

Fraternities deal with declining rush numbers

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concerns of out-of-state students. Schwartzkopf said the formal system used by sororities has been better at attracting pledges from out of state.

Andy Gustafson, a sophomore general studies major, said he thought part of the reason for the declining numbers was the stereotypes that are placed on fraternities.

Gustafson, assistant rush chair for Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, said his house accepted 18 new members this year, down from nearly 30 last year.

Focus on negative incidents, especially alcohol-related incidents, had created an unfavorable impression of fraternities, he said.

He said that most of his fraternity's pledges had relatives who had been in the house.

Josh Conway, a senior exercise science major, said his house did not experience a drop in pledges this year.

Conway, the rush chair for Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, said his house got an early start in the rush process, meeting recruits from western Nebraska during the beginning of the summer and involving the whole house in recruitment.

He said improvements in the residence halls were one reason for smaller fraternity numbers.

"(Fraternities) have to compete with the dorms for technology and space," Conway said.

Conway said a formal rush process would be beneficial to fraternities because of decreased costs associated with a shorter rush.

However, he said, a shorter rush would give neither fraternities nor potential pledges enough opportunity to evaluate one another.

Barry Baker, rush chair for Chi Phi Fraternity, said a formal rush would be a "very good thing."

The sophomore civil engineering

major said the prospect of attracting more out-of-state recruits made a formal rush "very positive for the (greek) system."

After pledging fewer members than hoped for this year, Chi Phi will conduct a winter rush.

Kappa Sigma Fraternity, which operated without a house for three semesters, is one fraternity making gains in membership.

Schwartzkopf said the key to Kappa Sigma's recruitment and subsequent return to its house was a core group of members and alumni who developed a new vision for the fraternity.

She said the fraternity's strategy of gradual membership growth and recruitment of out-of-state students was the reason the fraternity was able to reestablish its house.

"Kappa Sigma has rededicated themselves to the very high principles fraternities were founded on," Schwartzkopf said.

Upperclassmen offer advice for freshmen

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Hock lived with her cousin, Sarah Hock, her freshman year. Both girls became close to the other women on their floor.

"Go to the dances, go out in the courtyard and hang out," Sarah Hock, a sophomore English major, said. "Go knock on your neighbors' door - surprise them."

Shelly Hock said she planned to live in Smith Residence Hall again next year because she liked to talk to people when she returned from class.

"I know people here. If I went to an apartment complex, I probably won't know my neighbors," she said.

Unlike Hock, Joe Wolff, a junior mechanical engineering major, never knew most of his neighbors his freshman year in Harper Residence Hall. The men on his floor stayed in their rooms.

"It was me and my roommates. There was no one else on the floor," Wolff said.

Wolff spent time with friends from his high school and his two roommates' friends that year.

"There were times I didn't have anything to do," Wolff said. "I'd go over to Theta Xi (Fraternity) and party, but I couldn't go over too often because they wanted me to rush, and I didn't want to."

Wolff said his best friends are people he met through his Resident Assistant job in Harper Hall.

"It's a very social job," he said.

Josh Thelen, a junior agrribusiness major, found most of his close friends during his first week at UNL. Most of

those friends were in his Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity pledge class.

"Obviously, you get down here and want to meet a bunch of girls right away," Thelen said. "Get in there and meet other (guys). They'll always have high school buds in other houses, and you meet them."

Thelen said joining his fraternity was one of the best choices he ever made.

"There was always someone who said, 'Hey, you want to do this?' There were all kinds of activities you could go do," he said. "Some of us will remain close for life."

Molly Chamoff, a junior advertising major, said she enjoyed college relationships because they were honest.

"In high school, a bunch of people were cliquey," Chamoff said. "When people come home from college, they realize, 'I'm not the hot stuff I thought I was.'"

But Chamoff said she has remained close to her high school friends who went to other colleges. She has also remained close to the friends she met her first year at UNL in Schramm Residence Hall. Chamoff now lives off-campus with two other women from her freshman learning community in Schramm Residence Hall.

"It was so much fun in the dorm," she said. "We'd go to Super K - what is open at 1 a.m.? We'd sit out in the hall and just talk."

She said those relationships became the most meaningful.

"We formed kind of a family," she said.

Parties targeted by police patrols

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into action seven times last year.

"We had a record year for MIP arrests last year, and I expect that to continue this year," Casady said.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's office extended the pressure being put on drinkers beyond the city line with a four-hour enforcement project Sunday at Pawnee and Branched Oak Lakes.

In cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 24 violations were handed out by sheriff's deputies, including 19 liquor violations, two drug violations and two warrant arrests.

The deputies were assisted in the project by a Game and Parks Commission Jet Ski.

Sheriff Terry Wagner said intensified enforcement of certain crimes within Lincoln often pushed those crimes out into the county.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Bill Jarrett said the project was not in cooperation with the LPD's party patrol.

Wagner said he did not know if any of those ticketed in the project were UNL students.

University police cited seven UNL students for minor in possession of alcohol Friday, several of whom were members of the Sigma Nu Fraternity.

Two students were cited near the intersection of 14th and R streets Friday night, Sgt. Mylo Bushing said, between 11 p.m. and midnight.

About a half hour after midnight Friday, Bushing said a university officer saw several members of the Sigma Nu drinking on the house's balcony.

After being invited in, the officer issued five members of the house with minor in possession of alcohol citations, Bushing said.

Members of the Sigma Nu either refused to comment on the incident or could not be reached.

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