Fraternities Discuss Reparations

TEP, from Page 1
33 NERDS + 1 QUEER. This parallels the traditional marking on the Harvard Bridge: "TO MIT + 364.4 SMOUTS + 1 EAR."

The conflict began when several members of TEP painted over the Smoot marks on the Harvard Bridge on Oct. 19, Nigam said. "With purple paint, they added smily faces to the "O's, polka dots to the letters, and several inane references to the number 22. About 10 members of LCA confronted the TEP's on the bridge and "escorted" them back to TEP," Nigam continued.

Mehendale reported his request on Oct. 20, but "TEP responded with no actions of consequence and heard no further from either LCA or the police," Nigam said. Various SMTP marks still have not been restored, LCA decided it was "not big enough a deal to go to the police," Mehendale said.

"We feel that because of the obvious parallels between the vandalism on our sidewalk and the Smoot marks, the crimes committed were somehow related to the bridge hack. We are outraged that people violated the sanctity of our home and commit a felony in response to a good-natured hack on public property," Mehendale said. "I would view this as a direct result of that [hack], but not necessarily of that one time," in the Smoots have been vandalized before. LCA has the sole responsibility to by the city of Boston for re-painting the Smoot markings each year, according to Mehendale.

Reparations being discussed
Mehendale apologized for the incident in a statement released saying, "Lambda Chi Alpha does not condone the use of malicious vandalism as a means of retribution. The acts carried out against Tau Epsilon Phi were carried out by a few individuals and not as a house. These individuals sincerely apologize for their actions and any grief that their actions may have caused the members of Tau Epsilon Phi and the MIT community."

"Basically it looks like we're going to resolve it without having any formal charges pressed," Nigam said. "We feel that this was a good-natured hack. We also understand that the Lambda Chi Alphas take the Smoot marks very seriously."

The two parties are still working on the details of the agreement and expect to be done by Thursday. Nigam said. Most of the discussion concerns monetary retribution, both for the damage and labor for cleaning TEP's house — which Nigam estimates at $800 — and for the re-painting of the Smoots.

Both presidents met with Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, yesterday afternoon.

"The presidents of both fraternities have met and appear to be working toward an agreement and resolution that may not require any further action on the part of the Interfraternity Council or the Dean's Office regarding this," Dorow said.

"Both instances were on an individual level," Mehendale said. "I do think that it's unfair that both houses have had to take responsibility for the actions of a few individuals, but I think that both houses were willing to do so."

Mehendale continued, "I can't personally comment on what the individuals had in mind," but he feels that LCA has been unfairly portrayed as a hooligan house, referring to the message "TO TEP = 33 NERDS + 1 QUEER."

"TEP is proud that all 34 members of their house are nerds, regardless of their sexual orientation," Nigam said.

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