

# Greek system does not expect change due to Big 10 affiliation

By JESSICA HARTSHORN  
Collegian Staff Writer

Though the University's Greek system is more similar to those at Big Ten schools than it is to ones in the northeast, Interfraternity Council President Scott Stephan says Penn State will not change its fraternity and sorority association.

"We will not consider pulling out of the Northeast (Interfraternity Council)," Stephan said, although Penn State will try to send members to the Midwest Council where they can talk with other Big Ten members.

"We can gain a lot more by talking to them than we can by talking to smaller schools," Stephan said.

Stephan said the schools in the Northeast council often do not share the same

concerns as Penn State because they are smaller.

Villanova University, a member of the Northeast council, has 13 fraternities and eight sororities, compared to Penn State's 56 fraternities and 23 sororities.

The University of Illinois, home of the nation's largest Greek system, is more similar to Penn State, which has 56 fraternities and 27 sororities.

Penn State is the second largest and other schools average slightly fewer greek organizations, such as Michigan State, with 38 fraternities and 26 sororities.

All Big Ten greek systems are members of the Midwest Interfraternity Council with the exception of Penn State, which is a member of the Northeast Interfraternity Council.

Two weeks ago Stephan and Panhellenic Council President Stephanie Redish attended a conference of greek representatives from Big Ten universities. The conference, which was the first of its kind, was held in Evanston, Ill. Representatives from nine of the 11 universities' Greek systems attended.

The conference was designed for informal talks about common problems in the Greek system, Stephan said.

The most positive part of the meeting was "the opportunity to... compare notes and talk about issues that we're all faced with," Redish said.

Issues such as instituting alcohol policies, improving Greeks' images, meeting scholarship requirements, deferring rush and improving relations between sororities and fraternities were all addressed.

Alcohol policies — an issue Stephan said is a main concern of his — was discussed in a special session.

One suggestion Stephan said he will bring up at IFC's first meeting Monday night is Illinois' "bring-your-own-bottle" policy.

The policy, which went into effect last January, limits liability by not allowing fraternities to purchase alcohol, said John Ehler, Illinois' IFC president.

Instead, guests who are 21 and older may bring their own alcoholic beverages, Ehler added.

The program was an adjustment for people on campus, but that has not caused any difficulties, Ehler said. No significant reduction in event attendance was noticed, he said.

Redish said the conference's session

on public relations interested her most.

Greeks must learn to work better with family and friends as well as independents and faculty, Redish said.

The conference dealt with methods to rid the Greek system of negative images often portrayed in movies like *Animal House* and how to direct the greek system's energies into more positive aspects, Redish said.

Faculty receptions and an October community clean-up are two examples of positive image events Penn State greeks will do, Redish added.

One of the main goals all the Big Ten universities made during the conference was to keep in contact with one another, Stephan said.

Stephan and Northwestern University IFC President Tim Simonds are jointly

preparing a questionnaire to send to Big Ten universities to determine similarities between schools.

Participants at the conference also plan to work together on business matters, Stephan said.

Several Greek systems have companies that sponsor large events, such as Coors' sponsorship of the IFC and Panhel Dance Marathon at Penn State and Coca-Cola's sponsorship of rush events at Purdue University.

By sharing contacts with these large sponsors, Stephan said they hope to spread financial support to other events throughout the Big Ten greek system.

Although the location has not been finalized, Penn State has offered to host the conference next summer, Redish said.

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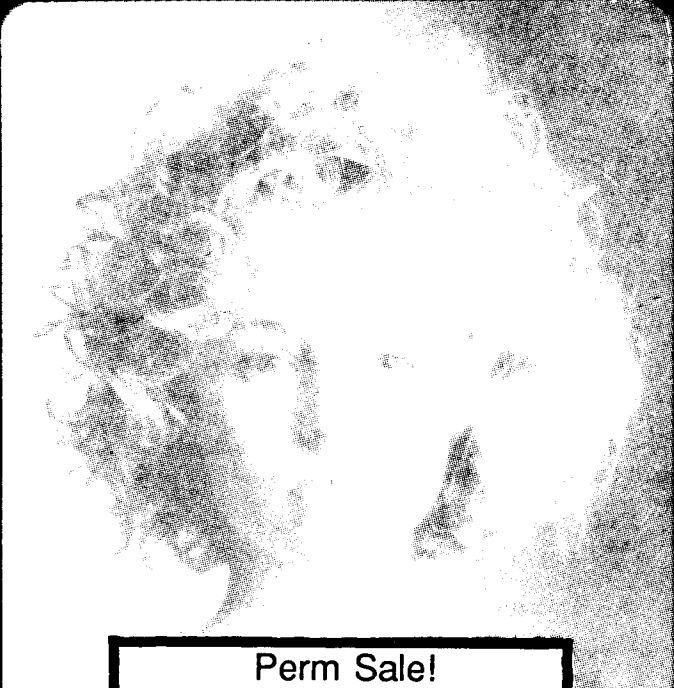
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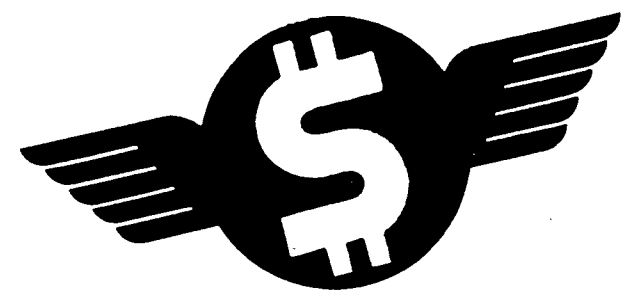
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