

Fijis honored

■ Stronger effort and increased involvement among members led to an honorable mention in the Condon Cup.

By KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity was bestowed with an honor this summer it hasn't received since the 1960s.

For making strides in scholarship, philanthropy and internal operations, the fraternity received an honorable mention in the Condon Cup, one of the most prestigious awards a Phi Gamma Delta chapter can receive.

"This is one of the biggest awards in our fraternity. It goes to a chapter that has demonstrated tremendous improvement and reflects the values of Phi Gamma Delta," said Dave Willmer, director of programs for the international headquarters.

The chapter began evaluating itself last April. The members made efforts during the year to increase involvement, number of scholarships available and charity fund-raising.

Philanthropy and social service were on top of the fraternity's list of improvements. Activities like a Hot-tub-a-thon, Green Eggs and Ham, and other social events contributed to the \$4,000 the house raised for the year. The money went to various programs including The Gathering Place, a local soup kitchen and the

YWCA's Take A Break Program. Many members were involved in individual activities, like blood drives, tutor sessions and hospital visitations.

"A lot of guys put in a lot of time into the little things," Jason Jacobi, awards chairman, said.

As well as increasing the service aspect of the house, members also committed themselves to increasing involvement. More members joined clubs on campus and were admitted to honor societies. At the same time the fraternity raised its G.P.A. to 3.0.

Phi Gamma Delta also has tried to increase awareness of issues like rape and alcoholism. Members have tried to encourage attending safe and responsible parties and to reduce drinking, Jacobi said.

One way of doing this was increasing the responsibility of the risk-management chairman. Whenever the fraternity plans an event, whether it be a date party or a philanthropy event, the risk-management chairman anticipates possible risks and dangers that could arise. The chairman also has coordinated a program that requires certain house members to carry phones in case someone is too intoxicated to drive home.

There were 30 to 40 entries in the annual Condon Cup competition. First and second places were awarded, along with six honorable mentions. The house received a certificate to commemorate the honorable mention. "We're really proud to have received the award. Overall, we've just been getting together as a house and utilizing the fact that if everyone does something little, it adds up to a big thing," Jacobi said. "Hopefully we'll get it again next year."

Nelson says beef scare overblown

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was subsequently shut down and its resale to rival Iowa Beef Packing should be completed this week.

Nelson said a meeting with executives from about 20 Nebraska meat-packing plants is scheduled for Monday.

The meeting, he said, would finally allow those involved to meet and discuss the situation and their views on the USDA's involvement.

"We want to have full assurance that the inspection process is adequate," he said.

No USDA officials were invited to attend Monday, Nelson said, but he is trying to arrange a meeting with them before Oct. 22, when Nelson will head to Asia on a trade mission.

Nelson's press secretary, Karl Bieber, said the meeting would be a step in getting the problem resolved.

"He really wants to get (the meat-packers) together and find out what their concerns are," he said. "He wants it to be an open and frank discussion on whether they feel the USDA is acting properly."

Nelson said the USDA had caused unwarranted hysteria among beef consumers, but he didn't think it would have long-term negative effects on consumption because "people will realize that beef has been villianized."

Nebraska-produced beef, overall, is just as good as it's ever been, he added.

"But we have to be careful to remind people what the enemy is here. It's a bacteria," he said. "We're having bad luck, not bad beef."

Packing plant under gun

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the Agriculture Department's inspector general regarding the August recall of 25 million pounds of hamburger produced at the Hudson plant in Columbus.

Monaghan would provide no other details, but Hudson officials confirmed Wednesday that they had received a subpoena for documents related to the recall and expected some employees to be called to testify before the grand jury in Omaha.

"As it has in the past, Hudson Foods will continue to cooperate fully and completely with the government's investigation," a spokesman for the Arkansas-based Hudson said in a statement. "Hudson Foods is confident that a thorough and fair investigation of the facts will confirm that it has violated no law."

Hudson shut down the Columbus plant at Agriculture Department insistence after the amount of meat recalled due to possible E. coli contamination rose from 20,000 pounds initially to 25 million pounds — by far the largest meat recall in U.S. history.

Sale of the still-closed plant to meatpacking giant IBP Inc. is nearly complete. Hudson, which lost a big

Burger King contract because of the recall, is itself in the process of being sold to Arkansas rival Tyson Foods Co.

