

Viewpoint

Follow the NIC Team's advice

Last week, two representatives of the National Interfraternity Conference in the persons of Henry Poor and Ron Kibbe, visited Lafayette at the invitation of the President's Council of Social Living Groups. They were charged with the task of objectively evaluating the fraternity system at the college, and giving recommendations which fraternities and sororities across the board could implement, which would hopefully improve the Greek system as a whole.

All things considered, we would like to commend PC for taking the initiative in bringing these outside evaluators to the campus. All too often, it's too easy to get into a set frame of mind; you wind up getting into a rut.

This is not to say that the Greek system has been in a rut. But in these changing times, it's becoming very important to be able to re-evaluate the Greek system. However, if you are an active part of it on campus, you tend to lose a lot of objectivity — that's a given fact.

PC showed its commitment to moving forward and continuing its dynamic

response to the changing conditions surrounding fraternities these days, by asking Poor and Kibbe to come to Lafayette. One must remember this move was initiated on the behalf of the whole system by Frank Tournour, past president of PC, and his colleagues. The administration had nothing to do with this. PC recognized the need for objective, outside guidance, and took the necessary steps for obtaining it.

Poor and Kibbe did have some things to say about the Greek life at the college, after an exhausting schedule that involved scheduled meetings with every campus social living group. Their most important piece of advice: all of the individual components of the Greek system must unite and work together for the good of the system. At this point in time, division would be the most dangerous thing to occur.

We hope that PC and the Greeks of Lafayette as a whole take the NIC team's recommendations to heart, and implement them as soon as possible. By doing this, the fraternities and sororities of Lafayette will lay the groundwork of their success for the years to come.

AIDS education an urgent priority

We applaud the initiative of the students behind the AIDS Outreach, who took the initiative last Tuesday night to begin what hopefully will be a continuing campaign of educating the general public about AIDS.

AIDS, both as a disease and as a phenomenon, has become and will continue to be a serious issue confronting society today. No other disease, except maybe herpes, has aroused as much fear and loathing in contemporary society. Its victims face the harsh opinions of their peers, and possible social ostracism. Even more, no one has found a cure for this dreaded malady as of yet. There may not be one.

However, the general public does need more education about this disease. The last thing the victims need in their misery is the scorn and hate of other people. It's bad enough that the

scientific community hasn't found a cure for it yet. AIDS victims already know that they face death as long as the cure remains unknown. To have to die alone. That's even worse.

The AIDS Outreach is correct in recognizing that AIDS patients are people as well. They had friends before they contracted the disease too. Those friends who were uninformed would have probably dropped the friendship once they found out about the disease. What they don't realize is that it is during this time that their friend, the victim, needs the most support.

We feel that the AIDS Outreach will continue to provide useful and important programs for the community in general. At this point, education and knowledge of the prevention of the disease are the most important countermeasures against AIDS. Those are the only things that can be done until a cure is discovered.

Believe it or Scott
by Scott Stein



Could history repeat itself?

Holocaust. The word conjures up images of darkness and despair, death and destruction. A word which does little justice to the atrocities it attempts to portray.

For some Holocaust survivors, describing their experiences is a way of alleviating the anguish and torment which never abate. It is an analgesic to relieve the pain for which there is no cure. Only through telling their stories do they find redemption from the horrors they endured.

But many survivors cannot face their pain. To them, it is like opening a wound, a wound deeper than any suffering imaginable. These people deal with their pain by forgetting the experiences as much as possible. Their memories are agonizing, so they have no wish to recall them. This is completely understandable since they have endured an annihilation of their insides.

For those who have their stories burning inside and seek to inform the world of the atrocities they faced, their motive for speaking out is not only a relief of personal pain, but also a desire to prevent future Holocausts. Although written, spoken, or pictorial descriptions cannot come even remotely close to describing the hell that millions of people suffered through, they serve to remind us that these appalling incidents occurred only two generations ago.

We have much to learn from the horrors perpetrated during World War II and throughout history. Although some scholars say that history inevitably repeats itself, taking the viewpoint of other scholars who say that history is a discipline which teaches us to learn from our past mistakes suggests that remembering events such as The Holocaust will help us to prevent future Holocausts.

