

Ohio University fraternity kicked off campus for hazing

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An Ohio University fraternity has been kicked off campus for five years after it was convicted yesterday of hazing pledges who were forced to drink large amounts of alcohol and then beaten.

Delta Tau Delta officials entered a plea of no contest yesterday and the fraternity was convicted of hazing, a fourth-degree misdemeanor, in Athens Municipal Court.

Judge William Grim fined the fraternity \$2,000 and ordered it to pay restitution of up to \$10,000 to two injured pledges who required hospital treatment.

OU officials then adopted a recommendation by a hearing board and banned the fraternity from campus for five years.

George McCarthy, an Athens lawyer who represents the fraternity, said it will appeal the suspension in hopes of reducing its length. Members want to educate OU's Greek community on the dangers of hazing, he said.

During a Nov. 12 party at the fraternity house, one injured pledge was found unconscious in his dormitory room and another went to the hospital.

One student said he was "blindfolded and forced to chug large amounts of alcohol and repeatedly slapped around" by Delta Tau Delta members.

The student told police that if would-be fraternity members "do not do what they are told, when they are told, then pledges will get tackled to the ground, slapped around and thrown into walls."

The fraternity's international headquarters suspended chapter operations after the incident, but permitted members to continue living in the fraternity house.

