

Hooded and Armed

Menacing of Petitioners Exposed As Soph Prank

By JOHN W. MILTON JR. '57

What was feared at first to be evidence of a neo-Ku Klux Klan movement at Princeton Friday morning has been exposed as nothing more than a practical joke.

Four sophomores, playing a prank that might have had repercussions they never considered, confessed over the weekend to cloaking themselves in Ku Klux Klan costumes early Friday morning and threatening three of their classmates who had been instrumental in circulating a petition denouncing the Emmett Till incident in Mississippi.

University proctors and Daily Princetonian reporters were on the trail of the "Klansmen" when the group, that had carried guns to make the stunt seem more authentic, turned themselves in late Friday night.

The incident took place in the room of William D. Zabel '58, Peter W. Murphy '58, and Charles F. Lapine '58, 22 South West College.

Dean of Students William D'O. Lippincott '41 declared yesterday that "appropriate" disciplinary action will be taken this afternoon.

Received by Laughter

At 12:45 a.m., Lapine and Murphy heard a knock on the door, and upon opening it, found themselves face to face with four figures clad in sheets and pillow-case hoods. One man was carrying a 12-gauge pump shotgun and another was brandishing a .22-caliber target pistol.

Although their first reaction was to laugh at the intruders, a resounding click from the pumping action of the shotgun and the determined tone of the muffled voices shook their composure.

While two of the raiders held Murphy and Lapine at gun-point, the other two entered the bedroom where Zabel was sleeping, awakened him and handed him a terse note which read, "Get rid of that petition or we'll be back." After threatening Zabel with the shotgun, they left.

Scarcity of Clues

As the pranksters fled, Murphy slammed the door in an attempt to catch the sheet of the last man out and learn his identity. The man escaped, still clad in his sheet, but as Murphy later discovered, the raider's left shoe had been caught in the slamming door.

Following a hasty council, in which the three victims decided not to follow the armed visitors, they reported the incident to the proctors.

Facing a difficult task of apprehending the pranksters, the proctors ran

into several dead-end leads. The shoe was the most significant clue, identified from its immaculate "spitshine" as belonging to a man in an ROTC unit. The only other clue was a number "2" seen on the corner of one of the sheets, which marked it as property of the Gordon-Davis laundry.

After attempts to match the shoe to the left foot of some sophomores whose voices Zabel and his roommates thought they recognized, the day wore on without any substantial progress towards the apprehension of the nocturnal raiders.

Finally, made aware that their joke had been reported to high administration officials, including President Dodds, and realizing that the prank had snowballed far beyond their expectations, they collected their costumes and firearms, and reported themselves to the proctor's office.

Administration Relieved

Although proctors, administration officials and the victims of the prank were relieved to learn that the incident was merely a prank, some men close to the group circulating the petitions still considered it "an act of reprisal."

In order to clarify their feeling
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Intime to Hold Tryouts

Tryouts for the Theater Intime fall production, "Liliom," and the freshman reading will be held tonight, tomorrow and Wednesday nights at 7:30 in Murray Theater.

Tryouts for the business and technical staffs will also be held.

Doctor Joseph E Dies in Trenton

Originator of IAA Succumbs to Illness

—R. W. A. Jr.

'Klansmen'

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on the entire event, the four sophomores have issued the following statement:

"Our only intention was to participate in a prank, which had no further aims other than the prank itself.

"Neither our political leanings nor personal feelings toward those involved were responsible for the conception of Friday's hoax.

"An error of judgment—specifically our carrying of firearms—was made; we readily acknowledge it, and now realize the serious implications of such an act.

"We offer our apologies to those whom we have caused anxiety, and especially to Dr. Dodds and the entire university for the reflections our actions may have cast upon Princeton University."