

Another Greek Exemption

Is There a Parallel Concerning Hazing and Drinking?

The University administration has been widely criticized for the fact that hazing has been allowed to exist on this campus for so long.

This criticism calls to mind another double standard which exists concerning the treatment given Greeks compared to that given independents.

This double standard is best illustrated by posing a hypothetical situation.

Suppose that a fraternity is holding a normal house dance. Before this house dance, the normal cocktail party is to take place in the normal apartment, chaperoned by normal University-sanctioned "adults". There will undoubtedly be a great many individuals under 21 drinking at this party. The Emerald is not necessarily opposed to this widely-accepted practice. It is the double standard we dislike.

Suppose that Jane Jones, who is a senior, age 20, living in Tingle dormitory, with a 4.00 GPA, attends the party. Suppose also that Molly Mudd, who is a sophomore, age 18, with a 2.001, living in Rho Rho Rho sorority, also attends.

Then suppose that Molly Mudd becomes very drunk and commits all sorts of undesirable acts. As she crawls in the front door at Rho Rho Rho, the lock-up girl is likely to help put her to bed, and no one will ever be the wiser.

Then suppose that Jane Jones takes one small drink, the first of her young life, and is completely in control of her faculties as she walks in the door at Tingle Hall. But oops, she breathes in the direction of the housemother or counselor, and there it is—that undeniable scent of scotch-on-the-rocks. It is quite likely that Jane Jones will be highly reprimanded, put on probation, and a black mark will indelibly etch itself onto her personal file.

Perhaps we have slightly over-exaggerated the situation. But you will find very few people, if any, on this campus who will claim that a double-standard does not exist in reference to drinking by upper-class women in dormitories and those in sororities.

We are curious as to exactly what justifies this double standard.

A Rebuttal

Judging from the comments that have been leveled at the Emerald in the last four days, some people feel that we have damaged the University in the Legislature through our coverage of the fraternity hazing story. Perhaps we have. If so, we make no apology. We are sorry if the fraternity hazing situation has negatively affected the legislators. But we would do it again.

Many students have set forth a line of reasoning which would put the Emerald in the status of a public relations organ for the University. Accordingly, we should print no news that would have a damaging effect on the University in the eyes of the world at large, and the Legislature in specific. As an official University organ, these students have said, we have no right to damage the University which supports us. And they have said, finally, that responsible editors would have given greater emphasis to the constructive side of the fraternity system rather than presenting the view that the system is all bad.

We feel that these opinions are based on a warped conception of what journalism is.

Our job is to report the news. We are financially dependent upon the University, and the freedom of the press we have is, we realize, guaranteed not by the first amendment to the Constitution but by President Flemming through the Student Publications Board. This does not, however, make it our responsibility to suppress news that will harm the University.

We are frankly mystified by those who feel that the Emerald has damaged the University in this case. We did not haze anyone. We merely reported that many fraternities did. Our sources were officials of the IFC and of specific houses, and ad-

ministrators in the Office of Student Affairs, to say nothing of President Flemming. Or would these people criticize President Flemming for notifying the Emerald of his decision in the first place?

We would have gladly reported something constructive about fraternities. The best thing that can be said is that some houses did not haze. Anything constructive that did happen would have had to have been of unusual magnitude to overbalance the hazing story.

Any free newspaper—and the Emerald is as free as a college newspaper can possibly be—operates on the tenet that the public has a right to know what is happening and how it can affect them. And in this case, a good many people have a right to know. The students and administration certainly have a right to know what is happening in such a large segment of University students. The citizens in the state have a right to know what is happening in a state institution. And finally, the Legislature, as much as anyone else, has a right to know what is happening in a place to which it will allocate funds.

If we suppress news on the basis that it will unfavorably impress people outside the University we would be partners in whatever offense we did not report. Our audience is primarily the University. If a situation at the University is bad, the University must know about it if it ever hopes to correct it.

We would be guilty of the worst kind of cynicism if we printed only good news. Not telling the truth is only slightly different from telling a lie. Telling half the truth—only good news—is no different at all.

A Clarification

Monday the Oregon Daily Emerald, in reference to hazing, said, "Some of the hazing techniques involved personal violence, personal degradation, and in an appalling number of instances, outright perversion."

