Hazing Is A Serious But Hidden Problem

While being part of a campus group can be one of the most meaningful aspects of student life at college, hazing is often a hidden but serious problem—one that undermines the value of these experiences and poses the risk of physical and mental harm for many individuals. Hazing happens here at Lehigh, as it does on many college campuses across the country.

Know Hazing When You See It

Hazing takes various forms, but typically involves physical risks or mental distress through, for example, humiliating, intimidating, or demeaning treatment. Review Lehigh’s hazing definition. No matter what it looks like, it’s never okay. According to the Hazing Assessment Perception Survey from 2012;

- 25% of students said they were victims of hazing.
- 50% of students said they have engaged in hazing on campus.
- 80% of students reported hearing of hazing in other organizations.

Speak Up or Intervene

As a member of the Lehigh community, practice bystander intervention and speak up and/or intervene if you become aware or have been a victim of hazing. Each of us has a responsibility to confront the issues at Lehigh. One individual can influence others. Be an engaged member of the community. We must support those who speak out against hazing.

Get the Help You Need

If you have witnessed hazing or have been hazed you can report anonymously by calling the Hazing Hotline at 1-888-NOT-HAZE, or you can complete the online form on the Hazing Prevention website (http://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/hazing-prevention). You may also contact the LUPD directly at 610-758-4200. We need to work together, take care of ourselves and each other, and abolish hazing in the Lehigh community.

Re-think the Re-rack

Drinking games such as beer pong can spread germs including strep throat, pneumonia and a host of other infections, according to Jan Hudzicki of the University of Kansas Medical Center. These infections range from stomach bugs (nausea, diarrhea, vomiting) to meningitis. Saliva is associated with the transfer of numerous viruses. Alcohol served at parties does not kill all germs. In fact, alcohol, in its purest form, can take up to 20 seconds to kill bacteria.

Why should you care?

During the 2014/2015 academic year, 22.1% of Lehigh students noted that illnesses – like the flu – negatively affected their academic performance. Also, in comparison to national averages for college students, 4.4% (versus 2.0%) and 16.0% (versus 11.5%) of Lehigh University students reported being diagnosed or treated by a professional for mononucleosis and strep throat within the last 12 months, respectively. (Lehigh NCHA, Spr. ’15)

What can you do?

Be smart and use practical ways to reduce your chances of getting sick and spreading germs to others. Keep your hands clean by washing them with soap and water and using hand sanitizer, if needed. If you choose to drink, minimize your risk of contamination and exposure to bacteria and viruses by sticking to (and even bringing) your own cup. Remember that binge drinking impairs judgment and the ability to follow through with the best intentions to minimize risk of sharing germs. Of course, sharing cups is not the only way germs can spread. Pre-gaming rituals, such as sharing make-up, utensils, and cigarettes can allow germs to spread. Do your part to prevent infectious diseases. A healthy and safe campus is your responsibility.