

FEATURES

Greek rush involves many rules; much fun

By LYNNE THOMSON

Though they never pre-registered for it, many Carolina students will be getting a crash course in Greek the first few weeks of classes as fraternities and sororities begin their process of selecting new members.

Aptly named rush, this process will tie up much of the campus in its parties and elaborate rules as brothers, sisters and potential pledges enter the rites of mutual selection.

Fraternity rush rules are laid down by the Inter-Fraternity Council which is the governing body of the 28 University recognized fraternities. The Panhellenic Council performs the same function for the 15 recognized sororities.

The two rushes are very different. Sorority rush for women is highly structured with elaborate rules to protect the rushes while a man going through fraternity rush will find himself basically on his own.

"Organized, but much less structured," is how Steve Hutson advisor to fraternities in the Student Affairs office, characterized fraternity rush.

Though rush has already begun on a small scale with several houses having informal parties during the summer, the parties will begin in earnest when everyone returns to campus in August.

Sorority rush does not involve the all-campus parties that fraternity rush does. The Panhellenic Council imposes strict rules on both sisters and rushees in an attempt to ensure fairness for both houses and rushees, Panhellenic President Betsy Brady said.

For sisters in most houses, rush began last spring. The costumed and choreographed skits were already planned, casted and somewhat rehearsed when sisters left for summer. Much of the art work was already under production and the \$500 budget limit imposed by the Panhellenic Council was already planned out.

Formal rush for women begins August 27 with convocation. Much like fraternity convocation, it is designed to introduce women to sorority life at Carolina and to give them a Panhellenic perspective on rush. The rushees meet their rush counselors at convocation. If early estimates are correct, approximately 1,000 women will go through rush this year.

The purpose of rush is to become a pledge. A pledge is someone who has joined a sorority or fraternity but has not yet been initiated. The period of pledgship varies through the houses and often lasts into the next semester. During this time the pledge learns about the house, its formal history and its informal day-to-day life. A pledge may quit at any time in this period. A woman who depledges must wait a year before joining another sorority.

The pledge period brings up one of the most controversial facets of fraternity life—hazing.

A memorandum from Sharon Mitchell, assistant director for Student Development, defines hazing "as any action taken or situation created, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule."

The memorandum goes on to specifically include paddling in any form, creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological

shocks, involuntary road trips, wearing publicly any apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, or morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, or any other activities which are not consistent with fraternity law or the regulations and policies of the University as stated in the Interfraternity Council By-laws.

Hazing is illegal in North Carolina. Fraternity and sorority presidents are all mailed this memorandum each year and are required to read it to their chapters and explain it to their pledges. In addition each male pledge is required to sign a form saying that he will not allow himself to be hazed.

The IFC has a policy allowing a pledge to anonymously report hazing.

Acting IFC president Jay White said that hazing was not wide-spread among the fraternities.

If hazing is the controversial Greek issue growing out of the 1950s, then race is the issue of the 1980s.

There are 28 University-recognized fraternities at UNC. Three of these are primarily service oriented. They are predominately black and do not own houses. They are members of IFC though they conduct their rush separately from the other fraternities. Several of the other social fraternities are integrated though they are all predominately white.

The sorority system at Carolina is completely segregated. While the three service-oriented, predominately black sororities are a part of the Panhellenic Council, they conduct their own rush after Panhellenic rush. None of these groups own houses.

Housing is an attractive aspect of fraternity and sorority life for many members and rushees. Though not all members live in the houses, for those who do it can be an inexpensive and convenient way of life.

The average monthly dues for a fraternity member for the coming year will be \$205 to

\$215 per month according to the IFC. This includes rent, dues, social fees, utilities and meals. This is usually below the cost of living in an apartment, especially if one lives in a house near campus eliminating transportation costs.

Fees for sorority pledges are higher than for initiated sisters because of special initiation fees. The cost for a pledge in 1980 was \$400 to \$920 per semester according to the Panhellenic Council. This included fees, dues and 11 meals per week on the average. Most sororities make board exceptions for women living in Granville Towers.

Fraternities and sororities often find themselves charged with being overly conformist, stamping out xeroxed copies of Susie Sorority all just alike. There is one group on campus which does not hear those charges. They are the brother and sisters of Delta Psi—St. Anthony's Hall. The St. A's are the only co-ed member of the IFC. They conduct their own rush within loose con-

ditions of IFC regulations. The St. A's call themselves a social and literary fraternity.

Whatever the name, Greek grade point averages are consistently above those for non-Greeks, fraternity advisor Hutson said. Both the men's and women's Greek averages are above the men's and women's all-campus averages, he said.

National studies have also concluded that members of fraternities and sororities are more likely to graduate from college than non-Greeks, Hutson said.

The rumors are that the makers of National Lampoon's *Animal House* wanted to film their movie among the stately houses of Chapel Hill's fraternity houses but then Chancellor Ferebee Taylor would not allow it. Whether this is true or not, the fraternity and sorority system at Chapel Hill is strong, including approximately one-sixth of the students as members including both the Student Body President and the Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham.

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