

Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

WEATHER:
Thursday, mostly sunny, high near 70 with winds from the S at 10-20 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers, low 40-45. Friday, partly cloudy and a little cooler, high in the low 60s.

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Phi Mu members 'devastated' by handling of reorganization

By Larry Peirce
Senior Reporter

Some active and pledge members of Phi Mu sorority are "devastated" by alumnae handling of the chapter's reorganization efforts, according to three of the sorority's pledges.

Julie Bebermeyer, Nicole Myers and Chriss Kifferly said active and pledge members are "really torn apart" and wish alumnae would have been more open and honest about the reorganization.

Former chapter adviser Sharon Ash said Tuesday that the chapter is being reorganized because of its decreasing membership and lack of money to operate. The chapter must find 50 new members to continue, Ash said.

Myers said 24 members currently live at the Phi Mu house at 1125 N. 16th St. Active members will be given alumnae status and will move out of the house in May. In the same month, the national organization will drop the pledge members.

Phi Mu alumnae are now interviewing potential members in hopes of meeting their quota of 50 new women by April 22.

The pledges said it is possible that some active members will not accept their alumnae status and will fight to stay active. They would not elaborate on any plans the actives may have.

Bebermeyer, Myers and Kifferly are pledge members who decided this semester not to initiate -- become actives -- when they learned the chapter might be terminated.

Kifferly said the reorganization

was done behind the backs of current members.

"It hasn't been carried out well at all," she said.

Bebermeyer said that contrary to Ash's statements Tuesday, Phi Mu was a successful chapter at UNL and poor advising led to its downfall.

Ash said Wednesday that alumnae have tried to work with Phi Mu members for the last four or five years to help in programming and increasing membership.

interview rushees, Bebermeyer said.

Ash said Phi Mu's national organization may have told the members not to wear their letters, but she didn't.

"We understand their feeling," Ash said. "But we asked them, 'Would you cooperate' (with the reorganization)?"

Members were told not to discuss their "eviction" with others, Bebermeyer said, and were told not to contact new members.

'Most of our problems are no longer living in the house.'

--Bebermeyer

Ash said the members have a reason to be upset, "but not everything comes out the way you want it to."

"We feel badly for them," she said. "I have daughters."

"Are we supposed to lose our chapter just because these members are upset?" she said.

Bebermeyer said that in the past year, current members chose not to abandon the chapter, carried out an open rush and tried to overcome the reputation Phi Mu had.

After their dedication, she said, active members are being forced to take alumnae status and move out of the house.

Actives and pledges have been asked not to wear Phi Mu letters or jewelry, she said, and it was suggested that current members be "conveniently gone" on Thursday and Sunday nights while alumnae

Ash said she never told them not to talk about the reorganization. It would have been foolish to tell members not to talk about it because "everyone knew about it," she said.

Bebermeyer said current members also feel they are being unjustly punished and are being "excluded and removed" because of a situation that has been developing for the past four or five years.

"Most of our problems are no longer living in the house," she said.

"There is no respect for our personal dignity with this new rush," Bebermeyer said, because current members are being excluded from it.

Ash said, "No one said they couldn't be involved. But why would they want to be? That chapter as it exists now is terminated."

See PHI MU on 3

OSFA director questions grant law

By Lee Rood
Senior Editor

A law requiring students to promise they are drug free before receiving Pell Grants is a "wonderful idea," but how colleges are supposed to monitor it is another question, according to the Director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

The law, implemented March 15, requires Pell Grant recipients to sign a statement saying they will not "engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance during the period covered" by their grants.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, Department of Education investigators soon will begin spot checking college campuses to make sure students are complying with the law.

But OSFA Director John Beacon said he doesn't understand how his

office or the federal government are supposed to monitor the law other than having students sign the statement and prohibiting aid to those who don't.

"How are they going to spot check? Are they going to check the students or our files?" Beacon asked.

Beacon, though, questions whether the originators of the law thought a lot about its implementation before it went into effect.

"The idea is wonderful. I embrace the idea of a drug-free America . . . but I question the appropriateness of a financial aid office monitoring the bill," he said.

Beacon read the Chronicle article that says Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos has offered few specifics about the bill's enforcement campaign. From what he's read, Beacon said, he doesn't think Education Department officials know much about the law's implementation either.

"If the people there don't know,

what do I know?" he said. "What happens mid-semester when a student is arrested or convicted for drug use? Do we recollect their aid or do we stop future aid?"

