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Student arraigned, pleads not guilty to felonious assault

By: Kristen Russo

Posted: 9/28/07

Robert S. Lewis pleaded not guilty to charges of felonious assault today in the Portage County Court of Common Pleas.

A grand jury indicted Lewis, 21, of Dover, yesterday on the second-degree felony charge.

Prosecutor Victor Vigluicci's said Lewis had a knife in his possession during an assault on a woman Sept. 21 at the Delta Upsilon house at 202 S. Lincoln St.

Vigluicci said the offense carries a sentence of two to eight years in prison if Lewis is convicted.

Lewis was arrested Monday night at his home in Dover.

A pretrial hearing has been set for Nov. 16 with a possible jury trial set for Dec. 4.

This is the second time in less than a year prosecutors have gone after a felonious assault charge at the DU house.

Nicholas Zajac, a DU member at the time, was charged with felonious assault for pushing Dana Lim, 25, of Parma, into a passing tow truck outside of the fraternity house on Oct. 29, 2006. On March 23, 2007, he pleaded guilty to a lowered charge of aggravated assault and was sentenced to six months in prison on June 11.

Contact public affairs reporter Kristen Russo at karusso@kent.edu.

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Former DU president arraigned on Friday

A former president of the Kent State chapter of Delta Upsilon fraternity pleaded not guilty to charges of felonious assault Friday in the Portage County Court of Common Pleas.

A grand jury indicted Robert S. Lewis, 21, of 202 S. Lincoln St., Thursday on a second-degree felony charge. Prosecutor Victor Viglucci said Lewis had a knife in his possession during an assault on Amanda M. Linna Sept. 21 at the Delta Upsilon house, where Lewis lives.

Lewis was arrested Sept. 24 at his parents' home in Dover. If convicted, Viglucci said Lewis could face a sentence of two to eight years in prison.

A pretrial hearing has been set for Nov. 16 with a possible jury trial set for Dec. 4.

Lewis was president of DU during the 2006-2007 academic year. A voicemail left on Lewis' cell phone was not returned.

This is the second time in less than a year prosecutors charged a DU member with felonious assault.

Nicholas Zajac was charged with felonious assault for pushing Dana Lim, 25, of Parma, into a passing tow truck outside of the fraternity house on Oct. 29, 2006. He was a DU member at the time.

On March 23, 2007, he pleaded guilty to a lowered charge of aggravated assault and was sentenced to six months in prison June 11.

— Kristen Russo

This brief is the follow-up that appeared in the paper after my initial Web brief, which is on the previous page. This is part of a story I've been following, which is why I've included the updates as one clip.

I wrote the brief as soon as I found out what was happening, and I did some digging that weekend (I wrote the brief on a Friday) and wrote an updated version for the paper.

The following page of this clip is the last update I've written so far.

Delta Upsilon incidents spur individual review

Kristen Russo

Daily Kent Stater

The Kent State chapter of Delta Upsilon is under review by the university.

Dean of Students Greg Jarvie said that while all Greek organizations at Kent State are currently undergoing Greek Review, DU's review is a separate case.

On Sept. 24, former DU President Robert Lewis was arrested on charges of felonious assault. According to the police report, Lewis assaulted Amanda M. Linna, his girlfriend at the time, at the DU house located at 202 S. Lincoln St. The report indicated Lewis had a knife in his possession during the assault.

This is the second felonious assault charge against a member of the fraternity in less than one year. In October 2006, Nicholas Zajac pushed Dana Lim into the path of an oncoming tow truck. Zajac pleaded guilty on March 23, 2007 to a lowered charge of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to six months in prison on June 11 and was released Aug. 27. He is no longer a DU member.

Jarvie said when a chapter undergoes individual review, the university looks at the individual's value to the chapter, what the chapter has done and the chapter's value to the university. He could not comment

further on the process.

Beth Gittons, assistant director for fraternity and sorority affairs, said that while the Center for Student Involvement is the body conducting the review of DU, the individual members of the review board are yet to be determined.

