



## PHI GAMMA DELTA'S STANCE ON HAZING

Contrary to society's stereotypes and the images often portrayed in movies and television, hazing has never been an endorsed or encouraged method for a man to be "trained" or for him to "earn" his membership in a fraternity. In fact, hazing is directly contrary to the values and mission of Phi Gamma Delta, especially those expressed by our Founders in the ritual. Unfortunately, hazing creeps into Greek organizations far too often.

We must be diligent to keep it out for numerous reasons:

- Separation and animosity

The ultimate goal of bringing new men into the Fraternity is to make it stronger and to perpetuate its existence for the benefit of those who come after us. Hazing weakens the chapter by building animosity and separation between pledges and brothers that lasts well beyond pledgship. For example, initiated brothers might tell pledges that they need to learn unity, "bond," and become better pledges by completing what amount to meaningless and unproductive tasks while they are harassed. In fact, they are being isolated from the initiated brothers in this adversarial relationship, and the pledges (those who stick around) will resent the older brothers for years to come.

- False unity

Rather than isolating pledges and trying to force "pledge class unity," a Phi Gam chapter that is true to the mission, tradition, and history of the Fraternity will bring the pledges closer to the brotherhood by focusing on chapter unity, working side by side, rather than as separate entities. It's teamwork as a collective group.

- Laziness

Hazing is perpetuated by laziness in the chapter. By relying on the pledges to handle all sorts of tasks and duties (particularly house cleaning), the brothers rest on their laurels, and only one quarter of the chapter's membership is truly being productive.

- Risk of injury or death

Sadly, there are plenty of documented hazing activities have escalated into incidents of physical and/or mental harm, even death. And while the planners of the activity may have never intended for harm to result, situations of this nature tend to spiral out of control. A prime example is the tragic death of Scott Krueger, a Fiji pledge at MIT. In 1997, on a night when Scott and his pledge brothers were introduced to their big brothers, the pledge class was given cases of beer and bottles of liquor and strongly encouraged to consume it a short amount of time. Scott ingested enough to pass out, and when he did, he was placed on a couch to "sleep it off." He vomited in his sleep, inhaled his vomit, and was found as he went

into cardiac arrest. While doctors were able to save his body, he was brain dead, and his family made the heartbreaking decision to unplug his life support. The subsequent lawsuit was settled against the chapter officers, the pledge educator, and the International Fraternity for amounts in excess of several million dollars.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Phi Gamma Delta, the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), our host institutions, and many states have explicit laws and regulations against hazing. The penalties for violations are swift and serious.

## **IMPORTANT FRATERNITY LAWS**

The following excerpts are from the Bylaws of the International Fraternity and must be upheld by all pledges and brothers, both undergraduate and graduate. Read them carefully and be well aware of their content. We are expected to always follow these laws, regardless of time or place. If you have any questions concerning these laws, or if you believe they are being violated, you are obligated (as is every brother) to report and confront the problem for the preservation and betterment of the Fraternity.

### **Section 19.35 Prohibition of Hazing**

“No chapter shall allow any of its pledges, members, or other persons to participate in any pre-initiation or hazing ceremony or practice which involves physical exhaustion or abuse, or would in any way interfere with the person’s mental or physical ability to perform college work efficiently or tend to reflect unfavorably upon the Fraternity in the eyes of the public, or is of a dangerous, rude, or vulgar nature, whether taking place within or without the chapter house. For any infraction of this section, the Archons may impose the penalties and sanctions described in Section 25.12 and 25.28.”

### **Section 25.11 Prohibition of Hazing**

“No chapter shall allow any of its pledges, members, or other persons to participate in any pre-initiation or hazing ceremony or practice which involves physical exhaustion or abuse, or would in any way interfere with the person’s mental or physical ability to perform college work efficiently or tend to reflect unfavorably upon the Fraternity in the eyes of the public, or is of a dangerous, rude, or vulgar nature, whether taking place within or without the chapter house. For any infraction of Section 19.35 prohibiting hazing, the Chapter or the Archons may find such individual, if a pledge, guilty of an offense punishable by revocation of pledgship, and if a graduate or undergraduate member, guilty of an offense punishable by suspension or expulsion.”

### **Section 25.28 Prohibition of Hazing**

For any infraction of Section 19.35 prohibiting hazing, the Archons may place any chapter on graduate trusteeship for a period not exceeding the end of the school year following the second year in which the infraction occurs and/or may levy a fine not to exceed \$5000.00 payable to the Operating Fund, the severity of such penalties to be as determined by the Archons after consideration of all of the relevant facts and circumstances of the infraction.

### **Section 19.36 Discipline of Member or Chapter for Dishonesty**

If in the course of any investigation by a member of the Fraternity staff or by a party designated by the Executive Director, or any disciplinary proceeding before the Board of Conduct or before the Board of Archons, with respect to an alleged violation of Sections 19.35, 25.11, or 25.28 of the Bylaws or of any of the Laws of the Fraternity with respect to hazing or other violations of the Risk Management Policy by a chapter, by an undergraduate member or members, by a graduate brother member or members, or by a pledge or pledges, it is determined after a trial pursuant to Section 27.0 in the case of a chapter, a trial pursuant to Section 26.6 in case of a member, and a trial in case of the a pledge, that any undergraduate member, graduate member, or pledge has lied to such investigator, the following sanctions may be imposed by the Archons:

- a. The penalty of the First Degree – Expulsion under Section 25.30, or the penalty of the Third Degree – Suspension under Section 25.32 may be imposed upon such individual member;
- b. The penalty of revocation of pledgship may be imposed upon such pledge;
- c. The penalty of the First Degree – Revocation of the charter of the chapter under Section 25.40, or the penalty of the Second Degree – Suspension of the charter of the chapter under Section 25.41, the penalty of the Third Degree – Graduate trusteeship under Section 25.42, or the penalty of the Fourth Degree – A monetary fine under Section 25.44 may be imposed upon the chapter.