

USM Vice President Speaks About Campus Beating

Joe Paul Breaks Silence of USM Administration

According to a 7-Dec-2010 [story for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* entitled “Father: Assault victim on the mend,” the USM freshman who allegedly suffered [an on-campus beating](#) at the hands of several members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity on the evening of 4-Dec-2010 is “shaken up,” but “healing” some 60 hours after the incident. Meanwhile, USM vice president for student affairs, Joe Paul, became the first USM official, besides USM police chief Bob Hopkins, [to speak publicly](#) about the beating. [Paul](#) told *THA*’s Jesse Bass, “[w]e haven’t had an assault of this nature anywhere on campus in a while.” Sources tell USMNEWS.net that, in providing this particular quote to Bass, [Paul](#) appears to be more concerned with [managing the university’s image](#) than with the health status of the beating victim, Stuart Ramsey.

USMPD’s Hopkins continues to say very little about the assault, telling Bass that no arrests have been made, yet the situation is still under investigation. [Hopkins](#) told *THA* that his investigators are currently confounded by conflicting stories about the assault. Hopkins’ account seems to be supported by Andrew Maher, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon’s alumni board, who told Bass that several Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers contacted him to state that none of the members of that particular fraternity was involved in the alleged assault on Ramsey. USM’s [Paul](#) added that there were no reports of squabbles between the two fraternities – Sigma Chi Epsilon (ΣΦΕ), and Ramsey’s fraternity house, Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ).

This story continues to generate interest in the local area, and one online follower of *THA*’s reporting (“USMLegacyThe4th”) recently offered information that contradicts both Maher and Paul. These comments are inserted below.

USMLegacyThe4th wrote:

Andrew Maher is protecting members of his chapter and keeping justice from being served properly. A member of Sigma Phi Epsilon came in to the Forrest General ER waiting room and stated that he was the one that attacked. He stated, "I am the one, don't worry about what all happend I am the one." This is when you know that Sigma Phi Epsilon has their back to the corner knowing that they have no way to turn other than to deny. Then several members of Sigma Phi Epsilon posted on Facebook in arguments with people on statuses admitting to being there when the fight occurred, as well as saying we do not fight for no reason, thats what happens when you talk S***. These are not statements of the innocent. The gentlemen of Sigma Phi Epsilon have been verbally attacking everyone asking questions or trying to make since of the situation. This situation has been a reoccurring problem for this chapter.

12/7/2010 8:39:25 AM

USMLegacyThe4th wrote:

Second argument with "no rivalries or quarrels in the past between the two fraternities." FALSE! Certain members of Sigma Phi Epsilon have been escorted out of games for throwing food on other chapters. Certain members have stolen Sigma Alpha Epsilon property twice. Certain members of Sigma Phi Epsilon when driving past the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house scream obscenities out the window of their vehicles. This chapter has believed for too long now that they are untouchable and above the law. There needs to be a time when they are brought back to earth. The time is NOW!

12/7/2010 8:43:39 AM

According to “USMLegacyThe4th”, a member of ΣΦΕ showed up at the Forrest General Hospital emergency room and admitted, in an “[I am Spartacus](#)” fashion, to being Ramsey’s sole assailant, while several members of ΣΦΕ posted on Facebook their admissions of having been at the scene of the alleged on-campus assault of Ramsey. “USMLegacyThe4th” also commented about an ongoing feud between ΣΦΕ and ΣΑΕ that includes stolen property and the hurling of physical items and verbal obscenities.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that USM officials appear to be addressing the on-campus beating in a way that they hope will minimize any bad press USM might receive. In this way, they say that some USM officials seem to be acting almost as defense counsel for USM’s ΣΦΕ chapter. With the information that is getting out into the public, however, that hope appears to be fading.