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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