Nancy Bartel, spokeswoman for the USDA inspector general, would not discuss specifics but did confirm that the agency had been auditing Hudson's records regarding the recall and that Monaghan's office was apprised.

"We have discussed this investigation with the U.S. attorney in Omaha," she said. "He has been brought on board."

Monaghan's statement said his office had received a criminal referral from the inspector general. That would mean that the inspector general found evidence suggesting that Hudson employees may have lied to food safety inspectors about the extent of the E. coli contamination or that they may have falsified or failed to properly keep records. A prosecutor could pursue a criminal case or seek civil penalties.

When the recall rose quickly from 20,000 pounds to 1.2 million pounds to 25 million pounds, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman cited a "lack of confidence in the records provided to investigators" as one reason to shut down the Nebraska plant.

ASUN debates higher speed limit

Universitywide undergraduate course evaluations also discussed

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Mark Shields said he thought the area was dangerous because students did not use crosswalks, not because of the posted speed limit.

Other senators voiced concerns about GLC's time being taken away from more "pressing" issues, like deferred maintenance.

But GLC Chairman John Wiechmann said the GLC's time was not an issue.

"You're elected to represent the students — it seems to me that you're more worried about a car going 10 mph (slower) than the safety of the students," he said. Because senators could not agree, Hoffschneider motioned for the bill to be held for several weeks for his committee to do more research.

The senate denied that motion, and after more discussion, finally passed the bill with some dissent.

ASUN members will talk to the City Council in two weeks about the traffic.

Vice President Amy Rager said she was happy to see the debate on the senate floor, and hoped senators would discuss legislation more often.

Senators passed Government Bill No. 13 with less controversy; the bill was unanimously approved.

The bill recommends that the Academic Senate require universitywide evaluations for all undergraduate courses. These surveys would be one-page, five-question forms, and would be the same throughout all colleges.

"It's important to give students a universitywide evaluation regarding their classes," President Curt Ruwe said. "A lot of times students feel a certain department might not care as much as another. This way there are comparable standards across campus."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen recommended

Senator of the Week



Each week, the Daily Nebraskan will feature a member of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Name: Viet Hoang

Age: 21

Year: Senior

Major: Finance

ASUN position: Speaker of the senate representing the College of Business Administration

Contact information: Call or visit the ASUN office in the Nebraska Union during Hoang's office hour. Hoang's office hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office phone number is 472-2581.

Other involvement: Innocents Society, Phi Beta Lambda business honorary, University Leadership Council, Acacia Fraternity and the search committee for the dean of the College of Business Administration.

Why ASUN is important: "ASUN is a central part to the university. Students should interact with one another and not make prejudgments. In an institution where we're encouraging independent thought, ultimately we should discourage myths — and ASUN can be a central force in facilitating this process," Hoang said.

Responsibilities in ASUN: As speaker, Hoang is chairman of the Appointments Board for ASUN subcommittee members. "I'm involved with all of the committees," Hoang said. "I provide guidance and support to the committee chairs and members."

Current ASUN projects: Hoang is working with the Appointments Board to decide new ASUN subcommittee members. "We're trying to get a diverse group of applicants," Hoang said. "We're trying to find the best people — people who are willing to work hard."

Biggest challenge facing UNL: "The student body doesn't interact with one another. You can see this in the (recent letters to the editor) in the DN. Greeks, off-campus students and people living in residence halls are not seeing eye to eye," Hoang said. "If people actually took time to get to know each other as individuals instead of a classification, it would certainly help the university come together as a united community."

the senate amend the bill to reflect the importance of universitywide reviews in "promotion, tenure and post-tenure review" of professors.

The amendment passed unanimously.

In other ASUN news:

■ Senate Bill No. 6 passed unanimously. This bill recommends that midterm evaluations be enacted in all classes.

■ Senate Bill No. 8 passed unan-

imously. This bill requires all users of Committee for Fees Allocations funds to submit a report of specific budget cuts the organizations made this year.

■ Bylaw D passed unanimously, which makes the Technology Fees and Advisory Committee a permanent committee within ASUN.

■ Bylaw E also unanimously passed, which allows more people to join ASUN subcommittees.

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