

GRESHAM COLLEGE

**TRAINING IN VIOLENCE:
AN ESSAY IN MILITARY HAZING**

JOANNA BOURKE

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AUTHOR OF WOUNDING THE WORLD
& THE STORY OF PAIN



DENNIS COATES: “SUMMER TRAINING” (1975)

“WHEN HE COMES HERE,
HE IS A CHILD”.

THIS CAN ONLY CHANGE
ONCE HE HAS

“DREAMED HIS OWN DESTRUCTION”

& POSITIONED HIMSELF

“AT THE EDGE
OF A HOWLING VORTEX
WHICH POSTPONES EVEN THE NIGHT”





Stanley
Kubrick's
"Full Metal
Jacket" (1987)

HAZING

MEETS INDIVIDUAL
PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS;

IS CRUCIAL IN FORGING POWERFUL
GROUP TIES;

IS A RITE OF PASSAGE INTO
MANHOOD.



**THE WARRING INSTITUTION ITSELF
IS REPRODUCED
THROUGH INSTRUMENTAL
VIOLENCE
AGAINST ITS OWN MEMBERS**



**THE VERB “TO HAZE”
WAS 1ST USED IN THE
C15TH TO REFER TO
SCOLDING,
UPBRAIDING,
FRIGHTENING, &
PUNISHING
MEN IN THE NAVY AND ARMY.**



“INITIATION” COMPONENT









“Blood Winging”



MEANINGFUL VIOLENCE



**PSYCHOTHERAPIST HUGH MULLAN
(1948):**

**HAZING RELATIONSHIPS
RE-ESTABLISH AN OEDIPAL
SITUATION
IN WHICH UPPERCLASSMEN TAKE
UP THE POSITION OF FATHER-
SURROGATES WHO ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
“PUNISHING AND THREATENING”**



SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

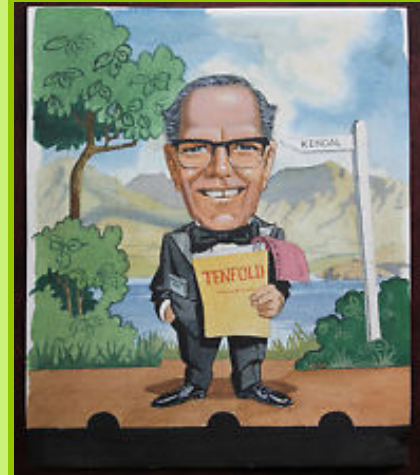


**A FEELING OF BEING
“ACCEPTED BY A GROUP OF MEN
FOR WHOSE APPROVAL HE HAS
SACRIFICED HIS CIVILIAN LIFE”**



KENDALL BANNING (1937):

**“MUST NOT THE
HEAT BE APPLIED TO THE WAX
BEFORE IT WILL POUR INTO THE
MOLD?”**



DISTRUST OF

“SMART MEN”

WHO CAME TO THE ACADEMY

“WITH FRESH AND OFTEN

UNDIGESTED ACADEMIC OR

MILITARY HONORS”



THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN



“As much a combat multiplier as tanks”

“BLUBBERING TO HIS MOMMY”



**PROBLEMS WITH
“FUNCTIONALIST” EXPLANATIONS
SUCH AS THOSE THAT FOCUS ON
THE INCULCATION OF INDIVIDUAL
TRAITS,
THE FORGING OF GROUP
DYNAMICS,
& RITES OF PASSAGE**





**ANTHROPOLOGICAL IDEAS ABOUT
“RITES OF PASSAGE”**



SOCIOLOGIST DORNBRUSCH (1955):

**“ONE IS NOT BEING HAZED BECAUSE THE
UPPER CLASSMAN IS A SADIST,
BUT BECAUSE ONE IS AT THE TIME IN A
JUNIOR STATUS.
THOSE WHO HAZE
DO NOT PRETEND TO BE SUPERIOR
TO THOSE WHO ARE BEING HAZED....
THE SWAB KNOWS HE WILL
HAVE HIS TURN AT HAZING OTHERS.”**





**REPRODUCTION
OF THE INSTITUTION**



**“HAZING WAS ABOLISHED AT WEST
POINT SOME YEARS AGO. WELL,
PRACTICALLY ABOLISHED AT ANY RATE”
(1937)**



1998:

**THE ORDER AGAINST HAZING
MEANT THAT DRILL INSTRUCTORS
“HOURLY, DAILY, AND WEEKLY
JEOPARDIZE THEIR CAREERS
BY DOING WHAT THEY THINK IS
NECESSARY TO INSTIL DISCIPLINE
IN THEIR PRIVATES”.**



“HILARIOUS AND INGENIOUS”



