

As a student of Florida State University, I have seen the impact of hazing on our campus. Two years ago, during my sophomore year, there were rumors of a fraternity making their pledges sleep in the woods during the winter months. Although it was not substantiated by evidence, students and faculty concluded that the speculation of hazing was true. In November of 2017, no one could ignore that fact that hazing was taking place on our campus. A fraternity pledge died of acute alcohol poisoning during a party hosted by the members of the fraternity. Although one young man lost his life, a total of nine other student's lives were changed as well. According to his mother, Andrew Coffey had plans to join the United States Navy upon graduating from Florida State University, but his goals can no longer be achieved due to his accidental death. Nine of the fraternity members have been charged with "college hazing causing injury or death". If convicted of the crime, the members could possibly face prison time which will cause them to not accomplish their hopes and dreams.

Hazing can leave a damaging impact in various ways. At a broad level, hazing can and will affect a college campus, as a whole. In the case of Andrew Coffey, President John Thrasher of Florida State University instituted various constraints on student organizations on campus. Immediately following the incident, President Thrasher initiated an interim suspension on all activities by Greek Organizations. A temporary ban on alcohol was also started for all on-campus events, and official events held by recognized student organizations. With over 700 recognized student organizations, and over 20% of the Florida State University student population being a part of Greek Organizations, the impact of the constraints was definitely felt. Academically, hazing can cause a student to not reach their educational goals. The effects of hazing can be seen in a student's grades and test performance. A person who is subjected to hazing will often perform worse on tests and their grades will suffer due to this impact. On a personal level, hazing can cause emotional, and/ or mental instability. The stress of wanting to belong to an organization but having to be accepted will often cause a person to submit themselves to anything for that reception into the brotherhood or sisterhood. The hazing can also cause post-traumatic stress disorder. Acquiring this disorder can lead a person to have sleep deprivation, an erosion of trust, anxiety, guilt, loneliness, and much more. Physical injury and even death can result from hazing practices. According to Hank Nuwer, a journalism professor at Franklin College in Indiana, more than 200 university students have died from hazing-related accidents in the United States since 1838. 200 college students in 180 years, however, this number shows that hazing has been a part of the history of the United States. The deep engrainment of hazing rituals and practices need to change or students seeking higher education and a successful career will continue to die.

To prevent hazing and help raise awareness about the impacts of it, seminars should be held to new college students. These seminars will give the students a new insight about what hazing is, how it can affect them, and how to avoid being hazed. Executive boards of student organizations should sit through classes to inform them of the impacts hazing can have on their community. Students should also know that there are resources and people for them to contact in order to put a stop to hazing. Campuses need a designated office for students to report hazing incidents or suspicions of them. These offices need to be confidential and secure so students feel comfortable in seeking resources and help. When hazing becomes part of the culture of a

community, it becomes a dangerous tool of belittlement that is covered up as a tradition or ritual. This tradition is continually passed down to younger members of the organization with little to no thought to the meaning behind the act or harm it can cause. In order to stop these practices from being passed down, students need to stand up and understand what is happening is not right and should not be a part of our community.