

Hello to all,

September 26-30 is National Hazing Prevention Week. Greek Affairs has promoted resources and opportunities to dialogue about hazing culture in chapters over the last month and a half in several of our past issues of the Illini Greek. I hope many chapters have had the opportunity to discuss the role, if any, hazing plays in your organization and how you can work together to combat this problem. Hazing cuts across the fabric of higher education and is not only a facet of fraternity and sorority life; however, it has no place in our community as we seek to build dynamic and essential organizations to serve the community, enrich the lives of those committed to this movement, and provide a wonderful opportunity for students to feel connected to our large and diverse campus.

The latest Illini Greek is a special issue dedicated strictly to combating hazing. In this issue we address such things as how alumni can help combat hazing, how chapters can address this practice and change organizational culture, and how the national headlines involving over 80 deaths since 1970 due to fraternity and sorority hazing continue to undermine our credibility and relevance in a time when society continues to provide alternatives to joining fraternities and sororities that could be viewed as far more compelling, exciting and most notably safer. What can we do as a community to combat this? We can all start with our own organizations and audit our practices. If we find that things we're doing aren't congruent with our mission and values, then we need to stop them and recommit ourselves to the standards fraternities and sororities were founded upon and could thrive in accomplishing today.

Bottom line: hazing hurts individuals, organizations and communities and undermines the values and purpose of fraternal organizations on this campus and across the country.

This link will take you to the latest edition:

http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/greek/illinigreek/IlliniGreek_September28,2005.doc. This week's raffle questions reflects about two minutes of careful reflection. I hope all of you will take the time to reply!

Included in the Illini Greek is a powerpoint I recently did for the fraternity and sorority Health Advocates. Check it out as I think it provides a well-rounded view of this issue:

<http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/greek/library/hazing.ppt>.

This link will take you to an additional resource which is the recent FRMT Newsletter and it highlights hazing. Most notable is the first article called "Three Deadly Nights":

http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/greek/library/FRMTnewsletter_hazing.pdf

Thanks for your commitment to addressing this issue.

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