Bid Day: welcome success for Greeks

By Nicole Santore
Advertising Manager

Bid Day was a great success for Greek Life according to Cassie Iacovelli.

President Mordechai Rozanski was not able to be there, but many of the Greek houses were looking forward to sharing their tradition with him and showing him what their letters mean.

“I just met with the presidents of all the [Greek] houses and told them that they did a great job with Bid Day,” said Iacovelli, who is temporarily in charge of Greek Life. “I asked them candidly to adjust the behavior from previous years and I could not have been happier with them.”

On the night of Friday, Oct. 3, Bid Day had a great turn-out and no negative incidents. It was a great improvement from last year. There were no injuries or fights and people still seemed to have a good time.

“I think Bid Day ran really smoothly; everyone had a good time, and was just an overall positive experience,” said Ben Harris, president of Phi Kappa Tau. “I don’t think anyone was out of line and I think Greek Life at Rider looked really good.”

Fall is informal rush and houses usually struggle to gain new members because of the fact that there are no formal events and the houses aren’t allowed to take freshmen. This year, this wasn’t the case and most houses reached quota, which is the maximum number of new members they are allowed to take, according to Iacovelli.

“Some of the chapters didn’t need a lot of girls which is good because they already had them,” said Burrini. “But others needed 16 or 14 girls each and they all hit quota.”

Not only is getting a lot of new members important, but getting quality new members is what the houses really focus is.

Greek students gather for Bid Day on and outside the Cavalla Room balcony.

“Fall is a lot of spirit, a lot of good will and the numbers looked good,” said Iacovelli. “The houses who were doing well continued to do well and the houses that needed to step up did.”

Panel president Lisa Burrini said she felt the same way and was very proud of all the houses.

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By Brooke Olster
Staff Writer

Some Greeks on campus had taken additional measures to ensure the safety of their houses and guests during their social events.

Assistant Dean for Campus Activities Carrie Iacovelli, who is temporarily advising the Greeks until a new director of Greek Life is appointed, said that each fraternity’s presidents and house managers are accountable for who they let into their houses and therefore need to take more precautions if they want their privilege of hosting social events to continue.

“They take on more than they can handle,” she said in reference to the number of people who try to crash into their houses for social events. She also said “they can’t keep letting strangers into their houses.”

Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) utilized a device that requires people wishing to enter a Greek House to slide their ID cards before entering at a recent social event, said Iacovelli. This way, ZBT knew how many people it was letting into its house and who they were.

Other fraternities, such as Phi Kappa Tau, have called on security for back-up if they feel a social event escalates beyond their control, Iacovelli said that when fraternity members do not allow all students to enter their house because it has reached its full capacity, some have grown agitated and act out against the members. She said some students have tried climbing into the house through windows and others have started fights with members of the particular fraternity. She said she is pleased that Greek leaders have relied on Security to handle these types of incidents.

“I think it’s great that the guys are trying to follow more careful procedures at their socials,” said senior Danielle Morris, Phi Sigma Sigma president regarding the additional precautions fraternities have taken to control their social events.

According to Rider’s fire and safety codes, no more than 200 persons can be inside a Greek house at any given time. Iacovelli said that in the past, fraternities have attempted to accommodate over 200 people, which usually results in overcrowding and an increased potential for danger.

“There is a lot of pressure on Greek leaders,” said Iacovelli. “They must protect their houses while hosting a popular social scene on campus. It’s not easy.”

To add to the turmoil, Rider has been coping without a director of Greek Life, formerly held by Greg Overend, since August. Overend was offered a position at another college. According to Iacovelli, a recommendation has been made to the Human Resources Department and pending a standard background check, a new director will be announced shortly and will start in mid-November.

Iacovelli said that the fraternity presidents see social events as an important part of Greek Life and as something they want to continue, only with more control, which may mean making the difficult decision to turn people away.

“They’re made a lot of good changes,” Iacovelli said.

When people cannot enter one house because it is filled, they tend to go house-to-house until they can get in, said John Stout, graduate assistant of Greek affairs. This results in a large number of students gathered on the lawns in front of Greek houses, which, in some instances, has posed problems for the fraternities.

Stout also said that non-Greek students who become guests of a fraternity social event are often the ones causing problems such as fights and house damage because they feel that they do not have to answer to campus officials.

“They are not strict enough at the front gate,” he said about Security’s supervision of the South gate entrance. Stout said this is because Security is often short-staffed. He also said that Greeks will be expected to submit a roster of names of their guests for their social events to security in order to ensure that people who aren’t supposed to be there are not there.

People think we’re not letting them into our house because we’re being choosy,” said senior Ryan Jacobs, president of Alpha Epsilon Pi. “But in fact there’s a limit on the number of people we can let in because of Rider’s fire codes. That’s just the way it is and we do our best to let in as many as possible.”

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