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rushees who receive no bids are an extreme minority.

If more than 10 women are shut out of the sorority system, rush organizers place them in houses, but no one expects this to happen, according to Mills.

Once a house accepts a rushee as a pledge, the next step is the initiation ritual when the house formally accepts a person as a full-fledged member. Initiation usually takes place during winter term. The word "initiation" as used in the Greek system has an intimidating connotation. Stories of hazing come to mind: dark, secret, and sadistic ceremonies. Hazing is fast becoming another relic though, along with the booze-it-up rushes, according to Greek leaders.

"It (hazing) does go on, but not to the extent it used to... you have to ask yourself at every activity, is it for the pledges or is it for the members. If it's for the members it's wrong, and you've got to change it," said Frichette.

Membership in the Greek system entitles one to take part in a semi-exclusive series of social events. Sorority house dances, the annual barn dance with the cowboy motif and road trips north to Black Butte or south to Lake Shasta, to name a few. Many houses turn their social events into charity fundraisers. For instance, the proceeds from the annual Psi Sy smoker, an interfraternity boxing match, go to the March of Dimes.

Most people join the Greek system for the social life, said Frichette. "If you don't go Greek, it's tough to get a group

living experience," he said.

"The Greek system does offer something that a lot of other college organizations don't, it's not just four years, it's a lifetime," said Mills.

The cost of living in a house averages between \$2130 to \$2985 a year, and includes meals and house dues. Members not living in the house pay from \$20 to \$100 a month.

Fraternity and sorority life is not for everybody though. People who find life behind the Greek curtain not to their liking can "depledge."

Some within the Greek system complain about the system's affect on people.

"People are so into the Greek system and think that that's what life's all about on this campus... they have an identity within it where they are affirmed over and over again I'm Joe Schmoe and I'm an SAE and I'm cool and I'm a big fish in a little pond, and when they get out of the Greek system and into the real world they're a very small fish in a big pond, and they haven't had the opportunity to get out and see what this campus is all about," said Frichette.

The Greek system has undergone a strong revival throughout the nation. Several chapters have opened up new houses on the campus, so many in fact that Greek leaders are not allowing any more houses on campus, to give the recent arrivals time to put out roots.

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