of these dangers and to be responsible and to consider alternatives to drinking," Schafer adds. "We hope that groups won't force members to drink."

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LOAD-DATE: February 1, 1999
Initiation rites involving alcohol not limited to MIT

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LATINO FRATERNITY PLANS 'EVENING OF ELEGANCE' AT SUNY OSWEGO

BYLINE: Melanie K. Jackson

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. B1

DATELINE: OSWEGO

Members of the first national Latino fraternity will put on a multicultural gala Saturday at the State University College at Oswego.

Phi Iota Alpha will have an "Evening of Elegance" at 5 p.m. in the Hewitt Union ballroom.

This year's theme, "Seeking The Wisdom For Success," is aimed at improving the image of the Latino culture through education. The second annual ball will feature the internationally known Latino band La Banda Sorberia.

The event is open to the public. Tickets cost $17 and are available at the Hewitt Union box office or by calling 341-2939.

LOAD-DATE: January 30, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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