

## A Palpable Spectrum

By Tera Picente

Thomas R. Proctor High School, NY

Drivers do not expect to be in a car accident each time they start the ignition.  
Professional athletes do not anticipate a loss at the start of every game or match.  
Actors do not expect to forget their lines each time they step onstage.  
Mothers do not anticipate the loss of a child upon a request to join a club or team.

Still, such has occurred. Harsh, brutal, and wholly unfair- the loss of an individual to hazing is a reality families and friends continue to endure. This loss can encapsulate that of a life in its most severe capacity or the sense of identity integral to each individual's humanity. Both prompt a division of memory, an explicit before and after being of foundation. These acts of demeaning are not mere instances of embarrassment, but a harrowing testament of preventable trauma.

When watching movies or reading articles that entail hazing, one may feel that such an extreme atrocity is not feasible within their lives. Acts are accelerated into the blatantly observable- the image of a college-aged girl downing shots until her steps grow sloppy enough to found her collapse down an unforgiving flight of stairs, a boy being beaten with a paddle and fists while bound until unforeseen heart failure strikes. This erases the spectrum and diminishes the palpable belief that acts of hazing are not always perpetrated with an intent to severely batter and can thus occur, but are visible in each pressuring to streak around campus or utter a phrase on-tape that is horrific in spew.

It is not reasonable to presume that children should enter a locker-room with metaphorical teeth bared and possessions held close, nor with muscles clenched at the sight of a jersey. By striking down the misnomer that hazing is without the aforementioned spectrum however, an awareness of rights, dignity, and wrongness as a whole is aided. This then allows for the recognition of undesired customs and standard occurrences that are not so standard in morality and subsequent assessments of their potency- their connection to the seemingly unattainable label of 'hazing'.

Preparation is founded by exposure and knowledge. Discussions of consent within the confines of health classrooms should stretch to encompass even nonsexual happenings. This conversation should also progress to affirm that consent given

To foster a palpable sense of accountability for those within your sector is a step towards actively preventing hazing, this being true even for teens that feel like mere acquaintances bound only by a shared activity. A reminder of humanity when rhetoric of demeaning nature in is a simple alleviation of bolstered power that can soon prove tumultuous.

Drivers do not expect to be in a car accident each time they start the ignition.  
Professional athletes do not anticipate a loss at the start of every game or match.  
Actors do not expect to forget their lines each time they step onstage.  
Mothers do not anticipate the loss of a child upon a request to join a club or team.  
But, with the ability to access the potential of a progression towards such harsh outcomes, the probability of avoidance blooms. And this is how hazing can be recognized. Prepared for. Acted upon. All before the loss of a human, of humanity.