

Sorority pledge numbers increase Freshman

Official says more applicants make rush positive experience

By Andrea Kaser
Staff Reporter

Pledges have settled into their new society, and greek officials have begun assessing this year's rush.

Sororities had an increase in the number of pledges this year and fraternities signed on their average number of men.

Deborah Friedman, president of the Panhellenic Association, said she thought rush week was a more positive experience for applicants this year because chapter members emphasized the greek system as a whole instead of focusing on their own house.

Rush also was positive, she said, because more women applied to go

through rush, more women were selected and fewer dropped out.

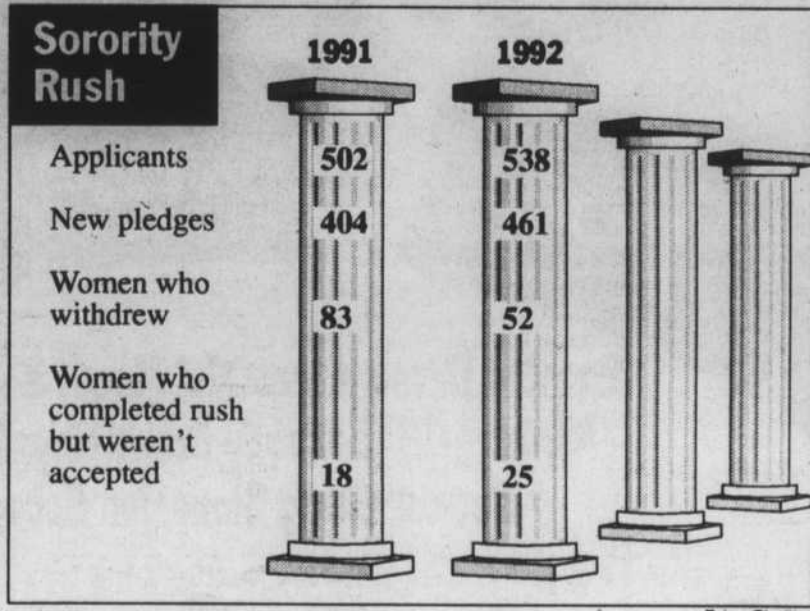
With 461 new pledges, sororities pledged 57 more women than in 1991.

Of 538 applicants to sororities this year, 52 withdrew during rush. Last year, 83 of 502 applicants withdrew.

This year, 25 women completed rush but were not selected by any sororities. Last year, 18 women were not selected.

Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs, said she didn't know why the number of pledges increased. Greek Affairs didn't change its recruitment strategy, she said, which involves sending information to everyone accepted to the university.

Fraternities pledged 545 men, which Mak Azadi, president of the Inter-



fraternity Council, said was about the average number of pledges.

But fraternities were finished with rush earlier this year, he said, because house members were better prepared

for rush.

Because the selection process for fraternities is less formal than sororities, they submit only new-pledge totals.

Continued from Page 1

word (freshman) would fall by the wayside," she said.

Blake said she thought it was important to be more inclusive of women in the English language, but she said she hadn't made the cause a priority.

"There are bigger problems with sexism on this campus than just that word," she said. "I don't really get that concerned about the change."

Kristin Jossi, a freshman pre-physical therapy major, said she thought the idea was ridiculous.

Kelly Scyle, a freshman pre-med major, said she also thought the change was unnecessary.

"People analyze too much," she said. "We're going to end up changing the whole English system."

Vit Xayarath, a freshman pre-physical therapy major, said he was impartial to the change, but said he could understand how the term could offend some women.

"The word doesn't offend me, but it probably offends girls more than guys," he said.

Cade Olbricht, a freshman accounting major, said he had never thought the word "freshman" was offensive to anyone, and said he hoped UNL would resist the change.

Gowen said a student group started the movement at NWU.

A linguistics class was studying how certain words influence people's identity. The students discovered the term "freshman" was inclusive of only about 50 percent of the class, and believed the term was an example of sexist language, she said.

The students then approached the Student Affairs Senate, which proposed that a more inclusive term be used.

The university's administrators did a study of their own and determined that the term change would be good, Gowen said.

Gowen said the university still used the term "freshman" to describe the number of hours a student has completed.

RPAT releasing minority report

Group to review, publish results

By Andy Raun
Staff Reporter

Survey information gathered last winter on the climate for ethnic minorities at UNL should be ready for release within the next several weeks, an official said Tuesday.

Peg Blake, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, said the Racial Pluralism Action Team, which commissioned the survey last year, was planning to convene a group of about 30 students and faculty and staff to review the results before they are

released.

The group members will be asked their perspectives on the results, Blake said, which will help officials find possible meanings they might have missed when they read the survey.

Once the review is completed, she said, the survey results will be published.

The survey should provide the basis for serious discussion of the status of ethnic minorities at UNL, Blake said.

The survey was designed by James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, members of his staff and faculty from the sociology department. A stratified, random sample of 450 students, faculty and staff members was taken by students hired by UNL's Bureau of Sociological Research.

The sample was carefully designed to ensure good representation of ethnic minorities on campus, Blake said.

The primary question asked was, "What is the climate at UNL for racial minorities?" Some of the survey questions were taken from similar surveys done at other schools, Blake said.

Blake said the students conducting the survey got many responses from those they contacted.

"When people found out what this was about, we had a real high response rate," she said.

Respondents' willingness to talk about the racial climate "made us feel like we were doing something that needed to be done," Blake said.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday

10:37 a.m. — Backpack stolen, Bob Devaney Sports Center, \$18.

2:05 p.m. — Barricades stolen, 16th and Vine streets, 14th and W streets, \$165.

5:47 p.m. — Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, parking lot at 17th and Y streets, \$450.

6:34 p.m. — Woman injured, Campus Recreation Center, transported to University Health Center.

11:49 p.m. — Attempted theft of car cover, parking lot at 17th and Vine street.

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