

Greek life strong draw for some

BY PAMELA STORM
Staff Reporter

Freshman Matt Rasmusen got interested in joining a fraternity to help him adjust to life on a large college campus. He liked Farmhouse fraternity particularly because of its academic tradition.

"I thought about them even in high school," Rasmusen said.

Many freshmen have similar feelings. The years of high school are over, and the thought of meeting new people and making new friends at such a big university can be intimidating at best. This is why many freshman males choose to join fraternities.

Rasmusen doesn't want to use the fraternity as a social crutch and wants more than social activities, he said. He hopes the fraternity maintains its academic tradition, and he hopes he will make friendships that last after graduation. He is looking for a way to get into the college life, and still keep his academics on the right track, he said.

Not all incoming freshmen rush. Freshman Brad Allred said that in his first year at college, he would rather get acquainted with the campus and its activities instead of committing to one group right out of high school.

Freshman Paul Pistulka said he felt the same way. "I want to do my own thing," he said, adding that he may consider fraternity life in the future.

For freshmen who do rush, much of the process is unseen.

The rushees - men sampling fraternities - fill out applications, which fraternities will examine to see who would best fit in with their members. Then, official rush starts after each applicant graduates from high school, usually in mid-May. Many houses continue to rush actively until school starts.

After fraternity members sift through applications and pick potential new members, they call rushees and set up plans to meet, said Matt Luth, rush chairman for Farmhouse. Members will meet the applicants at lunches, lake-front parties and barbecues where everyone can enjoy themselves and get to know one another. Activities like these get the incoming freshmen inter-



RYAN SODERLIN / DN
Freshmen David Rallis and Matt Miller, both biological systems engineering majors, move into Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, 1433 R Street. They were two of 32 applicants who signed ATO this year.

ested, hopefully enough to sign into the fraternity, Luth said.

Most University of Nebraska-Lincoln fraternities conduct an informal summer rush, said Mark Nielsen, vice president of UNL's Interfraternity Council. That format, which is different from sorority rush, seems to work well to recruit freshmen, he said.

Although the number of rush applicants declined from 600 last year to 489 this year, the percentage of those men who committed to a fraternity, or signed, increased.

By the end of last year, 499 men joined fraternities. But this year, 435 already have signed, said Linda Schwartzkopf, director of Greek Affairs.

The decline in applicants can be attributed to a similar decline in the number of incoming freshmen this year, she said. The university's new admission requirements, which started this year, resulted in a smaller freshman class. The numbers would most likely not indicate a poor reputation for the campus or the greek system, Schwartzkopf said.

Matt Fickbohm, rush chairman for Sigma Chi fraternity, said his house usually has 25-30 new members each year. This year only 19 have signed. Although the number is significantly lower, the house won't suffer financially because many members live outside

the house, Fickbohm, said.

Members of Beta Theta Pi fraternity are calling their rush a success story after it recruited 25 members compared with last year's rush of 21.

Ryan Fuchs, rush chairman, said the fraternity traditionally has been strong, but in recent years, alumni didn't like the direction the house was going, Fuchs said.

Some members were removed and the fraternity started rebuilding its reputation, he said. The house now has more than 50 members, and older members are happy their reputation is back on track, Fuchs said.

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, like Beta Theta Pi, had an increase in members recruited, rush chairman Mike Croom said. The fraternity usually signs 28-30 men each year, and so far this year 32 have signed.

Croom said rush succeeded because members concentrated their efforts. Rush officers kept in close touch with applicants and introduced them to members early in the summer, he said.

This summer, Farmhouse hopeful Rasmusen played phone tag with Farmhouse members. When they finally connected, Rasmusen said, activities such as lake parties and meeting alumni interested him. Now, he said, he has a link to campus involvement and can relax more during his freshman year.

Creighton researcher studies human appetites

OMAHA (AP) - A Creighton University research scientist has been awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to study the mechanisms that make people hungry or full after eating.

Roger Reidelberger, associate professor of biomedical sciences, will use the grants over the next four years to study how the natural chemical, peptide cholecystokinin, suppresses food intake in humans.

The grants were awarded by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

By examining the chemical in rats, Reidelberger said he expects to determine the ways the chemical produces a feeling of "fullness" in humans and makes them stop eating.

The research could help develop drugs to treat obesity and other weight-related problems.

Suspect returned to Omaha

OMAHA (AP) - A 56-year-old transient arrested by police in Ogallala in connection with the killing of retired priest has returned to Omaha.

Rogelio Gallegos was taken into police custody Thursday night after being pulled off a Greyhound bus by a Nebraska State Patrol trooper, said Sgt. Jim Deignan, a police spokesman.

Gallegos recently worked odd jobs at St. Agnes Catholic Church where the Rev. William Kleffman, 81, was found bludgeoned to death Thursday morning.

"This is a tough case and there is no smoking gun here," Deignan said.

The suspect was interviewed by Omaha homicide detectives Friday and later charged in an arrest warrant, which was filed in Douglas County Court and sealed, Douglas County Attorney Jim Jansen said.

Kleffman had retired in June but continued to say Mass at St. Agnes Church. He had been living temporarily at a nearby convent, but sometimes went back to the rectory, at night if he could not sleep.

Deignan said it was not clear if Gallegos and Kleffman had ever met. Kleffman's body was found in the

rectory by a woman who checked on him because he did not show up for 8 a.m. Mass.

An autopsy was conducted Thursday but results were still not available Sunday.

Gallegos apparently got on a Greyhound bus in Omaha about 12:50 p.m. Thursday, according to scheduling information provided by Greyhound. He was brought back to Omaha late Friday night.

The suspect did volunteer work around Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Agnes Church in order to earn enough money for a bus ticket to San Francisco, said The Rev. Damian Zuerlein, pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in south Omaha.

He showed up at Zuerlein's office Monday saying he had been in Omaha a couple of weeks and could not find work, and he wanted to return to San Francisco because he had family there.

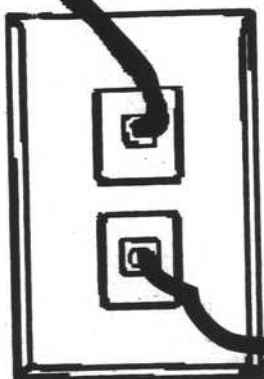
Deignan said Gallegos would appear in Douglas County Court today for a bond hearing.

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