

Inequity in alcohol policy charged

By Kim Hachiya and Jill Denning

At a Panhellenic Judicial Board meeting Tuesday, Joan Light, president of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, cited lack of prior notification and inconsistent application of university alcohol policy as defense against charges that the sorority was involved in drinking on campus.

According to Jayne Wade Anderson, coordinator of fraternities, sororities and cooperatives, members of the sorority were observed by Anderson and two assistants on Friday, Sept. 28, when they "quite by accident" discovered a party at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Anderson said, "At no time did I talk with any of the young women nor did any young women come to me."

Anderson said Phi Gamma Delta president Scott Nelson told her the party was a joint function with the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She said four beer kegs were removed from the house property at her request.

Anderson quoted university bylaws that state "possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at university-sponsored or approved events, in University living units . . . shall constitute misconduct. Any student or student organization that violates this rule will be subject to university disciplinary action."

Anderson said a copy of the bylaws is given to sorority presidents before each school year and is also given to every incoming student upon registration.

Light said members of her sorority are informed about not drinking in the house but said an ambiguity results from "blatant drinking at fraternities" every weekend.

"I would love to have a dime for every time a fraternity had a party. I could put myself through college," she said.

Light, a senior, said "enforcement of fraternities (drinking) had never been brought up."

Laurie Anderson, chairman of the judicial board, said several fraternities had been disciplined for alcohol violations but because of the policy of the judicial board to remain confidential, no one would find out about it unless the involved house disclosed the information.

Karen King, a junior who spoke as a witness to the event, said the sorority has had a party with the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity for the past five semesters.

Lauri Eddy, vice president of social activities, said, "We aren't attempting to deny that this incident happened." Light added that the sorority is asking for "equity."

"What happened to us Sept. 28 could have happened to anyone," she said.

Light said there was a "lack of notification" and added that "representatives deserve and are entitled to a warning of possible consequences. It would serve as a more positive enforcement rather than penalization."

The judicial board closed the meeting to come to a decision. The Pi Phi sorority will be notified of that decision by mail within three days.

daily nebraskan

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