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lists of who they want. If a rushees' choices include houses that have chosen him or her as well, the house sends a bid to the rushee, a formal invitation to join the house as a pledge. The popular and socially successful may receive more than one bid, but in the end one house must be picked.

Throughout the process rushees can consult with rush counselors, members of the Greek system who serve as guides and who answer rushees' questions. The counselors cannot tell rushees which house they belong to in case the rushee becomes biased, so don't bother asking.

Beyond the basic rush format, sharp differences exist between sorority and fraternity rush. The greatest difference involves timing.

Over two days sorority rushees visit each house for exactly one half-hour. As the rush process continues and rushees make their preferences, the allotted time increases gradually by five to 10 minutes, with an hour and 15 minutes allowed for the final preference parties.

"Everything is timed right down to the minute," said Ann Berner, an assistant to the Dean for Greek life.

Even if a sorority rushee forgets an umbrella at a house, she cannot return to pick it up until after rush; she may

become biased in favor of the house if she visits it outside of the rush process.

Informality makes fraternity rush different. Rushees can visit houses on their own time during "informal rush" in the afternoons. They can even live in a house during rush week, although it may involve camping out on the floor. Initial tours of the 16 fraternities take place on the second day of rush. During preferencing, a half-hour for each house is a guideline rather than a rule.

Sorority rush also contains more regulation and a higher level of organization.

All sorority rush events must remain on the house grounds, while during the end of fraternity rush houses take rushees on rafting trips, out golfing, and on other excursions.

"Sorority rush is a whole different ballgame... fraternity rush is laid back, there's some casual beer drinking going on, it's not formal," said Frichette.

A schedule of ceremonies, skits and singing sessions keep sorority rushees occupied throughout rush, again with each activity on a strict time frame.

However, sorority rush at the University is considered casual enough to make it unique from rushes in other states. The south

makes sorority rush into an intensely formal affair, with taffeta and satin dresses being the rule, according to Berner.

"Here they're wearing bright colors, or khaki shorts, so it's a lot more casual," said Berner.

What do houses look for in a rushee? Standards naturally vary from house to house.

"We look for somebody who's going to add something to the house, someone who's a real nice guy, a gentleman, not just some high school guy with a big chip on his shoulder out to show how cool he is," said Runyard of his own house.

Frichette's house looks for the aggressive and self-confident. The house pays special attention to the first rushees coming through the door, considered a sign of a desirable trait in a future member.

"Basically they're looking for people who will give something to the system, give something to the house," said Heather Mills, of the Panhellenic rush committee.

Grade requirements play a crucial role in the selection process. Again, no two houses follow the same requirement, but minimum GPA levels range from 2.25 to 3.00.

Personality and grade requirement aside, Greek leaders claim a low, virtually nonexistent rejection rate. "Shut-outs,"

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