

Traditions keep hazing strong

This is the second part of a two-part series on hazing on college campuses.

By College Press Service

Hazing dates back to the origins of the university in medieval Europe, a tradition that continued with early American university practices of testing incoming freshmen, as in making them wear special caps, according to Larry Lunsford, director of student affairs at Florida International University in Miami and a national hazing lecturer.

But it wasn't until the turn of the century that hazing became an accepted fraternity and sorority practice, turning ugliest with the infusion of soldiers into colleges after World War II who harassed new fraternity members as they had treated military recruits, he added.

With a drop in Greek enrollment in the 1970s, combined with growing litigation and high monetary awards in hazing death and injury cases, physical hazing practices became outlawed and began to decrease, Lunsford said.

Today, Greek membership is popular among college students. The National Interfraternity Council estimated that its 63 member fraternities have 400,000 undergraduate members in the U.S. and Canada, and 200,000 women are members of the 26 sororities that make up the National Panhellenic Conference. The NIC doesn't keep hazing statistics.

Hazing isn't restricted to Greek groups. Fraternity and college spokespersons emphasized that such practices are notorious to other student organizations such as ROTC, bands, athletic teams, business organizations and even honor societies.

Abuses by Greeks may be more easily identifiable because members often wear clothing with their organization's emblems, and the abuse may take place at the group's designated house or property.

While the incidence of physical tests of pledges may be diminishing, "mental and psychological duress is on the increase," said Eileen Stevens, founder of the Committee to Halt Useless College Killings — CHUCK — the name

of her 20-year-old son who died in 1978 from a hazing incident.

"Mental" hazing may consist of pledges being forced to answer questions quickly, to take tests that have no answers, and to endure verbal humiliation that may not result in death but can take a great toll on new, impressionable college students who are eager to please their peers and fit in with a group, she said.

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Andrew Robinson
University of New Hampshire

be with those young people for the rest of their lives," Stevens said. "Their self-esteem is shattered, their confidence is shattered, they may drop out of school. There have been reports of suicide attempts."

"Generally, hazing has moved away from the physical to the mental mind games, more like intimidation, ridicule, humiliation," said Andrew Robinson, Greek adviser at the University of New Hampshire, whose students last year provided much of the impetus for the state's new anti-hazing law.

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Ron Binder, University of Georgia fraternity adviser, said as physical abuses have decreased, college officials have turned their attention to mental testing, causing an evolution in the definition of hazing.

Mental hazing is a lot more subtle, Binder said, calling it a "special form of harassment."

To combat these abuses, colleges must have clear anti-hazing policies that are widely understood by group members and potential pledges, he said. University of Georgia efforts include educating pledges about their rights, sending letters to the parents of pledges stating the school's policy, operating a hazing hotline to make it easy to report violations and offering anonymity to callers if necessary, and strong enforcement of school rules, Binder said.

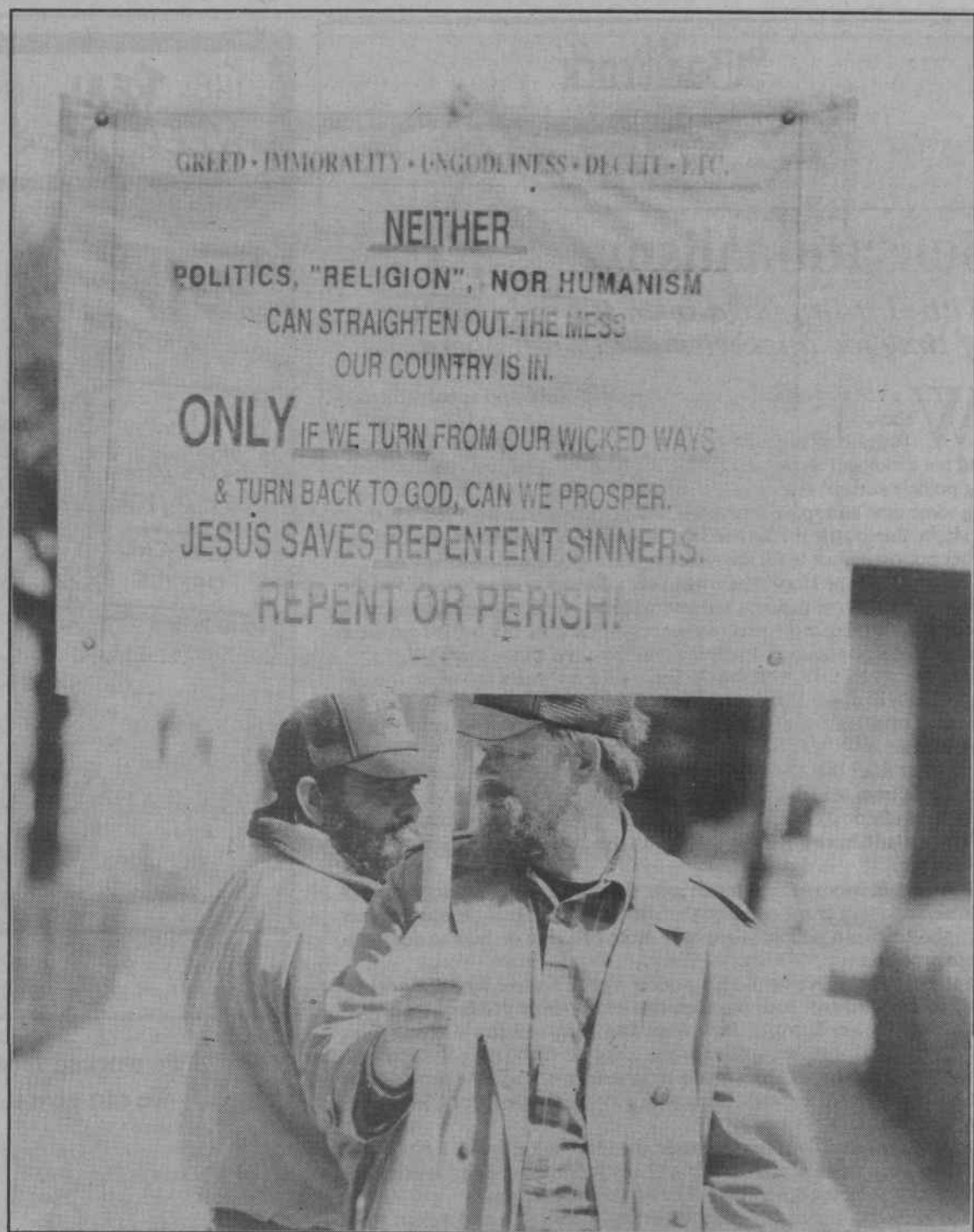
Some national Greek organizations have tried to limit pledge abuse by shortening the pledging period from a few weeks to just a few days. A few schools have deferred their rush periods away from the fall semester to give freshmen a chance to get acquainted with the campus and perhaps be less eager for the need of instant friendship that can make them more vulnerable to hazing. And some schools have simply abolished Greek organizations.

