

Important FH Dates

- Oct 21-24 National FFA Convention
- Jan 7-10, 2010 Leadership Academy
- Feb 5-7, 2010 RLC, Dallas
- Feb 12-14, 2010 RLC, St. Louis
- Feb 19-21, 2010 RLC, Billings
- Feb 26-28, 2010 RLC, Atlanta
- Aug 3-8, 2010 Conclave, Columbus

FarmHouse Flash

September 2009 Edition

www.FarmHouse.org



Hazing: Is It Useful?

Hazing Prevention Week – September 21-25, 2009

Tradition, a “sacred” word that can mean the demise of a chapter.

Several years ago a new member from one of our chapters was awakened at night by two members dressed in all black with their faces covered. He was told that he needed to join the chapter downstairs.

Some in the chapter thought the pledges were getting off too easy and told the others how difficult their initiation process was and they wanted to start a new tradition.

One of the new member objected and refused. He was understandably confused and and uncomfortable with the situation and sensed something was awry.

He continued to refuse until finally he agreed and said he needed to “get dressed”. When he came out of his room he had a pistol in a holster strapped to his body.

The chapter members stood stunned as he appeared downstairs. Some might have thought he'd snapped, others realized that he could sense the reality of the situation and wanted to convey his displeasure with their approach. Obviously he felt a need for protection.

The activity might have been well intentioned, but the approach was obviously a very poor one. Fortunately, the situation was diffused before it spiraled totally out of control.

Lessons you can learn from this - you never know what kind of psychological effects the “fun and games” a chapter concocts can have on an individual. Is there a better, more effective way to achieve the desired outcomes?

Before your chapter begins preparations for any type of initiation week, we challenge you to consider whether your program has elements of hazing and work hard to improve it.

Videotape Test

Would you feel comfortable taping the activity and

1. showing it to your prospective recruits?
2. showing it to the parents of those recruits and your mom?
3. showing it to the Dean of Students or University President?
4. have a copy sent to FarmHouse International?
5. have the video footage run on the evening news saying this is what fraternities stand for?

If you feel comfortable with these, then it's probably OK. If not, it's time to re-think things.

Dr. Will Keim defines Hazing

1. If you have to ask if it's hazing, it is.
2. If in doubt, call your advisor/coach/national office. If you won't pick up the phone, you have your answer. Don't B.S. yourself.
3. If you haze, you have low self-esteem.
4. If you allow hazing to occur, you are a 'hazing enabler.'
5. Failure to stop hazing will result in death.

Remember This

1. Hazing is not a fraternal issue, help stop hazing in workplaces, bands, groups and high school.
2. Hazing is not only an initiation problem, hazing can occur at anytime.
3. Build men, do not tear them down.
4. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

“Why Hazing Doesn't Work”

From the website StopHazing.com

I. PRACTICE:

Push-ups, shouting, and/or public embarrassment - used individually or for the pledge class as a whole.

PURPOSE:

Generally used for disciplinary purposes - to punish or "shape up" pledges (new members etc.) who are perceived to be dragging down the group or have been disrespectful.

NEGATIVE REACTIONS:

- a. Can lead to a temporary suppression of the problem. Once he's initiated, will he continue to perform in the best interests of the chapter? In most cases, when the kick in the rear end stops, so will the work.
- b. Will not allow the cause of the problem—if one exists, to surface. At times the pledge has a legitimate complaint which would be in the chapter's best interest to hear.
- c. Could lead to voluntary depledging of individuals who might otherwise become some of the top members of the chapter, a loss no chapter can afford.
- d. Possible physical injury - many people have physical weaknesses, sometimes they are even unaware of. If injury occurs, current officers, the university, and the organization can be sued and held liable.
- e. Can create the attitude that pledgship is a hardship, not an educational period, and that initiation is the end of one's work for the organization instead of the beginning. This can create a general lack of participating and/or interest in the membership.

II. PRACTICE:

Excessive physical or mental demands, on the pledge group as a whole.

PURPOSE:

To instill pledge class unity.

NEGATIVE REACTIONS:

a. In addition to the same negative reactions noted in Part I, this system can be so successful in instilling pledge group unity that, in fact, four separate units are created within the chapter, and a true chapter does not exist.

III. PRACTICE:

Pre-initiation or "Hell" weeks with strenuous and excessive programs & events, physical & mental.

PURPOSE:

a. To create a climax to the pledge program, and develop a true appreciation of initiation.

b. To unify the pledge class for the last time.

