The Lawrenceian

Sig Eps are sanctioned

By Tom Zoellner

In response to an "infantile" and "insensitive" comment about rape in the minutes of a pledge meeting, Lawrence University announced a program of disciplinary action, including a four-year term of probation, against the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity on Tuesday.

The minutes, from a pledge meeting in mid-February, read in part:

"My intentions were never sexual assault," said fraternity president Robert Hartford. Our comments reflect a lack of sensitivity. Forced sexual acts were never planned and not a part of the party.

The five-part discipline plan, unanimously approved by the fraternity in a meeting this morning, includes: a withholding of activation for current pledges until a plan of reeducation can be implemented, a campus-wide apology, a mandatory 10-hour education program on sexual assault, and social probation of a pledge meeting.

Morrow says she'd do it again

by Kris Howard

After the university announced its pledge meeting in mid-February, Lawrence University expressed dismay this week over the way in which the fraternity covered a rape reference in the minutes from a pledge meeting.

"We never would have planned rape," said Sigma Phi Epsilon president Robert Hartford. "That is utterly false.

"There's no question that the article in the Milwaukee Sentinel was a distortion of the fact," said LU Director of Public Affairs Rich Morrison. "At the very least it was inappropriate journalism. At most, it was done with malicious intent.

When asked about the story, Burke said that a "transmission error" had caused the alleged misinformation in the Sentinel story. He refused further comment.

"I dictated it [the story] to us himself," said Milwaukee Sentinel reporter Gary Krentz. "There was no transmission error.

Media distorted issue say Lawrence, Sig Eps

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To the Sisters of Delta Gamma and the Lawrence Community:

We, the brothers of the Wisconsin Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon extend to you our most sincere and heartfelt apology for the ill-conceived affair. As far as I know, the two stories we filed were a fabrication and a mistake. We hope that you will/will not emerge from our educational and community service programs a more informed, aware, and sensitive group.

Robert L. Hartford III
President, Wisconsin Alpha Chapter
And the Brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon
Opinion

April 7, 1989

Dgs address irresponsible actions

To the Lawrence Community,

We, the members and pledges of the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Gamma Fraternity would like to address the irresponsible actions of the pledge class and those members of Sigma Phi Epsilon who allowed the offensive minutes to be printed and displayed. On the Friday evening mentioned in the minutes, some Delta Gammas attended an informal gathering at the Sigma Phi Epsilon house, but there was no theme for the gathering. So Delta Gammas would knowingly participate in any event which suggests that rape is either amusing or acceptable.

By not removing the offensive pledge meeting minutes, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity appears to hold casual attitudes which diminish the seriousness of rape. Light-hearted treatment of rape is both ignorant and insensitive, and Sigma Phi Epsilon should take steps to increase its awareness of the importance of rape issues.

Although we condemn the attitudes exhibited by this particular fraternity, we do not believe that rape is solely a Greek issue. In fact, our chapter of Delta Gamma has taken steps to increase its members’ awareness of serious rape issues. We devoted a chapter meeting to rape education which included viewing the Sexual Assault Task Force’s video and utilizing materials provided by Delta Gamma.

We believe that the Sig Eps should take steps to condone rape culture and violence toward women. While the name of their party was undoubtedly intended as a joke, its “unnecessary” offensiveness shows an insensitivity and sexism of their humor. Any humor that suggests violence, privately or publically, should not be tolerated by the community in which we all live.

We hope to score tonight.' I'd like to make it with her.' She was the best piece of *c* I’ve ever had.' He taught me to view women as commodities; in our society today this language often used to describe both sex and women.

We endorse and accept the proposal of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Chapter of Delta Gamma Fraternity to hold casual attitudes which diminish the seriousness of rape. Light-hearted treatment of rape is both ignorant and insensitive, and Sigma Phi Epsilon should take steps to increase its awareness of the importance of rape issues.

To the Lawrence Community,

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"You probably don't understand if you aren't a Greek"

Opinion

April 7, 1989

To the Editor,

I recently received a letter sent to me anonymously. It stated, "You probably don't understand if you aren't a Greek." Completely, I have never had even the slightest intention of raping a DG or anyone else. Consequently, no one did get raped. Do you really think that they would rape anyone? We all know how fast word spreads on campus. PHI Epsilon is unrighteous and should not have written their title of the party in the minutes. I’ll agree with you there.

Furthermore, this was a Phil Epsilon party and it was intended only for the DG's and Sig Ep Eps. Are you a DG? I don't think so. In addition, the party was not really successful. We had to send out letters to bring down the name of the house. Also, the fraternity and sororities support each other tremendously— we have better things to worry about.

I personally believe that you have jumped to conclusions, you are blowing things way out of proportion. Do you personally have some vendetta against the Sig Eps? Sun, most of the members of Sig Ep are a very special close community, there is no need for such an outrage. Don't you have anything else to do or worry about. The Sig Eps have done nothing wrong. I hope they should have not written their title of the party in the minutes. I’ll agree with you there.

The Sig Eps have in fact raped every one of us!

Nivory Tower. A group of people were exposed in their idol and are now wishing to organize direct actions against the "academic program" and the "residential and extracurricular aspects of the Lawrence community."

Furthermore, this was a very small group. Along with the other small house groups, this past year we have put in a great deal of time and effort into organizing creative programs directly beneficial to the issue under a volley of aspersions and ad hominem attacks. It is the ignorance of rape and its cultural perpetuation that is the real issue.

Also, the Sig Eps are not a group of people who care for their. The Sig Eps have done nothing. There has never been a DG party; there has never been a Sig Ep party; and there has never been a Sig Eps rape. The Sig Eps have done nothing wrong. I hope they should not have written their title of the party in the minutes. I’ll agree with you there.

