

Florida A&M band again faces hazing accusations

By Jan Pudlow
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Florida A&M University Marching 100 is known around the world as a great college marching band, strutting dazzling high-stepping, body-twisting moves from Washington, D.C., to Paris.

To FAMU officials, it's also known for something else: beating its freshman members as part of a hazing ritual that goes back four decades.

And this week, FAMU officials acknowledged - once again - that they've opened an investigation following new charges that students were punched, paddled and struck by shoes thrown by some members of the band.

FAMU President Frederick Humphries said Provost James Ammons, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Arthur Washington and Marching 100 Director Julian White are handling the current hazing investigation against eight band members.

"I can tell you this: We don't permit hazing, in fraternities or in the Marching 100. That will definitely be dealt with by the university. We want it to stop," Humphries said sternly.

"We have had this occur about three or four years ago. I just can't have that. They need to stop it, or it will be a serious problem."

White said Monday that eight students have been suspended indefinitely from the band "regarding improper meetings and violations." He declined to provide further details or definitely characterize their

behavior as hazing until he gets to the bottom of it.

But one concerned mother, who wrote a letter on Oct. 20 to White and other high-ranking FAMU officials, says her child has been beaten repeatedly. Sometimes, she said in an interview with the Democrat, the beatings were administered by students who held keys in their fists, with the points of the keys protruding between their fingers.

"We have been appalled to discover that it takes more than hard work to be part of the Marching 100. Our sons and daughters have been subjected to illegal abuse and other hardships because of their membership in the band," said the letter, signed only "Angry Marching 100 Parents."

Fearing her child would suffer further retaliation for telling, she did not want her name to be published, and attempts to persuade her child to be interviewed were unsuccessful. She said she is joined by three other concerned parents, one the mother of a female band member who said she was hit so hard with a paddle that she was knocked to the ground.

The letter writer stressed that she is proud that her child is in the Marching 100 and she watches their half-time shows in awe.

"It's wrong for the guys to be beaten. But something goes against my soul for guys to hit women," the mother said. "As a parent, I'll do anything I can to disrupt a system like that."

William P. Foster, who retired in July after 52 years of leading the Marching 100, said with a sad voice on Wednesday that hazing has

plagued the band through the decades, despite his pleadings.

"Back to the '50s," Foster said. "All this is a spillover from the fraternities' and sororities' initiation and pledge weeks, both physical and mental hazing."

Why couldn't he stop it?

"No amount of pleading or understanding would get rid of it. They're very secretive in terms of what they're doing," Foster said.

"One thing that comes to my mind is that the younger generation, they don't like to follow rules and authority. If they heard of it going on before, they want to keep up the tradition."

Foster said that when hazing would come to light, he would call the band members' parents - often to no avail. "Their child has told them they've been put to secrecy," Foster said.

When hazing is suspected, White said, his staff tries to document it; and if it does, it's reported to FAMU police and disciplinary action is taken. That action can range from probation or suspensions from band to a possible suspension from the school.

While hazing is prevalent in many fraternities, the mother who wrote the recent letter drew a distinction with the Marching 100: As a music major receiving a scholarship, her child has no choice but to put up with the abuse because the Marching 100 is required for a music degree.

"You work your butt off to be in that band," the mother continued. "And as part of an academic requirement, you have to let someone beat on you, too?"

The absence of eight students

currently under investigation - as well as 22 others - was noticeable during last Saturday's half-time show at Bragg Stadium. The formations of a pumpkin and witch on a broom - as well as the flag corps - had holes from students missing in the band of 280 members, down from 350 members when the semester began.

White said 22 students were barred from marching because they failed to attend rehearsals.

Washington, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he received a call earlier this year from a parent complaining of hazing in the band - but he could not recall names or details.

"If hazing exists, it will be stopped. I'm a no-nonsense type person," Washington said. "I wish the parents would come and personally tell me. I will maintain the secrecy of the student, and I will deal with it on the spot. I am going to make arrangements to talk to Dr. White and the band. We don't need this kind of publicity."

This isn't the first time hazing in the Marching 100 made the news. In 1989, eight band members were charged with battery and sent to jail for shoving a student into Sampson Hall, holding him against his will and beating his head with their elbows.

Prosecutors dropped the charges because FAMU officials carried out disciplinary action.

