

Editorial Opinion

IFC Hazing Policy Needs Enforcement Plan

The Interfraternity Council recently adopted its second pledge hazing policy in seven years.

The first one, passed in 1956, proved almost meaningless. Designed to modify Hell Week practices by calling for adequate sleep and study periods, elimination of humiliating games and the confinement of pre-initiation practices to the individual fraternity houses, the code did none of these.

Hell Weeks continued. They continued to consist of rigorous hazing of pledges; little, if any, allowance for sleep during the period; and "games" in which the pledges were made the victim of sadistic jokes.

The new code, adopted three weeks ago, is stronger and more specific than the former one and brings hope of a more sensible approach to pledge training. IFC Board of Control Chairman Gary Stiles has defined four areas of the code to which the board will pay particular attention. These stipulate: at least six hours of continuous sleep per 24-hour period for pledges; no physical contact of any type with pledges, no pledge activities outside the fraternity house, and no "bad food" which could upset the digestive system.

We commend the IFC for its adoption of this code. But we question whether its plan for enforcing the code will make it as effective as possible.

IFC has announced that it will investigate possible violations only when reports are received from the dean of men's office, Campus Patrol, State College police or pledges.

The board has reserved the right to check houses but has set up no formal system for doing so.

This method of enforcement may moderate some of the ridiculous practices which still occur in fraternities, but it will probably not eliminate them. It is a relatively rare occurrence when the dean of men's office or the police can obtain concrete proof that a violation of the hazing code has taken place. If a pledge wishes to become a brother, he will, under pressure from his fraternity, probably refuse to admit that any violation has occurred.

IFC takes action after a violation is committed. If its true intention is to eliminate hazing rather than to punish it, IFC's policies should be more preventive than punitive.

We feel that some concrete method of enforcement must be set up if the code is to be made effective. One possible method would be to establish a checker system similar to the one used to curb freshman drinking at fraternities.

This system would require much time and work on the part of the IFC. But if it is to live up to its code and eliminate these remnants of an uncivilized fraternity pledging program, vigilant enforcement is necessary.

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'A Mild Winter'

by joel myers

Many Pennsylvanians may not believe it, but this Commonwealth has had a relatively mild winter compared to many other sections of the nation.

True, the mercury has touched some of the lowest readings ever seen in parts of the state and the snowfall has averaged well above normal. But, compared to the unusual persistence of the record cold in the Midwest, residents of the state have had it relatively easy.

In parts of Iowa and Minnesota, for instance, the mercury has been below zero each of the past 20 days, which is an all-time record for long-lasting cold.

The really intense cold didn't begin affecting Pennsylvania until early last week. Since then, of course, many records have been broken.

Last Thursday in State College the mercury dipped to 16 degrees below zero and managed to reach

zero only during the warmest part of the day. That was the coldest reading ever recorded on the roof of Mineral Industries, where official observations have been made since 1934. Temperatures average considerably warmer on the roof at night because of the heat emitted by the building.

Tuesday's official low of six below zero, for example, was not representative of the actual readings around the area. Two reliable thermometers — one on campus and one in town — recorded a low of 21 below zero at dawn.

Last Thursday's low of 18 below zero in Pittsburgh was the lowest ever recorded there, and Tuesday's minimum of 5 below zero in Philadelphia was the coldest temperature in that city since 1934.

The parade of cold waves began in early December. The pattern of the upper winds, which determines the path of arctic air masses much the same as railroad tracks determine the course of a train, have been very persistent for the past two months.

They have dragged one frigid air mass after another off the

polar ice cap and out of northwestern Canada into the north-central United States.

There have been differences in the movement of these arctic air masses once they invaded the nation. In December, many of them drove southward across Florida, bringing killing frost to the citrus crops of the Sunshine state.

In the first half of this month, the tendency was for bitter cold waves to move southward across the plains into Texas. The pattern for the past ten days has been for the arctic air masses to follow one another across the central states into the East.

The bitter cold wave in Europe is related to the persistent upper air regime in North America. When this pattern breaks down, the cold wave will probably end on both continents.

There is some chance that the pattern will weather the winter, however. The upper air regime is very stable and a great input of energy in the right part of the atmosphere is necessary to change it.



MYERS

Letters

Food Service Policy Hit

TO THE EDITOR: According to University Food Service policies in the residence hall dining areas, for most meals students are entitled to seconds of certain items on the menu—as long as the supply lasts or until the service line closes. It should follow, then, that every student has the right to seconds of whatever is being served.

The other day in one of the residence dining halls, a student arrived about one minute after his assigned dining hall service line had been shut down and was told by the food service employees that he was "too late for lunch." Hungry and tired (as Penn State students usually are) after a long dash across the campus—he had been kept much later than usual in a class—he was offered a plate by one of his friends to go to another section of the dining hall where seconds were still being served. He returned with a full plate, happy because the people had been good enough to serve him, and also because he considered himself lucky.

