

## 'Womb' party at Lafayette investigated as 'offensive'

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Of The Morning Call

The Lafayette College faculty-student committee on student conduct is investigating a fraternity party held last week criticized by some as being in poor taste and others as sexist and degrading to human dignity.

And many on the Easton campus are saying that the furor over Delta Upsilon's "Back to the Womb" party is merely bringing into the open complaints that have been simmering below the surface about the attitude toward women on campus during Lafayette's 10th year of coeducation.

"The party pushed the situation to a point where no one could ignore it," said Chris Neff, copresident of the Association of Lafayette Women.

According to the school paper, the Lafayette, the party featured such decor as pink tissue lit by red lightbulbs, a mattress shaped to resemble a giant tampon and a sign behind the bar reading "ALW - Association of Lafayette Wombs."

Yesterday's edition of the student newspaper included letters from sororities, the Association of Lafayette Women, Professional Women of Lafayette, the Hillel Society, the college chaplain, the Lafayette Christian Fellowships, and individuals. They decried the lack of sensitivity of the party, but noted that it was not an isolated example of disrespect toward Lafayette women.

In a letter in the same issue of the

Lafayette, the Delta Upsilon brothers responded, "We do regret having offended some, but we cannot apologize for a novel party that kept a capacity crowd laughing and dancing far into the night."

Miss Neff said female students are regularly subject to verbal abuse, aggressive pinching and insensitive treatment at parties and elsewhere.

College President David Ellis said that, based on the information he had, the behavior exhibited at the party sounded both "vulgar and degrading."

"Anyone who's seen 'Animal House' or visited campuses elsewhere knows this is not the only campus where this is happening," said Ellis. "But we are trying to educate and raise the sensitivity of our students. The total inappropriateness of the party is troubling. Colleges should be among the first places to stand for the dignity of all human beings."

Dean of Students Herman Kissiah said the code of student conduct includes a statement requiring all students to be honorable and ethical, with regard for the individual and community, and includes penalties for those who harm or demean others. Were the fraternity found guilty of a violation of the code, it could face social probation — a freezing of its funds for social functions.

"It's a good time to look at this particular question as an opportunity to learn from this incident," Kissiah said. He also noted that Delta Upsilon held a party Thursday night, but it did not have a theme.