

Statement to the Committee on Appeals

Delta Upsilon Fraternity

Respectfully submitted, April 16, 1981

Delta Upsilon's infamous "Back to the Womb" party of several weeks ago has been the subject of a heated and many-sided discussion that has involved a vast majority of the Lafayette community. Although conceived with a psychological theme, it was soon changed to one of a sexual nature through the effects of various individuals, from other persons as well as D.U. members. Admittedly, the actions at the party were indicative of an attitude that is not "honorable, ethical, and mature in every regard," to quote the introductory statement of the Code of Conduct. D.U. pleaded guilty to violating the code, based on the idea that the party led to the demeaning of Lafayette individuals.

The punishment that was chosen by the Student Conduct Committee seems inappropriate in magnitude and kind to the D.U. brotherhood. In view of the fact that many incidents by various groups and individuals contribute to an admittedly deplorable atmosphere that fosters insensitivity towards others, it appears that the magnitude of D.U.'s contribution to a fund that would hopefully battle the problem outweighs their contribution or representation of the problem. Also, numerous members of the Lafayette community have repeated the thought that the party is an indication of a larger problem, that of a grossly inconsiderate attitude. Given that this is so, placing a financial burden on a few individuals, while it may change the behavior, will do little to alter the outlook of Lafayette students.

We intend to show that the problem of attitude is so widespread that singling out D.U. for a punishment of this magnitude is unjust. We believe that individuals or groups do not become more sensitive to the feelings of others through monetary punishment and we are suggesting alternatives that we feel will be more effective than a "required contribution."

The following quotations from The Lafayette serve to substantiate the breadth of the insensitive attitude present at Lafayette:

"This is not an isolated incident. Our anger and concern is not aimed specifically at D.U. but at a general atmosphere on campus which leads to the abuse of women." (From an article by R. Burke, quoting Chris Neff '82, co-president of the Association of Lafayette Women.)

"It is important to remember . . . that D.U. did not invent bad taste, social unawareness, insensitivity, sexism, or whatever label one may wish to put on the behavior. Nor were they alone in exhibiting such behavior." (Ronald Steiner, in an editorial on February 27.)

"Some have said that when they attended the party they did not realize the ugly implications of the activity. How then are they different from the brothers of D.U., who also failed to recognize the weight of their actions"? (From the editorial of February 27.)

"We are particularly concerned with this because it is by no means an isolated example of insensitivity and disrespect towards women at Lafayette." (From a letter demanding a public apology, signed by four sororities, four campus organizations, and 11 individuals, February 27.)

"It is our opinion that Delta Upsilon's "Back to the Womb" party and Ruef's "Fruit of the Loom" party should not be singled out for public disapproval. These are not isolated events but a part of the larger problem - - the lack of respect for others in the Lafayette community." (From a letter by The Sisters of Sigma Kappa, February 27.)

"Saturday night's event was simply another blatant display of a campuswide lack of sensitivity and regard for women as human beings." (From a letter by Melissa Galbraith, February 27.)

". . . I thought Ruef did the same thing in exploiting males at the Fruit of the Loom party." (Nancy Freeborne, '83, explaining her reaction to D.U.'s party in the "That's What You Think" column, February 27.)

"The party's implications may have been completely unconscious to the men. But if this is the case, the matter is even more disturbing, because it shows a lack of awareness and an insensitivity to the feelings of a large number of people." "This is not an isolated incident." (From an article by R. Burke, quoting Una Chaduri, instruc-

tor of English, and a member of the Professional Women of Lafayette, February 27.)

"Variations of this kind of behavior - - which is demeaning and insulting to others - - are not new to Lafayette." "I'm hopeful that this most recent example of abuse toward women will awaken many members of the Lafayette community . . . " (From the article by R. Burke, quoting Amy Levine, '81, chairperson of the student affairs committee of student government, February 27.)

"This is not against Delta Upsilon, or any other fraternity, but it is a culmination of events indicating insensitivity to various groups." (From an article by J. Rogers, quoting Thomas Norton, associate professor of Sociology, in reference to a motion of the faculty calling for action against violations of human decency, March 6.)

"Samuel Stoddard, associate professor of mathematics, and chairman of the conduct committee, said that no singular incident is the reason for the meetings. Stoddard said, however, the recent concern on campus regarding a lack of respect for human dignity prompted the committee to hold the meetings several weeks earlier than originally planned." (From an article by Martin Laiks, quoting Professor Stoddard explaining the planned examination of the Code of Conduct, March 6.)

"The irony of this campus problem is that the fraternities with the most complaints lodged against them for their behavior - - D U, Theta Delta Chi, Phi Delt, and Fiji - - always have the most packed and popular parties." (From a letter by Frank V. Pope, '82, March 6.)

In addition to this selection of comments from members of the Lafayette community, there are events and situations which have been and continue to be demeaning to the dignity of various groups and individuals. The Ruef party has already been mentioned. Other situations which are representative of or contributive to the problem include:

- 1) a movie sponsored by the Fine Arts Society, "Pink Flamingos," described as "disgusting and unbelievably offensive."
- 2) a movie shown by Lafayette Film Gallery, "Emmanuel," which centered around sexual promiscuity.

