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SORORITY

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Council, which is the University's governing body for sororities, Meghan Bailey said she joined a sorority after spending two terms on her own as a freshman at the University.

Bailey said she was used to being involved in high school activities, and by joining a sorority she immediately had leadership opportunities and support at her fingertips.

"Sororities provide a sense of community and opportunities to get involved," she said. "Since there are so many students on campus, it is really hard to find a base."

Bailey also explained that joining a sorority is different than joining most organizations.

"Being in a sorority is something you can take with you for the rest of your life," Bailey said. "Once you are a member you can have a lifetime of involvement if you choose to do so."

Bailey said rushees are given information about time commitments and responsibilities before they Rush.

Although many women agree with Bailey, others, like former sorority member Jeanna Tyler, say they realized later the commitment made to the sorority was more than they bargained for.

"I liked it, but I couldn't fit it into my schedule," Tyler said.

At the time, Tyler was on the University crew team, soccer team and also worked to pay for her schooling and sorority expenses.

"If I had to work or play, I would get fined," she said. "The sorority was supposed to be number one, and it wasn't for me."

The expense of paying for a sorority on her own was as overwhelming as the time expenditure, Tyler said.

"It's really expensive for someone who is paying for

'I couldn't find the time to balance work, school and the sorority.'

— Shannon O'Hara, former Alpha Phi member

school alone," she said. "There were only a couple of girls paying for themselves, and they were struggling to come up with the money."

Former Alpha Phi member Shannon O'Hara, who also paid her sorority dues from her own pocket, had similar problems with her sorority experience.

"I couldn't find the time to balance work, school and the sorority," O'Hara said. "School was my priority, and I wasn't able to get things done."

O'Hara said she enjoyed the activities that her sorority provided and the fact that "someone was always around."

"If you needed something it was always there," she said.

Alpha Phi member Robin Baily said a new group of people moving into a sorority can change the whole image or attitude that the sorority may have projected the year before.

Baily said the sorority she is involved in has a wider range of people with different interests than most other sororities.

Baily also said her sorority has a reputation for having uncommitted members that aren't the stereotypical "gung-ho" sorority type.

"Only 50 percent of the members are there all the time," she said. She likes the fact that there is no stereotypical Alpha Phi.

Baily also said she isn't as devoted to it like other sorority members, but that she has made "friends that will be friends for life."

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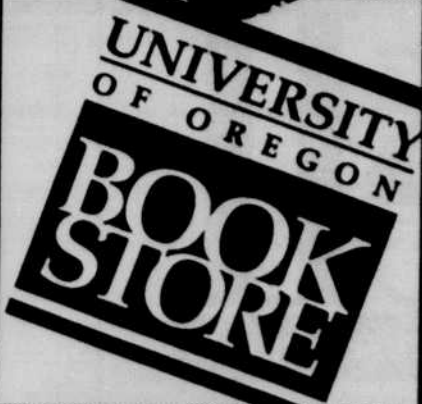
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FRATERNITIES

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other reasons cited by Bezates.

"I have a girlfriend, and I knew that the fraternity would take up a lot of time that I'd rather spend with her," he said. "Also, I came here to get an education, so I want to keep my grades up and make sure I have time to study. I can't do that in a frat."

But greek members said *Animal House* stereotypes are unfair.

"Frat life is not just parties," said Aaron Welk, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "It's a good way to meet a lot of people and to make contacts for your future."

Todd Harris of Delta Tau Delta agreed.

"My house is nothing like the typical greek stereotypes," he said. "We are a very diverse group ... and we are not like *Animal House*. Greeks are labeled as a group. Each house is different and so are the people in them. Judge individuals, don't judge the whole system as the result of one person's actions."

Older members of fraternities said living in the house can become too much after a while.

"There's not a lot of privacy," said Welk, who is a third year member and is not living in the house. "It's tough at times. You don't always feel like being social and friendly, but there's always someone around so you kind of have to. The house never really felt like a home to me; it was just a place to sleep."

For first- and second-year members, however, living at the house is one of the best aspects of fraternity life. Living at the house can be especially helpful for pledges because "you get to know a lot more about the guys and the house," said Sigma Nu pledge Jeff Holt. "They were all pledges once themselves, so they help you through it."

Because of the more relaxed atmosphere of fraternity rush, many decided to rush on the spur of the moment. Some had been anti-greek in high school, others were indifferent and still others knew all along that they wanted to be in a fraternity.

Many rushed simply because they were bored, had nothing better to do, or met people who were rushing and decided to give it a try.

Harris also said that since he was from out of state and knew no one, belonging to a fraternity allowed him to instantly identify with and be part of a large group, which helped make his transition easier.

Welk warned, however, that "greek life is not for everyone."