



Everything Jersey

Six Rutgers sorority members are charged with hazing pledges in New Brunswick

By Tom Haydon/The Star-Ledger

January 27, 2010, 4:58PM

NEW BRUNSWICK -- Six members of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority at Rutgers University in New Brunswick have been arrested and charged with hazing pledges by paddling them and restricting how much they could eat over an eight day period, authorities said today.

"At least one victim went to a hospital for non life-threatening injuries," Rutgers police Lt. Richard Dinan said.

Dinan said there were at least three victims, but police are still investigating and may identify more victims and more suspects.

One victim reported the hazing to police Tuesday, and four sorority members were arrested later that day. Two more were arrested today, Dinan said.

Police on Tuesday arrested Vanessa Adegbite, 21, of Jersey City, Kesha Cheron, 20, of Newark, Llana Warner, 20 of Bronx, N.Y. and Joana Bernard, 21, of West Orange.

Each was charged with aggravated hazing and taken to the Middlesex County jail. They were later released on \$1,500 bail.

Officers today arrested Shawna Ebanks, of East Orange and Marie Charles, of West Orange, both age 21. They were charged with aggravated hazing and bail was set at \$1,500, Dinan said.

He said hazing occurred at a university student apartment building, but he declined to give the location. The hazing began about the middle of January and went on for eight days, he said.

Dinan said these were "unofficial pledges" because the hazing did not occur during the university's recognized pledge period.

Sigma Gamma Rho is a recognized sorority, but it does not have a sorority house in New Brunswick, Dinan said.