A sneak peek at sleek Greeks

By KAREN EGULF Collegian Staff Writer

Popcorn study breaks, impromptu basketball games, Friday night socials and charity drives all add up to a busy life for the University's 3,000 Greeks.

Fraternity and sorority rushes, which begin tomorrow, start the activities. Rushees visit the various groups, selecting the ones they're interested in and being selected by the ones that are interested in them.

Sign-up for sorority rush ends today, while fraternities accept rushees throughout the term. So far 540 have signed up for sorority rush and 800 for fraternity rush.

"I expect this to be the largest one in years," said Chris McKown, membership chairman for Interfraternity Council.

Sorority and fraternity rushes differ. Fraternity rush offers invitations to dinner and various social events. The rushee is shown the house and told the historical and financial aspects of the group.

Sorority rush is formal this term, involving two weeks of structured parties. The rushees, after being divided into groups, visit all the sororities during first rounds. After narrowing down which sororities they'd like to revisit, they attend second and third rounds. At the end of two weeks, the rushees are given bids, or invitations, to join a particular sorority.

Winter and spring rushes will be informal, operating about the same as fraternity rush.

After accepting a bid, the rushee becomes a pledge. Pledging involves learning about the group and getting to know the members. Fraternity pledges also must learn how to maintain the house.

Pledging may last anywhere from five weeks to eternity, as many pledges are told by brothers and sisters.

The Greek year is highlighted by three big events. Homecoming in the fall gives the sororities and fraternities an opportunity to work together making floats and banners for the weekend's festivities. Greek Week in the winter gives Greeks a chance to socialize, participating in various games and attending all-Greek jammies.

Another event on the Greek calendar is the pledge formal. Each sorority and fraternity has at least one formal every year. These are held at the fraternity houses.

Besides socializing, Greeks also collect for charity. Every fraternity and sorority has at least one philanthropic project a year. While dancing, singing, bouncing and swimming (among other activities), they collected \$61,000 for various organizations last year. The IFC Dance Marathon brought in \$18,000.

"They're a lot of fun to do," said Debbie Keller, vice president of Panhel, "and they're really helping other people."

Fraterntities and sororities range in size from 10 to 73, averaging about 35 members. There are 49 fraternities and 21 sororities at the University.



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