

Fraternities . . .

Continued from Page 1

Henning said houses have some built-in aids to help members keep up.

"If you're having trouble in a class, there are plenty of people to help tutor you," he said. "We also have a test file with old tests, and teacher files with evaluations filled out by everybody on every teacher they've had."

Involvement stressed

An 18-year-old former pledge said his pledge trainer explained the importance of getting involved in campus activities as:

"Your grades don't matter. Your family doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is the house."

Greek emphasis on involvement is generally viewed positively. It promotes leadership and broadens college experience. But over-involvement can have some side effects. Jon Stick felt used.

He said that when his house had a charity bikeathon with the Delta Delta Delta sorority, it was "fine for me to use my influence to get the lieutenant governor there" — a man he knew through his work in state government.

"But less than 72 hours later, it was not fine for me to work instead of going to dinner at the house," Stick said.

Wallace said he never felt used by his fraternity.

"I think I recognized that the only reason I got the ASUN presidency is because my house supported me 100 percent. They've been extremely understanding about the time I have to spend (at the office)."

Houses that do implement forced motivation may suffer from what Blum calls "the Number One syndrome." He said over-involvement can lead to excessive house competitiveness.

"We're not out to be on top," Blum said. "When you hit the apex, you have nothing to go for. We just want to be a good house, to have the respect of other houses."

Emphasis on leadership within the Greek system may be a major cause of the "Number One syndrome." High school men are recruited on the basis of leadership. Leadership training plays a big part in pledge training.

Competition

With so many leaders in every house, competition can be intense — inside and outside of the house.

Such intense competition seems to isolate houses from each other, and from the rest of campus as well. Wallace attributes this problem to "ethnocentrism."

"Houses will develop a me-first, me-best attitude," Wallace said. "Each fraternity exhibits this ethnocentric nature. It's easy to get caught up in the we're-number-one-and-by-God-we-know-it syndrome."

Wallace said competitive isolation is stronger among younger members. He said older members tend to break out of that isolation. But he said most Greeks tend to socialize exclusively with other Greeks. He said the majority of his friends were within the system.

Jon Stick said it was nice to be able to walk on campus as a freshman and have people approach you, know you and talk to you.

"It makes a big campus seem smaller, a little bit friendlier," he said.

Henning said when he joined his house, he had 76 "instant friends." But Blum warned against these instant friendships.

"I like to socialize and develop relationships, but it takes time," he said. "When you rush 80 to 100 people, you don't become instant brothers. It takes time to learn people's true qualities, their innermost feelings."

Wallace said friendships pay off after graduation. Brothers become business associates, colleagues . . . and the network expands to include alumni all over the world.

"It's not what you know, it's who you know," Wallace said. "Knowing people is certainly an advantage in the competitive world we're in right now."

In spite of a possible isolation problem, the UNL Greek system has come a long way from arranged dinners. And although competition exists, fraternities still seem to strive for a comfortable, encompassing, "home-like" atmosphere.

"A dorm floor doesn't have the unity a Greek house has," Henning said. "People don't respect each other. Some people think there's a lack of privacy when you live in a house. I love it. If anything, I invade people's privacy."

Hazing

One former fraternity member pledged with a house because he sensed "brotherhood, unity — a home-like atmosphere where the actives were like parents to us."

His picture of home was shattered by a practice known as hazing.

Ruled illegal by the IFC and most national and international chapters, hazing still exists at UNL.

"I'm the last one to say that everyone has stopped hazing," said Anderson. "But we're trying to be constantly conscious and respond positively to the problem. There was a period of time when hazing was considered fun and games in a different kind of way . . . a dangerous, physical, malicious way."

The following are incidents of hazing that have

occurred at UNL during the past four years. No incidents are attributed because of pending lawsuits, personal safety or present membership in the fraternity.

- a pledge trainer hid five sunflower seeds underneath a huge potted plant. When the pledge assigned to clean the area missed the seeds, the pledge trainer beat up the pledge for his slovenliness.
- pledges were required to run up and down in the dark with pillow cases over their heads.
- pledges were required to line up in their underwear while trainers yelled obscenities at them.
- pledges were forced to bare their behinds and were whacked with paddles.
- pledges were forced to strip and stack themselves on pool tables.

Henning said there is less and less hazing. He said he thinks eventually all houses will eliminate the practice because the IFC and national organizations are cracking down.

Within the past two weeks, 10 members of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and 15 members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity were removed from their houses because of their hazing practices.

Anderson said she thinks many people have perceptions of hazing that aren't true.

"Many stories are exaggerated," she said. "It's kind of fun to make something sound so bad."

She said there may be four or five problem hazers of every hundred in a unit, but sometimes those four or five become leaders. She said these people can't or won't understand the rationalization to treat an individual like a human being.

Anderson said she has conducted three major programs on hazing and numerous workshops.

"The trouble-makers want specifics. What is hazing? What 99 things constitute hazing? What 99 things can replace it?" she said. "My goal is for members to have more respect for each other."

But Anderson said there are potential pluses to the evolving fraternal way of life.

"A person needs to make his own decision," she said. "If the atmosphere, direct goals and close relationships are consistent with the individual and what his goals are, then the Greek system is OK. It has to be a matter of personal choice."

Drink...

Continued from Page 1

"Women are less likely to achieve orgasm when they have been drinking heavily according to studies conducted by major universities," Rivers said.

"It is not the amount of alcohol that you drink that is important but the effects that it has on you," he said.

"You can drink a lot of alcohol and enjoy its effects without ever getting drunk."

Shorts

If student car owners have new license plates, they must notify the UNL Police Department Parking Office about the new number. Students may notify the office by phone or mail if the change is with license plates only. If students have new cars, they must go in person to the office at 1335 N. 17th St. The phone number is 472-3553. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

UNL police said students with unpaid tickets that are 20 business days old or older may be towed. The office will send a courtesy violation notice and reminder if the current vehicle information is registered with them.

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The Lincoln YMCA will present a workshop called "You Are What You Think" Saturday. The workshop will be 9 a.m. until noon at the YWCA on 1432 N St. Cost is \$7. For more information, call 476-2802.



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