

# the scoop

## Students respond to deadly hazings at BGSU



SEAN REPUYAN

Sororities and Fraternities pose at Greek Interest Night.

SEAN REPUYAN  
Reporter

The hazing incident at Bowling Green State University, which resulted in the death of a 20-year-old sophomore student, sparked responses from Ashland’s Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) community.

Ashland University and the FSL Community have made it clear that they do not condone hazing in any way, shape or form.

Awful, disgusting, unacceptable. These are just a few of the many words the presidents of the active fraternity and sorority chapters on campus had to say about hazing. Stereotypically, it is mainly fraternities that are given a bad reputation, often being represented as ‘frats.’

“Hollywood paints that negativity, giving way to fraternity men being viewed as party animals,” Phi Delta Theta President, Broderick Holmes said. “Fraternities need to get away from the ‘frat boy’ image and show the more clean-cut and professional side on what a fraternity is, and what brotherhood really means.”

Holmes supports the trend of reclaiming the word ‘frat’ that gained momentum in 2018, but he believes that fraternities both on AU’s campus and throughout the nation need to start being more vocal about painting the correct image and upholding a positive, clean-cut reputation.

The President of Phi Kappa Psi, Jim Schoffstall believes it all boils down to education and accountability.

“The big difference between a fraternity and a frat is that fraternities have values,” Schoffstall said.

Schoffstall acknowledges that people and fellow students will usually notice Greek letters and will naturally associate them with “frats” and the negativity that comes along with it. Holmes and Schoffstall believe the lack of accountability within Greek Life at bigger schools is the reason why most hazing incidents continue to occur.

“With smaller schools, there is less room for hazing to happen,” Holmes said. “For state schools, it’s a different story. The moral scales are off, the campuses are bigger, and sororities usually have houses, so it makes it harder to keep an eye on what’s going on internally.”

“Bigger schools are so much different,” Schoffstall said. “But one upside is that usually there is more education about the topic of hazing and its ramifications, and it provides more students with a personal connection with humanity. Nationals are starting to force hazing courses on how to recognize hazing and how to combat it.”

Stereotypically, sororities aren’t publicly exposed with hazing incidents, but hazing can still happen within sisterhoods.

“I have only heard horror stories from other schools,” Theta Phi Alpha President Jillian Chylinski recalled. “Personally, I don’t resent our chapters on campus. However, with bigger campuses, I question

what they stand for and where their morality is.”

Not only does FSL provide a safe and comfortable community for Greek brothers and sisters, fraternities and sororities make it their mission to give back to their communities through philanthropy and community service.

“It’s important that we bring back that positivity to Greek Life,” Schoffstall continued.

“Education benefits the entire community on and off campus and it brings us all together,” Chylinski added. “Until hazing stops, there will be that certain mentality that Greek Life shouldn’t exist and we need to get rid of it by helping naysayers to realize the true benefits of Greek Life.”

Similarly, the biggest thing Delta Zeta President Jordan Wasko values within her sisterhood is empowerment. Wasko encourages involvement within the sorority as well as on campus.

“‘These Hands Don’t Haze’ is a reminder that we love and respect brothers and sisters,” Wasko said. “If you have respect for your sisters or your brothers, then you wouldn’t think to put them in harm’s way or to hurt them.”

Brotherhood and Sisterhood are at the core of what a Fraternity and Sorority is respectively, and hazing is something that will never fit in with that value. Dustin Hargis, director of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Student Leadership, said that there is no room for hazing in a group like that.

“While both men and women’s organizations have cases, the men are usually on the extreme end,” Hargis said. “While women are more subtle, targeting mental health and self-image. This is why it is so important to educate on all the different forms of hazing. It can come in many shapes and sizes. It can be physical, mental or emotional, and be targeted at new members and established ones. And it doesn’t just happen in fraternities and sororities. It can happen in any other student organization.”

On top of each chapter’s individual new member education program, Hargis directs the training of all members through FSL 101, on what hazing is and how to combat it. In the fall, the community sponsors an Anti-Hazing week to continue the discussion with the “These Hands Don’t Haze” movement.

Nearly all of the presidents of the chapters on Ashland’s campus take great pride in being fraternity and sorority men and women. When asked about hazing, Hargis and the presidents all agreed.

“We care about our brothers and sisters and we want them to be comfortable and happy, and hazing will never get you there,” Hargis said.

Read more responses on  
AU-Live.com

## AU on the list of possible vaccine recipients

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Features Editor

The state of Ohio has recognized Ashland University as a vaccination distribution site.

While the university has not yet received the vaccines, they are preparing for the possibility of getting them this semester.

As for limitations and requirements surrounding this approval, a lot of information is unknown.

“The point for registering as a distribution point would be that we can vaccinate our campus — our students, faculty and staff,” Vice President of Student Affairs, Robert Pool said.

