

7 students arrested in campus goose killing

by Diane Suchetka
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Two more Davidson College students affiliated with Kappa Sigma fraternity were charged with a felony Tuesday in connection with the beating death of a goose last Friday.

The fraternity's international board of directors will vote this week on whether to suspend the Davidson chapter and could also discuss revoking its charter — shutting it down for a minimum of two years.

They also are investigating whether the incident was part of a fraternity hazing, in which the students were required to kill the goose to become members of its Davidson College chapter. A total of seven students have been arrested in the incident.

On Tuesday afternoon, Davidson Police arrested Jacob Charlson, 18, and Andrew Mincey, 18; they were charged with felony cruelty to animals and conspiracy to commit a felony. They were being held in the Mecklenburg County jail late Tuesday on \$15,000 bond each.

Both were in the process of joining Kappa Sigma. Five other Davidson students affiliated with the fraternity were arrested Friday and charged with the same crimes. They were released after posting bonds of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

None of the seven could be reached for comment Tuesday.

Students and faculty say many are outraged by the killing.

"I'd say the first reaction is one of utter repulsion that someone, anyone could do this," said Grady Patterson, student body president.

"And the second reaction is shock that a peer of ours, a peer of mine, could be involved in such a horrific act."

Six of the seven men who have been arrested were in the process of joining Kappa Sigma, according to a college spokeswoman and the fraternity's international executive director Mitchell Wilson.

The seventh man charged, Wilson said, is a full member.

The beating death occurred Friday afternoon at Roosevelt Wilson Park in Davidson, according to police.

A town employee saw a group of men lure a goose away from a group of others with bread before one of the men hit it repeatedly with a golf club, according to police. When the goose stopped moving, another man tossed it into the trunk of a car and they drove away.

Police found the car a short time later, with the dead goose in the trunk.

On Tuesday, Davidson Police Chief John Kearin said one of the men arrested told police the goose was killed on a dare. But another of the arrested students indicated it might have been hazing, Kearin said.

Wilson said Kappa Sigma is taking the incident very seriously.

"Our fraternity has little patience for hazing," he said. "The entire situation is very sad. We're embarrassed."

Davidson College has suspended the fraternity while it continues its own investigation.

The Dean of Students office will decide whether campus disciplinary action is warranted, according to a college spokesman.

Princeton cuts minority-only program

by Brian Kladko
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

Princeton University will shut down a minorities-only enrichment program, fearing that its exclusionary policies are illegal.

The summer program brings 30 black and Hispanic university students to the Princeton campus for seven weeks of non-credit courses at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, a graduate school. Its goal is to encourage more minorities to apply to that school or others like it.

But Princeton has decided the 17-year-old program would be considered discriminatory under recent court decisions.

"We became concerned that in the current legal climate, ... [it] was very likely that a program that was race-exclusive and restrictive by race would be challenged in the courts, and almost certainly we would not be able to defend it," said Robert Durkee, Princeton's vice president for public affairs.

Although acceptance into the program isn't nearly as high-stakes as entry into a selective college or graduate school, Princeton's decision sends another signal that racial preferences in higher education are in retreat.

Princeton's move comes weeks before the U.S. Supreme Court considers racial preferences in admissions for the first time since 1978. The plaintiffs — white students who were rejected from the undergraduate program or law school of the University of Michigan — are asking the court to declare all racial preferences unconstitutional.

Already, lower court rulings and voter referendums have forced schools in some states to abandon all consideration of race in admissions. One supporter of affirmative action said Princeton acted prematurely.

"If it's not being challenged, I wouldn't change it," said Angelo Ancheta, the legal director of the Harvard Civil Rights Project. He said Princeton should at least have waited until the Supreme Court hands down its ruling.

Ancheta noted, however, that there are few programs that are so exclusively limited to minorities. Most affirmative-action programs favor minorities, but are open to disadvantaged white students.

This summer's crop of students has already been selected, so the university decided to hold one more session. After that, Durkee said, the university will either change the program's admission criteria or take a completely different approach to encouraging minority applicants, such as traveling seminars by the graduate school's professors and students.

Private groups, including the Ford Foundation, originally funded the program. Five years ago, however, the foundation decided the program was on shaky legal ground and withdrew its financial support, Durkee said. The university then paid for the program.

Princeton administrators had lately come to share the same doubts, especially after learning that another university, which hosts a program with similar restrictions, has been successfully challenged in court. Durkee would not identify the school.

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