

Fraternity rush numbers deceiving

BY KIM SWEET
Staff writer

On paper, it seems fewer men will be inhabiting fraternity houses this year.

But after a formal spring rush and the colonization of two new fraternities, the number of men becoming brothers is actually up from the last two years, said Jess Sweley, Interfraternity Council president.

These factors contribute to a number that is deceiving, Sweley said.

A total of 455 men signed to join University of Nebraska-Lincoln fraternity chapters during summer rush this year. That number is down slightly from 467 men signing in 1997, and 487 in 1996.

But summer rush numbers do not include approximately 75 men who joined Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity last spring, Sweley said. The chapter formed last year and recruited members during the first-ever formal spring rush.

The campus's first historically nonexclusive Latino fraternity also was brought to campus this year.

Though the chapter hasn't started recruiting yet, its membership will add men to the greek fold, Sweley said.

Summer is the main season for recruiting, but fraternity rush is informal and can continue through the year.

Though spring rush helped to recruit upperclassmen, the number of incoming freshmen signing during the summer still dropped.

Bill Schellpeper, rush chairman at Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, said getting freshmen to commit has been harder.

"There are a lot of kids who are interested in (the greek system)," Schellpeper said. "The problem is convincing them to go with it and stay with it."

Sweley said certain obstacles have made recruiting men more diffi-

cult in the past few years.

One problem that has caused numbers to go down over the past three years is UNL's rule that freshmen must sign before submitting their housing application. That means they must decide by the beginning of July, when contracts are due.

Low out-of-state participation in fraternity rush also has contributed to declining numbers, Sweley said.

Although sororities have a formal rush in the fall that is easily accessible to prospective out-of-state members, fraternities have informal events all over Nebraska, which tend to exclude out-of-staters, he said.

John England, rush chairman for FarmHouse agreed with Sweley.

"The biggest problem is that out-of-state members don't have a fair shot," England said.

While the numbers for summer rush decreased, many chapters experienced a successful membership drive. England said his fraternity had no problem filling the 25 spaces it tries to occupy every year.

But lower summer rush numbers may affect chapters that try to recruit 35-40 men a year, England said.

And chapters that traditionally have to look hard for new members will feel the effects of the lower numbers as well, England said.

"Houses that don't fill up as quickly will feel the crunch," he said.

Bringing the numbers up will require fraternities to be ready to face the challenge of a shorter rush period and the difficulty of reaching out-of-state students, Sweley said.

Spring rush addressed both of these problems this year.

It helped the fraternities prepare early for summer rush and gave all men enrolled in the university a chance to look at houses in a relaxed environment before the bustle of rush began, Sweley said.

Schellpeper thinks it is up to each chapter to keep men interested in joining fraternities.

"The biggest thing is staying motivated."

Bylaw promotes community service

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Staff writer

ASUN

ASUN leaders picked up where they left off last semester and began the new academic year Wednesday with unanimous support for community service, concerns about sexual harassment and parking problems.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska accepted a community service bylaw stating, "ASUN will strive to organize regular collaborative community service projects" to benefit the university and the surrounding community.

Senator and Campus Life Committee Chairman Ryan Anderson said ASUN's goal is to have a campuswide service project involving as many student organizations as possible.

Anderson said ASUN senators will be contacting all student organizations asking for help.

ASUN's first service project is picking up trash in and around Memorial Stadium on Sept. 26 at 8 a.m., after the game against the University of Washington.

Depending on how many organiza-

tions help, the cleanup should take one or two hours, Anderson said.

Senators Rachelle Winkle and Andy Schuerman, members of the Human Rights Committee, proposed a bill for the creation of a harassment ad-hoc committee in light of increased publicity and concern about harassment during the 1997-98 school year.

Winkle said the purpose of the committee would be to get information out to faculty, staff members and students about the definition of and procedures involving sexual harassment.

"At the present moment, there is no student organization working on harassment issues - one should be created," Winkle said.

The legislation states ASUN will work with the vice chancellor for student affairs. The committee will be in place for the 1998-99 academic year.

Student appointments to the committee will be made by ASUN President Sara Russell. Faculty appointments will be made by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James

Griesen.

"It's going to take a long time to sort all of the issues and concerns," Winkle said. "But there is a need for faculty, staff and students across the board, campuswide."

In other business, loss of parking was the main concern with the Antelope Valley and Master Plan Construction Project.

Russell said ASUN understands that there are plans for permit parking structures for students and employees but is concerned with the elimination of parking because of construction.

Senator Jeff Woodford asked Russell about the senate's ability to debate future concerns regarding the project.

Woodford proposed that the senate leave open its ability to discuss other concerns, even if parking problems are solved.

Russell said ASUN will fully support the project, and legislation will stay open to voice future project concerns, including parking.

A committee is being formed to discuss concerns of the Antelope Valley and Master Plan Construction. Russell said 10 students will be appointed.

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