

# Hazing

## The Questions Are Dis-heartening But the Answers May Be Worse

During fraternity initiation last week, of the houses initiating, only a very few did not use hazing practices. Some of the hazing techniques involved physical violence, personal degradation, and in an appalling number of instances, outright perversion. President Flemming's action and the resignation of Tribunal Chairman Ken Wilson indicate the extent and seriousness of the offenses. A description of the list of the alleged offenses is both nauseating and unprintable.

What happened last week raises some serious questions:

- Where do fraternities find the people to devise and administer such initiations? Where do they find people who will stand by and let such things go on? And where do they find people who will endure them?

- Why has the administration done nothing in the past to stop such practices? Can these things have gone on for decades without the administration finding out about them? Are housing needs at the University so great that these terrible compromises had to be made? Did the University depend that much on the financial assistance of fraternity alumni?

- How many share the responsibility for such practices? The entire University from Student Affairs to the lowliest pledge?

The fraternity system alone? Each individual fraternity? Groups in fraternities too powerful to oppose? Each fraternity member?

- Why are people who participate in such practices regarded as the socially elite, as the leaders of campus life? Can sororities absolve themselves of all blame for what went on last week and in years past? Have they shown indifference or even tacit approval to what has gone on?

- How many of our good friends have taken part in such practices? How many people who have done these things are pinned? Engaged? Married?

- How many parents have taken part in such initiations? How many of our professors? Our civic leaders? Our national leaders?

- What sort of standards will these people instill in their children? What standards will they bring into business? Into society? Into government?

- Do these acts represent the true character of the fraternity system and its members?

- Would anything ever have happened to stop these practices had not President Flemming stepped in?

- And there is, finally, one last question: How many people on this campus really regard such practices as wrong?

## Pleasant Reversal

We are pleased that the University administration did not propose that the fees for Susan Campbell and Hendricks be raised \$45 so that their charges would equal charges in other dormitories.

What with tuition probably going up \$30 next year, all dormitory fees most likely being raised \$40 and books increasing between \$5 and \$10 per year, the under-privileged student does not need any more blows to his pocketbook.

As it is now, under-privileged women may request to live in Susan Campbell or Hendricks, thereby saving \$45. To take this away would increase prices next year for under-privileged women not \$80 but \$125.

Susan Campbell and Hendricks were purchased with state funds, and have been paid off for a long time, unlike our other dormitories.

It should also be remembered that the University has a policy which requires

students to live in the dormitory their freshman year if they do not have relatives in Eugene.

And then there is the fact that the Eugene campus has a large dormitory surplus of several hundred thousand dollars, exemplified by our recent dorm fund contributions to the University medical school in Portland.

Irregardless of what dormitory officials say about sinks in the room, central location, and a new fire-control system, Hendricks and Susan Campbell facilities are just not equal to those in our other dormitories. The dorms are older, noisier, have more people per room, and have a five-minute walk to eating facilities.

We are in agreement with the policy that our dormitory system cannot justifiably operate in the red. We believe, however, that the administration has also wisely decided not to operate too far in the black.



"TELL ME MORE ABOUT THOSE RUGGED WINTERS IN THE OLD DAYS."

## Letters to the Editor

### Shutout Sky

**Emerald Editor:**

Whom can I thank for the perfectly-made, elegantly-conventional machine-pleated draperies that now hang in the Student Union Annex? The sun is finally obliterated, the seagull sculpture hidden, the squirrels and the trees are beyond distraction. Along the pathways outside, one of the shrubs was beginning to bud, and it isn't even Spring! At last the sky is shut out—clouds scud across it in totally unpredictable patterns, anyway—and the bomb-shelter is padded; it seems so much more secure, somehow. Perhaps some imaginative restaurant supplier could be prevailed upon to supply those nice, plastic-shaded, pastel candles for each table. This additional touch would create an atmosphere conducive to more innocuous ideas and soft, pale shadows of thought, a veritable haven from the crudities of prostitution and pretense.

