

**Courageous Leadership Email – nothing new!  
Three reasons for two things!**

In the last Illini Greek, we highlighted a recent call to action that Greek Affairs has offered to some organizations in the fraternity and sorority community via the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council:

<http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/greek/library/courageousLeaders.pdf>.

There are three reasons that he has asked the councils to look out for the safety of members and follow BYO policies at all events:

1. The safety of your members depends on everyone looking out for people and moderating the use of alcohol. Abuse and misuse of alcohol could result in someone dying, being injured, or placed in some other precarious situation.
2. The liability that organizations and individuals assume when sponsoring events and providing alcohol is very high. We can reduce the likelihood of being sued if something goes wrong by making sure everyone buys their own alcohol. The courts and the law have made very strong statements that they will hold others responsible for decisions that individuals make.
3. The integrity of the community's governance system is in jeopardy and the police will get involved if the community doesn't regain control over social events. The university, your alumni and the national organization you may belong too will not support your actions should you be found in violation of policies we are asking you to understand and adhere to.

I am asking you to do two things, neither of which should be difficult or are new by any means.

1. Monitor the safety of your guests and members – excessive alcohol misuse and abuse is jeopardizing the future of fraternities and sororities. You have an obligation to look out for your members and make sure they don't end up in the hospital. We took oaths to be good brothers and sisters and accountability is a part of that.
2. BYOB means bring or buy your own alcohol. The sororities who use the fraternities to get drinks are complete hypocrites as they say "we're not providing alcohol to our members" well, you are. The men are paying 10 times more than women. BYO means you will not have tabs and people can still have fun and attend events.

What is hard about this?

If you're saying that the only value your members see in your organization is a means to get drunk and have access to alcohol, then there are problems.

If you're saying that the only way women will attend exchanges is if men buy them alcohol, then that's a problem.

If the only reason that people should have to be members of our organizations is that you will become a filter for them to buy alcohol, then we have some serious problems. Reduce your social dues, tell people to hold on to their money for events and have them buy their own.