**“CONSIDERING THAT HE [SIC]
IS THE MAN OR WOMAN ON THE
SCENE WITH THE EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY TO FORM AN OPINION
ON WHAT IS NEEDED,
IT WOULD SEEM THAT HE OR SHE IS
IN THE BEST POSITION TO
DETERMINE WHAT IS NECESSARY
TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK.”**





**SHOULD “AN ERRANT CHILD, KNOWINGLY
DISOBEYING INSTRUCTIONS” BE
“SPANKED OR HAVE ITS [SIC] HEAD CUT OFF?”.**

**IT WAS “COMMON SENSE” THAT A SPANKING OR
ITS EQUIVALENT, HAZING, WAS THE SOLUTION,**

**YET “THE MARINE CORPS
ABOLISHED SPANKING [SIC] AND
LEFT US WITH ONLY THE
CAREER-ENDING HEAD-CHOPPING OFF
OFFICE HOURS OR COURT MARTIAL”**



ELITE UNITS



“FEMINISATION”



**35TH TAILHOOK ASSOCIATION
SYMPOSIUM IN LAS VEGAS,
SEPTEMBER 1991**

**83 WOMEN AND 7 MEN WERE
SEXUALLY ASSAULTED**



WILLIAM S. LIND:

**“AFTER ALL,
NO ONE WAS RAPED AT TAILHOOK.
FROM WHAT WAS IN THE NEWSPAPERS,
IT DIDN'T SOUND MUCH DIFFERENT
FROM A DARTMOUTH FRATERNITY ON A
FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NIGHT.
UNLESS THE WOMEN OFFICERS WHO ARE
PROTESTING THEIR TREATMENT SO
LOUDLY WENT DIRECTLY TO FLIGHT
SCHOOL FROM A CONVENT,
THEY SURELY HAD SOME IDEA WHAT TO
EXPECT.”**



“FOURTH GENERATION WARFARE”



**WOMEN HAVE TO ACCEPT THE
“BACK-SLAPPING,
PRACTICAL-JOKING,
LOCKER ROOM ATMOSPHERE
THAT USUALLY PREVAILS WHERE
MEN DO DANGEROUS JOBS LIKE
FLYING COMBAT AIRCRAFT”**



WILLIAM NEMETH:

**ALTHOUGH “MANY OF OUR
TRADITIONS MAY NOT BE
POLITICALLY
OR SOCIALLY PALATABLE”,
THEY “SERVE A VALID PURPOSE OF
REINFORCING THE WARRIOR
CULTURE AND
BUILDING UNIT COHESION”.**



PROHIBITING HAZING
INCREASED ITS APPEAL





Ribbon Creek
hazing tragedy
of 1956

PRIDE IN PAIN



**“AN EASIER BEAST BARRACKS
DIMINISHED THEIR OWN
ACHIEVEMENT “**



CRISIS IN THE 1990S



PLUMMETING RECRUITMENT



**“THE POINT SHOULD
NOT BE TO
LEGISLATE THIS NEED [FOR
HAZING] AWAY
BUT TO FEED IT IN A POSITIVE
WAY”.**



GENERAL CHARLES C. KRULAK'S ORDER (1997):

**HAZING IS ANY CONDUCT WHEREBY ONE
MILITARY MEMBER,
REGARDLESS OF SERVICE OR RANK,
CAUSES ANOTHER MILITARY MEMBER,
REGARDLESS OF SERVICE OR RANK,
TO SUFFER OR BE EXPOSED TO AN ACTIVITY
WHICH IS
CRUEL, ABUSIVE, HUMILIATING, OR
OPPRESSIVE.**



**DOES NOT INCLUDE
ANYTHING THAT TAKES PLACE DURING**

**MISSION OR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES;
THE REQUISITE TRAINING TO PREPARE FOR
SUCH MISSIONS OR OPERATIONS;
ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTIVE MEASURES;
EXTRA MILITARY INSTRUCTION AS DEFINED IN
THE REFERENCE;
COMMAND AUTHORIZED PHYSICAL TRAINING;
AUTHORIZED INCENTIVE TRAINING PERMITTED
AT THE MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOTS;
AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.**



**HAZING IS
REGULATED NOT FORBIDDEN**





AND THERE'S THE PASS BACK





**“THESE ESSENTIAL,
MORALE-BOOSTING EVENTS HAVE
GONE ON FOR YEARS,
AND THEIR DISAPPEARANCE
TO PLACATE THOSE THAT ADVOCATE
A POLITICALLY CORRECT,
KINDER, AND GENTLER MILITARY
IS NOT ONLY UNFORTUNATE,
BUT ALSO FRIGHTENING.”**



**A “KINDER, GENTLER CORPS”
MEANT THAT
NEW MARINES WERE
“INCREASINGLY BELLIGERENT
AND COCKY”**



G MARINE CORPS GAZETTE



JANUARY 1993 • \$1.50



“HAZING V. CHALLENGING”



“HAZING IS TRADITION”



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