

# LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

## Hazing Craze

When high school seniors think about joining fraternities and sororities, they think of parties, making lifelong friends, and having the time of their lives. However, from time to time, to become a part of one of these organizations, one must do something crazy to be accepted in the Greek world.

It's a phenomenon known as hazing, and it is becoming a bigger problem. Hazing is the act of torturing and humiliating a newcomer in order to accept him/her into a group. Hazing is common in the military, high school sports teams and most often, in college Greek houses.

Some hazing rituals are harmless while others have deadly consequences. Some traditional hazing rituals include vicious beatings, wearing humiliating clothing, consuming disgusting foods or fluids, markings, branding, servitude, and alcohol consumption.

Although some of these rituals may seem like too much trouble to endure, the pledges, or the people who are trying to become a part of the Greek house, are more than willing to participate, no matter how dangerous it is.

Matt Carrington died as a result of hazing after he drank himself to death on water while pledging for the Chi Tau fraternity in California State University in 2005.

Carrington's death resulted in the

passing of a new law known as Matt's Law, which makes hazing a felony in the state of California. However, Matt's Law only covers one state.

According to Chris Boone, online editor of the website of the National Federation of State High School Associations, hazing laws vary from state to state.

However, not all fraternities and sororities ask their pledges to engage in such behavior. David Dee was president of his fraternity Delta Chi of Southeast Missouri Sate University, and he condemns hazing and has not had to experience it. "If you are being hazed, these people are disrespecting you," says Dee. "A lot of fraternities do it because it makes them feel better about themselves."

Jake Savoy, a victim of a vicious high school hazing incident, agrees that hazing is done out of tradition and a need for power.

"[The hazers] feel like it's the right thing to do, like it's normal," said Savoy.

Savoy was beaten by his high school football team when he was a sophomore in high school. As a result, he and his family sued the school, causing much resentment from the football fans among the small town of St. Amant, Louisiana.

"[The incident] split the whole town in half," said Savoy. "One side supported [my family] and one side was against us."

As a result, Savoy's mother, Karen Savoy, began her own organization called Mothers Against School Hazing (MASH). The point of MASH is to educate people on the dangers of hazing. K. Savoy says that if a person refuses to be hazed, they will not be accepted by the group.

"You will be pretty much socially unrecognized," said K. Savoy.

Savoy luckily has been able to put the brutal incident behind him and now attends Louisiana Tech, where he is part of an aviation program.

However, other victims of hazing are not so lucky.

The drive to be accepted can result not in the gaining of new friends, but in the loss of a life, such as the accident at California State University.

Dee and Savoy advise all high school seniors to walk away from a position where they can potentially be hazed.

"Do your homework," says Dee. "Look around for other organizations where you won't be hazed. You shouldn't want to be part of an organization that practices hazing."

A smart person would listen to this advice given from a first-hand account of what can really happen if anyone is subjected to hazing. If one agrees to be hazed, you are not only enabling someone to commit a crime, but you also may be risking your life.

## MAJOR DECISIONS: TO MINOR, OR NOT TO MINOR

As the graduates march toward the culmination of their high school career, with "Pomp and Circumstance" sounding in the background, students look back on their entire school experience.

For many at Antioch Community High School, life is just beginning. High school has just come to an end, and now it is time to start living.

Some are going directly to work, whether it be a family business, or just diving into the working world. Others, still, are going on to a brand new school—college.

If someone were to walk into the average kindergarten class and ask the children what they wanted to be when they grow up, he or she might hear things like a policeman, a fireman, or an astronaut.

In some cases, were that same someone to ask the graduating seniors of ACHS what

they plan to be, he or she might hear the same thing.

Now that high school is over, students taking the next step to college must now narrow their views and begin to focus on a career, it is time to consider a major.

"[I plan to] go to college at CLC [College of Lake County] so I can transfer later to U of I [University of Illinois] or MSOE [Milwaukee School of Engineering] for either Aerospace or Computer Engineering," said senior Jake Ano.

Surprisingly, a number of students at ACHS are planning to take their first college steps at CLC before transferring to a four-year university.

Others, however, are packing up and diving right into their independence. Senior Alyssa Cook plans to attend Judson University in Elgin, Illinois for secondary education to

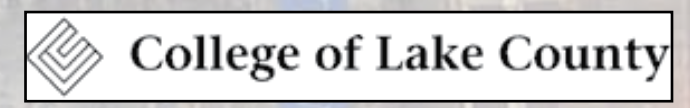
become a math teacher.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher," said Cook. "... I considered graphic design in advertising for a while, but that is really difficult to get into after college."

Some students are planning early, like junior Kellie Smouse. Though not a senior, she still has relatively solid plans about where she would like to take her life after graduation.

"[I want to go for] medical science, pharmaceuticals, something like that," said Smouse. "... I love science. It's what I'm good at. I'd want to do something in a lab, since I enjoy lab work most of the time. Also, it can pay really well right out of college."

There are a number of students every year who enter college with an undecided major. It is not required to have a specific career in mind, though it seems to help.



- Pros of Attending:**
- Local housing
  - Low tuition- Around \$3,000 per year
  - Specialized/Uncommon Courses

- Pros of Attending:**
- Top-of-the-line Professors
  - Bachelor's and Master's Degrees
  - Prestigious

## IVY LEAGUE VS. LOCAL LEAGUE

Many students will be graduating this spring. Some will attend instate colleges, while others will venture out of state.

The Ivy League colleges are Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Brown, Dartmouth, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University in New York. These colleges hold much higher standards for admittance. These schools tend to focus more on SAT scores than ACT scores, which could be due to the fact that they are located on the east coast. The few students admitted took rigorous

courses through out their high school careers. While many apply on average the Ivy League schools accept about ten percent of applicants. The approximate averages of undergraduates in the colleges are 7216 students.

The advantages of attending an Ivy League school are receiving a better education. Your educational background would look amazing.

Some of the disadvantages of attending an Ivy League college are

many lack talent in sports. This is because students hold their grades above winning championships. For example University of Pennsylvania does not award students with athletic scholarships. It would be hard to convince an athlete to play for a college that costs so much more than a school they could receive a full ride to. The cost of attending these colleges has an average of \$45,630 a year and increasing yearly.

The College of Lake County (CLC) is a community college which is open for people of all ages. Whether you are trying to complete

college classes while attending high school, or trying to receive a degree as an adult.

Some of the advantages of attending CLC are finishing basic classes at a low price, it is close to home, saving more money for any future plans, and there are many classes offered. They can range from basic classes to more unique classes like flower design.

The disadvantages of attending CLC are one could not receive a Masters degree, due to a lack of class options.

Background photo: Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

