

# IFC to institute zero-tolerance policy on assault

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Interfraternity Council will take a zero tolerance stance against sexual assault and harassment with a new policy that has garnered praise from some student leaders.

The policy, which was passed at the Nov. 30 Presidents' Council meeting, explicitly states that any form of sexual harassment — from sexual innuendoes and jokes about gender or sexual orientation to sexual assault — will result in

sanctions from the IFC Judicial Board, IFC Vice President for Standards Nick Rodriguez said.

Under the policy, fraternities are responsible not only for their member's behaviors, but also the actions of those in their fraternity residence, Rodriguez (junior-crime, law and justice, Spanish and international studies) said.

UPUA President Christian Ragland has taken a strong stance on the issue of campus safety, and the IFC wants to stand alongside other student leaders on the issue, Rodriguez said.

Ragland (senior-political science) said he applauds the IFC on its policy.

Though it's not a solution to the problem — which he stressed is pertinent to all students and not just those involved in greek life — it's an important step, Ragland said.

In the past, the IFC has not had this type of strong language in its bylaws, Rodriguez said.

"We want to hold ourselves to a higher standard than even the police will," Rodriguez said. "Regardless of whether it's a

member or not, regardless of whether it's a joke, we do take this seriously."

Ragland said greek communities are often discussed when talking about issues surrounding sexual assault. Greek communities at each of the Big Ten schools are usually brought up at conferences on campus safety, Ragland said.

And though he's attended a few such conferences, he said he has not heard of any other greek community that is taking as strong a stance as Penn State's IFC.

proactive instead of reactive is awesome," Ragland said.

IFC President Dan Florencio said his executive board, which will be formed in the upcoming weeks, will work to educate greeks about the policy and plan programming to keep sexual assault at the forefront of the community's mind.

Florencio (senior-philosophy) said he plans to collaborate with the Coalition for Women and the Women's Resource Center.

To e-mail reporter: [mer5200@psu.edu](mailto:mer5200@psu.edu)

## Gallery's art caters to niche

By Sarah Olah  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Jody Harrington, owner of the recently opened gallery and art shop Ion, 209 W. Calder Way, is inviting the community to come and hear stories about the featured artwork over a cup of tea.

"Everything in here has a story," he said. "People should see it for themselves and hear the story."

On Nov. 13, Harrington "popped the first champagne cork," debuting the venue to friends and other people he and his wife work with, he said.

Ion is now open to the public, and Harrington said he plans to have a public reception sometime this month, where community members can get a feeling for the art gallery.

Ion's core design philosophy is quality, class and substantiality, Harrington said.

He said he wants to have modern pieces with simple beauty and quality work.

"It is a new school here, from retail to architecture to the people who move here," Harrington said. "Ion gives more culture to State College."

Jody Alessandrine, Downtown



Kelsey Morns/Collegian

Jody Harrington, owner of Ion Gallery, stands in front of some of the pieces for sale. Ion, located at 209 W. Calder Way, debuted on Nov. 13.

Improvement District executive director said Ion does not currently face competition because there are no other galleries like it in town.

"It is a niche clientele that is offering something no one else is offering," he said.

People can shop or look at the array of pieces — from furniture to photographs. The price range varies from \$4 to \$14,000, Harrington said.

"Everything in here I would be more than happy to put in my own home," he said.

There are eight artists featured now, four of whom are local. But the gallery also showcases work from artists living as far away as Amsterdam.

Eric Roman, a local artist featured at Ion, has three photographs of Northern California on display. The photographs are from when he was in California for graduate work.

"It is a venue for more serious

art and for people looking for a little more than regional work," Roman said.

Lisa Harrington, Jody's wife and co-owner of Ion, said she also enjoys all of the artwork.

"They all have different aspects to them that I like," she said.

Jody Harrington said Ion is cataloging important people in the art world.

He said the artists he has featured are going places, and he believes their work will end up in museums.

"You either get it or you don't," Harrington said. "It's either for your home or not, but people need to come in and decide for themselves whether it is for them or not."

