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Photo by Cliff Etzel

Fraternities rush new members, as minor changes mark Greek life

By Carolyn Lamberson
Emerald Associate Editor

The 16 University fraternities on Saturday welcomed new pledges into the Greek system at the culmination of rush week.

About 400 men rushed fraternities last week, and fraternity officials predict about 80 percent end up joining a house after a week of either living in or visiting the houses and talking to members.

"The biggest thing about rush is seeing all the houses and learning about what the Greek life is like in one week," Interfraternity Council Rush Chairman Chris Runyard said. He added most fraternity members look to the organization as a brotherhood and form many lifelong friendships.

"It offers something other than academics, or enhances academics rather," he said. "When I look back at the University, I will remember the fraternity."

Rush is "one huge narrowing-down process" to both the rushees, who are mostly freshmen, and the houses, Runyard said.

On the first night of rush, the potential pledges visit all 16 houses for 10 minutes each. From there, rushees and the houses eliminate each other from

possibility.

Rush is seen by Delta Upsilon house President Brett Jordan not only as a way to perpetuate the fraternity chapter, but as a way to bring the existing members together, he said.

"This is our first rush and we've learned more about our house," he said in an interview last week. "It's a time of high spirit and energy."

Since the DU fraternity went through formal rush for the first time this year (the University chapter has only existed for a little over a year, Jordan said), a lot of work went into preparing the house for rushees.

"We put around 3,000 man hours into our house in the last three days," he said. "In the end it will be nice to relax."

Chris Hazard, past president of Tau Kappa Epsilon and rush counselor for the IC, called rush the "lifeblood" of the fraternity.

"Without rush, in four years, everyone's graduated," Hazard said.

Peter Sagebiel, the TKE co-rush chairman who is responsible for organizing and keeping ahead of everything for the house, agreed with other views about the necessity of rush.

"It gets people excited about the house again," he said. "It builds up

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Sororities allow women chance to mature as people, leaders say

By Kelvin Wee
Emerald Reporter

The sorority rush is over. Eleven houses have now decided who will or won't be their future sisters. What happens if one makes it? Does it make life any different? What makes rush so special to these women? What is rush?

Rush is the means by which sororities recruit new members. This year a total of 510 women signed up for sorority rush. During rush, the sororities follow strict guidelines that are set forth by the Panhellenic Council.

"The guidelines are strict so that there is no pressure put on a rushee to join a certain house," said Karen Neuburger, president of the Panhellenic Council. "We want it to be as much her own decision as it possibly can."

Guidelines, such as a limit on expenditures for house decorations and meals, ensure that rushees do not get biased toward the physical appearance of any particular house, but instead help them make decisions based on the members in the house.

There also are guidelines set for members of the sororities that are abided by strictly, Neuburger said. Sorority members are not allowed to attend fraternity parties or wear their Greek let-

ters outside the houses during rush. If these guidelines are broken, the violators will be "tried" after the rush period and the entire sorority will face whatever punishment is set down.

"The punishment awarded is normally community service," explained Neuburger, "and the new pledges are not included. It's just to keep the unity up because we don't like to single out any one person."

Rushees who make it through the selection process are called pledges. Each sorority has its own standard pledge programs, but most sororities have meetings where pledges learn about the history of their houses.

In order to become members of the houses they have joined, pledges have to obtain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 and meet the specifications that each sorority requires them to do, Neuburger added.

"A pledge has three terms to make the requirements. After the pledge has met the requirements, she will go through initiation and they become members," she explained.

"If a pledge does not meet the requirements within a year, she will no longer be allowed to join the sorority," Neuburger said.

The stereotypical image of Greek in-

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