Lutheran students to go Greek soon

Meetings to begin early next month

By Amanda Herbert
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If all goes as planned, Lutheran students at OSU will have the option of pledging the Beta Sigma Psi fraternity or the Phi Beta Chi sorority within the next year.

Both Beta Sigma Psi and Phi Beta Chi are national organizations wishing to colonize and eventually form chapters on campus.

Brent Seifert, an alumus from Purdue University's chapter of Beta Sigma Psi, is taking an active role in establishing the fraternity at OSU.

"What makes us different is that we're all Lutheran," Seifert said.

While the fraternity is directly connected to the Lutheran church's beliefs and practices, it is not a church in itself, Seifert said. The fraternity encourages spiritual growth, academic achievement, and involvement in social activities, he said.

All members of the fraternity must be Lutheran to join. If students are not of that faith, they may elect to convert to Lutheranism, Seifert said.

There are currently eight chapters nationwide, which average 30 to 40 members each.

Seifert said OSU was an ideal setting for a new chapter because of its size and the large Lutheran population on campus.

Twelve to 14 brothers, including Seifert, from the Purdue chapter will be on campus the weekend of Oct. 8 to assist with informal rush activities. These will include two successive informational sessions on Oct. 9 and 10, at 7 p.m. in the Ohio Union Buckeye Room and a planning session with elections on Oct. 17, at 7 p.m., with the location TBA.

There is no question regarding religion on the registration materials rushees must fill out, Seifert said. This makes it more difficult for fraternities of this nature to identify potential members, he said.

Seifert hopes to generate enough interest through advertising and personal visits to make renting a house next year a reality.

Beta Sigma Psi and Phi Beta Chi will work closely with the local Lutheran Campus Ministry, especially during the development period. "We're (Phi Beta Chi) still very much in the infant stages," Pastor Robert McNamara said. McNamara was the former faculty advisor of the University of Illinois chapter, and has agreed to help get it started here at OSU.

The sorority has strong chapters at the University of Nebraska, Purdue, the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri, McNamara said.

"The things that worked at Purdue and Illinois may not work here," he added.

Unlike the fraternity, members of Phi Beta Chi do not have to be Lutheran to join, but must share in the basic ideals of the sorority. "We accentuate the broader Christian values," McNamara said.

Informational meetings concerning the new sorority will be held beginning in October.

Pastor McNamara said Phi Beta Chi organizers should "...move in the direction of a student organization..." before attempting to colonize.