Though no students are featured at the venue now, Harrington said he is "hungry to meet new artists."

Harrington said he is looking for what fits with the store's modern feel.

## Local politicians reject pay increase

By Nathan Pipenberg  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Local state politicians said they don't plan to keep cost of living adjustments that would increase their salaries 1.7 percent — opting instead to give the money back to the government or charity.



Corman

The cost of living increase raises rank-and-file legislators' salaries from \$78,315 to \$79,623. Salaries for legislative floor leaders are rising from \$113,468 to \$115,364. The changes will go into effect Jan. 1.

State Rep. Scott Conklin, D-Centre, will donate the money to local food banks, said Tor Michaels, Conklin's chief of staff. And State Sen. Jake Corman, R-Centre, and Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, both pledged to return the money to the state.

"You try to lead by example," Corman said. "From my own personal situation, I just thought it was appropriate to give the money back."

Pay adjustments don't occur every year, but all three local politicians said they reject the

increases whenever they appear. The last cost of living increase was in 2008, Corman said.

Legislators can't refuse the money, and most either write checks back to the State Treasury Department or donate to charity.

Conklin has consistently donated his pay hikes to charity because he wouldn't be sure where the money would go if it was returned to the state, Michaels said.

Around the state, other legislators are also declining the pay hike, citing economic troubles and pay freezes for other state employees.

Both outgoing Gov. Ed Rendell and Governor-elect Tom Corbett plan to reject the pay increases as well.

Rendell has forgone increases in the past, and currently earns a \$170,150 salary rather than \$174,914. Because he declined this year's increase, Corbett's salary will sit at \$174,914 instead of increasing to \$177,888.

The cost-of-living adjustments for legislators, judges and some executive officials became automatic in 1995. But Rep. Marguerite Quinn, R-143, plans to introduce a bill that would eliminate the automatic pay increases for legislators.

To e-mail reporter: [ndp5045@psu.edu](mailto:ndp5045@psu.edu)

## Student to run 250 miles to raise money for charity

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Chris Ulmer is running as far away as he can get from State College after he graduates Dec. 18.

But his 250-mile run to his parents' house in Willow Grove, Pa. isn't just so Ulmer can return home. Ulmer (senior-media studies) is also raising money for Teach for America by asking people to donate money for each mile he runs.

Ulmer will begin his run the

same day of his graduation. For the next three or four days, Ulmer will run about 55 miles a day through small Pennsylvania towns, stopping only when he needs to rest.

Some friends will follow in a car with Ulmer's belongings, but, more importantly, with moral support.

"I'm prepared to boost his spirits as much as I have to," said Justin Emery, Ulmer's roommate. "If I have to get out and run with him, I'll do that, too."

But his Penn State friends won't

be the only ones tracking Ulmer's progress. A friend and student at Temple University is creating a documentary — which he plans to submit to film festivals — based on Ulmer's efforts.

Antonio Piluso, who will be creating the documentary, said the group came up with the idea in late October. When Ulmer first mentioned it, everyone thought it was a cool idea but didn't think he would go through with the plan, Piluso said.

But Ulmer proved to be dedicated to the project and those travel-

ing with him are equally excited, Piluso said.

"I wish it was happening tomorrow. I don't feel like waiting another week and a half," Emery (senior-broadcast journalism) said.

Ulmer said Penn State students are known for rallying around causes like Teach for America, and he hopes to raise at least \$1,000 for the non-profit organization.

"People are really good with stuff along these lines. People are good with [the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance

Marathon]," Ulmer said. "I'm trying to get every student to donate a cent per mile."

Those interested in contributing to the effort can donate online at [firstgiving.com/ChrisUlmer](http://firstgiving.com/ChrisUlmer).

Ulmer said students usually have one reaction to his plan: They think he's nuts.

Ulmer said he's not too worried about making it home since he's competed in the Tussey Mountainback 50-Mile Relay and Ultramarathon Race in October.

To e-mail reporter: [mer5200@psu.edu](mailto:mer5200@psu.edu)

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