



James Mehling/DN

Housing choice tough on students

Greek houses, residence halls offer advantages, disadvantages

By Stacie Hakel
Staff Reporter

To go greek or not to go greek, that is one of the first questions that each new student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will have to answer.

So what qualities should students consider in making their decision?

Doug Zatechka, director of housing, said convenience is an important factor.

Residence halls are located close to campus, he said, and offer cable, utilities and meals.

Tammi Rowley, a sophomore art major and residence hall resident, agreed that the residence halls were handy to live in and offered a positive atmosphere.

She said movie nights and self-help floor meetings added to residence hall life, and the Residence Hall Association provided a chance for students to develop leadership skills.

Zatechka said such residence hall activities promoted relationships.

"Residence halls give students a chance to meet people, and the dorms provide social, cultural and academic importance," Zatechka said.

Also, research done on freshmen and sophomores at various universities showed that students who live on campus have a lower attrition rate, Zatechka said.

But, he said, there are disadvantages to living in the residence halls, such as storage space.

"Students simply cannot bring everything they own," Zatechka said.

He also said that sharing rooms can also be as much of a problem as an advantage.

"There is a lesson to get along in life through sharing," Zatechka said.

However, Jane Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs, said about 1200 men and women a year choose the greek option over the residence halls.

But, she said, joining a fraternity or sorority is a personal choice.

During their college career, Anderson said the greek system provides its

members with chances for scholarships, leadership and life-long friends.

After graduation, she said, greeks could become involved with chapter advisories, national organizations and meet people who could help with the search for jobs.

"There are network possibilities and involvement possibilities all through life," Anderson said.

Shelli Dorn, a senior elementary education major and a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, said her greek experience has been better than her time spent in residence halls.

She said she has enjoyed living with the 56 other girls in her sorority, and she said it has taught her to compromise and take turns with her sorority sisters.

"I have learned to share more and respect people's differences," she said.

But, as a residence hall tenant during her freshman year, Dorn said she felt restricted.

"It was too noisy, and I hated the food," Dorn said.

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