

# Frat nabbed for event

BALTIMORE (AP) - Johns Hopkins University has suspended the Sigma Chi fraternity because of a "Halloween in the 'Hood" party that drew protests by Black students.

The invitation to the party, posted on the website Facebook, encouraged guests to wear "regional clothing from our locale" with jewelry including "bling bling ice ice, grills" and "hoochie hoops."

The party, held at the fraternity house, featured a skeleton pirate hanging on a noose.

Black Student Union members protested the party, saying the appearance of the

image and the language on the invitation highlighted racial tensions at Hopkins and the strained relations between the university and the surrounding community. Protesters held signs showing a historical lynching next to a picture of the fraternity's skeleton.

"We need to educate the student body because apparently some people weren't given much of a proper lesson in the history of our country," said Yasmene Mumby, 20, a junior and BSU member.

University officials suspended all the fraternity's activities pending a full inves-

tigation. President William Brody said in a statement that he was "personally offended" and called the matter "deeply disturbing."

Sigma Chi's international headquarters also ordered the chapter's operations suspended for 45 days and said a full investigation was underway.

It said further disciplinary action was possible.

"We are naturally very concerned about these allegations, and are committed to holding every one of our members accountable to our fraternity's values of friendship, justice and learning,"

Mark Anderson, executive secretary of Sigma Chi, said on the fraternity's website.

More than 100 students attended a campus forum before a panel of top administrators.

Three men who identified themselves as Sigma Chi members stood up during the meeting and apologized for the actions of the author of the invitation, calling it shameful.

Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, president of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP, said he intends to explore legal action against both the fraternity and the university.

# Police lawsuit targets rapper

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) - Five Greensboro police officers involved in last year's arrest of The Game have filed a defamation lawsuit against the rapper and his associates.

Officers Hien Nguyen, Matthew Brown, Ryan Childrey, Romaine Watkins and David Gregory said they were libeled and slandered and had their images misappropriated, according to the lawsuit filed at the Guilford County Courthouse last week.

The lawsuit stems from comments made to a TV interviewer by the rapper, whose real name is Jayceon Taylor, after his arrest at a shopping mall on Oct. 28, 2005, in which he compared his treatment to that of Rodney King and claimed he was arrested for signing autographs.

It also takes issue with the distribution of a video of the officers during the arrest. A website promoting the DVD claims it shows Taylor "being wrongfully arrested and brutalized by the police in North Carolina."

The officers are each seeking more than \$10,000 in damages. One officer says in the lawsuit that he lost \$7,500 in off-duty pay because he was afraid of returning to work at the mall. Taylor and others named in the lawsuit could not be reached last week for comment.

Mall security officers said Taylor was wearing a full-face Halloween mask and cursing loudly, and refused to leave at their request, police said. When police arrived, Taylor continued to act up and was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, officials said.

Other members of the group were sprayed with pepper spray when they surrounded the officers in a threatening manner, police said. The incident was captured on videotape by a member of the group and is available on the Internet.

# Veterans

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tary. President George W. Bush appointed her as one of six to the Board of Visitors for the United States Naval Academy Board.

The duty of members is to inquire into the state of morale and discipline, the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods, and other matters relating to the academy.

Among her duties, is to send annual reports to the president.

Keynote speaker, Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000, was given the Unsung Hero Award by the commissioner.

Heather French is the executive director and founder, of the Heather French Foundation for Veterans founded in 1999.

"We advocate for free health care," said French. "We also address the issue of disability claims for veterans."

French continued, "We lobby for veteran issues and encourage community-based organizations to get involved."

Nellis AFB Honor Guard posted the colors. An Air Force Honor Guard spokesman said, "The folding of the flag has special meaning: it represents freedom."

The four man singing group, Veterans of Harmony, clad in red, white and blue shirts, sang the National Anthem.

Joel Garcia, pastor of the International Church of Las Vegas gave the invocation. Quoting from: John, 15:13, he said: "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend."

McDonald addressing the

**"I'm happy to support the veterans of Nevada... I'm happy to be here."**

— Marlin C. Barber



audience said, "I came here today to honor Heather French, support the veterans and honor my father."

Boggs McDonald was visibly emotional. After some silence and in shaky tearful voice, she regained her composure she said, "I'm so happy to have my father, a veteran, with me."

Marlin C. Barber, Lynette's father, retired from active duty in 1980 after 30 years in the United States Army. He was also presented with the Unsung Hero Award.

After addressing the vets, he received thunderous applause.

Barber said later, "I'm happy to support the veterans of Nevada. They are the most active at getting things done." He concluded his remarks saying, "I'm happy to be here."

Boggs McDonald performed her rendition of "God Bless America" accompanied by recorded music in a display of her vocal talents that helped her become Miss Oregon in the 1989 Miss America Pageant.

Guests at the breakfast expressed opinions on Iraq which were mixed:

E-3 Navy Vietnam Disabled American Veteran, Marie Jimenez said, "I have

a son in Iraq," and she said she strongly supports Bush.

Military contract serviceman and veteran Kevin Brood spoke in favor of the war. "I agree with what the U.S. is doing in Iraq," Brood said.

Retired U.S. Army Sergeant A. Ortman had a different response when asked about the U.S./Iraqi involvement. She said, "I don't think about it."

U.S. Army Vietnam Disabled American Veteran, Daniel Cooper, who saw action in Vietnam, said about it: "We blew it." He went on to speak about the War in Iraq.

"It's the same thing — that's America." He added, "Wars and rumors of wars."

Steve Sanson, Kuwait Desert Storm Marine veteran, opined how ordinary riflemen are not trained in fighting the insurgency in Iraq.

"What's needed," said Sansone, "is a change in the rules of engagement." But he supports the war.

Elliot Anderson, a young U.S. Marine Reservist, who served a two-year tour of duty in Afghanistan, said about Bush's involvement in Iraq: "U.S. forces should've stayed in Afghanistan and not redeployed to Iraq... The war in Afghanistan was good, it

was where al Qaeda was, and I'm anti-America's Iraq policy."

Anderson could be called up again but said, "I wouldn't want to go. I'm a student now."

As Breakfast Day wound down, and vets drifted out of the ballroom and into the hallway, some in wheelchairs, grouped together to talk.

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