

King asks greeks to stop hazing

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

Ed King, a fraternity adviser from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., encouraged University greeks to stop hazing mem-

bers and instead build strong relationships with their peers.

King spoke Monday on the importance of initiation rituals in a presentation sponsored by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils.

In his speech, King emphasized the importance of establishing a balance between the many lives a student leads. In trying to achieve that balance, King said many students will suffer.

The suffering results from the stress of making so many choices between activities, academics and personal and social lives, King said.

"As much as I'd like to have the youth that you students have, I wouldn't go back for all the tea in China," King said. "I've already made decisions that you have yet to make."

King said more than 70 percent of students will change their majors once and 50 percent will change their majors twice.

"Ninety percent of you will forget most of what we teach you," King said.

King said many students bring the negative experience of physical or psychological abuse from home with them to school. He compared fraternity hazing to this abuse.

"I was a pretty good hazer in my day, and it was really sick," King said. "Our founders never meant for this to happen."

Some initiations may include hazing without the chapter realizing it is abusive to pledges.



Photo by Martin Thiel

Fraternity adviser Ed King from Bradley University attributed greek hazing of pledges to the day-to-day stress encountered by fraternity members.

"Hazing is doing anything you wouldn't want your parents to see or a national officer to see," King said. "Hazing is

something you wouldn't put on a video tape to show during rush week."

King encouraged fraternities and sororities to conduct their initiations with class and style. Hazing should be abandoned because it contradicts the ideals that were set up by founders of the fraternity system.

Without hazing, students can establish strong trusting relationships with their peers, King said.

The problem of abuse in hazing often results from stress, King said.

"Who do you take your stress out on?" King asked. "The pledges? Let's not play games with them."

King, 58, has spread his message in more than 250 presentations across the country. He is an officer and member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

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