

# The Lafayette

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## DU Required To Contribute \$1000 By Conduct Committee

by Joseph Rogers

Delta Upsilon fraternity is being required by the Student Conduct Committee to make a contribution of \$1,000 to the college. The money will be used to support lectures or symposia to foster better communication and respect among students on campus. The punishment stems from charges that the fraternity failed to meet the standards of the Code of Conduct resulting from the fraternity's "Back to the Womb Night" party.

According to the committee's statement, DU is specifically charged with

demeaning women students on campus by having a sign over the bar stating "Association of Lafayette Wombs," decorating parts of the party area as a womb, and having some members dressed in offensive costumes. Delta Upsilon pleaded guilty to the charges filed against them at the hearing.

The contribution is to be used to "support lectures or symposia for all constituencies of the college to increase their awareness of the provisions and implications of the Code of Conduct, and in general foster better communication and respect among all students on campus." DU will also be required to take part in the planning and implication of one of the programs.

Commenting on the punishment, Herman C. Kissiah, dean of students said, "Often if students damage college property they must reimburse the college for repair. Delta Upsilon has damaged the college community; these funds will be used to correct the damage." He also stressed that it is not a fine, but a contribution. Bob Roth, president of Delta Upsilon, said in a prepared statement, "I think a fine in this situation is inappropriate," but declined to comment on why he thought it was inappropriate. Roth continued, "I don't understand how the committee has the ability to put a price tag on such an unquantifiable and vague concept as the alleged emotional damage."

In determining the amount of the contribution, Kissiah said that the

committee did not put a value on what was done, but looked at what the money will do. In the committee's report it stated, "...the committee believes that value has been derived from this incident in discussions about the party on campus, the significant degree of indignation felt by many members of the college community, and the dismay of many that a group of persons would be so disrespectful of the status of others." The statement continues to say that the committee was concerned that a more severe punishment would focus attention away from the basic issue — behavior that is demeaning to individuals and groups alike.

Delta Upsilon has the option to appeal the decision of the committee. Should they choose to do so, they must file a letter of appeal within 72 hours of being notified of the committee's decision. The Appeals Committee has the power to modify the punishment in any way that it sees fit. Roth commented, "I hoped the committee would have allowed DU to use its own discretion in developing appropriate measures to improve the attitudes on campus."

The contribution will be administered by the Joint Committee on the Cultural Program, with the intention that groups will request funds for worthwhile programs. If a group has a program that it would like to conduct, it should petition the Joint Cultural Committee. The committee will then look at the

(Continued from page 1)

program and decide if it would use the funds in the way in which they were intended to be used.

Melissa Galbraith, Co-President of the Association of Lafayette Women, speaking for herself said, "I was not in favor of punishing DU; 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."

The statement by the Conduct Committee concludes, "This action by the committee shall serve as a clear indication to the members of this community that behavior which demeans others, be it by individuals or other groups, will not be tolerated and will be subject to severe disciplinary action by this committee."