

THE DAILY Evergreen

Volume 98, Number 146

Established 1894

Washington State University

Baseball hazing ritual revealed

By Brett Oppegaard

Sports Writer

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Some people call it tradition; others call it hazing. The WSU baseball team calls it "BP at the pass."

The BP, or batting practice, is done with cardboard cylinders on the buttocks of first year Cougar baseball players in a ritual that has gone on for at least 48 years, said Coach Chuck "Bobo" Brayton Wednesday.

While the ritual may be considered a part of Cougar baseball tradition, it is a custom that fits the definition of hazing almost precisely.

According to Washington Administrative Code, hazing is "any action required of or imposed on current or potential members of a group which, regardless of location of the incident or consent of the participants produces, or is reasonably likely to produce, bodily harm or danger, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, fright, humiliation or ridicule."

Fraternities on this campus have lost social privileges. Rush week and even their charters for hazing activities.

Neither the NCAA nor the Pac-10 have policies against

rituals or hazing.

"It's not our business," Steve Mallonee, NCAA director of legislative services, said. "It's an institutional issue."

Brayton claims the ritual is common knowledge, but a surprised Athletic Director Jim Livengood said, "I've been here 10 of the last 12 years and I've never heard of anything like that. It's a tradition?"

Livengood declined to comment further until he talked with Brayton.

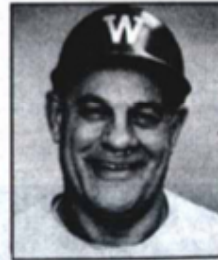
The BP ritual is the climax of the initiation ceremony, but preparation begins almost as soon as the new players enter Pullman.

Younger players watch older players "make fake clubs and talk about BP," Brayton said. "They spend hours on them (the clubs). They carve on them and write all over them. They put a lot of tape on them and some things that might bite into you."

"We keep the young guys worried for a while," he said.

The site of the BP ritual is different every year, Brayton said. The team will make the stop on the way home

from a road trip, and he said they try to make it a special place.



Chuck "Bobo" Brayton

The uninitiated players wait in anticipation of the event for several months, sources said.

"We'll pull into places like we're going to do it, but then we'll pull out and leave," Brayton said. "The guys

"When I went through it in 1944, we did it at the Dalles Ferry, which no longer exists," Brayton said. "It makes it kind of memorable."

The Washington Stonehenge monument is a popular stop, Brayton said.

"If you go out at Stonehenge at night, it's kind of spooky," he said.

Buck Bailey field on campus also has been used for the ritual.

See **BOBO** on page 6

Cultural quest



Staff photo by Anthony Spinos

Students rummage through a table full of cultural trinkets Wednesday on the CUB mall. Several cultures were represented through culinary dishes as well as dances and music.

Hanna's travel request nixed

By Jason Probst

Staff Writer

The ASWSU Senate grounded President Jim Hanna Wednesday by voting to send Vice-President Raymond French in his place to Tuesday's Higher Education Board meeting in the Tri-Cities.

The board's mission is to set policy for higher education. The Board will update the "master plan," a documentation of goals and visions for college education, at the April 21 meeting. The new plan will be forwarded to legislators and Governor Booth Gardner for input on educational spending legislation.

Hanna's initial request for a \$157 addition to the executive travel budget was met with strong opposition from Senator Mike Golden. Golden opposed the addition because Hanna presently has used up his annual \$7,150.75 executive travel allocation with travel expenditures of \$7,679.98.

The budget was presented at the April 1 Senate meeting and evoked displeasure from the governing body. The Senate voted to bring the budget to zero and to rescind Hanna's travel privileges. The budget overrun led to the Senate passing a no-confidence motion on Hanna a week later.

Golden cited the overrun and the no-confidence vote as precedents to consider in rendering a Senate decision on the allocation for Hanna.

"I don't believe we should send President Hanna anywhere for any reason," Golden concluded.

Several senators then asked Vice-President French to replace Hanna for the trip. French said he would be willing to go in Hanna's place if the senate backed him.

Hanna and his Chief of Staff Mike Gruber countered the motion to send French by emphasizing the vital rapport between Hanna and the HEC board,

and Hanna's experience in dealing with the board this year.

"When you are knowledgeable, you are effective. When you are not knowledgeable, you are useless," Gruber said.

"No offense, Frenchy, but I don't think you're as well-versed on this as I am," Hanna added. On Hanna's behalf, Gruber began a lengthy discourse as the candidate to make the trip. Hanna and Gruber responded by walking out while Cook

I don't believe we should send President Hanna anywhere for any reason.

— Mike Golden

spoke, as did Senator Mike Harlan.

Though French volunteered to go for free, Golden moved that the Senate add \$157 to the executive travel budget so French could make the trip to the HEC Board meeting in Hanna's place. The motion passed with eight yeas, and six nays.

