

Sororities simplify steps for joining

BY JULIA HANSEN
Staff Reporter

Sorority recruitment this year will be fresh and frill-less.

Beginning this fall, the University's sorority recruitment will have no "frills." This means the sororities will focus on getting to know potential new members instead of bombarding them with the typical extras of recruitment season, according to the University's Greek affairs Web site. In place of the hectic and sometimes overwhelming recruitment events, this year's events will be more laid back, said Beth Tuttle, director of Greek Affairs.

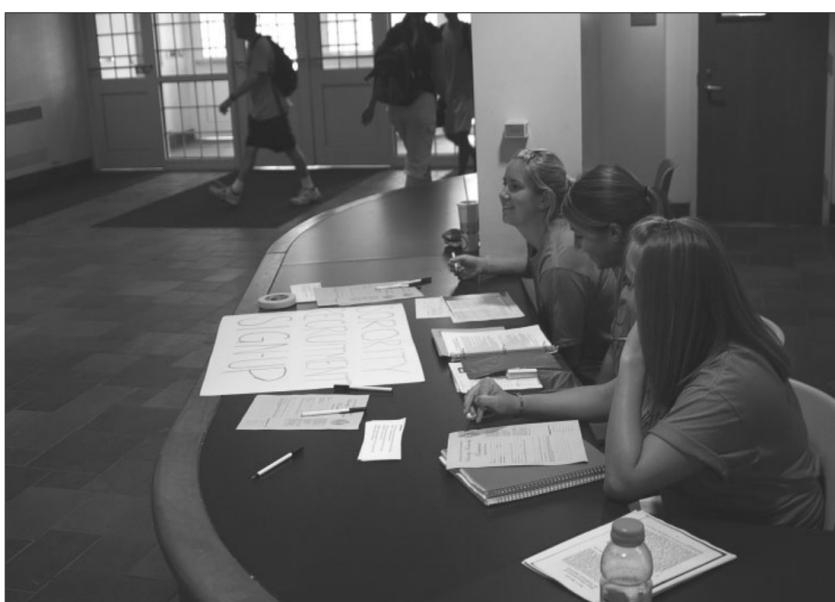
"I think that recruitment is a really fun, exciting time for the women in the sororities and for the women that are looking to join them, but it's also a stressful time," Tuttle said. "One of the great things about no frills is that it gives the women on the sorority side of things the opportunity to really get to know the women that are interested in joining. I think it's a very relational opportunity for them to get to know the people that are interested in joining their organizations."

Unlike most schools, the University recruits for both sororities and fraternities after classes have started. With classes, homework and other activities, recruitment becomes another thing to add to a student's list of tasks.

"At Truman we're trying to make [recruitment] easier," Tuttle said. "We're trying to make it less of a burden because the hard thing is recruitment happens during school, and we want people to be able to do both [recruitment and school]."

The changes within Truman's recruitment are few but significant. In the past each sorority has had themed parties. With the no frills resolution, there is one common theme to the open parties. The theme this year is simply, "Go Greek."

Later, if the sorority is interested in the prospective member, it will ask her back to its Invite Party, which will now have a philanthropic base. Because soror-



Jackson Groves/Index
Gamma Chis Kendra Kirk, Sara Copp and Mindy Maness sit at a sorority recruitment table in Violette Hall Wednesday afternoon. This year, sororities have introduced "no-frills" recruitment to make joining Greek life easier.

ties take pride in philanthropy, this gives them the opportunity to present the amount of time and money raised for their specific beneficiary to the potential new members, said Erika Wolf, University Panhellenic Council president.

Other changes within the resolution include the elimination of skits during recruitment parties and recruitment T-shirts worn by prospective new members at open parties. Posters now also are made by the Panhellenic Council instead of the sorority.

No-frills recruitment began in 1993 when the National Panhellenic Council adopted the resolution. The intent was to shift from decorations and show to having meaningful conversations with potential new members, Wolf said.

The concept of no-frills is a growing trend across the country. During the years it has gained attention in big cities and has slowly crept its way into rural Missouri.

"The recruits will find that with no frills there is a genuine opportunity to talk," Tuttle said. "It's always been about the person and the fit between the person and the [sorority], but I think that even just stripping a little bit of the extra stuff away makes it even easier to make those connections, and that's what it's all about, that's what makes it worthwhile is the sisterhood."

Though many women participate in recruitment every year, sorority life might not be for everyone.

"I've heard there are other ways you can make friends [than joining sororities]," freshman Sherrie Fortson said. "I've heard sororities here aren't a big deal. If you're not in a sorority here you can find a lot of friends. You can know a lot of people even if you're not in a sorority."

Fortson said she might consider joining a sorority but is unsure if it would require too much involvement and take up too much time needed for academics.

Fortson also said that it sounds like with the no-frills recruitment a prospective new member both could get to know the sorority girls better and to get a better idea of what a soror-

ity actually is like.

Members of the Greek community, including current sorority members, have shown a positive interest in the restructuring of sorority recruitment, said Wolf.

"We're all really excited," Wolf said. "The recruitment team is excited, and I think we've got the sororities to really jump on board with it too. The Greek community in the past few years has been moving in a more positive direction and this is just one step further. Although with change there's always hesitation, I think this will be a change for the better."

According to the Greek Affairs Web site, the fall recruitment is still formal recruitment, whereas the spring recruitment is informal. Formal recruitment begins Sept. 5 and ends with Yell-In on Sept. 10.

