



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Office of Admissions

November 14, 1985

MEMO TO: Dean Herman Kissiah

FROM: Sheila Baisden

I am appalled by the account that I hear of the barbaric and reckless behavior demonstrated by members of DU during the early morning hours of Saturday, November 9. It would be bad enough if the incident had occurred in a vacuum. It did not.

There were six pre-freshmen women staying in the Black Cultural Center for the weekend who observed these antics. Other pre-freshmen were approaching the house in the midst of this senseless, and potentially dangerous, escapade.

The Lafayette women who reside in the Black Cultural Center are accustomed to the way DU expresses itself. They were frightened, so you can imagine how shaken the visiting high school seniors were.

It is hard enough to do minority recruitment here as it is. The Matriculant-Withdrawal Survey consistently each year cites fraternities and their reputation here as the reason Lafayette loses some of the more well-qualified applicants. Prospective Black applicants, especially, refer to the "dominance" of the fraternity system as reason for matriculating at other colleges.

Some of the visiting women perceived these escapades as a racial incident. I have no idea whether it was or not. It may as well have been if the visiting women perceived it that way.

My frustration comes in working for a long time to finally get the minority recruitment effort to click and then to see those efforts undermined by a group whose actions would not be tolerated in the "real world."

I am baffled by the fact that no representative from the Dean's Office appeared. From what I hear, some dean was aware of the events because the party was ordered to be shut down. From my own experiences here as a student, I know some students disrespect and disregard the campus security guards. That is evident since security had to be called in a second time to control members of DU. Perhaps, if an official representative of the administration had arrived, order could have been restored more quickly.

I have no sympathy for students who use becoming intoxicated as an excuse for engaging in dangerous and reckless acts. I am interested in hearing what quick and severe sanctions are imposed on anyone and everyone connected with Saturday's events.

cc: ✓ Dean Jeffers
Dean Person

Dean Portlock
Richard Haines

SB
SLB