- 3) the blatant sale of pornography in the college bookstore.
- 4) the sale of a record album featuring offensive and outright disgusting lyrics to popular disco songs.
- 5) the photographing of explicit sexual acts between certain fraternity brothers and unknowing women.
- 6) the tape recording of same, and playing that tape at meal time.
- 7) sarcastic letters to the editor of The Lafayette which mock attempts by women to gain respect.
- 8) the showing of "Flesh Gordon," a film with little other than sexual meaning, by the Lafayette Film Gallery.
- 9) the cruelly satirical treatment of sufferers of dyslexia in a recent article in The Lafayette.
- 10) Lafayette Film Gallery's showing of "Going Places," "Clockwork Orange," and "Last Tango in Paris."

A petition has been circulated among the faculty in order to determine whether or not a punishment of this kind is appropriate in this situation. Although not all the professors were asked to sign, and of those who were asked, not all chose to sign, a significant number of the faculty agreed with the idea that "individuals or groups do not become more sensitive to the feelings of others through monetary punishment."

In a letter to the editor on February 27, Melissa Galbraith wrote: "We do not seek retribution, which would serve only to further hostility, but rather we seek respect as peers and future co-workers."

In an article in The Lafayette, March 27, the following was written concerning reaction to the \$1,000 contribution:

"Melissa Galbraith, Co-president of the Association of Lafayette Women, speaking for herself said, 'I was not in favor of punishing D.U.; it is a general attitude on campus.' She said that she felt punishment may create further hostility and hinder cooperation between men and women. Kissiah also said, 'Putting Delta Upsilon on social probation could be counter productive in this case.'"

We feel that the magnitude and nature of the penalty, which, according to the Student Code of Conduct, falls under the title of "social probation"(page 20), are counter productive in their own right.

should be
 We propose an annual event planned by, *financially* sponsored by, ~~underwritten~~
~~and held at~~ Delta Upsilon, thereby assuring the complete
 involvement and benefit of the brothers of Delta Upsilon,
 the function of which would be "for all constituencies
 of the college to increase their awareness of the
 provisions and implications of the Code of Conduct",
 to quote the Student Conduct Committee's report. Further,
 it is our hope that such an event, including speakers,
 panel discussions, and the like, would result in foster-
 ing a more mature and sensitive attitude among the
 members of the Lafayette community. Delta Upsilon ~~would~~ shall
~~play the role of organizer in~~ soliciting input from
 other groups in order to achieve campus-wide participation.

& must obtain approval of the Dean

DU shall

In conclusion, the Brothers of Delta Upsilon repeat that (1) while this is not an isolated incident we appear to have been isolated for punishment, (2) a financial punishment of a forced nature may alter behavior, but will likely have a net negative effect on the attitude of those most needing a change, and (3) we can provide alternatives that would be better suited to the task of presenting an alternative to insensitivity.

Finally, Delta Upsilon apologizes to all offended groups and individuals for the actions that took place at the "Back to the Womb" party of February 21.

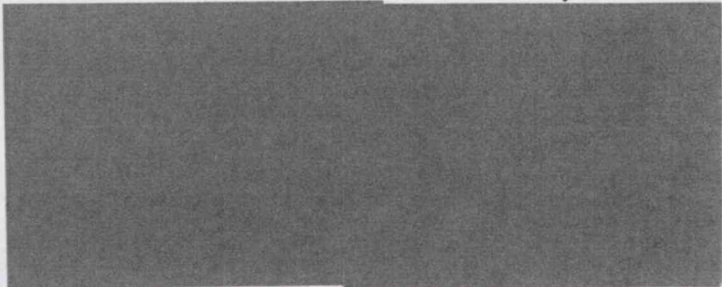
The Association of Social Living Groups at its last meeting unanimously voted to pledge their support of Delta Upsilon's position that punishment consisting of a forced donation of \$1000 is totally unwarranted and unduly severe in this case.

We feel that the degree of insult which took place at the incident in question must be such that the expensive amount of \$1000 is justified. Any determination as to degree of insult is extremely subjective and hence a justifiable punishment is also subjective.

Parties such as Delta Upsilon's are designed for students and hence the primary judge as to their design should be the students.

We, the Association of Social Living Groups, comprising a major portion of the student body with 65% of the men and 40% of the women, feel that the degree of insult which allegedly took place at the party in question in no way warrants or justifies the punishment given.

Respectfully Submitted,



On February 21, 1981 Delta Upsilon Fraternity held a party advertised as a "Back to the Womb" party. The brothers of Delta Upsilon have publicly regretted having the party. Charged by the college as being in violation of the Code of Conduct, Delta Upsilon pleaded guilty to the charge at a hearing of the Student Conduct Committee. A required contribution to the college in the amount of \$1000 was the disciplinary action decided upon by the committee.

We, the undersigned faculty, feel that disciplinary action in the form of a required contribution is inappropriate. Individuals or groups do not become more sensitive to the feelings of others through monetary punishment. Programs through which both men and women can willingly work and react with one another to improve attitudes on campus would be more beneficial than those of a forced nature.