



sections

- [news](#)
- [entertainment](#)
- [sports](#)
- [viewpoint](#)
- [crimelog](#)
- [classifieds](#)
- [cartoons](#)

information

- [advertising](#)
- [jobs](#)
- [contact](#)
- [links](#)

[UTK Home Page](#)

Mixer incident proves offensive with 'black faces'

Christine Lipscombe
Staff Writer

Volume 91 Number 45
Friday, October 25, 2002

UT released a statement Thursday apologizing for an alleged black face incident that occurred at RT's Warehouse on early Wednesday morning during a fraternity and sorority mixer.



[Printer friendly version](#)

"We the members of the university administration, deeply regret the unfortunate display of racial insensitivity by members of one of our fraternity chapters," said the statement written by Tim Rogers, vice provost for student affairs. "We are continuing our discussions with the fraternity's local and national leadership to inform them that this type of behavior is unacceptable."

Michael Warren, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, said that the president of the Black Student Alliance, Aneisha Davis, was driving on the Strip when "she saw a guy in black face."

She asked him why he was in black face with a cango hat on and was ignored by him, he said.

Davis proceeded to ask his friends and she was told he was impersonating Louis Armstrong, Warren said.

"When asked why black face was necessary," Omar Jackson, member of Alpha Phi Alpha said, "Aneisha was told that 'it wouldn't be funny if it was white face would it?'"

Davis herself said she asked what fraternity they were in, and one said they were a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, which is an African-American fraternity here on the UT campus, Davis .

"I then asked what fraternity they are really in," Davis said. "And I was told they were in Kappa Sigma."

"Aneisha then contacted several Alpha members and myself," Jackson said. "We went to RT's, where the guy in black face had gone, to find out why people are in black face."

Once at RT's they were told that they were not allowed upstairs because of a closed party held by Kappa Sigma, Jackson said.

"Eventually the treasurer of Kappa Sigma, Michael Steiner, and the president, Shawn Townsing, came down to talk to us," Jackson said.

The group was then told that it as no big deal, and that they were just having fun.

Jackson said Townsing also told him that he did not want for this to be made into an "Auburn incident," where several fraternities were suspended because of a black face incident.

The students said they met with the administration Thursday morning.

"They were upset about the incident and the administration wants to implement a program on why this is wrong," Jackson said.

"I have a zero tolerance for this, why doesn't the administration?" Jackson said. "The fraternity should be reprimanded like at Auburn. It's not enough if just a program is offered."

Kappa Sigma refused to comment for this story.

© Copyright The Daily Beacon
Online Editor Email: beacon@utk.edu
Letters to Editor Email: letters@utk.edu