

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Board of Sorority Affairs
409 Fred H. Turner Student Services Building
610 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820

October 24, 2006

Dear Panhellenic Chapter Presidents,

The Board of Sorority Affairs (BSA) voted on October 16, 2006 to permanently ban the practice of Panhellenic Council serenades on the UIUC campus. BSA is the coordinating unit between the University and the Panhellenic, Black Greek, and United Greek Councils. The mission of BSA is to support the activities and operations of sororities and to promote high standards of intellectual, moral, physical, and social development for their members. There has been ongoing discussion for a number of years regarding extremely inappropriate behavior of some Panhellenic sorority members that accompanied singing and dancing serenade routines. BSA implemented a ban over two years ago that prohibited serenades as a way of initiating interest in social events with fraternities. It was our intent at that time that there would be no more serenades on our campus because it had become impossible to regulate and control inappropriate behavior during serenades. Serenades refer to group singing and dancing routines performed by sorority members in front of an audience of fraternity members.

Recent occurrences of "serenades" that took place during Sigma Chi Fraternity's Derby Days (philanthropy for Children's Miracle Network) on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 have brought the issue to the forefront again. Despite a unanimous agreement signed by the Panhellenic chapter presidents on September 22, 2006 that no serenades would take place, a number of Panhellenic chapters did so anyway. These singing and dancing routines were determined to violate the Ethics Clause of the Panhellenic Council Constitution. As a result, 8 of the 13 chapters that participated in Derby Days were sanctioned by the Panhellenic Judicial Board.

It was the consensus of BSA members that it is impossible to regulate serenades in such a way as to prevent lewd singing and dancing by a few members or groups. More over, we believe this type of behavior is inconsistent of fraternal values we promote as Greek organizations. Due to the large number of repeated problems and complaints over the years, BSA members felt they had no choice other than to institute a permanent ban on the practice of serenades. We took this action with great regret and wish an alternative solution could be identified.

Please notify your members that there are to be no more serenades, in any form or circumstances. Allegations of such activity will be investigated and dealt with seriously. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Brenda C. Lindsey
Co-Chair
blindsey@uiuc.edu

LaTanya Cobb
Co-Chair
lcobb@uiuc.edu

cc: Brian Farber, Acting Director of Office of Student Conflict Resolution
Panhellenic Council Chapter Advisors
Panhellenic Council Executive Board
Board of Fraternity Affairs
Interfraternity Council Chapter Presidents
Interfraternity Council Executive Board
Interfraternity Council Chapter Advisors