

*Two Steps Forward, One Step Back:  
Changing? The Culture of Sport Hazing in  
the 21st Century*

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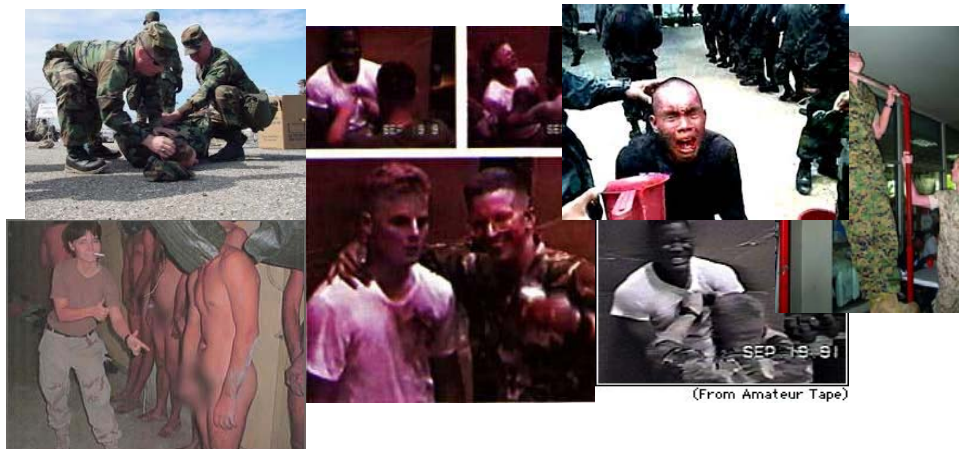
## Overview

- Introduction
- What is hazing?
- Current study
- Future directions-cultural change

## What do the Military, fraternities, schools and sport teams all have in common?

- Hazing is defined as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of you to join a group, regardless of your willingness to participate.
- Lifelong process starting as young as 12
- 60% of high school students report being hazed
- Half of those will be initiated before they are 13
- \*\*\*Sport context 80% hazed, only 20% positive (Hoover, 1999)

## THE MILITARY



# SPORT



## Recent Hazing

- Laurentian basketball team-hazing infractions
- Sayreville New Jersey-high school football sexualized hazing
- Dalhousie, suspended its mens rugby team
- Dalhousie suspended its womens hockey team
- Neepawa Natives junior hockey team, RCMP investigation, suspensions, firings, season ended
- St. Thomas University-death of Andrew Bartlett-volleyball

## Current National Study

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
- 3 year Insight Grant-Sport Participation Research Initiative
- Gender, race, sexuality and violence in sport hazing in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS)
- All male and female sports in the CIS

## Methods-Quantitative

- **Stage One:** The survey component of data collection includes web-based surveys of student athletes at Canadian universities.
- The population of CIS student athletes includes 52 institutions and 21 sports with men and women combined ([www.universitysport.ca](http://www.universitysport.ca)).

## Survey Results:

Contacting CIS Athletic Directors, Coaches & Athletes

- The “Gate Keeper” Effect
- Comprehensive list of all CIS sporting
- Contacting Athletic Directors them forward survey on to their student athletes
- little to no response
- Coaches slightly higher response
- approximately 1000 online survey responses

## Results

- 54% stated involved in hazing\*\*\*\*\*
- Lack of response & hesitation may indicate a common attitude about hazing practices
- Nuanced understanding not to speak of hazing
  - Language
  - Welcoming/team party
  - Rookie party

## Cont...

- Online responses seem to be different from in-person casual conversations regarding the topic – discrepancy on what ‘hazing’ really means
- Lack of involvement from coaches
- Little understanding of policy-ramifications of hazing
- Little being done by Administration regarding hazing education

## Stage 2 Results-Qualitative

- follow-up interviews with:
  - student athletes
  - with coaching staff
  - athletic administrators
- (sample institutions from each of the four CIS regions).

## Results: Types of Hazing Reported

- Main type: drinking games - repeatedly seen as “just drinking”
- Eating/drinking vile substances
- Nudity parties
- Scavenger hunts mixed with drinking
- Haircuts, eyebrow shaving (body modification)
  
- Rookies completing daily tasks for veterans (hierarchy)

## Results: Emerging Themes

- Expectation of a rookie night
- The common perception that “everyone was having fun”
- The option to say ‘no’ is there, but not often taken
- The use of words: “rookie party/initiation”=fun, positive while “hazing”=negative (therefore, 'hazing' is not often ascribed to such events)

## Cont...

- Athletes reported coaches not wanting to hear about it
- Secrecy as part of the bonding experience
- Expectations & rules regarding hazing not clearly established to the knowledge of the athletes



## Cont...

- Alternatives
  - the need for team opportunities to break down barriers, develop trust, communication
- - emphasis on mutual respect
  
- TEAM dynamics, rather than veteran/rookie hierarchy
  - ex: camping trips, potlucks, team practice structure

## The Future

- Alternative Orientations-(johnson, 2017, 2016; johnson, Chin, 2015)
  
- Outdoor/adventure based programs camping, hiking, climbing, canoeing, ropes course and group games
  
- Outdoor education draws upon the philosophy and theory of experiential education and environmental education.

## Types of Outdoor Activities

- Rope Courses

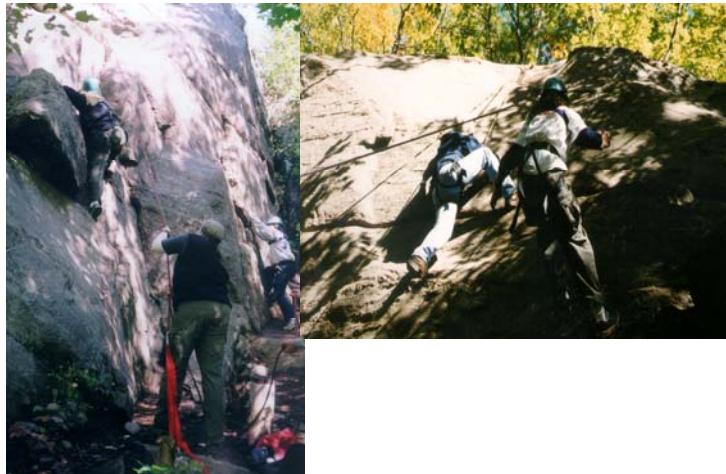


## Climbing Tower





## Coach Involvement



## Creating “new” team environments from the orientations for:

- Developed by team
- Changing cultural matrix-shifting away from “hazing”
- Inclusivity
- Team building opportunities through structured activities
- Development of team communication
- Outdoor physical activities (new challenges)
- equalizes the playing field-non-group specific activities
- Relaxation, down time social interaction
- Competition removed
- Goal setting
- Group time, group focus
- Remove hierarchy

## Conclusions

- Some change....not too much
- Still more dialogue, support, education and guidance needed
- Commitment to change the culture of hazing in sport

Thank you-Questions?