Courtney Cooke

Sorority reaches out on campus

A Christian sorority on campus is trying to reach out to students, faculty and staff on Thursday and Friday.

Sigma Phi Lambda is putting on Freeway this week, which includes passing out snacks, drinks and encouraging notes on Library Lawn.

Candace Vela, university studies sophomore and chairwoman for Freeway, said the event is geared toward showing love and giving encouragement to others.

“Freeway is just Phi Lamb’s way of spreading the word of Jesus on campus,” she said. “We’re not here to get down anybody’s throat, but we’re just here to say, ‘Have a good day, and here’s a cookie on us.’”

A Bible verse is attached to each snack and drink to show what the sorority is about, Vela said.

Moyin Badidi, interior architecture senior, said she was impressed with the effort the sorority put behind the event and thinks it will be successful.

“Students love free food, and when they see an organization do something like this, it gives them a good impression,” Badidi said. “People might not think Christians are so bad after all.”

Badidi said she feels like it is hard to be expressive about her faith on a secular campus, but she is glad an organization is willing to try to show what Christianity is about.

Vela said that last year the sorority passed out food and drinks one day, but she is glad the event will last for two days this year.

“Last year, I was just a volunteer and not a chairwoman,” Vela said. “After I saw how happy people were that we were there and how my actions were encouraging to someone else, I knew I wanted to become more involved in the event.”

Texas A&M’s Sigma Phi Lambda chapter started Freeway, said Kristina Fleming, OSU Sigma Phi Lambda president and zoology senior. The event there lasts five days, and Fleming said OSU’s sorority is trying to get the event successful enough to last that long.

Jeremiah Tsoodle, health education and promotion junior, said he usually doesn’t pay attention to people passing things out on Library Lawn.

“Most of the time, students don’t even pay attention to what was handed to them,” Tsoodle said. “They just find the nearest trash can, and throw it away.”

Tsoodle said that because food is involved, students might be more willing to stop by and pick up a free snack. He said he feels like the sorority is trying to be less harsh about pushing the Bible on people.

Vela said reaching out to other people and showing support is the most important part of the two days.

“We are just here to show love to everyone,” she said. “We are also here for guidance in Christianity, and if anyone has questions about Christianity, we are here to help them and pray with them. We want everyone on this campus to know what Jesus is all about.”

Members of Sigma Phi Lambda will pass out food and drinks on Library Lawn from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.