Stevens doesn't want to end the Greek system, which she said can provide valuable campus leadership. Instead, her talks focus on ways that fraternities and sororities can change their attitudes and make pledging a time for constructive, enriching work such as developing projects that help local charities, rather than periods of intense scrutiny and testing for potential members.

She also reminds Greeks that their organizations were founded on the ideals of brotherhood, principles that are destroyed by hazing. Stevens points out that hazing has given negative images to Greek groups that only they can repair by changing their activities.

Her message hit home to a group of 600 students who recently heard her speak at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., where 72 percent of men and 56 percent of women are members of Greek organizations. The local SAE chapter paid Stevens' travel expenses from her home in Sayville, N.Y.

Spreading the word



David Hallman and Ed Harper spread the word of Jesus to passersby Thursday on Greene Street.

Tests show use of certain condoms still risky

By College Press Service

TOPANGA, Calif. — Using a condom during sex doesn't necessarily mean you and your partner will be protected from disease, according to recent studies.

Tests of 20,000 condoms show important differences among various brands in protection from sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, said the Mariposa Foundation, which conducts independent research on human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Currently, consumers in the U.S. can obtain more information and data about the performance of a refrig-

erator than they can about a condom," the foundation said in a news release.

Mariposa recently conducted a second testing of condoms to test viral leakage as a follow-up to an earlier study sponsored by the foundation, the University of California-Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. The results of the second trial confirmed the results of the first, Mariposa announced in February.

In the first study, 31 kinds of condoms were tested to see which afforded the greatest protection against STDs and HIV-1. The brands that provided the greatest protection were

Mentor (which is no longer being sold), Ramses Non-Lube, Ramses Sensitol, Gold Circle Coin, Gold Circle and Sheik Elite.

The brands showing the highest leakage were Contracept Plus, which came in 31st, Trojan Ribbed (30th), Trojan Naturalube Ribbed (29th) and LifeStyles Nuda (28th).

About 20,000 condoms were used in the first test, which measured how susceptible latex condoms were to leakage of viral fluid after simulating the stress of sex for five minutes on a coital simulator. About 1,000 condoms were used in the follow-up test.

Part-timers deserve respect, book says

By College Press Service

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Part-time instructors are an undeveloped resource in higher education and should be encouraged rather than discouraged for a variety of reasons, two professors argue in a recent book.


Part-time instructors make up more than one-third of the faculty in the United States, although the percentage varies from institution to institu-

tion.

"The Invisible Faculty: Improving the Status of Part-timers in Higher Education," written by Judith Grappa, a professor of educational administration at Purdue University, and David Leslie, a professor of education at Florida State University, notes that colleges and universities have hired more adjunct faculty in recent years to offset increasing costs and decreasing budgets.

But that's not necessarily a negative thing, the authors argue.

"We found little to suggest that they (part-timers) are at the root of any systemic decline in the quality of higher education," the authors write. "To the contrary, we also found that part-time faculty are, for the most part, superbly qualified for their teaching assignments, highly committed and conscientious about doing their jobs."





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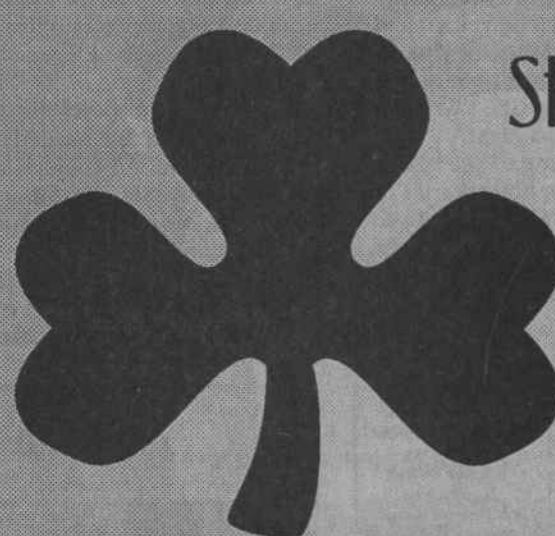


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