

Greek fraternities decline nationwide; rise at UNLV



J. Stone/Oct. 9

by Richard Gibson
Staff Reporter

Early Fall statistics suggest fraternity and sorority membership may be leveling off or shrinking on a national level while at UNLV it continues to increase.

This fall, 317 students pledged to Greek organizations at UNLV, with a 37 percent increase in sorority pledges according to Jay De Leonard UNLV's director of Greek affairs.

Growth statistics for UNLV fraternities were not available.

"Fewer people signed up for rush but part of that was due to their (Greek organizations) using some new rush systems," said Leonard.

"But the number of people pledging was up."

Greek members on the national level blame declining college enrollments, bad publicity, and strict new policies limiting student drinking and hazing, for the decline in membership.

"At schools that are experiencing declines in fraternity enrollment, a lot of it has to do with reputation," said Leonard.

According to Leonard, the interfraternity council recently created a new position, the vice president of external affairs, whose job is to help UNLV's Greek organizations exhibit a positive image.

Reliable national statistics for 1990-91 will not be available for

some time. The National Interfraternity Council's (NIC) census will be released in the spring.

Fraternity membership grew 3.5 percent from 1988-89 to the 1989-90 school year, according to Jonathan Brant NIC's executive director.

Greek recruiters on many campuses were disappointed by the turnouts for Fall rush, when prospective members tour their houses, and the fraternities and sororities decide whom to invite to join.

Greek advocates cite a variety of reasons.

Brant speculated that the anti-hazing regulations adopted by many fraternities may be helping to weed out troublemakers.

There is no law against hazing in Nevada, but all of the Greek organizations at UNLV have issued statements against hazing.

"Sororities are really working on (their campus images), especially as far as hazing and alcohol (go)," affirmed Becky Mitchell of the National Panhellenic Society.

Their images have been tarnished in recent years by a constant series of fighting, drinking, physical injury, sexual harassment and racial incidents.

Leonard said that alcohol, hazing, and sexism are the "three evils" that Greek organizations must work to remove through education.

"A benefit that we have with

(UNLV's) system is that we are new, we haven't been engrained, we're not rich in tradition or heritage," said Leonard.

"The ability for us to adapt to societal norms is much greater here," he said.

"A lot of the problems other schools are facing have not even started here yet."

Some Greek advocates blame this fall's decline on what they perceive as negative media reports.

In a study, Dr. Myron Rothbart of the University of Oregon found that, of all student groups, fraternity and sorority members' images suffered the largest and most unfavorable change in other students' eyes during their four years on campus.

"The values they (students) admired as freshmen were not the same after four years," Rothbart said.

Most observers blame the declines on simple population shifts.

Nationwide the number of high school seniors available to go on to college has been declining, and will not bottom out until at least 1994, say demographers.

Schools still enjoying enrollment increases like UNLV seemed to have busy rushes this fall.

The enrollment at UNLV this fall jumped 11.3 percent over last year and was 700 students over earlier projections.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Fellowship program may be ticket

The National Doctoral Fellowship Program (NDFP) provides more than 100 doctoral fellowships annually to qualified U.S. and Canadian citizens. NDFP is designed to recruit students from a wide range of disciplines into business doctoral studies to help alleviate a critical and long-standing shortage of Ph.D. professors in schools of business and management.

Nine-month starting salaries for new business doctorates today range from \$45,000 to \$65,000, and many exceed \$70,000. Consultation and research opportunities also can add to the satisfaction and the compensation of an academic career in business. NDFP fellowships pay a \$12,000 stipend,

plus a waiver of first-year tuition and fees. Beyond the first year, students receive continued help in the form of teaching and research assistantships from the business schools they attend.

NDFP applications for next year must be received by Jan. 4, 1991. They can be obtained from the university's office of student financial aid, the career placement office, or by writing: NDFP, c/o AACSB, P.O. Box 78185, St. Louis, Mo. 63178.

Recipients will be named by a special selection committee by Feb. 1, 1991, on the basis of academic performance, GMAT or GRE scores, recommendations and work experience.

Student 'Right-to-Know' bill nears passage

The U.S. Senate passed its own version, Sept. 17, of a bill that would require campuses to make public how many of their students graduate, how many get jobs soon after graduation, and how many are victimized by crime while at school.

The Senate version, how-

ever, includes an amendment dealing with student loan defaults that is not in a version passed by the House earlier in the year.

A conference committee will meet later this fall to try to write a compromise version of the bill.

Insurance classes

UNLV is offering basic insurance classes for agents, brokers, and solicitors who need to fulfill pre-licensing educational requirements.

"Life and Health Basics" and "Property-Casualty Basics" are offered regularly on the UNLV campus.

Presented by the insurance program of the finance department in the College of Business and Economics, "Life and Health Basics" covers general principles of life and health insurance.

The next session is set for Oct. 23-Dec. 4. Classes will

meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Frank and Estella Beam Hall, Room 214.

The next session of "Property-Casualty Basics" is set for Nov. 5-30. Classes meet Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and one Saturday, 5:30-8:30 p.m., in Frank and Estella Beam Hall, Room 214. This class focuses on coverages, policy provisions, and concepts common to property and casualty insurance.

For more information on fees and registration, call Ed Goodin at 739-3540.

UNLV plans satellite campus

by Rebecca Deering
Reporter

With the rapid growth of UNLV, the construction of new buildings and increased space for students become a prominent issue.

In the next several years, UNLV hopes to build a satellite campus near the Summerlin development in northwest Las Vegas.

Summa Corporation will be donating the land for UNLV in

order to construct a single, major building with student response determining the next step.

As expressed by UNLV president, Robert Maxson, the building is being constructed for two primary reasons.

"Several years down the road, space at UNLV is going to be limited, and our city is becoming so large that it's a long, inconvenient commute for citizens in the northwest section of Las Vegas," said Maxson.

The new building, still in the

"conceptual stage," will offer self-contained courses so that students will not have to travel from campus to campus, Maxson stated.

"The emphasis will be placed primarily on continued education and Master of Business Administration courses," added Maxson.

The construction of the Summerlin satellite is just one of the several building projects necessary for the expanding needs of the university.

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