

# Greek rush rocks campus

By Lori Steinhauer  
Of the Emerald

Sorority sisters screaming in the back of a pickup truck may not be an uncommon sight. But only during fall orientation week, when campus sororities and fraternities are recruiting members, would one find them jumping out to join the rest of their housemates in a welcoming song to prospective members.

When else but during rush does the Pi Beta Phi house convert into the Hollywood Hotel, conducting its own version of the Academy Awards preceded by sparkling cider cocktails, or do the Kappa Kappa Gammas hold Camp Kappa Gamma and share their moments on slide to capture the hearts of future pledges?

And only during fall rush will the student encounter campus fraternities openly welcoming 395 non-fraternity men into their houses.

More than 700 rushees spent five event-packed days last week visiting the 14 fraternities and 11 sororities on campus. After the men had been through all the fraternities and the women through all the sororities, each rushee received several computer printouts throughout the week showing the houses that wanted to see them again. Based on the printouts, rushees could then choose the houses they wanted to revisit.

Last Saturday afternoon, after rushees had revisited their favorite houses, mutual decisions between rushees and house members determined who the new pledges were.

But what about rushees who didn't join houses? Often rushees drop out of the program, discovering Greek life isn't for them. However, occasionally someone will not be invited back by his or her first-choice house, or in rare cases, by any house at all.

"It's unusual for somebody not to get any bids, but it does happen," Interfraternity Council Pres. Mitch Vance said. "We encourage them to continue informally rushing the houses and get to know the people better. We feel there is a place for everybody. Each house has its own unique personalities and their memberships are very diverse."

To reduce problems and anxieties, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils provide



Photo by Hank Trotter

Members of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority pitched in with song during rush week to make potential housemates feel welcome.

counselors who guide groups of rushees from house to house each evening. Counselors answer any questions, from where a particular house is located to how rushees should act or dress. Panhellenic rush chair JoAnne Johnson said. And like rushees, the fraternities and sororities want to give an appealing presentation.

But while sororities portrayed the personality of their houses during the evening, through decoration, dancing, skits and songs, each fraternity carried on daytime activities from air balloon rides to river rafting, reserving the formal evening rush for casual conversation and refreshments.

To cover rush costs, men paid a \$10 fee, while the fee for sorority rush was \$30 for the week.

#### At the sororities:

As name-tagged rushees entered the Pi Beta Phi house-turned-Hollywood Hotel last Wednesday night, most said their reason for rushing was to gain a network of friends.

"You'd always have something to do, and it gives you a good sense of belonging," said freshman Mariellen Gillis. "And even if people don't pledge, you make a lot of friends."

Most sorority rushees agreed conversation

Continued on Page 23

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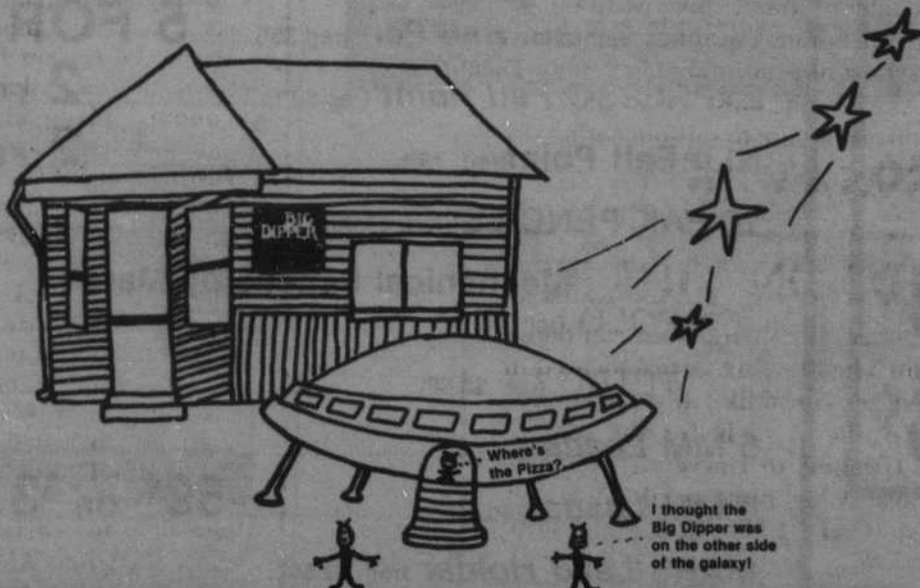
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