New "killer" craze strikes campuses

By Stuart Gitto

Aimed with a dart gun or water pistol, students at campus colleges across the country are playing a game called Killer. The game is played by as many people as possible, each with an assignment to "kill" one of the others. A "killer" is assigned by his or her dart gun, with a prescribed projectile. The game works in circular fashion; at the end of the game, only one player, the winner, remains.

The game is being played, in exceedingly complex, formal, and informal, at the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Massachusetts, where it has been played since the early sixties, according to January's Plutonium.

While campus-wide versions of Killer have not yet taken place at MIT, games have been played within living groups. One recent game took place in an off-campus sorority house.

Jim Cotlien '81, New House IV President, said: "It was loads of fun and a good way to get all the people out of their rooms." "It's like little kids playing with soldiers. It's not a latent desire to kill," he noted.

Cotlien said that the last game was "truly a trial. We plan to have a game in the future." Bob Menichetti '84, a participant in the game at New House, comments, "Most people find it fascinating. It enhances one's creative abilities." He added, "Contrary to what some people may believe, the game does not depend on brute strength or killing instinct in the least. The game would be more appropriately called 'avoidance.' In order to win this game, one must appreciate it with caution and a well-developed ability to deceive. Those who have been successful are those who have combined luck with strategy and a natural instinct to fall to the hands of those who are more patient.

"The latter group, however, is definitely one in which I do not belong. It can be much more fun for just one and kill."' Most students believe that there is no friction between students and the administration at Harvard. On February 25, the organizers of a tournament were asked to change the administration policy, according to the Harvard Crimson.

Jim MacSavice, one of the organizers of the game at New House, said: "People are taking the game too seriously. It's only a game. They are taking a leisure-time activity and turning it into some kind of psychological disorder. It's a game of imagination, but there is a sense of reality involved." Robert Sherwood, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, commented, "I've never heard any complaints. I gather, if [Killer] is occurring, it's occurring with the blessing of those involved."

IFC Judcomm to decide on possible PLP punishment

By Frank Hrach

The Interfraternity Conference (IFC) has delegated the decision concerning possible punishment for individuals actions against the MIT fraternity Pi Lambda Phi (Pi Lam) to the IFC Judicial Committee. The move was announced at the IFC meeting Wednesday evening. Punitive measures are being considered against Pi Lam for two actions taken by the fraternity during its initiation week ceremonies. One put five lambas hazing around the Institute on February 20 and publicized and staged a mock anti-gay rally at Harvard Square on February 21.

The IFC JudComm Chairman Chip Hance '81 plans to have a hearing and make a decision concerning any possible punishment for the fraternity before spring break. Hance added, "We plan to use the body of information as a whole when we make our decision, and not be blind to any part of it." The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Robert Sherwood, is also planning to release a statement concerning Pi Lam early next week according to Steve Immerman, of the Dean's office.

Dean Sherwood commented, "We hope that all the reviews of this incident will have a consensus of opinion which will make any action not just punitive, but a learning experience.

One group which lodged a complaint against Pi Lam for its initiation week activities was two guys at MIT (GAMIT), GAMIT President Charles Brown '81 said, "These two guys were the first to talk to the members of GAMIT concerning the incident. And, "There seems to be a small number of people in the frat who are strangely antipathetic, and these are the people who wrote the posters which were distributed during the rally at Harvard Square." Brown compared this episode to the Grogo incidents of past years. During those incidents, complaints were lodged against the Technology Community Association (TCA) by the Black Student Union (BSU) for pictures that had been placed in the freshmen picture book that the BSU found offensive. Brown said, "After the Grogo incident, Paul Gray sent a letter to Tech Talk. Silence from the Administration is assumed as acceptance," he added, "We don't want the Institute to tacitly support Pi Lam because we feel that that kind of an atmosphere doesn't exist only at PLP.

FinBoard chairman to continue policies

By Tony Zamparini

David Peereboom '82 was elected chairman of the Undergraduate Finance Board (FinBoard) in a meeting Wednesday evening. Peereboom and Jason Weller '82, elected vice-chairman of FinBoard, will take office April 1.

Peereboom said that he would continue most of the present policies of FinBoard, but hoped that the board would "become a little more visible on campus. I'd like to see a little more respect among the administration for the board."

Waller Crosby '81, present chairman of FinBoard, said that choosing new officers was very difficult because "we just have too many good people on the board. Dave was elected, and I wish him luck." FinBoard has a budget of approximately $800,000 which it uses to fund the UA and student organizations. Peereboom said that he would continue a present FinBoard activity, and try "to get clubs more aware of other funding sources because our budget is tight."

FinBoard is presently working on its budget for the next fiscal year. According to Crosby, it should be presented to the General Assembly on April 16. The budget will be discussed at FinBoard's next meeting on Wednesday, April 1.

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