The Chronicle article also says that when Jim Bradshaw, spokesman for the department, announced the spot checks over a week ago, he could not answer most questions about the spot checks. Those questions included when, where and how many checks would be conducted.

However, Bradshaw did say drug tests would "absolutely not" be given.

Beacon said the OSFA was told to implement the law by March 15. Award notices, expected to be sent out at the beginning of May, included boxes for students to check if they agree with the statement.

"If students don't check the box, we won't issue the Pell," he said.

Other than that, Beacon said, he is just waiting to hear from the government to "see what to do next."



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Cinnamon Dokken, an undeclared sophomore, decorates her signature with a peace symbol. Dokken signed the banner with more than 40 other people to show support for a group of students traveling to "The Great American Peace Test" in Nevada.

Students rally against nukes at Nevada test - site protest

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
Staff Reporter

Twelve students left Wednesday afternoon for a test of a different nature.

The students are traveling to Nevada to participate in the American Peace Test, a protest against nuclear weapons testing.

Nell Eckersley, one of the trip organizers, said the 12 students include eight University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, three Lincoln High School students who are members of Youth for Global Awareness, and a junior high student. The UNL student group Early Warning! organized the trip.

The students parked their van near Broyhill Fountain before departing Wednesday afternoon. They hung a banner for the van for people to handprint and sign to show their support for the group. More than 40 people put their handprints on the banner.

Nate Woodhams, a senior philosophy major, said he put his handprint on the banner to "show sympathy and that I wish I was there." He said if it weren't for

previous commitments, he would be attending the test.

Mike Sorrell, a junior Latin major, said he is attending the Peace Test because he is driven by his conscience.

"Realistically, I don't think they're going to end nuclear testing because of us this year," he said, "but I have personal reasons for going. I can't just sit back and not say anything or do anything."

Eckersley said the American Peace Test was first held in 1985 as a protest of the United States' refusal to join the Soviet Union in a nuclear weapons testing ban. The protest is held each year at the Nevada Test Site on Nellis Air Force Range, 22 miles northwest of Indian Springs, Nev. and 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The protestors will be staying at Peace City, a campground across the highway from the test site.

Last year, she said, about 8,000 people attended the Peace Test. Many protesters practice civil disobedience, she said, or show their support for those who do.

See PEACE on 2

Senators: Bill would ban sale of non-degradable items

By Natalie Weinstein
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature gave first-round approval Wednesday to a bill that, according to some senators, would make the state the first one to ban the sale of certain non-degradable products.

legislature NEBRASKA

Sen. Spencer Morrissey of Tecumseh said he does not think LB325 "goes far enough" but will put the state in the direction it needs to take.

"Plastics -- as opposed to being the answer to the future -- have now

become a large problem," he said.

LB325, which is known as the Degradable Products Act, was approved 37-0 with amendments. Products, including plastic rings that hold six- and 12-packs together, plastic bags and disposable diapers, would be banned over the next four years.

Sen. Lowell Johnson of North Bend said the bill will make plastics "more environmentally benign."

"We no longer have the luxury of dumping everything into a hole in the ground," he said.

The bill contains three parts:

● By Jan. 1, 1991, all plastic rings connecting beverage packages, such

as six- and 12-packs of pop, would have to be biodegradable or photodegradable.

● By Jan. 1, 1992, grocery and shopping bags would have to be biodegradable, photodegradable or recyclable. By this time, bags for grass clippings, garbage, yard waste or leaves also would have to be biodegradable or photodegradable.

● By Jan. 1, 1993, all disposable diapers will have to be biodegradable or photodegradable if the Director of Environmental Control determines that these diapers are readily available at a comparable price and quality.

Comparable price is defined as costing no more than 5 percent above the average price of non-degradable products.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge, who sponsored the bill with 10 other senators, said disposable diapers make up more than 10 percent of landfill waste. More than 20 billion diapers were disposed of last year that will not break down for hundreds of years, he said.

A few senators said they were concerned that degradable diapers would not be available by 1993.

Currently, Hefner said, only one company in Colorado produces de-

gradable diapers. But the manufacturers of Pampers and Huggies are close to perfecting degradable diapers, he said.

The technology is already here, Hefner said. The Legislature is just giving manufacturers a nudge, he said.

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said manufacturers have not pursued degradable diapers because consumers have not applied enough pressure. Once the pressure is there, he said, the companies will respond.

Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg spoke in opposition to including disposable diapers in the bill. He said

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