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## New policy alters Rush Week

By Daniel West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A new social policy introduced by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils brought many changes to this year's Rush Week.

The policy came from the councils' need to regulate the use of alcohol at parties.

Last spring the governing body of the greek system and the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils introduced a new social policy that limits the distribution of alcoholic beverages at greek functions.

This new policy affects regular functions as well as traditional ones.

Bid Day parties, the day interested students receive formal invitations to join a fraternity or sorority, were postponed this fall so each chapter could educate their members on responsible alcohol use and personal safety.

The social policy says all chapters must regulate the distribution of alcohol. Each organization must provide its own bartender, who is at least 21 years old. The bartender may only serve to individuals who are of legal drinking age. This policy will help reduce the number of underage drinkers attending these functions.

Some greeks are concerned that this policy could hurt more than help.

"I'm worried that this new policy will force people to drink outside the party and then drive to the actual location," said Kim White, a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. "Or else girls will drink in

individual rooms of greek houses behind closed doors."

Another concern is that the new regulations on alcohol consumption are going to make the greek system less desirable to students who aren't 21 years old.

Other greeks believe that restricting functions, such as Bid Day, isn't the best way to control the consumption of alcohol. They do agree that some regulation is needed.

Some greeks suggest that more preventative measures, such as education, might be more effective. They think greek members will find their way around the restrictions and that could be more dangerous than previous behavior.

"When Bid Days are without fraternities and sororities together, what people do with all their energy will be out of control," said Aimee Markwith, president of Chi Omega. "You can't take alcohol out of the college, but you can regulate it through educating members, especially pledges."

Markwith believes this new social policy will have a positive effect on the greek system.

For example, the policy will help de-emphasize alcohol abuse in the greek system. Shifting the focus of the functions from alcohol to party themes or meeting other people would also help.

"This new policy will change the kind of people who are interested in rush," said Donovan Dichter, social chairman of Theta Chi. "This will attract more quality guys and build a stronger greek system."

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