DSA frowns upon fraternity "pranks"

By Frank Krach

Representatives of Pi Lambda Phi, an MIT fraternity, met yesterday with Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert Sherwood to discuss disciplinary actions to be taken against the fraternity, ranging up to suspension of the chapter. The meeting was the result of a number of incidents that involved the fraternity's initiation ceremonies, including the staging of a mock anti-gay rally and the planting of five lambs' heads around the Institute Friday night.

The executive director of Pi Lam's national chapter will fly here Monday to conduct a special meeting with the house's representatives from the Dean for Student Affairs office, according to Sherwood. The Interfraternity Council (IFC), Pi Lam's national chapters, and the Dean's Office all held collective, according to Sherwood, to "make this incident into some kind of a large issue." Possible disciplinary actions include fining the members of the house, restricting Pi Lam from rushing freshman next year, or even suspending the entire chapter, said Sherwood.

Sherwood expressed extreme disappointment in the fraternity since he noted "I've been working with Pi Lambda Phi." The fraternity is currently on the Dean's official warning list for incidents which occurred last year, according to Sherwood. He noted that "they went on the warning list until June of this year, and so far they had done well by submitting three progress reports describing their community relations, alumni relations, financial situation, and growth to the IFC." As part of this year's initiation weekend ceremonies, the fraternity held a mock anti-homosexual rally last Saturday morning in Harvard Square. Anti-gay posters, which advertised the Capital Punishment for Homosexuals Society (CPHH) and read, "Let's make the faggots bend over the chopping block," were distributed around the Institute, which Pi Lam's national chapter (GAMLP) charged that the rally and posters were offensive to them as well as to the entire MIT community. Richard Salz '82, a member of the fraternity, commented, "It amazes me that anyone can look at that [incident] and take it seriously."

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