

VIEWPOINT

Things Are Not So Simple

By now everyone has heard about the "Back to the Womb Night" held at Delta Upsilon last Saturday. Where it will all lead is now the question.

The college community will examine whether conduct regulations have been broken. The college community will also decide whether this type of behavior is so distasteful that it must be specifically outlawed in the future.

It is important to remember, however, 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. Many other students — both men and women — went along with D.U. If no one would have gone, the party would have been a failure, it would not be repeated, and the discussion of punishment and blame would be much clearer. Things are not so simple.

Those who went to D.U. and drank the beer and the grain and danced to the music were, in actuality, doing nothing more than contributing to the success of the party. This is a fact.

The belief that somehow people can be excused for their contributions to the party is interesting, but based on somewhat weak logic.

Certainly fraternities have the primary role in the planning and the execution of the social life on campus. Students must go to fraternity functions or face the prospect of a difficult and limited social life. But no one had to deny the social

aspect of their human nature in order to take a stand. They did not have to stop going to all fraternity functions. They did not have to stop going to all D.U.'s functions. All they had to do was not go to that party that night. They could have gone to another party. They could have even gone to no party at all. How much of a sacrifice would it have been to miss one party? Nobody forced anyone to go.

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?

It is just too simple to say that the problem is D.U., and it is also too simple to think that a solution lies in anything D.U. might now do, or that now might be done to them. Everyone who went to the party contributed to the success of the event, and to whatever degradation of humanity may have occurred.

The problem is an attitude. Legislation will not eliminate the attitude, but it is one way of eliminating the behavior. An apology from Delta Upsilon will not eliminate the attitude either — and it leaves untouched the considerable number of participants who were not members of the fraternity.

What is needed is an awareness and concern for the rights and sensibilities of others. This will perhaps be the most difficult thing to achieve, but undeniably the most valuable.

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