Not only can students eat in secluded groups in this room now freed of nakedness and vision, but soon, I understand, they are to be intellectually fed as well. Little placards will be placed on the slightly bizarre tables (round in a square room, but some incongruities can be overlooked), suggesting something to think about, informing all alike of the topics currently being discussed by those who realize the value of words, the necessity of involvement in all the popular issues. For instance, I hope one of them deals with how to spell aesthetics—with or without the "a"?—because I think its important to know how to spell it; otherwise, people just imagine, or just feel their way, with no established norm to guide them. Overly-enthusiastic exchanges will be subdued by the yards and yards of expensive fabric, thus avoiding the sparks of free will which might otherwise be ignited into action.

Thank goodness I will no longer have to eat my sandwiches by the Millrace. It is cluttered with tortured remainders of a violent storm, broken trees which would require much too much time and money to remove. Now I can spend that hour of respite, heretofore wasted in contemplation, in the comfortably accoutered diningroom, protected from external threat. This is a modest appreciation.

**Jane McLean,**  
Eng. Grad.

unpreparedness is an invitation to disaster.

**Will Strong,**  
Graduate,  
Interdisciplinary Studies.

### Too Much Money?

**Emerald Editor:**

May I be permitted to express doubt about the wisdom of spending \$500 of student monies on the free speech platform? It is a part of lay knowledge if not a formal sociological axiom that the more money that is spent on physical installations, the greater becomes the difficulty in using the facility. I can foresee that any student who wishes to use the proposed platform will have to clear with Student Union authorities at least a week in advance, so that their "free" speech will not conflict in schedule with Friday-at-Four or the annual Mushroom Boiling Contest of the Signify-Nothings. Such is the marginal disutility of permanent investment.

**Forrest R. Pitts,**  
Assoc. Prof. of Geo-  
graphy.

### About Dropping

**ATTENTION ALL MICKEY MICE:**

Hope you heeded the Emerald's urgent announcement last Friday concerning the drop-date—"withdraw now and avoid the grade." After reading the Emerald's warning to grade seekers, Dr. Stephenson (history dept.) wittily quipped, "all mice drop now and save the taxpayer money!" This makes sense. Real sense. Time out for self - evaluation. Ask yourself what you're really here for.

Meanwhile rest assured that occupants of those now empty classroom chairs have squeaked off to the SU for a cheeseburger and coffee.

**Patricia Anderson,**  
Soph in Pre-Law.

## Letters to the Editor

### Brotherhood

**Emerald Editor:**

In the ASUO Senate meeting Thursday evening, Senator Bill Vertrees said, in his speech concerning the USNSA, that all men believe in brotherhood and if they didn't there is something wrong with them. From his following actions, we might be lead to wonder if he is possibly the someone there is something wrong with.

Brotherhood includes showing consideration for your fellowmen. However, when Tad McCall, newly appointed senator, began to give a carefully prepared speech on the NSA issue, Vertrees ridiculed him by flagrantly playing the part of a waiter; choosing this time to serve coffee to the spectators. This hardly exemplifies his doctrine on brotherhood.

Such conspicuous inconsideration was a detriment to the dignity of the Senate, and to the

excellent speech about the USNSA which Vertrees had given earlier.

I do give Tad McCall my admiration for being responsible enough to prepare his arguments on the USNSA issue. The "silent" senators from each class could do well to follow his example.

**Missy Schmid,**  
Freshman, Literature.

### Pro Shelter Signs

**Emerald Editor:**

For several days on this campus it has been fashionable to damn bomb-shelter signs. This seems to me perfectly absurd for two reasons.

First, no one knows if shelters are really effective, since we've not had a chance to test them yet. Thank God. People who are optimistic say they might be; pessimists say they aren't. I side with optimists (it is an American tradition),

and if that day really comes so will you; we will both be heading hopefully to the safest place, following the signs. (You may be muttering under your breath "This is an illusion! Hopeless!" but you will be by my side, nevertheless.)

Secondly, the notion that the signs suggest a breach of faith in this nation's struggle for peace, or that the signs may induce the citizens to complacency, is perverse reasoning, reductio ad absurdum. The signs signify nothing more than this nation's awareness and preparedness—a condition that lamentably did not exist on December 7, 1941. (We were at that time, historians say, seeking a settlement with Japan.) I am gratified that we have benefited something from that experience, that we are today somewhat less naive. For two points remain clear: morality between nations is still non-existent, and

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