

Rush integral part of UNL Greek system

By Shane Tucker
Staff Reporter

While most student organizations use the summer months to take a breather from campus life, for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Greek system it is one of the busiest times of the year.

By the end of March, Greek houses are already gearing up for a busy summer of rush, the time of year when fraternities and sororities recruit students from across the state to be a part of the UNL Greek system.

Interfraternity Council Rush Chairman Thad Follet, said rush was an

important part of the Greek system. A member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Follet sees rush as the pivotal time when a new recruit, or rushee, can decide what they want from, and how they can be shaped by a house.

"It's the lifeblood of the Greek system," Follet said.

Andrew Loudon, rush chairman for FarmHouse fraternity, said rush was an important tool in recruiting students to UNL.

"You have about 100 young men traveling around the state talking about UNL, that's a lot better recruitment than anything the high school relations office can do," Loudon said.

Rush is vital to the Greek system and has a further impact on the university community, Loudon said.

Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs, also said rush provided a service to the university community. She said by bringing students to the institution, rush offers an additional choice in how to spend one's four-plus years at UNL.

"Rush provides another option to the student — it provides a choice," Anderson said. "As a freshman you can live off-campus, in a residence hall or in a fraternity."

Fraternity rush usually consists of multiple rush parties over a one to two

month time period at the beginning of the summer. June 8 is the first day rushees can sign a house, and many of UNL's 28 houses are full by the end of June.

Sorority rush, according to Cindy Stuft, Panhellenic rush co-chairwoman, is a little more formal. It will run from August 13-16, and will allow all the women going through rush an opportunity to see most of UNL's 17 sororities. This year, over 500 students will participate.

Although sororities rush for only a short period, Stuft began work in late May with sororities to begin preparing for the busy month of August.

Kerrey

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said.

"In a time of difficult budgets, this one is easy; it has passed all of the tests, and it's a formula for success," he said.

Terry McAuliffe, director of marketing for UNL's Food Processing Center, said Kerrey had been very supportive of developing the food industry not just in Nebraska, but in the U.S. as well.

"It has been our major goal for the last 10 years to develop Nebraska's food processing industry. That goes hand in hand with the agriculture product industry," McAuliffe said. "This is a very positive opportunity for us here in the Midwest."

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