AU’s physician Dr. Chris Boyd applied for this license back in late January. Just a few weeks ago, the university got word they have been listed as a spot for vaccines to be potentially administered.

“It does not mean that we will get vaccines,” Pool said. “It means we can, if and when they distribute them to us.”

Administration does not know what kinds of restrictions the state will impose in terms of who can get

the vaccine.

“If they send us vaccines, it will most likely go to those who are affiliated with AU,” Pool said. “But the state could say, you need to make this available to the public. We don’t know yet.”

Pool expects that detailed information will be disclosed one week before the vaccines are distributed.

“We’ll be ready for them, it’s just a matter of when we can say, ‘hey this is the date we’re going to have them, go to this website, and sign up,’” he said. “We’ll have a system for students and others to come in at certain times so that we keep an orderly flow.”

The vaccines will most likely be administered in the student health center.

AU’s COVID-19 Response Coordinator Elise Riggle, is starting to worry that the university is running out of time to distribute the vaccines this semester.

“If we don’t get the vaccines until the middle of April and we have to give out two doses, unless you’re local or willing to come back for the second dose, we can’t give you the first dose,” she said.

Although there is stress surrounding the availability of coronavirus vaccines, Riggle has noticed a dramatic difference in handling COVID-19 on campus.

“I think we’re settled into the processes and the expectations. It’s also different because surveillance testing is happening and so that takes time to organize,” she said. “It does feel like there’s less fear and more hope this semester.”

Strides have been made to increase that hope by providing students access to the vaccines, however, Riggle made it clear that receiving the vaccine is not a requirement on campus.

“As a university, we are not mandating students, faculty or staff to get vaccines but we are strongly encouraging everyone to do that,” Riggle said.

AU administration is asking all students to have continued vigilance and patience through this whole process.

“We need to really keep going strong here, now, more than ever,” Pool said.

## Rooftop Rivas and Friends in Low Places:

# A weekend in Nashville

GRACIE WILSON  
AU-Live Managing Editor

Rooftop Rivas and Friends in Low Places: A weekend in Nashville

Music City. The Athens of the South. The capital of Christ and Country. Nashville, Tennessee.

A weekend in Nashville was certainly the cure for the no spring break blues and a perfect way to get off campus for a minute and enjoy some time away (and celebrate my twenty-first birthday).

Not only was the trip a perfect weekend getaway, but it also happened to be relatively affordable on a college student budget.

At about six and a half hours away from Ashland and pretty much a straight shot down interstate-71 lies the Music City, Nashville, Tennessee which is a haven for country music lovers, big city explorers and its perfect for the college aged crowd.

My trip started on a Friday afternoon when I left campus and headed south. I arrived in the city around 8 p.m., plenty of time to get settled and check out the nightlife in the city.

Hotel rates were not as pricy as I expected, sitting at about 120-dollars per night before the cost of parking is included. Since the cost was split between multiple parties, it was relatively affordable.

After getting settled, we headed down to Broadway, the one street strip of honky-tonk bars that promise good times, good music and good drinks to all who walk through the door. Music and the sounds of people singing along flooded the streets as we walked past each open door.

While Nashville is full of families during the day taking in the sights, history and live music, the nightlife scene is geared for adults as most places will not allow anyone under 21 years of age after a certain hour. If this sounds like the trip for you, remember to drink responsibly and never underage.

After exploring the night life and getting some much-needed shut eye after the drive, the next morning promised warm weather and a day of adventure ahead.



GRACIE WILSON

Views from The Valentine on Broadway in Nashville.

We began our day at the Hermitage Café, a classic greasy spoon diner downtown that served your typical breakfast as well as southern biscuits and gravy. It promised a hearty start to a day of exploring.

The next stop was at the Greyline Tennessee bus station where we embarked on a double decker bus tour of the city. This is perfect for getting a sense of what the city has to offer, especially if it’s a nice day because then passengers get an open-air tour of the city with the best photo opportunities.

The tour takes visitors through a variety of notable places in the city such as The Gulch—home to artists such as Kenny Chesney and Taylor Swift—Vanderbilt University, Printers Alley and of course, Broadway. If you are looking for

a way to get the most out of your sightseeing experience, a bus tour such as this is the best way to do it.

The bus tour dropped us back in the heart of Broadway and ready for more of that live music experience that I’ve been craving with the cancelation of so many concerts, and The Valentine was just the cure.

The Valentine is a bar on Broadway that offers three stories of drinks, music and views of the city, including a rooftop bar as well. Between sing-a-longs to Shania Twain’s Man! I Fell Like a Woman and Maroon 5’s Harder to Breathe, this bar offers something for everyone in terms of music.

Read the rest at AU-Live.com