CHEYNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT ALERT - October 4, 2013

THE CHEYNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONS STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY

Timely Notification Bulletin for Cheyney University Campus

Crime: Possible Hazing Incident

Date: 10-4-13


Reported Offense:
On 10-3-13, it was brought to the attention of the Cheyney Police Department that possible Hazing Activities are taking place on the Cheyney Campus. Hazing is a criminal offense in the State of Pennsylvania and will not be tolerated on the Cheyney University Campus. It is a third degree misdemeanor and punishable by one year in prison and any other applicable penalties in the Pennsylvania Crimes Code.

If you have information on possible Hazing Activities please contact the Cheyney Police Department immediately at 610-399-2405.

Please refer to the Pennsylvania Hazing Law as well as the Cheyney University Policy on Hazing – both are listed below.

Act 175 of the General Assembly makes hazing a criminal offense within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. "Hazing" is defined in the law as:

Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of an institution of higher education. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. For purposes of
this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Hazing is deemed criminal misconduct and is made a third degree misdemeanor, punishable by a year's imprisonment. 24 P.S. 5353 (Purdon's Leg. Service); 18 P.S. 1101. Colleges and universities are expressly authorized to suspend, expel, or fine students who engage in hazing, and to withhold grades and diplomas to compel payment of fines. 24 P.S. 5354(3) (Purdon's Leg. Service).

The object of the law is to ensure that no student at a Pennsylvania college or university, public or private, is subjected to physical or mental harm as a condition of joining, affiliating, or holding membership in fraternities, sororities, or other officially recognized student organization. An organization and its members are engaged in hazing if it engages in any activity, for purpose of initiation or continuing membership, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the physical or mental health of a student. This means any potentially dangerous forced physical activity; any activity which could cause a student to suffer extreme mental stress, as well as any other form of forced activity potentially harmful to the mental health or dignity of a student. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, the following: whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food; liquor, drugs (legal or illegal), or other substance; sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact; conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment; and/or nudity, coerced sexual activity, confinement, physical restraints, or mental harassment. An organization and its student members are also engaged in hazing if pledge, initiation, or continuing membership activities cause the willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

CU Policy on Hazing:

Cheyney University Policy SA-2010-3005

Cheyney Police were notified and are actively investigating this incident.

**Report Suspicious Activity:**
Anyone with information about this incident, please contact Cheyney Police immediately. The Cheyney Police Department urges everyone to use caution and to review our policies and important information located on our website:

http://www.cheyney.edu/public-safety/index.cfm

Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Please report any suspicious activity or suspicious persons to the Cheyney Police Department, **610-399-2405**.