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college violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and state negligence laws.

Young Harris College officials deny the allegations and said in a news release that hazing goes against the school's values.

The Greek sorority Gamma Psi has been suspended for violating the no-hazing policy, according to the college.

Also, according to the college, Crapanzano was hired on a one-year non-renewal contract and was let go when her contract ended, while Terry was terminated after he failed to complete his doctoral degree as promised after three extensions to complete the degree.

According to YHC, "this lawsuit contains false, sensational allegations on multiple fronts, all of which are far removed from the everyday reality 'we live on our campus.'"

"We look forward to addressing all these matters in the proper forum, which is the courts," according to the college.

The lawsuit also alleges that YHC stopped its student newspaper from reporting about the hazing incidents.

According to the lawsuit, Burch enrolled as a full-time student at YHC in August 2011 and on or around Feb. 16, 2012 she was accepted as a pledge by Gamma Psi soror-

ity.

Gamma Psi is unique to YHC, and has no national affiliations with any other Greek organization, according to the lawsuit.

After acceptance as a pledge into Gamma Psi, "the sorority began subjecting Burch to what was called an "education period."

During this "education period," Burch allegedly was subjected to severe and pervasive harassment and abuse by senior members and alumni of the sorority," according to the suit.

Burch alleges that she heard many senior sorority members refer to this "education period" as "hazing," according to the suit.

The suit alleges that on Feb. 24th, 2012, Burch and other pledges were forced into vehicles of sorority members and driven to a nearby wooded location.

During the trip, the lawsuit alleges that sorority members "blared loud, heavy metal music, and forced the pledges to scream their names, in response to profanity-laced questions."

Afterward, they allegedly were taken into the woods and blindfolded, and required to continue screaming the names of sorority members, the lawsuit alleges.

"Eventually, the blindfolds were removed, and various sorority members began to scream and spit in the faces of the pledges, according to the suit.

They further smeared mud in the pledges' faces, and required them to crawl through the mud into a cold creek." Throughout this abuse, sorority members continuously shouted at the pledges, calling them sex-specific insults, according to the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, one of the hazers shouting at the pledges was a Gamma Psi alumnus, who was a YHC staffer at the time she allegedly took part in the hazing rituals.

According to the lawsuit, she still works at YHC.

According to the suit, the YHC staffer continually screamed profanity at the pledges, and instructed Burch and other pledges on how to properly do exercises such as crawling through the mud.

The hazing ritual, according to the lawsuit, lasted six nights, into the wee hours of the morning.

Burch grew tired of the initiation and after nearly a week of hazing, she decided she would de-pledge from the sorority, according to the lawsuit.

Burch then met with her advisor on the student newspaper, Crapanzano, according to the suit.

Burch shared her experiences and the extreme nature of abuses she suffered at the hands of members of Gamma Psi, according to the lawsuit.

Burch then says she met in a "confidential meeting" with Susan Rogers, the college's vice president of student affairs. Afterward, Burch alleges that she received a text message from a member of Gamma Psi informing her that someone had disclosed her complaints of hazing to members of the sorority.

"On information and belief, YHC staff member Susan Rogers disclosed the complaints to Gamma Psi, despite Burch's request for confidentiality," the lawsuit alleges.

Burch scheduled another meeting with Rogers on Monday, April 2, 2012. Terry and Joy Goldsmith attended this meeting and Rogers informed Burch that Gamma Psi would be suspended for one year, but that no individual involved in the hazing would be punished, the lawsuit alleges.

According to the lawsuit, Rogers discouraged Burch from filing a police report, threatening that, if she did, the sorority members involved would sue her.

The lawsuit alleges that Crapanzano researched the hazing for an article in the school newspaper, and that she found that extreme forms of hazing were widespread at YHC, and frequently involved sexually abusive conduct.