His luck, however, was short-lived. The dining hall supervisor had noticed his action and was quick to demand that he give the full plate back to her. His attempt to appeal to her sympathy was met only with indignation and the supervisor's threat to take his meal ticket.

He had asked her what would have been done with the food if it had not been given him as a "second portion," and she had replied that "it would be saved for use at another meal."

Being well-mannered and rational—typical of some Penn State students—the latecomer meekly but regretfully relinquished his plate, whereupon the supervisor placed the full plate on a tray and sent it to the refuse line to be thrown away! The latecomer was called to her office.

Other students, friends of the latecomer, who were sitting at the same table were less than satisfied with the treatment the supervisor had given the student. Four of them, along with four others who expressed concern in the matter, went to see the supervisor to ask why she had been so apparently unreasonable with their friend.

The supervisor said she wanted to make an example of the stu-

dent, so others would be discouraged from attempting the same thing he had done. She pointed out that seconds were supposed to be available only to those students who had had first servings and that those who came back for seconds were not allowed to give their food to anyone else. Her reasoning was that "if everyone came back for seconds, we'd have to serve them all—and this would mean more cost to the student eventually."

She then pointed out that "students don't pay for all their food anyway—nor do we expect to feed every student at every meal."

The protesting students asked if every student did not have the right to eat every meal. The supervisor answered yes, but stated that "we don't expect them to." The discussion continued rather pointlessly around the meaning of this issue, and finally the protesting students departed even more bewildered, but less spirited, than before.

I feel that such action as the supervisor took in this case was unreasonable because it served only to incur the disapproval and resentment of the students. Leniency, perhaps just a suggestion to "be on time next meal," would have been much more effective, whereas the action the supervisor took actually discouraged the student from viewing the circumstance in a rational frame of mind.

If this is the sort of rationality that Penn State wants its students to accept and emulate—then more power to the people behind the scenes of all the tight, little bureaucracies in the University, because the students are going to learn to react with the same pertinacity as has been shown them by their "molders of men."

- Robin Blakeslee '64
-Paul Giltinan '65
-Jim Simpkins '64
-Paul Jennings '66
-David Schmauk '64

Campus Beat

The new president of the Board of Trustees is listed on the official mailing list of the Board as Captain Roger W. Rowland. I wonder if this rank had anything to do with the board's decision to table the motion to eliminate compulsory ROTC.

-Prof Wayne

Letters

Berns Points Out Collegian Errors

TO THE EDITOR: I have written your paper twice within the last week and a half but each time I read the letter in print a "funny thing" happened. It has changed.

Typographical errors in both letters made both of them ambiguous enough to change the exact meanings of both letters. If someone makes an error in re-typing my letters so that the meaning is changed, please sign their name to it — not mine.

The error in the first letter caused another person to reply which in turn caused the second letter from me. The second letter not only had a few typographical omissions, but to me it looked like a literary miscarriage. I am afraid someone is going to answer this one also, and we will be off on a real comedy of errors.

Please stop making enemies for me, I have enough already.

I don't think I'll write you any more.

-H. L. Berns, '63

'Bow' Attitude Hit

TO THE EDITOR: The spirit of your team on Gator Bowl Day was depressing. The offensive coaching was strictly that—offensive. As the fourth quarter progressed, and your deficit increased, you continued to run, run, run.

It was pretty much that way at West Point, too. I'm sorry but you do not deserve the title of Best in the East. You let us all down.

-E. J. Keady, '39
New York City

LETTER POLICY

Letters to the editor must carry the full name of the author and identification of the author will be verified before any letter is published. In most cases, letters over 400 words will not be published. The Daily Collegian reserves the right to edit any letter if it is deemed necessary. The decision to publish or reject a letter lies solely with the editor; letters containing obvious misstatements or lacking in good taste or fair play will be rejected.

WDFM Schedule

- THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 1963
4:15 "The Philadelphia"
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 8
Borodin: Nocturn for Strings
5:00 Dinner Date
6:00 News Analysis: summary of day's news
6:15 Weatherscope
6:20 Concert Hall: classical music
7:30 Highlight: USG Morris Baker reports on meetings
7:40 Radio Moscow: tapes from this Russian radio station
8:00 This is the Subject: Stephen Spender Speech
9:00 Harlequin: Humorous readings
9:15 Mostly music: stress on jazz
10:00 Symphonic Notebook: Featuring tonight: French composer Darius Milhaud: "Suite Provencale" & "Saudades do Brasil"
12:00 News Roundup