While the basis for the above statement is information from sources we have no reason to believe are anything but reliable, the Emerald has no documentation of the statement. We have no proof, no witnesses or confessions.

It would have been better had the statement read, "Some of the ALLEGED hazing techniques involved personal violence, personal degradation, and in an appalling number of instances, outright perversion."

Cathy Neville

Our Contemporaries

A proposal to defer rush until spring term was turned down last week by fraternities and clubs on the Stanford University campus. The campus has no sororities.

The proposal would have prevented individuals from indicating their house preferences until the seventh week of spring term. The proposal would have restricted contact between fraternity members and freshmen during fall and winter also.

Contact between freshmen and upperclassmen would have been restricted to: open contact on campus only, and no commitments made by freshmen during winter quarter. During spring term, off campus contact would be allowed at specified times.

Several fraternity representatives to the IFC said that they disapproved of the proposal because of financial detriment to the fraternities.

At the University of Colorado, the student Senate refused to take a stand on deferred rush. The Senate approved a report on deferred rush after discussion. Several senators criticized the report for not presenting an adequate picture of the situation.

Larry Miller, IFC president and IFC senate representative, commented, "this is a problem for the fraternities and sororities, not the independents. Take the report or don't take it. I don't care on way or the other."

The Oregon State Barometer ran a front page story telling of the "12 hand-picked individuals" who removed the "O" from atop Skinner's Butte during Christmas vacation.

Eight weeks before the event took place the "O" was investigated and tools and vehicles were lined up. On Dec. 22, the shortest day of the year, the 12 assembled in Albany at 4:30 a.m. It took 50 minutes on the fog-shrouded butte to slice the "O" into eleven pieces. The 2,600 pounds of scrap iron were carted down the back side of the butte while a decoy diverted the police who were coming up the front.

The article concluded with, "It took no single leader, but 12 individuals working and striving together to destroy this popular belief held by many that the 'O' was indestructible."

The University of Washington's University Political Union, and organization devoted to the political education of the students, is in trouble.

Five caucuses have formed within the organization and, according to Union president Dale Higer, are threatening its structure. Higer feels that the partisan elements are a threat because they are destroying the Union's objective quality, necessary for the Union to carry out its educational role.

Defenders of the caucuses feel that they allow differences of opinion to exist within the organization without forcing students to become members of definitely partisan groups.

An article in the Stanford Daily warns against the use of

stay-awake pills. It cited an instance of a Stanford co-ed who was found in a coma, completely unable to respond after having taken the pills for several days. Dr. M. M. Osborne, director of the campus Health Service, warned that students who have been using the pills are still suffering from fatigue, although they may not be aware of it.

"A student can write an essay that is just a bunch of nonsense and not be aware of it; he believes that he has written a fine test," said Dr. Osborne.

Incidents of this were cited. One boy, having taken the pills for several days, went into a final and wrote his name for two hours. Another student wrote a 10-page exam but forgot to turn the page of the blue book.

Excessive use of the pills renders the brain almost insensitive to various danger signs. The mind loses the ability to judge physical dangers and forgets to exercise caution.

Whether the University of Minnesota Daily will be allowed to run cigarette advertising is now being discussed by the student Senate on that campus. The Senate's executive committee met last week to discuss the issue and decided at that time that if it took any action it would be towards student education on smoking.

The question was brought up by the Social Service Council, a student group. The group requested the ban on cigarette advertising after studying literature on the relationship between cancer and smoking.

Norm Uphoff, MSA student body president, told the Senate "Students are going to get cigarette advertising no matter what we do." Uphoff felt that it was the Senate's place to determine the extent of the danger of cigarette smoking to students and the duty of the Daily to "protect" the students from these dangers.

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Letters to the Editor

Auditorium Needed

Emerald Editor:

Thursday night one of the fiercest battles of the term was fought. The competitors: The San Antonio Symphony Orchestra versus McArthur Court. The orchestra fought valiantly and

well, but was unable to cope with "the barn's" natural advantage over any and all performers, its abysmal acoustics.

Such a performance as was Thursday night drastically emphasizes Eugene's and the University's need for an auditorium or cultural center of some kind.

Until we can offer a large theater with good acoustics, having a well-lighted stage, we should not be disappointed if well-known performers seem reluctant to make appearances in Eugene.

James C. Gillis
Fresh in Bus Ad.