



DTH FILE/DAVID ENARSON
During pledge week at UNC, hundreds of Greek hopefuls can be seen around campus, gathering in excitement to join Greek houses.

Greek life provides home for many

2008 recruitment begins Aug. 26

BY KELLEN MOORE
STAFF WRITER

At a University with a population greater than some students' hometowns, about 2,800 students find their niche as members of one of UNC's 54 Greek organizations. "Fraternities and sororities provide a great way for students to make a very large community a little smaller," said Jenny Levering, assistant dean of students for fraternity and sorority life.

Each sorority and fraternity is different, but all share common values of scholarship, philanthropy, community involvement and sisterhood or brotherhood.

Fraternities and sororities have a long history at UNC. The first Interfraternity Council fraternity

on campus formed in 1851.

The first sororities staked their claims in 1923, just six years after UNC first admitted women.

And in the semester's first month, interested students can explore each organization by participating in the rush process for Panhellenic Council and IFC groups.

UNC also offers many religious, multicultural and historically black fraternities and sororities, but those organizations follow different recruitment processes.

For Panhellenic Council and IFC sororities and fraternities, the weeklong recruitment begins with a kickoff event Aug. 26, where students receive information and view slide shows about what the groups have to offer. The week before there is a promotional day where all fraternities and sororities will be available in the Pit.

The next week, potential new members visit the organizations for events — everything from informal conversations with members to pig pickins' to philanthropy activities.

"It would be kind of a sneak peak into fraternity life," said Christian Mibelli, IFC vice president for internal affairs and recruitment, of the week of events.

As the week progresses, rush participants narrow their focus to the groups that most interest them.

Potential sorority members follow a specific schedule, visiting all 10 houses in round one, then dropping to seven, five and three houses on subsequent rounds. For potential fraternity members, the last two days of rush are invitation-only.

The week concludes for Panhellenic Council sororities with an elaborate bid ceremony at Coker Arboretum, where sororities make their offers.

The IFC fraternities give their bids Friday in whatever manner

they wish — they might call potential members to the fraternity house or deliver the bids around campus.

Prospective Panhellenic Council sorority members pay \$45 to rush, but rushing IFC is free.

And for all Greek organizations, recruitment week is alcohol-free.

Mibelli said becoming part of a fraternity can be a great way to create a community on campus.

"You build a family and a home away from home," Mibelli said.

And the same can be true for sororities, said Charlotte Egerton, vice president of recruitment for Panhellenic Council sororities.

She said those considering pledging have no reason to worry.

"Really be yourself and just know that you'll realize what sorority really fits you, and that's the most important thing."

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