

# NEW ORLEANS

SECTION  
BSaturday,  
June 5, 2004

AND THE METRO AREA

## Sorority hazing penalties reduced

*Loyola move comes in wake of lawsuit*

By Coleman Warner  
Staff writer

Four female students facing expulsion from Loyola University over hazing and other violations at their off-campus sorority will be allowed to remain at the school, and suspensions and other punishments for 13 other sorority members have been downgraded.

The actions by school administrators came in the wake of a lawsuit filed against Loyola by the students, an attorney for the students said Friday.

"My clients are evaluating and deciding what they want to do," New Orleans lawyer Randy Smith said.

Loyola officials said disciplinary notices have been sent to students who appealed punishments handed out by Loyola's Board of Review in April, but wouldn't discuss results, saying they were guarding students' privacy.

The sorority's problems began when members of the Tri Phi social group, which is not sanctioned by the university, quit the organization and told administrators they had been mistreated during hazing rituals. A few students quit school as a result of the treatment, Loyola officials alleged.

After administrators took testimony from several former Tri Phi members in April, one of the former members who was cooperating in the probe, Erin Folkman, received a threatening, profanity-laced phone call from a former sorority sister, court records show.

"You deserve to die and you better never be coming back" to the Loyola campus, Folkman was told, according to a transcript of the call. The caller also told Folkman that she hoped Folkman would be hit by a car and die "a painful death."

In response to the harassment, Loyola sued Andrea Narrow, accusing her of using the call to engage in intimidation barred by Loyola and by state law. In mid-May, another Tri Phi pledge, Lindsay Diak, said in an affidavit that she made the statements that had been attributed to Narrow in the call.

Folkman was one of three Loyola students whose parents removed them from Loyola as a result of mistreatment they faced as Tri Phi pledges, Loyola alleged in court papers. Among charges made against Tri Phi members were that they forced pledges to drink large amounts of alcohol and engage in humiliating acts, and that they were warned to never try to leave the group.

## Sorority sisters may still press lawsuit

**PUNISHMENT**, from B-1

Twenty-five students affiliated with Tri Phi faced punishments ranging from expulsion to mandatory community service. Students facing the toughest punishment filed suit against Loyola on April 20, saying Loyola had no legal authority to control the off-campus group and that the students' due process rights had been violated.

Smith said punishments for all 17 of his clients have been downgraded by the administration of Loyola's acting president, the Rev. William Byron. Expulsions ordered for four students were changed to two-semester suspensions, and one- or two-year suspensions ordered for other students were cut in half, he said. The expulsion order of another student about to graduate was nullified.

Also, suspensions don't take effect until the fall semester, making it possible for students to attend summer school or transfer to other colleges without impediment. Requirements that students undergo therapy

were dropped. Some students still must perform community service, but they will no longer be required to do the work at a battered women's shelter, Smith said.

Loyola didn't explain why the punishments were modified, Smith said.

Loyola attorney Philip Franco said Friday that Smith has not informed college officials whether the revised punishments will affect the case in Civil District Court.

Smith said his clients are pleased that administrators reduced the punishments, but he said "we still don't believe that these girls should have been found to have violated any of the Loyola student handbook rules, and they shouldn't be punished at all. So the question now is which girls want to proceed with litigation and which are just willing to accept the lessened punishments."

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Coleman Warner covers higher education and can be reached at [cwarner@timespicayune.com](mailto:cwarner@timespicayune.com) or at (504) 826-3311.

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