Here the IFC agrees that unreasonable pledge training programs should be abolished, along with the old-fashioned "Hell Week," for which it finds no justification. It feels that pledge training should take the form of "some difficult but not insuperable obstacle" placed in the way of a pledge. By overcoming this obstacle the pledge demonstrates his "loyalty and commitment to the chapter" and his "worthiness for initiation." The IFC emphasizes that such a training program "must be useful . . . and must prepare the pledge to be a qualified brother."

The depledge's side

But there is another side to the story, the side told by those members of the community who have depledged fraternity this year and in the past few years. These students tell the fraternity system as it is today about four years ago. They tell of the frustration, confusion, and inability to communicate these goals to the freshmen. Perhaps, in seeking the real reason for this system from a "lack of appreciation of the goals of the house." He also suggests that a fraternity may have an unreasonable pledge training program, in which he includes the "phenomena of the initiation rites."

In some houses, if the brothers did not like the way the work was done, they pulled the pledges out of bed and made them do the work over again. Such treatment started on an individual basis, but soon spread to the entire pledge class. Pledge material had to be learned, and in at least one house there was physical mistreatment for not knowing the answers.

Said one depledge, "all you hear is 'pledge do this,' or 'pledge do that.' I began to hate the word 'pledge' . . . and didn't want to walk into the house any more."

Another house attempted to "mold the pledge to the characteristics of the house," by constantly picking on his personality. A depledge stated that "it is the most insecure brothers who do the criticizing, but they're all just a bunch of college guys playing at adult games." Another comment was "they view everybody as a pledge to the characteristics of the house, and his "worthiness for initiation."

IFC emphasizes that such a training program "must be useful . . . and must prepare the pledge to be a qualified brother."

Depledges claimed that many houses presented a false front to them. One said "The houses want to make you decide on them if they've already decided on you . . . They don't care if they lie." Another called it "hypocrisy; you see things which you're led to believe are there all the time. They're not." Another depledge said that he had not been told about "Work Week," or for that matter about the weekly clean-up night. One depledge said that he had met only the "more mature people in the house's selling of itself." He said that he didn't meet any sophomores, who were presumably less mature than the seniors.

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