News Briefs

Sorority, fraternity plunge into fund raising

Members of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity will spend 72 hours in hot water this week.

Their Hot Tub-a-thon, a fund-raiser for The Gathering Place, a Lincoln soup kitchen, began today at 6 a.m. and lasts until Sunday morning at 6.

'It's always great to give back to the local community. Our sorority already donates time one to two times a month at The Gathering Place," said Laurie Jacobs, philanthropy chairwoman for Kappa Alpha Theta.

Hot tubbers will soak on the front lawn of Phi Gamma Delta's house, and walk-by donations will be accepted to add to donations from businesses sponsoring the drive.

It is being sponsored by 150 to 200 local businesses, including Superior Pool and Spa, which donated the hot tub for the event, bw-3, Midwest Lighting and Co., and KKNB-FM (104.1) The Point, which will broadcast live the entire 72 hours.

This is the second annual Hot Tub-a-thon. This year, as well as last year, Phi Gamma Delta has asked a sorority to join them in the event.

Karaoke benefits others

Next Thursday night, Temptations dance club is opening its doors to Alpha Xi Delta Sorority and other interested houses for a karaoke fundraiser night. The proceeds will go to the Make-A Wish-Foundation.

Karaoke Night was the result of a brainstorm by Courtney Johnson, the philanthropy chairwoman for Alpha Xi Delta.

"I was trying to think of something new we could do that no one had done before," she said.

She also said that Alpha Xi Delta aims to raise more than \$500 for Make-A-Wish Nebraska.

The sorority sent letters to all greek houses and also some high school choir directors to notify them that they could put together acts for the event.

Each group who participates pays \$50 and can enter up to three groups to perform. They then will be judged and receive prizes donated from local businesses. The performers will be judged on creativity, costumes, vocal quality and entertainment value.

Disc jockeys from Smitley-Carr DJ company, who will provide the karaoke machine, will be the only paid service involved in Karaoke Night.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 for the event, and the contest begins at 8:30 p.m. Any interested greek houses must sign up by Sunday to enter an act.

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Asian economics

Lied Center for Performing Arts. In his speech, entitled "Drugs, Thugs, and U.S. Interests on the Historic Silk and Spice Roads," Gouttierre said the two old trade routes that formerly were used to spread exotic goods still impact the people of Central and South Asia. Afghanistan, which sits between the two regions, especially is affected, he said. One important effect of the trade routes has not come through physical goods, he said, but spiritual influences.

"The most significant commodity carried along these routes was religion," Gouttierre said.

As exploration continued along the trade routes, he said, Christians brought and spread parts of their religion to the region. Today, religions conflict in Afghanistan, where a civil war sparked by ethnic and religious differences rages on.

A large American company has strong interests in creating peace in Afghanistan, where the company hopes less conflict will lead to a more stable economy. Peace in Afghanistan goods such as gas and oil from Turkmenistan, to the north, to Pakistan, which borders on the south.

Together with other foreign countries, the American company has made contracts with Turkmenistan and Pakistan, but not Afghanistan.

The United States has other economic interests in Central and South Asia as well, Gouttierre said. The area, with its rich resources, holds the possibilities of various resource monopolies, including gold, gas and oil. Many merchants are exploring

the possibilities of Central Asia, which wants economic independence from the former Soviet Union.

Some of the region's people turn to drugs to help support themselves economically. The United States must take more steps in stopping drug trafficking in the area, Gouttierre said.

The area is a major source of heroin and opium, and much of it is exported to the Middle East, Europe and North America. Afghanistan especially, in recent years, has found narcotics to be a very profitable resource, he said.

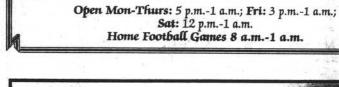
The drug problem is compounded by the post-Cold War political state of Afghanistan. Drugs weren't as big of a problem during the Cold War, Gouttierre said.

'In Afghanistan today, a nationstate does not exist," Gouttierre said. He compared the country's economic state to Berlin's after World War II. Most leadership is held by rural conservative clerics who adhere to the Jeffersonian doctrine, "He who governs best, governs least," Gouttierre said. Neither the clerics nor their is crucial so the company can move rivals have the full support of the people.

Although the trade routes have led to economic benefits abroad and at home, Gouttierre said, the social picture does not look positive in Afghanistan.

He cited a survey of 300 children ages 8-18 in Afghanistan in which the majority did not expect to live to adulthood. The survey, conducted by UNICEF, was done by mental health specialists.

"Across the country, there is a wave of despair and disdain," Gouttierre said



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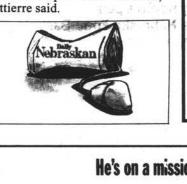
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