

The MEDIA LAB at MOUNTAIN LAKE PBS and THE PLATTSBURGH HOUSING AUTHORITY  
present

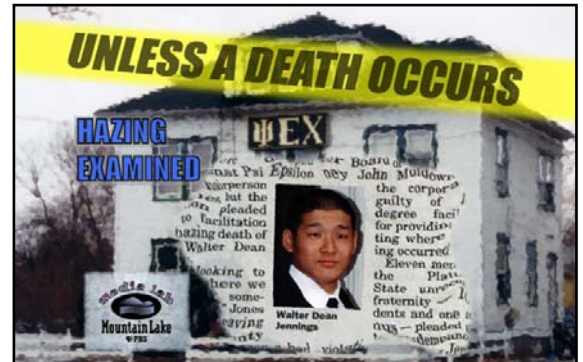
# UNLESS A DEATH OCCURS: HAZING EXAMINED

**haz ing ('hA-zi [ng])** - v. t. Any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

*Unless a Death Occurs: Hazing Examined* is an incisive documentary on the pervasiveness of hazing on America's high school and college campuses. In particular, this film traces the tragic steps of Walter Dean Jennings, a Plattsburgh State University freshman, who ultimately paid the highest price for admittance into a fraternity banned by college authorities.

The story, although grim and wrought with painful scenes of violence and humiliation, is also a powerful testimony to a community's pledge not to let a death occur without sustainable intervention.

Based on plea agreements structured by Richard Cantwell, District Attorney for Clinton County, New York, the film is granted unprecedented access into normally secret events. Interviews conducted with eleven fraternity brothers responsible for the hazing death of Walter Dean Jennings provide firsthand accounts of the event. The result is an in-depth analysis of the conditions that sustain hazing behavior.



Analysis is provided in part by two national experts in the field of hazing, Professor and journalist Hank Nuwer of Franklin College, along with Professor Elizabeth Allan of the University of Maine. Supported by interviews with District Attorney Richard Cantwell; Officers of the Plattsburgh Police Department; William Laundry, Dean of Students for Plattsburgh State and many others. The documentary reflects the effort of an entire community to face tragic facts, learn and caution others against similar behaviors. What emerges is a passionate and emotional argument toward ending hazing in America.

## THREE WAYS TO ORDER

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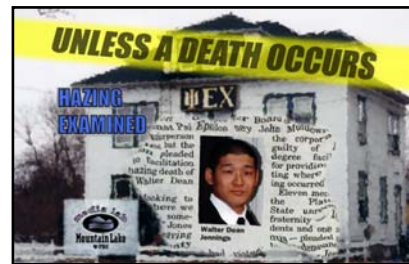
**EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE:** *Unless a Death Occurs: Hazing Examined* DVD - \$49.95

- Groups and organizations receive the licensing rights, allowing them to show the documentary as many times as desired, for three years.
- Contains a study guide that can be used to facilitate discussions with students. The study guide was created by Hank Nuwer, a leading authority on hazing, who is also featured in the documentary.

**INDIVIDUAL:** *Unless a Death Occurs: Hazing Examined* DVD - \$19.95

**EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE**

- Groups and organizations receive the licensing rights, allowing them to show the documentary as many times as desired, for three years.
- Utilize documentary in an exhibition screening to raise awareness of the dangers of hazing rituals. Perhaps as part of a larger symposium with invited guests appearing on panel discussions during National Hazing Prevention Week (September 26 – 30, 2005) sponsored by CAMPUSPEAK.
- Contains a study guide that can be used to facilitate discussions with students: as a classroom teaching tool, as part of orientation to fraternities or sororities; or to educate student-athletes on the dangers of initiation practices to become part of a team.
- Use as part of public safety training as a pre-emptive measure to deter future instances of hazing or how to deal with an incident if it occurs.



**STUDY GUIDE**

- Explores the history, current implications and status of hazing activities and rituals within schools throughout America. The guide is intended to be a catalyst for change on high school and college campuses.
- Written by Hank Nuwer, widely regarded as the leading authority on hazing and lecturer at Pulliam School of Journalism at Franklin College in Indiana. He is the author of four books on hazing: *Broken Pledges*, *Wrongs of Passage*, *High School Hazing* and *The Hazing Reader*. He has appeared in national media outlets including *NBC Nightly News*, *CNN*, *ESPN*, *ABC-20/20* and *U.S. News & World Report*.

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