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Frat in hot water over hazing

By **LEE SHEARER** - lee.shearer@onlineathens.com
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A University of Georgia fraternity has agreed to a yearlong suspension following allegations that some of its members paddled pledges during a fall initiation.

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UGA's Lambda chapter of Pi Kappa Phi won't be permitted to stage any fraternity activities before Jan. 1 under an agreement between the chapter's president and UGA's Office of Judicial Programs.

For five months after that, the fraternity can conduct some social and educational events, but will not be allowed to serve alcohol, according to a copy of the agreement released by the university.

► **Read statement from Pi Kappa Phi**

Chapter President Brent Stringer

admitted in the document that the fraternity violated several UGA regulations, including one that prohibits hazing and another forbidding "physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, coercion and/or other behavior that threatens or endangers the health or safety of another person."

"Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity violated published university policies when the organization condoned

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the hazing of new members. It is alleged that members of the organization physically abused new members and those actions disrupted the academic pursuit, rights, and or privacy of other individuals," according to the informal resolution agreement signed by Stringer and Brandon Frye, UGA assistant dean of students.

Stringer also agreed to hire a live-in adviser for the chapter, conduct a hazing prevention workshop for UGA Greeks and rewrite the chapter's education program for new members.

UGA's Office of Judicial Programs began investigating the hazing last month after receiving an anonymous letter from someone claiming to be the father of a new pledge.

The letter-writer complained that his son wound up with abrasions, cuts, a blood clot and a potentially serious infection after older fraternity brothers paddled pledges one by one during an initiation last fall at the fraternity house, 930 S. Milledge Ave.




The writer said only a few of the fraternity brothers had done the paddling, but they had hit his son hard enough to knock him down.

Officials with the national Pi Kappa Phi fraternity conceded the paddling had occurred, but said the letter exaggerated the severity of the beating.

"We determined that nothing that in any way (occurred) that even began to approach what was claimed," said Mark Timmes, chief executive officer of the national Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, which approved the agreement before Stringer, the local chapter president, signed it.

Fraternity members involved in the hazing also may face discipline from the national fraternity, including possible suspension from fraternity activities to expulsion from the group, Timmes said.

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Posted by: [Pokechop](#) at Mar. 24, 2010 at 9:43:36 am

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I hope my kids are wise and never want to be involved in a frat or sorority. SOOO childish.

Posted by: [potshotpete](#) at Mar. 24, 2010 at 11:18:27 am

Pokey; Obviously you weren't able to make a fraternity and that's OK. But cut the jealous cry of pretend indignation. It makes you look stupid.

Posted by: [elljay](#) at Mar. 24, 2010 at 12:48:23 pm

No, getting your kicks by spanking grown adults in the company of your buddies makes you look stupid. Also, I didn't see any indignation, pretend or otherwise. Did all the spankings get your panties in a bunch?