After the meeting, Hanna commented on the travel replacement. "Frenchy has never been to a HEC board meeting. This is an important chance to testify and give student input on the master plan. The Senate is out of touch because they don't take any outside input (on Hanna's record) and they are out of touch with what students need," Hanna said.

French, in a post-meeting interview, said if Hanna wanted to pay his own way he would be welcome to make the trip to the Tri-Cities meeting next Tuesday. French added that Hanna had yet to furnish a definite response to the offer.

Environment

DOE says WSU has history of water contamination

By Pat Newton

Staff Writer

Editor's note: This is the last in a four-part series on environmental compliance issues at WSU.

WSU has had problems with water quality compliance issues for more than a year, says a state Department of Ecology permit manager.

Manager Ken Merrill, who works for the department's Spokane office, said the university's swine center and dairy center both have used improper waste water practices in the past and have been issued violation notices by the agency. The two centers, located about six miles south of Pullman near the Lewiston highway, are operated by the university's department of animal sciences.

Merrill said the DOE sent a notice of violation to the university last April because the swine center was overflowing its manure lagoon and contaminating Wilbur Creek. Additionally, he said, sewage from restrooms at

the swine center was pumped into the manure lagoon, when the facility was supposed to have a septic system.

"These problems mostly relate to a lack of best management practices with animal-keeping facilities that WSU operates," Merrill said.

But Animal Sciences Department Chairman Jim Carlson said the department has done everything physically possible in the last year to correct the leakage problem. He said the banks of the swine lagoon have been strengthened to prevent leaks and a drainage ditch has been constructed.

Carlson also said the department pumps waste water out of lagoons at the dairy center and the swine center in the fall to prevent overflows.

"Animal sciences has not discharged anything in an inappropriate manner," he said.

The department is waiting for an engineering report before it can come up with a total solution, but has done all that is possible internally, Carlson said.

Physical Plant Assistant Director Jim Antoine said construction of a septic system at the swine center has been contracted to a private firm and will begin June 1. The work must be performed during dry months to prevent contamination of surrounding soil and waterways, he said.



Antoine said though the notice of violation was received in April 1991, a project of this scope takes months of planning and permitting.

"It's too massive an effort to do that quickly," he

See **WATER** on page 2

BOBO: from the cover

will be saying 'we're going to do some BP' and then we'll just leave."

In the ritual itself, initiated players line up in a gauntlet formation with two parallel lines facing each other, Brayton said.

The uninitiated players run through the middle of the lines as players on both sides hit them with cardboard calendar holders with each end duct taped for strength.

"I'm the lead-off guy," Brayton said. "It is an honor for them to get whacked by Bobo. Sometimes I don't get a good lick, but I don't lick 'em very hard anyway."

Stan Schmid, vice president of university relations, said the situation is something the university needs to look into.

"The university is not in favor of hazing of any kind," he said.

"My course is to have the athletic director look into it," he added.

A former player who asked to remain anonymous said the ritual was no big deal.

"It's a way to pay your dues," he said.

Brayton said the entire ritual is under strict control. "More is made out of it

than is there. It is highly supervised by myself and the coaching staff."

Everyone has instructions before the ritual starts, he said.



I'm the lead-off guy...

"You don't hit a guy more than once and only in the buttocks. We also don't let the guys spread out too much (so they have more time to get better prepared to swing)," he said.

Brayton said he has attended every BP the team has had, and said they use all the safety measures they can.

"I check out everyone's cardboard to make sure nothing is in it," he said.

"Before we used cardboard, I'd check out the sticks. They couldn't use two by fours or nothing," he said.

However, a former player who asked to remain anonymous said some players take it to more extremes than others but was reluctant to elaborate.

Brayton said some guys get it worse

than others because they are popular.

While participation is 100 percent, and no players have formally requested to be left out of the ritual, Brayton said, the "guys shame them into doing it."

The ritual has been toned down a lot because of society's shrinking acceptance of such practices, Brayton said.

Up until four or five years ago, small, one-inch wide wooden slats were used in place of the cardboard.



It is an honor for them to get whacked by Bobo. I send them through there and whack 'em.

— Chuck "Bobo" Brayton

Before that, sticks from the woods were used.

"We haven't went out to the woods for sticks for a long time," Brayton said.

People don't have a grasp of tradition,

he said.

"You can find something wrong with everything," he said.

"If I had a weenie roast," Brayton said, "someone would say I'm forcing them to eat bad food."

"People talk about tradition, but they don't understand," he said.

"They don't suffer with us. Sometimes a team doesn't have the talent. We try to bind the group together so they play well," he said.

Brayton said the positive things that come out of the ritual are the "belongingness the togetherness, the part-of-ness."

"Maybe we won't even do it this year. Maybe the last time we did it was last year," he said.

Brayton said he is willing to quit doing the ritual if someone has a problem with it.

"I understand that society changes," Brayton said. "It's not going to be the end of the world. All I have to do is tell the guys we are not going to do it anymore."

"When I get to heaven I'll tell Buck Bailey they sawed us off in 1993."

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