

## Letters To The Editor

### Irrated Male

To the Editor:

I'm fed up: I'm fed up with the yellow journalism displayed by this newspaper and the sensationalist tactics of that rag called *The Easton Express*. However, I'm most disappointed with the women of this campus. If DU's "Back to the Womb Night" party offended you as a group, as a few of your self-appointed representatives affirm, why don't you take action? Instead of these few self-righteous, moral guardians running to the faculty, community and administration every time they feel humanity and womanhood has been degraded or demeaned, why not unite as a group and do something on your own? What you ask? Well, for one don't attend anymore of an offensive fraternity's parties for a protracted period of time. I'm sure the brothers would get the message much more effectively than if the administration slapped their wrist.

However, before you take any action, here are a few things to consider. Remember you drink for free at fraternity parties. It is not your party, but the fraternity's. If a fraternity wants to throw what you consider to be a revolting, disgusting and tasteless party (usually the best kind and the most attended) don't attend. It's as simple as that. If you arrive at a party unaware of its perverted theme and you are horrified upon the discovery of its deviate nature — leave!! There are plenty of other parties to go to on any given night and you are not out one single solitary buck. Also consider that every time a

complaint is lodged against a fraternity you are supplying the administration with one more round of ammunition to shoot down the entire fraternity-sorority system and with it the social life of this campus. Every time the administration acts in a disciplinary matter, one more student right or freedom is revoked. Also think about all the negative press these few puritan-like do-gooders have generated for our college. If you were a parent would you send your son or daughter to Lafayette after you read those irresponsible, biased, sensationalist reports of sexism, abuse and immorality on the Lafayette campus.

In closing, I would like to address one further point. If these reports of sexist attitudes and general disrespect for women exist on the Lafayette campus (something which I believe does exist) who is to blame for this hostile confrontationist attitude? The fraternities, the administration, the male student population? The general disrespect for women is not just a problem unique to Lafayette, it is a societal problem. No administrative action is going to change it, just as the passage of the ERA would not bring an end to male chauvanistic attitudes. The irony of this campus problem is that the fraternities with the most complaints lodged against them for their behavior — DU, Theta Delta Chi, Phi Delta, and Fiji — always have the most packed and popular parties. Who is encouraging whom?

Sincerely,  
Frank V. Pope, '82

### The True Issue: Degradation of Humanity

To the Editor:

By now all of us are tired of hearing about Delta Upsilon's "Back to the Womb Night," and yet the real issues have hardly been approached let alone settled. Except for two brief comments by professors Chadhuri and Lusardi, everything written in last week's edition of *The Lafayette* was weak at best. Most skirted the issue, never truly coming to terms with the problem. The problem is this: that the party held in Delta Upsilon was a personal and moral affront against men and women alike — to anyone with the least amount of self respect. Moreover the offense exists despite the fact that it may have been unintentional or that it may have been condoned by a large portion of the women on this campus.

The event was not only tasteless — that is almost irrelevant — it was offensive.

Herein lies its fault. Such an event cannot be allowed to take place under the pretense that a social living group should be permitted to do as it pleases at an open function, with the idea in mind that those who are offended simply not attend. A closed affair is a different matter, but at a public party such a group becomes a public body and thus their pleasures are limited to those which do not offend the rights of others. This is a fundamental belief upon which our society is based. Therefore this event cannot be justified by strong attendance, nor by the general amusement of those involved.

Although we certainly could have done without the party, the emergence of the issue itself is somewhat welcome, and this not only in the change of attitude which it will hopefully bring about. It is welcome because it is the first issue in at least the three and a half years I have

been here which transcends Lafayette College, which forces each of us to consider a real social problem extending beyond the bounds of College Hill. Each must question his or her own values in relation to existing social standards, not those so often imposed on this campus. Once again this is a question of integrity and self respect as well as a general matter for the student body as a whole.

As the articles and editorials (for or against the party) in last week's newspaper were quick to point out, Delta Upsilon is hardly to blame for the existing atmosphere which would even permit such a function taking place. "This event is merely the tip of the iceberg." However, Delta Upsilon is to blame for the staging of the party, and this blame cannot be shifted elsewhere. Thus, they must be reprimanded (if only verbally)

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