As of Oct. 3, Justin Kirk, executive director of the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, said because the office didn't know all the facts concerning the case, it wasn't taking any action against the chapter at that time.

"Once we get all the facts about what happened, whether it was an individual or the chapter was involved, then we'll decide what to do from there," he said.

Kirk was unavailable to comment on the current status of the issue as he is out of the office on business until Monday. No one else was available for comment.

Donna Carlton, campus adviser for Delta Upsilon fraternity, said she could not comment on the matter, and Kyle Paugh, the current president of the Kent State Delta Upsilon chapter, declined to comment on the chapter's behalf.

Linna also did not wish to comment about the incident.

Contact public affairs reporter
Kristen Russo at karusso@kent.edu.

DU to present review to IFC next semester

Kristen Russo

Daily Kent Stater

Eight new members were inducted into the Kent State chapter of Delta Upsilon Saturday. New member initiation was the first chapter-sponsored event since the university-issued cease and desist order was revoked Nov. 4 after the first presentation of their individual review.

The official review results will be presented during the first Interfraternity Council meeting of the spring semester, which has yet to be scheduled.

Dean of Students Greg Jarvie said two members from the chapter gave the first presentation before a panel of four university officials from the Center for Student Involvement. The members were Kyle Paugh, president of the Kent State chapter, and Joel Bellman, chapter treasurer.

The review was conducted through the DU Alumni Association.

"They review themselves to see if they need to make any changes within the fraternity," Jarvie said. "It's kind of like taking a mirror to yourself."

Jarvie said from there the chapter determines what it needs to do to become a better chapter and to align itself more with the university and the community.

During the first presentation, the members discussed changes they plan to make in areas of risk management and gave their ideas for specific programming about issues such as alcohol and partying, Jarvie said.

Jarvie said the panel of officials included Brenda McKenzie, director of the Center for Student Involvement; Donna Carlton, assistant director of the Center for Student Involvement and campus adviser for DU; Beth Gittons, assistant director of the Center for Student Involvement; and Della Marie Marshall, associate director of the Center for Student Involvement.

They review themselves to see if they need to make any changes within the fraternity. It's kind of like taking a mirror to yourself."

Greg Jarvie | *Dean of Students*

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DU

DU to present review to IFC next semester

Two members of the DU Alumni Association were also at the presentation, Stuart Thom, who was in charge of the review, and Michael Cesa.

Jarvie was also present, but could not comment further on the review because the report has not yet been finalized.

Thom, Carlton and Paugh declined to comment on the review as well.

Previously, Jarvie told the *Daily Kent Stater* the review was being conducted as a result of recent incidents that have occurred with the chapter, although he did not cite any specific incidents.

On Oct. 29, 2006, DU member Nicholas Zajac pushed 26-year-old Parma resident Dana Lim into the path of an oncoming tow truck during a party at the DU house, located at 202 S. Lincoln St. Zajac is no longer a member of DU. He served two-and-a-half months in prison and was released Aug. 27.

On Sept. 24 of this year, former

DU president Robert S. Lewis, 21, was arrested on charges of felonious assault. According to the arrest report, Lewis had a knife in his possession when he assaulted Amanda M. Linna, his girlfriend at the time, at the DU house where he lived. His pretrial hearing, which was originally scheduled for Nov. 16 with a jury trial set for Dec. 4, has been rescheduled for Jan. 11 with a jury trial set for Jan. 15.

In a previous interview, Paugh said that while the incident involving Lewis and Linna did occur at the DU house, the chapter itself was not involved.

"It was a private issue," Paugh said. "It involved Robby and his girlfriend. It's in no way connected to the fraternity, nor did it involve any other members of Delta Upsilon."

Paugh also said he could not discuss the incident involving Zajac and Lim because he was not the DU president at that time. He said that incident should not be in question because new member initiation occurs every spring and the fraternity has different members now than it had one year ago.

Contact public affairs reporter
Kristen Russo at karusso@kent.edu.