"There is still concern on the part of the family that this type of behavior has become institutionalized in this organization, and it is a matter which the university needs to address," noted the prosecutor in the court records.

Dozens of Penn students blame illness on dining hall food

College Press Exchange

Philadelphia, Pa. (CPX) - An outbreak of diarrhea and vomiting that sent dozens of students at the University of Pennsylvania to the hospital last week is believed to have been the result of a viral infection, not tainted food in the school's dining halls as many students had claimed, university spokeswoman Phyllis Holtzman said Monday.

University and Philadelphia health officials investigated the students' food-poisoning claims, but concluded with the help of cultures from food containers and

students complaining of illness that an influenza-like bug should be blamed for the outbreak, Holtzman said.

Sudden illness prompted 30-35 students to visit the school's student health center and several more to call campus doctors for medical advice after being stricken with severe abdominal cramps, fever and nausea. The bulk of complaints came from one dormitory where residents said as many as 50 students reported feeling ill. At least a dozen other students from other parts of campus also reported feeling sick.

Revealing thoughts from "Playboy's" Girls Of The ACC

By Amy Cappiello
Campus Correspondent-UNC-Chapel Hill

Playboy bunnies are popping up on college campuses throughout the nation, but students may not realize a few of their classmates - wearing far less makeup and far more clothing, of course - are among them.

This month, more than 40 women from Atlantic Coast Conference colleges - Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Maryland, North Carolina State, UNC-Chapel Hill, Virginia and Wake Forest - are posing in what the folks at Playboy say is one of the most popular editions of the men's magazine.

The women - deemed by Playboy to be "the pride of the eastern

All the pictures are tastefully done, and it is any woman's right to pose nude if she wants...

UNC sophomore journalism major Kathleen Hancock and Playboy model

seaboard" - auditioned for the spread amid angry protests from students insisting that the magazine degrades women and contributes to a variety of societal ills, including sexual abuse and harassment. The criticism was so bothersome that some of the women - including two UNC-Chapel Hill students - withdrew their personal contact information from school phone and e-mail directories and Web sites.

Why would anyone want to subject themselves to such hassles?

"My whole life, I've wanted my 15 minutes of fame; I've craved it," Chapel Hill senior Summer Jehs, one of this year's six Tar Heel models, told The Daily Tar Heel. "And the older I got, I didn't only want mine, I wanted 100,000 other people's. I want to be the next Uma Thurman, and this goes along with it."

"You know," continued Jehs, who slathered baby oil all over her body for a steamy shower pose, "a lot of other people in Hollywood started out either in Playboy or doing a topless or nude scene in their first movie. This is a good place to start."

Aside from the autographing sessions that happened after the magazine hit store shelves and the flurry of mail they received from adoring fans, some of the Chapel Hill students who posed say their lives - including their dating lives - haven't changed very much.

"I get recognized more than I thought I would," said Kim Ziegler, a journalism major who graduated from UNC in May. "It's strange to be walking down the street and have people go, 'Hey, that's Kim Ziegler.'"

"I've gotten some fan mail," she continued. "I've also gotten some phone calls; they want me to take more pictures. But nobody's come

after me and said, 'Oh, you shouldn't have done that.'"

Second looks from students on campus and affirmation from family and friends are just about all sophomore journalism major Brandee Potts - who auditioned for the article on a dare from her boyfriend - said she's gotten from the experience.

"No one really recognizes me," said Potts, who appears topless next to an antique airplane. "The picture really doesn't look like me in the face. They put on so much makeup."

While some of the models, like Potts, said they have received nothing but support and praise for their foray into modeling, they do concede to having had some nagging, negative feelings.

"It doesn't bother me that (guys on campus) have seen me naked," Potts told The Tar Heel. "It bothers me that that's the only part of me that they know because I hold my personality to be (more important) than my looks."

Ziegler admitted that she had to deal with her mother - who made it clear she wasn't pleased with Ziegler's decision to pose.

"My mom is pretty old-fashioned so she was a little concerned," Ziegler said. "It's just that she has misconceptions about (Playboy). She feels it's pornography. She lumps it in with Hustler and stuff. But it's really not."

UNC sophomore journalism major Kathleen Hancock said she dodged family confrontation by waiting until a day after the Playboy shoot to tell her parents what she'd done.

