

Editorial

On Brotherly Bonding

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Staff Writer

Well, of all the articles I have written this year, this one is the one which has received the most comment. Because it is time for pledge season to be in full swing again, I decided to reprint the article in hopes of getting to more of the audience.

It has long been the tradition, on this campus and many others, to have a pledge season for potential members in a fraternity or sorority. The whole idea behind the pledge season is to educate the new members or pledges as to what ideals are held by the fraternity, as well as to provide a bonding experience between the brothers or sisters and the pledges.

All of this is well and good. However, the idea of pledge season has been misinterpreted and misconstrued to allow all sorts of activities which may be of dubious value. Many of these actions are against the law. It is often difficult to define hazing. Is it detrimental to the health or mental well being of a pledge to sing "You are my sunshine" at each dorm on men's hill at 6:30 in the morning? Probably not, but what does it accomplish? The action annoys anyone who is trying to sleep at that time. It may be embarrassing to the pledges who have to "perform" at that time of the morning, and what is the value? If someone wants to learn to sing, let them take singing lessons. (Some of the people in that particular group could have definitely used a lesson or two.)

It seems to me that the pledge season should be a time when the brothers in the fraternity try to win the respect of the pledges—not the other way around. Ideally, of course, the fraternity will have such a reputation that the pledges will want to be a part of it anyway, but how does pledge season help the goal of encouraging the pledges to continue the pledge season?

I have seen pledge season from both sides—both as a pledge and as a brother, so I do know that of which I speak. Pledge season is a time for people to have fun. Pledge season should be a time when you have some activities to break the monotony of the academic year. But pledge season is neither supposed to be a time when you are regularly harassed or embarrassed, nor is it a time for an organization on campus to expect all the rest of the campus to tolerate unsolicited invasions of their privacy.

I know of one pledge class who tolerated the tyrannical tendencies of the brothers all through pledge season, and when pledge season was over, all

they wanted to do was beat the life out of two of the brothers. How did the pledge season help promote brotherly love in this instance? What is the purpose in having a pledge season like that?

There are, believe it or not, people on this campus who are not a part of a Greek organization, and do not wish to be a part of one. Should they have to put up with pledges singing in the cafeteria? Should people who are sleeping peacefully in their beds at 6:30 a.m. tolerate being rudely awakened by a group of pledges singing the world's only atonal version of "You Are my Sunshine?" The answer is a firm **no**.

The fraternities on this campus need to rethink their pledge seasons so that they conform more to what they are supposed to be in the first place. Pledge seasons should be unobtrusive, they should educate, and they should mold the members into a group.

Let's face it. A group has no identity without individuals, but an individual can have an identity without the group; therefore the pledge season should consist of activities in which the pledges and the brothers or sisters work together. The pledge season should not be purely the burden of the pledges. It should be a fifty-fifty effort on the part of the brothers and the pledges—meeting halfway so that each member of the group gets to know all of the others. Fraternities are by nature cliquish, but they cannot survive if they are subdivided into little cliques within themselves which can be caused by traumatic pledge seasons.

It strikes me suddenly as pointless to reprint this article. The article in the last issue "Jesus loves the little children...All the children" did not get a single response. Come on, people. That article could have been interpreted in many different ways. Why was there no response? Does the Mars Hill College public not have an opinion worth expressing? Does the Mars Hill College public hold itself in such low esteem that it does not consider its opinions worth expressing?

If you have views that you would like to share, or a soapbox that you would like to stand on, the *Hilltop* offers you an opportunity to do so. If you would like to write an editorial, please do so. Send it to the *Hilltop*—the box number is 1148. (Please include name, P.O. box number, and phone number. We do not have to print your name if you do not wish.) If you write, that means that I don't have to, and it means that you do not have to put up with my babble.

Forum

Parking at MHC has always been a problem, especially for commuters, but the situation is now getting entirely out of hand.

I'm sure we're all thrilled that a new cafeteria is being constructed, but the lack of parking spaces is no thrill, in fact, it is very inconvenient.

Every year students are given a handbook that clearly states the designated parking areas for students, faculty and others. The book states that spaces with white lines are student areas and those with green are for faculty.

If a student is "caught" parking in a green faculty area, he or she will definitely receive a ticket for doing so, however, a faculty vehicle parked in a white student area has never been ticketed to my knowledge.

What is the point of assigning specific areas to different categories of people when everyone inevitably parks wherever he or she can find a convenient place?

Students must pay tuition costs, fees, books and then a 8-15 dollar parking registration fee every year. Faculty must purchase their sticker once every four years and then they can park anywhere they wish other than restricted zones without any complications. Students are ticketed for parking anywhere but white-lined areas and then they are given tickets for parking too long in some of those areas.

If one group is to be ticketed, all groups should be ticketed. It is very an-

noying when a person arrives at school to find that all of the student area is filled, with the cars in the most convenient "student" areas displaying faculty stickers. I'm sure some faculty are inconvenienced to find that their spaces are sometimes filled with student vehicles, but at least they have the satisfaction of knowing that the person who receives a ticket if security sees a vehicle and besides, faculty have other areas to park in without fear of reprimand.

It can be argued that there are more student parking areas than faculty, but it can also be recognized that there are far more students than faculty here at MHC.

It just does not seem logical to bulldoze the majority of student parking spaces, then mark the ones that are as restricted to faculty and staff. I see logic in restricting the chapel parking to faculty and staff. . . Oh, I know that students are allowed to park now with our large number of spaces are on commission, but that area needs to be off limits to students, especially commuters who might come out on Tuesday mornings especially for chapel meetings.

Students have to park somewhere, especially those who are commuters. Certainly, students should be ticketed for breaking the rules, but so should everyone else.

Everyone should be allowed to

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