

Hazing - many try to justify it, that hazing tests the potential new member (pledge), builds brotherhood, shows character, proves that the pledge really "wants to be a Teke" and so forth, and so on.

But, isn't it funny that during rush all we talk about is BROTHERHOOD, and then as soon as someone joins, we begin to mistreat them, abuse them, holler at them, call them names, and so forth? The reason that I am a Teke, is because I listened to Kappa Sigma's talk about brotherhood during rush, pledged, and immediately became "Scum", and was told that I had to "earn the brotherhood", while they sat on the front porch and hurled beer bottles and insults at me and told me to clean up the mess.

Yes, I was hazed as a pledge of Teke also. However, I vowed that I would "make a difference" in the local practices by the chapter, as I realized they weren't following our Declaration of Principles at all. The first thing I did as the new Prytanis was stop the hazing. . Amazing, our chapter began to recruit better members, grow, and became the top fraternity on my campus for years.

As to what constitutes hazing, if you have to ask "is this hazing"? – it probably is. But, I know of no chapter that was brought up on charges of hazing for making their pledges (associates) attend study hall. So, often I find the litmus test to be INTENT. What is the intent of your request to the pledge? And, yes, this can be a problem too if your response is we intend to see "if he really wants it badly enough to put up with our bull".

The problem with hazing is that it continues to escalate, as each newly inducted member wants "revenge" for what he had to endure, and the "pledge program" gets added to each year, until - someone DIES! I know this for a fact, as I have witnessed it personally in my many, many years as a volunteer, and a member of the professional staff of TKE.

Read our Declaration of Principles again. That is what TKE is really all about, not hazing.

*-Frater T. Rod O'Neal*