"I don't think that there is anything wrong with Playboy magazine and the content of its photography," Hancock wrote on her personal Web site - which also states that she subscribes to the magazine with hopes of editing it someday.

"All the pictures are tastefully done, and it is any woman's right to pose nude if she wants..."

Most of the Tar Heel models said they were pleased with the professionalism with which Playboy employees treated them. The students said they were given a substantial amount of input when it came to the shoot itself - including how much, or little, clothing they would wear.

"I wanted my picture to be one of the most conservative in the magazine, and they respected that," Potts said.

While thrilling, the experience was also exhausting, the women agreed. "I have a whole new respect for models," Hancock said. "It was 2 1/2 hours for hair and makeup alone."

Potts agreed. "You don't realize what all goes into it," she said. "It's really tiring because you're constantly smiling and posing."

But with all of that behind them, are they proud of the end result?

"I know that when I'm 40 years old I'm going to be able to look at that and remember the photo shoot, remember the signing, remember the other girls, remember everything about it," Jehs said. "And when I'm an old grandmother, I'm going to be like, 'Look, I used to be pretty.'"

Police Blotter: A Look At Campus Crime Briefs

By Peter Levine
Campus Correspondent - University of Wisconsin
College Press Exchange

TUSCON, Ariz. (CPX) - A high-speed bicycle chase at the University of Arizona resulted in the arrest of one student who, according to police, said he likes running red lights on his bike.

That kind of traffic no-no is exactly how 22-year-old Evan Spealman got the attention of a police officer patrolling campus on a bicycle. According to police reports cited by the Daily Wildcat, Spealman blew through a red light on his way to class on Nov. 5.

According to reports, the officer ordered Spealman to stop twice, but Spealman simply looked back at him and kept right on peddling - swerving through traffic until the officer eventually caught up with him outside of the university's chemistry building.

The officer reported that Spealman, who was ticketed and released, eventually admitted that he'd done wrong.

BOULDER, Colo. (CPX) - Police at the University of Colorado at Boulder arrested an 18-year-old student who intentionally broke a sprinkler, causing extensive flood damage to a residence hall.

The Nov. 5 incident resulted in soaked carpets and more than \$3,000 in damage. University officials are asking students who lost books, computers and other personal effects to file additional damage claims.

Police charged with student with

felony criminal mischief.

CONWAY, Ark. (CPX) - Police want students at the University of Central Arkansas to take cold showers - or perhaps just showers that are cooler than those to which they've grown accustomed.

According to the Echo, police have determined that steam coming from shower rooms has tripped several fire alarms throughout campus this semester.

ATLANTA, Ga. (CPX) - Bomb threats are always a drag - but especially for those caught in the middle of tedious research.

Just ask Larry Young, a post-doctoral fellow in the psychiatry department at Emory University who had to leave his laboratory shortly after university operators received a bomb threat on Oct. 29. They received a second threat the next day, which also prompted the evacuation of some campus buildings.

"We could lose \$1,000, not to mention the time on these experiments ... which could be ruined," Young told The Wheel.

According to the newspaper, university police are investigating the two incidents and trying to determine whether they are related.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, Ill. (CPX) - Police arrested a panhandler who is accused of twice slapping a University of Illinois student in the face after the student refused to give him money.

According to the Daily Illini,

witnesses said the panhandler first approached the student outside a local pizza restaurant on Nov. 2. When the student tried to walk away, the panhandler followed and delivered the second blow.

Police arrested Charles Wilson, 27, of Champaign, in connection with the incident and charged him with battery.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (CPX) - A student at Indiana University reported that a man wearing a mask made famous by the movie "Scream" entered her room and sexually assaulted her.

According to police reports, the student said she was smoking a cigarette outside her dormitory during the early-morning hours of Oct. 31 when the masked man sat down beside her.

After finishing the cigarette, the woman said she went back inside, grabbed a few things and headed to the bathroom, leaving the door to her room open. The student said the man was standing in the middle of her room when she returned.

Police reports indicate that the man grabbed the student, pinned her to the floor and asked her if she liked scary movies - a question that villains in "Scream" and its sequel asked each of their victims.

The student said her roommate and a hallmate tried to enter the room but quickly left because they thought the man was there with consent.

BOSTON (CPX) - A Boston University student accused of unlawfully entering a dorm room,

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