

Greeks and pledges: emerging from haze

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activities is one purpose of pledge training, Danberg said. Sororities not only inform pledges of organizations they can join but also stress cultural programs. Working with members is another goal, she said. Most sororities have pledges study house history.

Various community projects are undertaken by sororities. They collect money for the All University Fund, go

carolling at the Madonna Care Center, and have parties for children at the Malone Center, Danberg said.

Education also is stressed, she added. Sororities decide for themselves what grade average their pledges must attain for activation, she said. Most have chosen 2.0 or 2.2.

Since pledges at most sororities live out of the house, some houses have study hours. This helps familiarize them with the actives, Danberg said.

Some sororities have Inspiration or Help Weeks. Danberg said their purpose is to relate to pledges some of the ideals of the house. Activities in these weeks are varied, such as going to dinner with sorority members or hearing speakers at the house.

As for hazing, she said, "I've never heard of any in sororities. I'd be very surprised to find it."

Senior Lehn Straub of Alpha Tau Omega has helped institute a model in the fraternity system. Houses in the program try "constructive" pledge education methods, then give feedback to the IFC office on their success.

He, as well as every new active talked to, said that there was a trend away from hazing on campus. There is a realization that "incoming freshmen are more mature and hazing is not relevant to success in life," Straub said.

Kinnan said that John Putman, national Alpha Tau Omega president, who recently spoke at UNL, said hazing had no part in progressive pledge programs. "If leadership feels that way, it's only a matter of time," Kinnan said.

According to Wostrel, a reason for the disappearance of hazing is that "fraternities aren't really the big thing." He explained that students didn't need fraternities enough to subject themselves to hazing.

"Some people feel hazing builds character. We feel our pledge class has enough character without it," Camp said.

Lynn McHugh of Delta Sigma Phi said that fraternities have to compete with dormitories, so hazing was discontinued to appeal to more people. His house has a policy of "no personal servitude" to actives. His roommate first semester was an active.

"In fact, he kept my half of the room clean," he added.

People won't stand for hazing because "some of the people haven't been hit by their parents, let alone a stranger," another new active said. John McFayden of Kappa Sigma said he believes hazing was accepted in the past because of the belief that "you had to be someone real special to be in a fraternity."

Rumors about hazing in fraternities are mostly started by other fraternities,



according to one new active. The purpose is "to make you feel how lucky you are not to be in that house."

McBride feels that IFC "shouldn't be a police force. We act, as a general rule, on complaints about hazing."

Jayne Anderson, coordinator of sororities, fraternities and cooperatives agreed. She said she doesn't see it as her duty to "stalk the houses at night."

Hazing has been discontinued at UNL as a matter of survival, she said. "Some campuses refused to change. Where are they today?" she added.



Photos by Gail Folda and Dan Ladely

All photos in this issue were taken at Gamma Phi Beta and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities; Kappa Sigma and Sigma Chi fraternities.