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Fraternity's efforts to recolonize fail

By Dan Bender
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

A year long effort to recolonize the UNL chapter of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity has failed, apparently crushed under the weight of the cost of renovating the chapter's ailing residence.

The former president of the fraternity's Alpha Psi chapter said last week the house is "falling apart." Jeff Willcox, who resigned as president Aug. 9, said the house at 464 N. 16th St. needs new windows, siding, insulation, furniture, carpeting and interior paint.

Most important, the building does not conform to city fire codes because it lacks fire escapes, Willcox said.

Some interior repairs had been

done, and construction was continuing up to two weeks before the closing, said Joe Curley, a leadership consultant with the fraternity's national office in Indianapolis. Further repairs were estimated to cost about \$40,000, he said.

Written confirmation of the closing was sent to the Interfraternity Council at UNL Thursday, said Leslie Collins, the fraternity's national office manager.

Except for two fraternity members who are living in the building as guardians, the house has remained vacant since it was decided in mid-August to close the chapter, Willcox said. Repairs to the building have ceased.

Bill Darnell, treasurer of the Alumni Control Board for the

chapter, said there are "no firm decisions" on what will be done with the house. The control board consists of former fraternity members who oversee a non-profit organization that provides housing to the chapter.

"At this time I have no comment," Darnell said. "It would be premature to speculate on what we are going to do (with the house)."

Curley said the shut-down was a joint decision between the chapter members and Allen James, the national council's executive director. James could not be reached for comment.

Willcox, however disagreed. He said the chapter closing was a uni-

lateral decision made by James.

Willcox said James had promised the chapter a loan or grant to cover the cost of repairs. The money would come from the fraternity's national council, he said. Willcox said he resigned as president because he became frustrated when the promises of money never materialized.

"First it was a grant, then it was a loan . . ." Willcox said.

Curley said the national council had made a commitment to \$40,000 worth of renovations, but too few members were living in the house.

"We needed 20 (chapter members living in the house) to pay the mortgage," Curley said. "I

believe we were at 12."

Curley said that during the reorganization of the chapter, which began with the fall semester of 1983, the national council rather than the members, paid the mortgage on the house. That cost the national council \$2,000 a month, he said.

Curley said if the chapter could have paid their own rent, or mortgage, then the improvements could have paid their own mortgage, then the improvements could have come from other sources.

The Delta Sigma Psi chapter at UNL seem to have been caught in a Catch-22.

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David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Leann Wooten spatters multicolored paint on the new Avant Card shop, which opened Tuesday at 1340 O St. Passers-by looked on as she flung the paint Friday morning.

Cable television status highlights RHA meeting

By Kevin McCoy
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The status of cable television in UNL's residence halls was discussed Thursday at the first meeting of the UNL Residence Hall Association.

Douglas Zatechka, director of housing, said that under current negotiations with Cablevision of Lincoln, the same basic cable service received by Lincoln residents could be installed in each room, hall lounge and residence director apartment at an increase of \$18.60 in yearly room and board rates. Premium channels such as Home Box Office and Showtime would be available at an additional cost.

Zatechka said he would like to see cable installed "as soon as possible," but several problems must be worked out first.

One reason for the delay in negotiations stems from a desire by the Office of University Housing to offer a second cable for university educational programming use. This is done at other universities, and it helps give cable an added dimension beyond entertainment, Zatechka said.

When RHA lobbying convinced the housing office to investigate the possibility of securing cable for the halls, housing commissioned Cablevision of Lincoln to study the feasibility of wiring the halls for cable. The results of that study earlier this year determined that Cablevision could wire the halls with a crew of five or six technicians in five to six weeks at a cost of \$75,000 to \$90,000. The cable company agreed to pay this cost. It also agreed to install a second cable for free if the university would pay for the cable and any amplifiers or switches needed to change from the feed of one line to the other.

The basic cable service would not be optional, but would automatically be added to the room and board rate, much as the university supplies local phone service or as apartment complexes provide certain services.

Roommates would have to agree to premium channels through a contract, similar to the one used for long-distance phone service.

Because the rate increase would be voluntary, another stumbling block in installing cable is in assessing student support for the idea.

"When we commit to this kind of room and board rate, we want overwhelming student support," Zatechka said.

RHA conducted a survey before dead week last spring that showed that "student were overwhelmingly in favor" of cable, Zatechka said. More than 80 percent of survey respondents favored cable. Hall residents also were shown to have a large number of television sets. For instance, in the Burr-Pedde complex on East Campus, where antennas are used for better local reception, about 95 percent of respondents had a TV in their room.

However, Zatechka questioned the scientific accuracy of the survey, and he requested that another more scientific survey be done in the next few weeks. Since the original survey had only a 48 percent response rate, Zatechka expressed concern that only those students who wanted cable answered the survey.

"When it's here, it's here," Zatechka said.

He said his "single biggest concern" is that people would complain in one or two years that they wanted to eliminate cable to trim room and board rates. Zatechka said installation would commit housing to cable for several years.

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City girl and horse strut their stuff at Nebraska fair

By Brad Kuhn
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Statue-stiff, the rider waits astride a not-so-patient horse.

"Enter at a trot."

The whitewashed gates swing open at the announcer's command and eight riders bounce in, eyes forward. Among them 16-year-old Shellee Kreie, a senior at Westside High School in Omaha, to compete against 20-year-olds in the Nebraska State Fair's Western Pleasure Amateur Class Morgan horse event.

"Walk."

A soft word and a tug on the reins brings Starquest Attraction, Kreie's four-year-old Morgan, to a slow plod. Eight riders in leather and silk settle into a smooth horizontal pulse.

"Lope."

A knee-nudge sends Starquest Attraction into a casual gallop, jarring rider from saddle every four hoof-beats. Three seconds apart, the cinches squeak—"rnt, rnt, rnt," another one gallops by.

Stop and start, back and return, best of show:

"Number 136" — Starquest Attraction.

A fan club of two, whistles and screams. Mom and sis needlessly hurry to tell papa who, wearing a thin mask of indifference that keeps drifting into a proud grin, watches from the wings.

"This is the first time she's won first place," he says matter-of-factly from the side of his mouth. Papa buys horses.

"I've probably sunk \$10,000 into this so far. I got that horse (Starquest Attraction) for \$2,000 I wouldn't take \$6,000 for him now."

Like many folks here, raising horses is a hobby for the Kreies, albeit an expensive one. Shellee competes in as many as five shows a year, training three hours a day, seven days a week. The family always travels with her. Tomorrow she'll be back in Omaha for an 8 a.m. chemistry class, then it's back to Lincoln for the championship event.

City born and raised Shellee says she plans to make a career of horse training.

If she wasn't showing horses, Shellee says: "I'd be sitting around the house watching TV." See state fair calendar on page 7.

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