

Solomon Blechman

Life Magazine, Letters to the Editor, November 28, 1938

Pledge's Complaint

Sirs:

As a freshman at Union College and a pledge of Kappa Nu, I was extremely interested in "LIFE Goes to Rush Week at Ohio State" (LIFE, Nov. 7).

However, I feel that you have failed to tell the whole story—namely, the great transition once you are pledged. You are certainly right with your rushing dope. We went bowling and had almost every conceivable activity given us till the president of the house took us up into a private room for the pinning.

Then things changed. We were no longer guests. Upperclassmen didn't hand over packs of cigarettes nor were they as solicitous about our welfare. Every pledge had tasks assigned to him. Some had (and still have) to wake the boys up in the morning, others to clean cars, answer the telephone, do an upperclassman's bidding such as running duty for a pack of cigarettes or mailing a letter. We had to rake leaves, clean the trophy row (which quickly lost its glitter), wash the porch and remain seated at the table till upperclassmen had risen.

We were required to learn the Greek alphabet and the location of other houses. We had to learn the college songs and have, at the end of the meals, been called upon to sing.

We, too, had a "spring board" with a sorority (high school since Union is all male) at the home of one of the richest girls in Schenectady. In that way we have been able to get our start with regard to Schenectady girls.

All in all, being a pledge of Kappa Nu is a hell of a lot of fun.

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