This leads to a difficult question: Could there ever be another Holocaust? Unfortunately, the answer is a resounding yes. How many people remember that we kidnapped Blacks from their homes in Africa to use as slaves and brought them to America, "The land of the free," in ships with conditions much the same as the conditions faced by Jews being brought to concentration camps in cattlecars? How often do we recall the beatings, rapes, and murders of slaves? The lessons of the past seem to be forgotten or misplaced as the generations go by.

This is evident on campus as well as off campus. Whether we wish to admit it or not, racism is running rampant in the world. It may not be as blatant as having separate water fountains for Blacks and Whites or having "reserved" seats for Blacks at the back of buses, but it is still there. The Ku Klux Klan and other White Supremacy groups still meet on a regular basis to pursue their agenda of ridding the world of imperfect people, carrying out brutal assassinations of Americans who don't fit the mold of the "Ideal American." On campus, many Black students say they feel ignored by the rest of campus because of their color. One student has even filed a lawsuit against the Easton Police department on the charges of brutality and racism.

This just touches the tip of the iceberg of racism. One of the most troubling and difficult aspects of racism to fight is its subtle nature. The fact that many nonblacks get a twinge of fear every time they see a group of Black men in a city environment attests to the subtle stereotypes we have of Black people being violent. These stereotypes translate into racist behavior. We may be extremely open and sensitive to racism, but the fear of seeing a group of Black men together demonstrates that racism often exists below our conscious level.

On a similar level, stereotypes about Jews being rich and stingy are often not displayed publicly, but felt quietly by many people. Many Jews are insulted by government sponsored Christmas decorations with religious connotations contrary to their beliefs. Being asked what I received for Christmas is an insult because of the implicit assumption that I am odd because I do not celebrate Christmas. The great number of cases of Synagogues being vandalized shows that blatant anti-semitism also exists.

Having painted a dismal picture, I hope to counter it with a look at the improvements made over the years. Although racism still exists in subtle ways, the legal treatment of Blacks has improved. Blacks have won the right to vote, the right to be afforded equal protection of the law, and Civil Rights. While discriminatory laws and practices still exist, they have been greatly reduced in number. The fact that we now celebrate Black History Month and Martin Luther King's Birthday show our increased awareness of the role of Blacks in history.

Improvements for Jews have also come. People are beginning to become more aware that many Jews are insulted by government sponsored Christmas decorations which ignore them. Christmas decorations have become more applicable to the holiday season in general in many places. In addition, Jewish Holidays are taken into account more often when deciding school vacations. We are

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1. O. WHAT WEIGHTY MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORT LAY BEFORE THIS FUTURE OFFICEHOLDER? HA... A HUMDRUM CONUNDRUM.

2. WHAT'D THAT MEAN? WAS THAT A CRITICAL COMMENT? SPEAK ENGLISH!

3. WHEN THE CRITICS START THINKING THEY'RE SMARTER THAN THE CANDIDATES, THIS COUNTRY'S IN BIG TROUBLE!!

4. POLEMIC PONTIFICATION. I HEARD THAT! WHAT'D THAT MEAN?

5. MY FELLOW REGISTERED MEADOWNIKS...

6. WHAT A RUBE! WHAT A LOON!! WHAT A REAL DILBERT!

7. THIPPY!

8. AS THAT OLD EXPRESSION GOES: "YOUR CAMPAIGN IS IN DEEP DUNG WHEN THE COCKROACH SPITS ON YOUR SPATS."

9. FREEDOM. GENTLE VOTERS... WE PROMISE MORE FREEDOM!

10. MYSELF, I RELISH THE FREEDOM TO RUN IN AND OUT OF FOLKS' NOSES WHILE THEY SLEEP. HOW ABOUT THAT FREEDOM?

11. WELL...

12. WELL WHAT, MELON NOSE?

13. TOTAL RUBE.

The Lafayette
Founded in 1870
"The Oldest College Newspaper in Pennsylvania"
Devoted to the interests of the students of Lafayette College
Published weekly, except during Exams, Vacations and Holidays. Editorial and Business Offices in Marquis Hall, Box 4026, Easton, PA 18042
Telephone: 250-5354

Second Class Postage FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS ONLY.
Pub. No. UPS 585-360 Paid at Easton, PA 18042
Subscriptions: \$24.00 Per Year

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Opinion Policy: Opinions stated in columns, cartoons, and letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial board. The opinion of the majority of the Editors is expressed only in the Viewpoint on page two. Printed by: Slate Belt Printers, Inc., Pen Argyl, Pa.