NEGATIVE REACTIONS:

- a. The pledge is in fact glad to be initiated, not so much for the honor of the event, but for the right to be finished with the work. In this instance, the climax really arrives when the pre-initiation week ends, not when initiation begins. This is another way of strengthening the idea, that, "Boy, I'm glad pledgship is over because now my work ends" instead of the realization that this is just the beginning of one's commitment to chapter membership.
- b. In programs with a lack of sufficient sleep and strenuous activities designed to make the pledge less cognizant of what is really happening, the new initiate can be robbed of the true meaning and appreciation of the formal ceremony. Also, as scholarship is supposed to have priority, these programs can in fact be very detrimental to one's academic achievement.
- c. If the chapter needs this week to unify its pledge class, it points to a flaw in the regular pledge program, as this should already have been achieved.

Dictionary.com: Haze (transitive verb)

1 a : to harass by exacting unnecessary or disagreeable work **b :** to harass by banter, ridicule or criticism

FarmHouse in a Flash...

FarmHouse Men on Hazing. . .

D. Howard Doane

“You can’t build men up by tearing down boys”

Rick Barnes (TT '82)

“Hazing — by any definition — has no place in an organization that prides itself on the slogan of Builders of Men.”

Risk Management Information and Resources

- **Fraternal Information & Programming Group (FIPG)** — Fipg.com
Promoting risk management best practices and useful links.
- **Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA)** — FraternityAdvisor.org
Online forum, resources, publications, paid and nonpaid position listings.
- **FRMT, Ltd.** — FrmtLtd.org
Insurance coverage and risk management resources and education.
- **Hank Nuwer, Author** — Hazing.HankNuwer.com
Books, blogs, videos, quotes and other resources on hazing.
- **Attorney Douglas Fierberg, Esq.** — HazingLaw.com
Information on your rights, resources, video and past fraternity lawsuits.
- **Hazing Prevention Website** — HazingPrevention.org
Organization fighting hazing with resources, programs and services.
- **Hazing Research & Prevention Collaborative** — HazingStudy.org
Intensive study about hazing and how large of a problem it is.
- **Dr. Susan Lipkins** — InsideHazing.com
Provides methods of prevention through movies, books and online resources.
- **Willis HRH** — Kirklin.com
Insurance & risk management programs, presentations and other information.
- **North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)** — Nicindy.org
Unifies fraternities and promotes information sharing
- **Stop Hazing: Educating to Eliminate Hazing** — StopHazing.org
Resources, information and listing of state laws on hazing.

Due this Month

- ◆ **Term Reports & Dues** - International Dues are \$105 per semester per member. Chapters should have received online reporting instructions via e-mail in mid-August. Term Reports and dues are due within one month of the first day of fall classes. A 1.5 percent late fee is assessed for each 30 days the report and payment is late.
- ◆ **Initiation Reports** - Should be submitted along with a 1-time \$90 initiation fee within 1 month of each initiation. Initiation Report instructions were included with the Term Report e-mail. Add \$30 each if plaquing is desired for certificates.
- ◆ **Officer Contact page** - If you haven't already, please complete the chapter, advisor and association officer contact form at www.FarmHouse.org, updating your email addresses and contact info.
- ◆ **Risk Management/Alcohol Policy Verification Forms** - Make sure to review FarmHouse alcohol policy and risk management policy and have your men sign the forms that verify this. These forms are due October 1.

National FFA Convention in Indianapolis

FarmHouse will have a recruitment/information booth at the career show of the National FFA Convention from Oct. 21-24 in Indianapolis, IN. We'll again be sponsoring a \$500 scholarship for a male high school FFA member.

If you are interested in interacting with thousands of future leaders, many who will attend your university, we invite you to join us at the FarmHouse booth Wednesday, Thursday and/or Friday. Please email Tim Hornsby at Tim@FarmHouse.org to sign up to work at the booth for an hour or two.

Ruby Cup Winner Announced

Congratulations to Troy University the 2008-2009 Ruby Cup Winner. Congratulate the chapter on their hard work and achievement by e-mailing the president, Judson Ricks, at jricks12037@troy.edu.

Chapter Checklist

- **September 21-25** — National Hazing Prevention Week
- **October 1** — Risk Management Verification forms and Alcohol Policy Forms Due
- **October 21-24** — National FFA Convention in Indianapolis
- **November** — hold chapter officer elections
- **November 1** — Deadline for ordering holiday jewelry items (see FarmHouse.org - click merchandise)
- **November 5-8** — International Board of Directors Meeting, Denver
- **November 15** — Deadline for President and Recruiter of the Year Nominations
- **December 1** — Send 2010 Leadership Academy contact info to FH Int'l (for new Chapter Presidents, VP - Recruitment, VP - Finance, Dir. of New Member Education who will attend)
- **January 7-10, 2010** — FarmHouse Leadership Academy in Kansas City (Chap. Pres., VP - Rec., VP - Fin., Dir of NME)
- **March 1, 2010** — Chapter Award of Excellence & all chapter programming awards due, Nominations for Master Builder, Honorary Membership, and International Board of Directors due
- **August 3-8, 2010** — Conclave 2010 held in Columbus, Ohio.