

Greek rush invades Behrend

by Karl Benacci
co-features editor

At colleges all across America, Greek organizations are continually looking for prospective members. These Greek organizations hold various activities to attract student interest. They are often known as rush events. Fraternity recruitment at Behrend will run from September 11-22. Each fraternity will host activities one day per week. The sororities have also begun to hold informal recruitment parties. All Greek organizations have deferred rush, which means that they cannot offer membership bids to students until their second semester standing. Due to this rule, the sororities hold their formal recruitment early in the spring semester.

Rush is a Greek term that describes a process in which potential members that are interested in learning more about Greek organizations go to events to learn more about the organizations. During this process, students get to know the organization, and the organization gets to know the students. During this time, students should ask questions about the organization and be prepared to be asked questions about themselves.

Greek organizations do a number of things to prepare for rush.

"One of the main things a Greek organization will do is plan events for the day that they pick to have one of their rush events on. This year, Rush week is two weeks long so every fraternity gets a different day each week and they are responsible for planning whatever event they would like to have that night. Another thing they do is to hang up posters all around campus to get people to attend all of their events," said Michael Chase, Vice-President of the Interfraternal Council.

After recruitment, membership invitations, also referred to as bids, are handed out to some students, and if the student accepts the bid, they will begin a new member education (pledge) process.

However, there are a number of rules that must be followed during rush. In order for a student to be eligible for a membership bid, they must have already completed their first semester as a full time student and earned a minimum of twelve credits. It is against university policy for first semester students to pledge to a Greek organization.

All students interested in Greek life are urged to attend Greek oriented events so that they can find out more about the organizations and what they have to offer. Shawna Pelasky, Coor-

dinator of Greek Life and Student Leadership Programs, said, "Greek Life is a wonderful way to find life lasting relationships, gain and develop leadership, interpersonal and communication skills and learn more about yourself. Participation in a Greek organization also provides students with numerous opportunities to participate in community service and educational programs."

Erin Baker, President of the Panhellenic Council, added, "The Greeks do a lot more for the campus than just provide parties on the weekends as many assume. The Greeks put on lots of social, educational, and service programs such as Meet the Greeks Week, Greek Week, the Greek Awards Banquet, the Juvenile Diabetes Walk to Remember, the Greek Speaker Series "Sex Under the Influence" (which takes place next Tuesday at 7:00 in the Reed Commons) among several other events. Also, the Greeks represented in other organizations and positions within SGA, LEB, RAs and others. Some of the most involved students who make differences on this campus are Greek."

For more information about Greek organizations, visit the Office of Student Activities in the Reed Union Building or call 898-6171.

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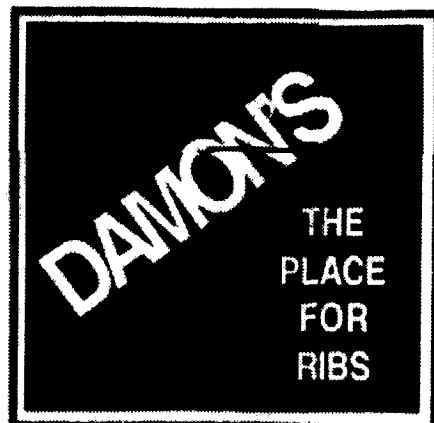
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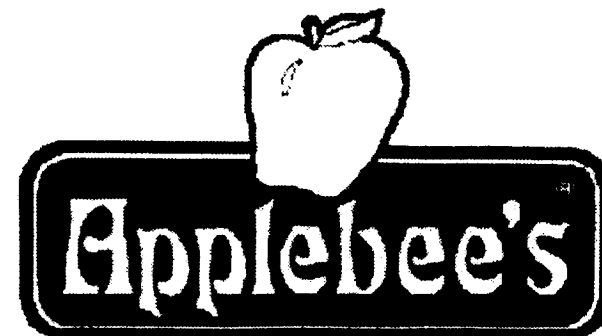
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