

# Opinion

## Hazing: How Can It Be Stopped?

By Elliot Pritchett

Throughout the last decade, many law suits and hearings occurred do to alleged "hazing" by predominantly black greek fraternities and sororities. These incidents have sparked stricter regulations on the initiation and indoctrination processes of these groups. Some of these regulations include specific rules for pledge periods without much flexibility for individual chapters. This is not necessarily good because different chapters may have different needs. These rules and regulations also help undercut the elitism that once was prevalent with all predominantly

black greek fraternities and sororities.

I remember vividly observing the differences in predominantly black and white fraternities' and societies' initiation processes my first year in college. It seemed that initiation into a predominantly black greek organization was a struggle that yielded the highest respect and admiration for those who could endure this process.

My collegiate years have almost ended and I must admit that over the past two years many changes have occurred in the predominately black greek system. More and more the phrase "being on line" has no meaning. For some, its becoming instantly greek without any form of initiation at all. For others pledging is just dressing up and halfway going through the motions of pledging. I feel that

it is a crying shame that we have let something that was so respected dwindle into something that is just short of social clubs. It is my argument, that before 1995 there will be just as many people walking around with greek paraphernalia on as if it were WSSU regalia, if these rules and regulations continue to go in the direction they are currently going in.

In life, nothing worth having comes easily. It is not my argument that organizations mutilate pledges, but it is also not my intention to advocate the suspension of initiation. Rather than organizations doing away totally with initiation, better processes involving a struggle should be imposed. Afterall, initiation itself comes from an African tribalistic ritual in which boys went through certain stages to enter manhood. Malcolm X clearly stated, that

we were "robbed of our names, our culture and our religion." This is a part of our heritage and it is about to be taken away. I would argue that it is a conspiracy, which is apparent, when you observe the fact that most prominent African-Americans are members of greek organizations. Martin Luther King Jr., Shirley Chisolm and Jesse Jackson became members of greek letter organizations when the process was stretched out over a six-week period or longer. Somebody did not like this and planned a way to undermine a system that was working. Today the process is as short as two days and as long as three weeks.

We as Black greeks have our problems, but, Marc Antony captures the essence of our situation in two lines of the play "Julius Caesar". Marc Antony states, "The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their

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## Remembering King

By Karen Fleming

Martin Luther King, Jr's, dream eloquently expressed, courageously vocalized, is a dream deeply embedded in the hearts, minds and souls of every man. King's dream for freedom was not unique, and not limited to the Black man's quest for freedom. His dream included all people who lived with oppression. Freedom is an innate need ingrained in every animal, human and otherwise and to cage or harness someone's right to be free is a travesty and a contradiction of nature. King considered, 'the voice of the Negro people' was able to put into words that which others wished for, but felt it was an uphill battle that could only be won militantly or through the paternalistic generosity of his oppressor. To fight this battle would mean challenging a power so solid, like the rock

of Gibraltar, a system so substantial it could not be chiseled away. To many people of color, freedom and equality guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, somehow did not apply to them and like history, could not be rewritten to do so.

Due to the phenomenal uprising of the 60's, and the compelling and charismatic leadership of Dr. King, part of the dream has been realized. Blacks do have the right to vote, their rights legitimized under the Constitution; the addition of Brown vs. Board of Education which outlawed segregation and unequal education, and with the inclusion of affirmative action, we were able to make great strides using these keys to open many otherwise locked doors. However, these laws have not eliminated racism, Jumped to page 3