

1985 and a New IFC

by Roy Greene

Visits between black and white fraternities, advocating guidelines for the responsible use of alcohol, and charity drives are projects associated with the letters 'IFC'. While most people know this organization represents the central voice of fraternities on campus and coordinates specific projects, the IFC's functions, makeup, and goals are less commonly known.

Composed of three separate bodies, it provides a home base for the fraternities to exchange ideas, discuss problems and plan Greek and all-campus events.

The legislative body of the IFC is the Fraternity President's Association (FPA), which is made up of the presidents of each of UNC's 28 social fraternities. The FPA, which meets at least once a month, acts as an earpiece for the fraternities. Presidents take information presented at the meetings back to their chapter meetings for discussion. Subsequently, F.P.A. members decide policy, discuss additional projects, and advise its leading body, the IFC Executive Committee on its day to day operations.

As the coordinating body of the FPA, the Executive Committee investigates issues facing fraternities, discusses its findings at FPA meetings, and develops FPA projects on a day to day basis. The main focus of the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the FPA, is to educate the presidents, aid communication, and develop fraternity services.

An example of the Executive Council's educator role is its recent investigation into buying a computer system. The system, called the Unicom Project, would enable the IFC or individual fraternities to computerize such things as house bills, membership recruitment, and alumni publications through specially designed programs.

"The Executive Committee is comprised of three elected officers and four appointed assistants," IFC President Tommy Henson said. "We meet weekly to stay abreast of issues, consider projects, and finalize plans".

Henson, who was elected president in November, said one of his main goals as president was to promote a better understanding between the IFC and the Black Greek Council. He is

a junior from Rocky Mount and a third year member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

Charles Harrison, his Executive Assistant for Community Relations, is working toward giving fraternities a better image and integrating its members into the community.

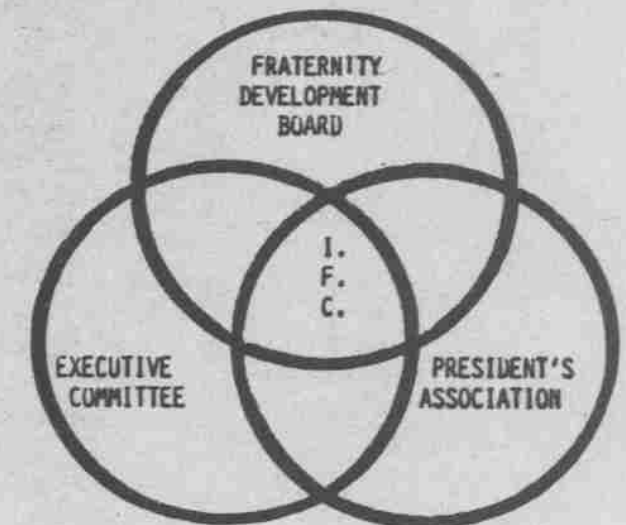
"As residents of Chapel Hill, fraternities have the potential to be vital and active members of the community," Harrison said. The IFC is organizing meetings with community leaders to review the concerns of both parties. Past efforts with the community have resulted in representatives from community agencies regularly visiting FPA meetings for discussions, a set of alcohol guidelines being adopted by fraternities, and fraternity support of last year's 'Save the Y' campaign.

The following are current members of the Executive Committee: Charles Shook, Executive Vice President; John Sloan, Administrative Vice President; George Wilson, Assistant for Minority Relations; Gordon Massengill, Assistant for Membership Development; Charles Harrison, Assistant for Community Relations; Jordan Washburn, Assistant for Philanthropy; and

Henson. Steve Hutson, Assistant Dean in the Office of the Dean of Students, is the adviser for all three parts of the IFC, and provides consultation for each IFC officer.

The third part in the IFC makeup is the Fraternity Development Board, which is composed of faculty advisers, community leaders and experienced student leaders.

"The Development Board provides an external, unbiased point of view," Henson said. It serves as a liaison among the fraternities, and between the fraternities and the community," he said. Both he and Hutson are members of the board.



"We are committed to dealing with any issue directly and honestly, and to acting in the best interests of fraternity members, while respecting the campus and Chapel Hill communities."

- Tommy Henson, IFC President

The IFC Fraternity President's Association (right) meets once a month for decision-making



Photo by Nancy Good