"[With the no-frills, prospective new members] get to see the everyday side of a sorority girl, and not just the dressed-up, smiling girl," Wolf said. "It shows, 'this is us, who we are.'"

Women interested in joining a sorority can register for recruitment at <http://gogreek.truman.edu>.

NEWS | In Brief

BNB renovation budget increases

The Board of Governors has approved an increase in the budget for the Blanton, Nason and Brewer Halls renovation project.

Campus planner Mark Schultz said an additional \$1,050,000 will supplement the initial \$7,700,000 allocated for BNB. The money is from a University fund set aside especially for repairs and renovations.

Schultz also said that despite the increased budget, the school will utilize value engineering for the BNB project.

The University has negotiated with contractors on how best to save money during the renovations, he said. As a result, fewer offices will be added to the remodeled BNB and only one elevator will be built instead of two, as were in the original plans.

Schultz said construction on BNB is still on schedule and should be completed by fall 2008.

University ranked top in Midwest

The U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges" poll has ranked Truman as the top public university in the Midwest Region — Master's Category for the 11th year in a row.

The University also ranked eighth overall in the Midwest region among both private and public schools. The Midwest region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The 2008 Princeton Review College Guide ranked Truman 14th in the category of "Students Happy with Financial Aid." The guide also described the school as offering students an outstanding undergraduate education.

The National Collegiate Scouting Association named the University fifth in the Division II level. The NCSA ranks schools based on student-athlete graduation rates, academic strength and athletic prowess.

Section of SUB parking lot closes

Spaces in the parking lot north of the Student Union Building now are closed to allow for construction equipment during remaining renovations on the SUB. The barricaded spaces will be unavailable indefinitely. Handicapped parking still is available.

Students are advised that parking in the lot could be dangerous because of construction equipment.

Endowed professorship established

Alumnus Greg Gerhardt has pledged \$1,000,000 to establish the University's first-ever endowed professorship.

The Greg A. and Paulette C. Danielle-Gerhardt Endowed Professorship in Science will be designated for those teaching biology or chemistry with special consideration given to those researching neuroscience.

The professorship is intended to recruit eminent faculty and support research endeavors. Funds from the endowment will also be used to strengthen the biology and chemistry departments through lectureships and new equipment.

Greg Gerhardt is a professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the University of Kentucky, where he directs the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Disease Research Center. The professorship is in memory of Greg Gerhardt's late wife, Paulette Danielle-Gerhardt.

Attorney arrested in sodomy case

Local attorney Thomas R. Oswald has been arrested for second-degree statutory sodomy. The victim is a juvenile, and the arrest was based on a complaint filed with the Kirksville Police Department, said Sgt. Steve Farnsworth.

Farnsworth added that Oswald's arraignment is set to take place within the next few weeks.

John Fougere, press secretary for the Missouri attorney general, to whom the case has been deferred, declined to comment.

DPS | Reports

- 8/25 Taylor Schafer was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 8/24 Charles Conway was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 8/22 Billy Pickett was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 8/20 Report of theft from Baldwin Hall

Students test drive new ID cards

Some find that their cards do not work at all stores, theft not a concern

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM
Staff Reporter

As the school year gets underway, students aren't the only ones trying to get into the swing of things.

This year the University printed new ID cards for all students and faculty with assistance from U.S. Bank. These ID cards include a debit and ATM feature to make things a little easier for students.

Even though most of the ID cards already have been distributed and students are using them, kinks still are being worked out of the system.

"We still have a lot to do," said senior Ellen Winfrey, who works in student affairs.

As of Monday, about 500 ID cards hadn't been picked up by students in exchange for their old cards. Winfrey said she has had several people come in who recently received their new IDs and have already

misplaced the card or had it stolen. "I can't believe that people have already lost the cards when they just got them only a couple of days before," she said.

Winfrey said if students should happen to lose their cards, they don't need to worry about extra costs to replace the debit feature — substitute IDs still cost the same amount. Replacing a lost or stolen ID will cost students \$20 and faculty \$3.

David Hoffman, assistant dean of student affairs, said that if a student's ID card is lost or stolen, the ID office only can replace it, not reactivate the debit part of the card.

He also said students have had questions about being unable to use the card as a debit card in all places.

Hoffman said the business at which a student uses the ID card must have a pad where a PIN can be entered. Students should remember that although the card can be used as a debit, it is not sponsored by Visa or MasterCard, so it cannot be swiped as a credit card, he said.

Even though there has been some confusion with this, most students don't seem to be

having problems.

Junior Tom Stemer said he hasn't had any trouble using his card.

"I use it just like my old ID," Stemer said. "I don't even see the difference."

Stemer also said he hasn't heard about any of his friends with U.S. Bank accounts having any trouble using their IDs.

Whitney Bright, the general manager of campus banking, said everything on the U.S. Bank end is running smoothly. Bright said students haven't been coming into U.S. Bank with any problems using the card.

"Students have just been asking basic questions and getting their cards activated as debit cards," Bright said.

Bright said that although she isn't sure of the exact number of students using the feature, it has been very popular.

She said many students have been wondering whether someone could access their bank account if their ID card was lost or stolen.

Bright said students shouldn't worry — it would be difficult for people to access accounts because they must have the students' PINs to withdraw any money without their knowledge.

Even though accounts are protected in this way, Bright said it is important for students to keep a close eye on their cards and to call U.S. Bank if they happen to lose them.

"I can't believe that people have already lost the cards when they just got them a couple of days before."

Ellen Winfrey
Senior

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