She claims the hazing rituals included such tortures as forcing female pledges to take part in a "panty run," in which they are required to run across campus in their underwear as other students, including male students, looked on, forcing "sweethearts" (female members of male fraternities) to stand naked and be judged by the fraternity members; forcing "sweethearts" to hump the ground and moan as if having sex, as the fraternity members looked on and forcing both female and male pledges

to stand in a pool of water in which the older pledges have urinated or defecated in, according to the lawsuit.

Crapanzano and Terry alleged they held faculty meetings to discuss the school's lack of a discipline policy on hazing, but when specifically questioned about potential disciplinary action against the member of YHC staff who was involved in hazing Burch, allegedly YHC President Cathy Cox responded that the investigation had been 'unable to substantiate' the allegation.

Cox, according to the suit, went on to explain that, despite the existence of eyewitness testimony, eyewitness testimony was "inherently unreliable."

It was at this meeting, according to the lawsuit that Crapanzano directly challenged Cox's comments regarding the evidence of a YHC staff member's involvement.

In response, Cox allegedly threatened Crapanzano, suggesting that she and Crapanzano should "step outside and fight," the lawsuit alleges.

Crapanzano claims she completed her article on hazing at YHC the next week, but Dr. Jennifer Hallett, the chair of the Communication Studies Department, informed Crapanzano, Terry and the Communication Studies fac-

ulty via e-mail that the article would have to be sent to YHC's attorney to be "screened" before publication.

On information and belief, the intention behind this request was to censor the article and hide the details regarding the widespread and deeply institutional nature of hazing practices among YHC student organizations, the lawsuit alleges.

President Cox eventually refused to allow the article to be published, and a week later, Crapanzano was fired, and "barred from attending graduation activities, denied access to her school e-mail, and escorted to her office to retrieve her personal belongings by campus police nearly three months before the natural end of her one-year contract with no explanation," the lawsuit alleges.

It wasn't long after that the Terry said he was fired in a letter "warning him that he had no contractual rights as a non-tenured employee."

All three plaintiffs seek special damages for economic injuries as a consequence of YHC's violation of their rights in an amount to be determined by a jury, according to the suit.

They seek compensatory and punitive damages, including interest, for violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

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tempt to wreck him, Towns County arrest warrants show.

Later, Towns County deputies gave way to Union County deputies at the Towns-Union line. Carlin-Chis, who was on the phone with Towns County 911 during the chase, reportedly was responding with suicidal tendencies, authorities said.

The chase ended with Carlin-Chis crashing her 2001 white Ford Expedition into the patrol car of Deputy Combs from Union County, Sheriff Mason said.

"Sam's okay and we're proud of that," Sheriff Mason said.

Following the chase that ended in Union County, Carlin-Chis was taken to Union General Hospital for medical treatment. Afterward, she was taken to Peachford Hospital in Atlanta, authorities said.

Her condition was unavailable at press time.

Carlin-Chis faces 16 charges in Towns County, included felony aggravated assault, fleeing/attempting to elude a police officer, multiple counts of failure to maintain lane, reckless driving, too fast

for conditions and failure to obey traffic devices or police. Towns County arrest warrants show.

In Union County, Carlin-Chis is charged with felony aggravated assault for attempt to strike Deputy Combs with her Ford Expedition, and misdemeanor obstruction and fleeing/attempt to elude Union County sheriff's Sgt. Josh Berry, Union County arrest warrants show.

"We're just glad to have her off the roads," Sheriff Mason said.

Carlin-Chis remained in the Atlanta hospital at press time.

MACA meal night

Mountain Area Christian Academy, in cooperation with area local churches, will be hosting MACA Meal Night every Thursday night from 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Mountain Area Christian Academy, 14090 Old Hwy. 76, Morganton, GA.

Every Thursday night a hot meal will be provided to anyone who would like to eat and socialize at our school. A love offering jar will be available for anyone wishing to give money for their meal.

Please come and let us serve you! NIMay8,21,CA