

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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## Fall Chapter House Maintenance

A major part of getting your chapter's operations up and running is opening the chapter house for another year of residency. In most cases, the chapter facility sits empty or with minimal tenants over the summer months, often resulting in "surprises" when the chapter arrives for the fall semester.

Avoid these surprises by working with your local housing authority (house corporation, landlord, residence hall association, etc.) to prepare the chapter house for the upcoming year. There are many easy-to-do tasks that, done now, can prevent many unnecessary and burdensome issues later.

To review the General Fraternity's recommended checklist, check out page 2 of the [September 2011 issue](#) of the *Fraternity of Men, Not Boys* newsletter. Also check out the "[Chapter Housing Operations Room Condition Report](#)" resource.

## National Hazing Prevention Week

As long as hazing continues, Sigma Nu will continue to be a part of the solution. The Fraternity is challenging you to participate in [National Hazing Prevention Week](#) which runs September 24-28. If NHPW activities are not already planned for your campus, lead the charge yourself by making this an annual event that the chapter hosts. Involve all student organizations, including athletics, in this great discussion.

You don't have to wait until September 24<sup>th</sup> to get involved in this year's National Hazing Prevention Week. Join the #40Answers discussion occurring right now on Twitter as students, alumni, and student affairs professionals respond to the 40 most common excuses for hazing. More information about this year's #40Answers campaign can be found [here](#).



## 65<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Modifies Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines

This past summer the 65<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter convened in Dallas to make many important decisions that will guide our Fraternity for years to come. The Grand Chapter made two substantive changes to the [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#) that each member should become familiar with as we begin the fall term.

First, the Grand Chapter engaged in a lengthy debate about the Fraternity's GPA policy. For many years, a chapter must have earned a chapter GPA above both the All-Men and All-Fraternity GPAs to be permitted to have alcohol in their chapter facility.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter modified the GPA policy of the Fraternity to read as follows (Section III, Item S):

"A chapter that falls beneath its school's All-Men's undergraduate, All-IFC or a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale), whichever is lowest, shall be placed on academic warning for the next academic term in order to allow for the chapter to raise its GPA to be at or above the applicable GPA. Should the chapter fail to raise its GPA to the applicable average while on academic warning, the chapter shall not be allowed to have any alcohol on chapter premises for as long as the condition exists." (continued on page 2)

## Hazing Is Not A Greek-Only Issue

I'm sure many have already seen the story, but if you haven't, check out this [NFL.com blog post](#). The story cites a video that was released from the NY Giants' training camp showing Jason Pierre-Paul tossing Prince Amukamara into a tub of cold water. It should be noted that Amukamara isn't a rookie and this isn't his first year on the team. Amukamara isn't struggling, kicking, or screaming while the group taunts him and carries him away but once he gets out of the tub his face says it all. He isn't laughing, he isn't smiling, and he seems to simply want to get out of the situation and get away.

This is hazing, this is bullying, and this is deplorably wrong. In fact it seems for once that the entire sports reporting community is on the same page in decrying these actions. Perhaps also it will unveil another topic: hazing isn't just a Greek problem, it's a universal problem. It's a problem of grown men failing to act like grown men.

Let's assume Jason Pierre-Paul thought Amukamara deserved what he got. Couldn't that have been handled in a more productive way? If I'm talking back to coaches, not listening to veterans, showing up late, and not fulfilling my expectations, then how does being tossed into a tub of cold water change any of those habits?

Let's put it into a fraternity perspective. You have a candidate who is not meeting the chapter's expectations. So you decide to discipline that candidate through hazing. You yell at him, make him do push-ups, maybe even make him do something embarrassing. What does that change? That's training, not education. You've just trained your candidate that doing X will result in Y without ever explaining why X is the wrong action. Dear readers, this is what dog training looks like.

So as you begin this semester's candidate education process I challenge you to decide that the fine men you have given invitations to join your organization (not simply try-out for it) are better than dogs. They are grown men, and so are you. And grown men are to be educated, not trained.

Remember always that Sigma Nu is a Fraternity of men, not boys. In that same breath we expect every member to exemplify the qualities of manhood. The only other alternative is to assist our biggest detractors in self-destructing what three MEN created over one hundred and forty years ago.

## New Water Features Policy *(continued from page 1)*

To assist in the transition to this new GPA policy, each chapter will be receiving a letter from the General Fraternity confirming the chapter's status entering the fall term. Until receipt of that letter, each chapter must continue to operate under their status at the conclusion of the Spring 2012 academic term. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact your Leadership Consultant immediately.

The other substantive change made to the [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#) was the addition of the following (Section III, Item T):

"Water Events. The chapter does not have any self-constructed pools or other self-constructed bodies of water for use in any activity at a chapter event (example, belly flop contests) and no slip-and-slides or similar activities shall be a part of any chapter event."

The Grand Chapter voted to adopt this addition to our risk reduction policy as a result of an increasing concern of the dangers associated with having chapter-constructed water features at chapter events. Many individuals have suffered serious injuries in recent years using poorly constructed water features at fraternity events.

Be sure you review these important changes with your chapter at your next chapter meeting. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your Leadership Consultant or Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction at [fred.dobry@sigmanu.org](mailto:fred.dobry@sigmanu.org).