Greek Vine altered, now full newspaper

By Dave Fleming
Lantern staff writer

The Greek Vine has been a free newsletter in the Greek system for about seven years, but now, new editors want to make it a full-fledged newspaper.

The new staff has modified the two-page newsletter into an eight to twelve-page newspaper. The newspaper is currently distributed twice a quarter, said Dara Albanese, the editor of the Vine. But Albanese and assistant editor Debbie Weiner want to distribute three times a quarter.

The Vine is mainly funded by the advertising of Columbus Distributing and some individual Greek houses as well as a few small businesses.

Albanese said the paper has 10 staff writers and aims to cover light stories that are relevant to the campus and Greek system.

A sports section is also going to be added to report on Greeks who excel in intercollegiate sports. The section will also carry updates on intramural activities, Albanese said.

Weiner also oversees the megaphone section of the publication.

"This is the center section of the newspaper and (it) is where fraternities and sororities can basically brag about themselves," said Weiner.

With the megaphone section, the editors don't have to decide which chapter to spotlight each issue and they won't be perceived as showing favoritism, Weiner said. This keeps the audience, the Greeks, involved in the publication because they cover their own events.

The megaphone also includes a section for the philanthropic activities of fraternities and sororities.

In the upcoming fall quarter, Weiner wants to start a separate public relations newsletter that will precede the distribution of the newspaper by a couple of days.

But, there are mixed feelings about the current paper. Pete Asmar of Sigma Chi thinks the paper is adequate but needs more Greek involvement. Only a few chapters have people that do the actual writing and those houses are mentioned more consistently than others, he said, but the paper is improving.

One member of Delta Delta Delta, who wished not to be identified, said she heard the newspaper had undergone a complete turnaround. But, the journalistic techniques are still not good, she added.

The articles and layout are poor and they have written some material that Greeks think are funny but non-Greeks might think are cutdowns of the Greek system, she said.

The Greek Vine, published by Gow Printing, comes out on Wednesday the fourth and ninth weeks of the quarter, except summer quarter. It is available at all Greek houses, the office of Greek Affairs, and the Balfour House, 1600 N. High St.

The editors were chosen by the previous staff and will serve through winter quarter.