

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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## SGA refuses to consider subsidizing Greek council

By Jessica Gerstle  
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The Barnard College Student Government Association (SGA) Representative Council refused to consider recognizing the Inter-Greek Council (IGC) because the SGA constitution does not allow funding for groups which are either exclusionary or have membership fees.

IGC President Abigail Davis, CC '94, requested recognition from SGA in order to receive funding for Barnard students whose financial aid does not cover housing in co-ed fraternities, which are located off campus.

"Barnard students currently in co-ed fraternity housing probably do not receive financial aid because IGC and the fraternity system is not recognized by Barnard College," Davis said.

While the number of students affected by this was not determined, only 28 Barnard students belonged to co-ed fraternities as of last semester, according to Wanda Cole, BC '94, vice president of student activities.

The IGC proposed at its last meeting that Barnard students pay

an additional \$15 activities fee annually to IGC because of a \$3,000 cut in the funding IGC receives from the Columbia College and Engineering student councils.

Davis said the fee is necessary because the IGC can no longer afford to fully support activities not recognized and supported by SGA and Barnard.

Barnard Vice President and General Counsel Kathy



Rodgers said that 54 percent of sorority members are Barnard students, and eight percent of Barnard students participate in Greek life.

The Rep Council also denied a request for \$800 from the organizers of Latino Heritage month, which begins today.

Letisha Colon, BC '95, a representative from Latino Heritage Month, submitted a \$17,000 expense statement with no projection of profits that will be made at events with fees. The failure of some sponsors to follow through with their commitments forced the organizers to request money from the Rep Council's contingency fund.

SGA President Leilynne Lau, BC '93, said the \$6,600 contingency fund needs to last groups the entire year, and that last year the \$500 allocated to Latino Heritage month was not used.

"While this is a new board, and allocations are not done based on past boards, I think that the organizers of Latino Heritage Month haven't outlined clearly enough the emergency need for money," Lau said.

The treasurer of Latino Heritage Month was not present at the meeting to answer questions from the SGA Rep Council about the need for contingency money.

Also, the SGA granted WBAR, Barnard's fledgling student-operated radio station, \$7,500, half of the amount it requested.

"We are planning on using the funds we have been allocated to train DeeJay's, purchase equipment, and begin wiring," said WBAR Co-Founder Jennifer Small, BC '93.

WBAR organizers said they hope by the spring semester to broadcast a minimum of 12 hours a day, at least five days a week.

Cole suggested the group ask the Provost's Student Initiative Fund for further financial assistance.

In other club news, the SGA recognized the Columbia University Undergraduate Contemporary Ensemble, which will compose and perform musical pieces.

Today, first-year candidates begin campaigning for class office elections which will take place Oct. 5-8. Eight women are running for president of the class of '96.

"We are so psyched that there has been such an enthusiastic response to run for office. Best of luck," said Vice President of Student Government Ellen Schwartzman, BC '94.

Class of '94 President Alisha Kwon is distributing a questionnaire to find out if Barnard students are interested in HIV testing. If the response is favorable, she will draft a proposal after the next meeting.