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# Penn State Fraternity Faces Hazing Charge

April 07, 2010 4:27 PM  
by Adam Smeltz

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Five minors were ordered to chug hard liquor and soaked with beer during a fraternity hazing event in February, State College police said.



The Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity chapter, 240 E. Prospect Ave., is charged with hazing and with furnishing alcohol to minors, according to a criminal complaint filed Wednesday with District Judge Carmine Prestia. Chapter President Matthew Feinland could not be reached immediately for comment.

Police said the fraternity hosted a bid-admission ceremony for five prospective members on the evening of Feb. 15. Two of them were taken later to Mount Nittany Medical Center for treatment of alcohol overdoses, according to the complaint.

It indicates that the prospective members were sent to the basement of the house and formed a circle around a large trash can. AEPi members ordered them to chug from bottles of Southern Comfort, Jim Beam, Goldschlager and other hard liquors, according to the complaint.

Soon, the five minors were vomiting into the trash can, having beer poured down their throats and participating in a beer "slip-'n'-slide" on the basement floor, the complaint shows. They were cheered on by AEPi members, who also threw beer on them, according to the account.

Such bid-admission events are supposed to be alcohol-free, a mandate outlined by the Penn State Interfraternity Council.


"The Interfraternity Council is very disappointed to learn of these charges and will treat this case seriously," IFC President Max Wendkos wrote in an e-mail message. "We intend to work with the State College Police Department to compile the facts of the case, speak with all involved parties, and use the evidence we gather to draw our own conclusions. Once we have done so, we will act accordingly."

According to the criminal complaint, Feinland has conceded to authorities that the bid-admission ceremony suffered from "poor risk-management procedures." He acknowledged that the evening veered out of control, the complaint shows.


Feinland told police that the fraternity designated sober members to drive the prospective members back to their dormitories. The prospective AEPi members are not identified in the criminal complaint.



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Adam Smeltz



Mike the Mailman



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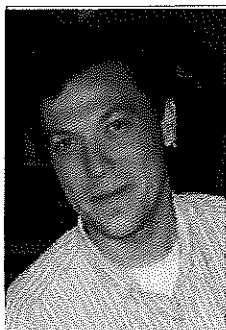
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A preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled for May 5 in Centre County Court.



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