

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU fraternity Phi Kappa Psi vandalized, member assaulted

By LINDSAY TOLER
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COLUMBIA — Four men were arrested and charged in connection with vandalism and an assault at an MU fraternity house early Friday, according to a Columbia Police news release. Timothy Cain, 19, of 24 E. Clarkson Road, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree burglary, resisting arrest, possession of false identification and third-degree assault. Zachary Holtmeier-Braiser, 19, of 22 E. Clarkson Road, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree property damage, possession of false identification and first-degree trespassing. Holtmeier-Braiser also had an outstanding municipal warrant for previous charges of minor in possession of alcohol and possession of false identification. Kyle Alley, 19, of 22 E. Clarkson Road, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree property damage, first-degree trespassing and possession of false identification. Taylor Landon, 20, of Ballwin, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree property damage, first-degree trespassing, resisting arrest and possession of false identification.

Cain, Holtmeier and Alley are listed in the MU e-mail directory as students at the university. Landon was not listed, but students can opt not to be listed in the directory.

Early Friday morning, a Columbia Police officer confronted a group yelling loudly in the area of Clarkson Road and Burnam Avenue. The group said it was on its way to a nearby fraternity house to confront members about an earlier fight, the release stated.

“The officer was aware of an earlier issue with these guys and the fraternity,” said Columbia police Capt. Stephen Monticelli. “He did warn them not to go back to the fraternity. It didn’t appear they were going to listen to him.”

The officer alerted another officer in the area.

The group soon arrived at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house, 809 S. Providence Road, where the men threw rocks at the side of the house, Monticelli said. A fraternity member, believing the men were other fraternity members locked out of the house, opened the door to the house. One of the men then pushed him against the door frame, causing him to hit his head, according to the release. The victim, whose name has not been released, was slightly injured.

The man entered the house and began destroying property, knocking over a television, said Phi Kappa Psi president Dave Ippolito.

The man was later identified by the victim as Cain, Monticelli said.

Outside, men continued vandalizing the house, damaging the front porch railing and destroying a banner hanging outside, Ippolito said.

Fraternity members called police, causing the men to flee, Monticelli said. As police caught up with the group on the 100 block of Burnam Avenue, “they continued to run and were apprehended a short period later,” Monticelli said.

The four men were identified by the victim and witnesses at the fraternity.

“We’re not sure why this happened,” Ippolito said.

When asked whether there had been an earlier fight that prompted the incident, Ippolito said, “there was no fight, to the best of my knowledge.”

“I don’t want any of my members to retaliate,” Ippolito said. “I’m sure it will be dealt with accordingly. We will try and uphold peace.”

On his Facebook page, Cain lists his participation with Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a fraternity whose charter was revoked on MU’s campus. Ippolito said he was unaware of a rivalry between the fraternities.

Cain was released Friday morning from the Boone County Jail on a bond of \$11,000. Holtmeier-Braiser was released on \$5,000 bond for new charges and was also fined \$405 for his municipal warrants. Alley was released on \$5,000, and Landon was released on \$5,500 bond.