

Legislator Reports About His Experiences in Colleene Hazing

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District
During the 1959 General Session of the California State Legislature, we enacted into law Senate Bill No. 792 by Senator Ed Regan, Democrat, of Weaverville, to abolish hazing, which the law defines to include forcing students to participate in any degrading activities.

The law has broad applications but it is aimed partly at fraternity and sorority initiations, some of which are dangerous to the life and health of the person being initiated.

If fraternities and sororities at the colleges and universities supported by the State of California do not stop rough hazing and practices which humiliate and degrade students, there will be a strong movement in the Legislature to abolish all fraternities and sororities at State-supported institutions.

THIS IS A subject about which I have had some experience. At the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, a classmate of mine during our freshman year (known technically as "Fourth

Class Year"), was beaten on his rear with a broom so hard that his spine was injured permanently and he was retired physically with a pension. The seniors (known as "First Classmen") involved, were given Navy court martials, some were expelled, some were set back to the lower class, and some were given such bad records that they never attained high rank in the Navy even after they graduated and were commissioned.

AT THE STATE University of Iowa, at Iowa City, Iowa; and at Missouri University, at Columbia, Mo., I witnessed a

rather mild form of hazing, both for freshmen students and students "pledged" to fraternities and sororities. I did not belong to a fraternity at the State University of Iowa, but was initiated into Delta Upsilon, a national social fraternity, at Missouri University and had to go through what might be called "hazing" until I became a member and thereafter helped initiate new candidates. I did not see anything unduly rough at either university and do not believe anyone was humiliated or degraded.

While I was being "hazed" as a student at Missouri University as a "pledge" of Delta Upsilon fraternity, a senior student who was the "pledge master," that is, in charge of

the rough phase of handling those about to be initiated, ordered four of us to get some senior student in a fraternity, tie him up and deliver him to his bedroom in the Delta Upsilon house.

WE LEFT the fraternity house, killed time, waited until he was asleep and then went into his room, tied him up with ropes, and left him there, with a gag in his mouth. The next morning, at breakfast, when asked by the president of the fraternity if we had carried out the orders of the pledge-master, we told him to go up to his room and see for himself.

Obviously, he took the very

angry man and undid him, but we left hurriedly without finishing breakfast, and had no more trouble. In due time, we were all initiated, hence the only man who was humiliated was the man in charge of so-called humiliation.

DURING THE academic year from September, 1925 to June, 1926, I was not only busy with Delta Upsilon fraternity but also made my living principally by running a magazine called "The Missouri Outlaw." For many years before I had it, the magazine was called "Show Me," the traditional slogan of Missourians, and after I graduated, the original title was re-

stored. The magazine was supposed to be funny but the only thing people laughed at was my monthly editorial, which was supposed to be serious. For some unknown reason, we organized a fraternity called Oricon Gamma Sigma. These were the Greek letters which represented "O.G.S.," that is, the Order of the Grinning Skull. We even had a jeweler make little grinning skulls which we proudly wore. It was supposed to be a male organization, but we initiated as full members all the girls on the staff. There was no hazing because the girls did not think hazing was funny.

MORE THAN one-half of my staff were Jewish men, which led to the organization of the Missouri University chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi, a national social fraternity. The Dean of Men and I were the only Gentile members, and we were only honorary members. I was with them throughout their organization period. There was no hazing, no humiliation, and no degradation. These were serious young men, embarked upon life's journey. We had no time for foolishness. Therefore, three times in my life I have been active in fraternities which did not violate the letter or the principles of Senator Ed Regan's law.

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Johnnie Parsons Enters Ascot Grand Prix Race

Johnnie Parsons, the 1950 Indianapolis winner, heads the early entries named to start in J. C. Agajanian's 19th annual Thanksgiving night 150-lap USAC Grand Prix midget auto race, Nov. 26, at Gardena Stadium.
Other Indianapolis veterans who'll be on hand for a crack at the purse of \$2,500 against 40% of the gate include A. J. Foyt, Jimmy Davies, Dempsey Wilson, and Bill Homeier. Also set are Billy Cantrell, the current Pacific Coast point leader; Earl Motter, and Johnny Baldwin, who won the last Gardena race.

Agajanian also expects Roger Ward, the 1959 Indianapolis winner and National Driving Champion, to be on hand along with Johnny Boyd, Shorty Templeman, Johnnie Toland, Bill Cheesbrough, Wayne Wellner, Ray Crawford and a whole host of other Indianapolis veterans and outstanding doodlebug chauffeurs.
The original Thanksgiving night Grand Prix was first raced at old Gilmore Stadium. Then in 1955 Agajanian revived this southland midget racing classic and moved it across town to the 139th and Western Avenue one-third mile dirt oval.

Usually a field of more than 40 Offenhausers are on hand when qualifying begins at 7 o'clock. The fastest 18 cars plus the first two finishers in the 15-lap semi-main will start in the 19th annual Grand Prix. The first race, a 3-lap trophy dash for the four fastest qualifiers, will get the green flag at 8:30 o'clock.
The top ten in the current Pacific Coast midget standings are Cantrell (197), the late George Amick (196), Motter (186.5), Davies (163), Mike McGreevy (151.5), Oakes (139), Boyd (136), David Moses (130.5) and Johnny Moorhouse (129).

Tordondo Loop Busy Planning Season's Work

Parents of the Tordondo Little League, spearheaded by the Women's Auxiliary, will wind up a pre-season fund raising program next Monday evening at the home of Mrs. J. Kenneth Edwins, auxiliary president, when drawings will decide the winners of a turkey which has been put up as the main prize.
The next regular meeting of the auxiliary has been scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 1, at the Washington School. The meeting will be the group's Christmas party, complete with carol singing and refreshments.
Announcement of the appointment of Mrs. Leo Fisher as purchasing agent for the year was made by Mrs. Edwins this week. Mrs. Fisher will be responsible for the operation of the snack bar among other duties.