The Sig Eps have in fact raped every one of us!

Andy Tipton

German Haus speaks out

To the Editor,

We, the undersigned members of the German Haus, are writing to express our concern and disapproval of the position and views expressed in Susan Morrow's letter in her article "I have to do or worry about" in the Lawrentian March 31

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Don't make Sig Ep a scapegoat

by Tom Zoellner

With the announcement that Lawrence University will take an educational rather than punitive angle in its sanctions for Sigma Phi Epsilon, the rest of the campus would do well to put their preconceived attitudes aside and attempt to benefit from what otherwise would have been a senseless issue. The fury that the rape reference in the pledge minutes caused has done much to polarize the student body, turning women against men, friend against friend, Greek against independent. In the wake of the controversy, the real issue—ignorant attitudes—has been forgotten. If the issue continues to be perceived as an entirely Sig Ep or an entirely Greek one, the cycle of ignorance will be perpetuated. The Lawrence community, through its vigilance and small-mindedness will miss an opportunity to turn a negative issue into a positive one. The Sig Eps, though clearly at fault, should be applauded rather than vindicated for the formulation of their own program of punishment and education. The Lawrence community should turn their negative feelings into positive ones. Instead of scapegoating the fraternity, we should express support for the program of education they have set up to eliminate the ignorance. Before striking out at the Sig Eps, we should examine our own values and beliefs. The problem of ignorance concerning sexual assault issues is not exclusive to the Sig Ep house; it could have happened anywhere on campus. Let he who is without fault cast the first stone.

The heart of the matter is this: They made a mistake. They said they're sorry. They're trying to fix it. Let's realize the damage has been done and try to help work towards a solution for the ignorance.

LIGHThouse . . .

Continued from page 2

How would you like a little bit of that? Beneke believes that all American men grow up hearing and learning phrases such as these and that these phrases teach men to disregard the feelings of women. Language such as listed above serves to perpetuate a rape culture because it disregards the fact that women are people, and not just objects of sexual conquest. It is in this way that the issue of ignorance concerning sexual assault issues is not exclusive to the Sig Ep fraternity. This is what LIGHThouse would like to see the Sig Ep fraternity learn more about rape culture, violence towards women, and sexism.

Every one of us . . .

Continued from page 3

Sincerely,

Michele Perreault

Northwestern University Summer Session '89
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Sklar presents AIDS paper to conference

by Andrea Morschel

"It's too late to save Ralph Joa who contracted AIDS while rescuing an AIDS victim from a fire when a fireman wouldn't. It's too late to save Vernon Mathison, who contracted AIDS at the age of 39 from a transfusion and finally shot himself due to the extremity of the pain, paranoia, and enroaching blindness. These are people now in the past but we must help their memories live on. We must do our best to make sure that those who most certainly will die, we respect them rather than treat with cruelty and shame."

In a paper he's presenting at the Wisconsin Institute for the Study of War, Peace, and Global Cooperation, Bill Sklar tries to show the human aspect of the AIDS epidemic. "I wrote the paper after a Convocation about the medical aspects of AIDS, but AIDS is a human rights issue, more than a medical one."

NOW march

On Saturday, April 8, 35 Lawrentians will leave Appleton enroute to Washington, D.C. and the largest and most dramatic demonstration in history. The "March for Women's and Equal Rights/Lives" sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW) is expected to draw 500,000 people to show the nation's capital to their support for a woman's right to choose an abortion and support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

"People from all walks of life are participating in this march," said Karen Geisall, a senior at Wisconsin NOW. "Men, women, parents and their daughters, senior citizens, farmers, high school students, women of all ages and occupations are taking the buses to Washington to show their elected officials and members of the U.S. Supreme Court that they support a woman's [sic] right to choose an abortion. They want to send a message to women of all ages and occupations who are sending the buses to Washington to show their elected officials and members of the U.S. Supreme Court that they support a woman's [sic] right to choose an abortion. They want to send a message to their representatives that we won't go back to the days of legal abortions when thousands of women were killed back-alley abortions."

Campus News

April 7, 1989

Sklar presents AIDS paper to conference

by Andrea Morschel

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Campus Events Committee presents "An Evening of Off-Center Art" on Friday, April 7 in the Coffeehouse from 8-11 pm.

Planned by Hilary Niman and Sandy Saltzstein, the event will feature paper, clay, found objects, markers and crayons for all aspiring artists. "The event has that it will be available both as art medium and refreshment," said Sklar, adding that "Muse and more palate-
Chinese poet visits Lawrence, experiments with English language

by Colleen Valhey

"I am light" is the first line of a poem written by a very talented, creative Chinese poet, Liao Wanhong.

Wanhong a student and teacher at Lawrence University this year is taking three classes and teaching two more, and has written over 30 poems in English in less than one month. It is difficult to imagine Wanhong feeling light with her busy schedule, but for Wanhong it is not work, it is fulfillment of a need to communicate. "As a poet I am very lonely. In China we have circles and there is a poetry generation."

Wanhong misses the exchange of her poems with other students and the "spirit" that she and other poets share when they get together. Wanhong is excited and intrigued, however, about her way of life. "A s a poet I am very lonely. In China we have circles and there is a poetry generation."

Wanhong feels light with her busy schedule, but for Wanhong it is not work, it is fulfillment of a need to communicate. "I want to see the world."

The annual giving department office explains the gap between the actual and income from tuition. The development office finds that this gap is to raise funds to close the development office. Another function of the annual giving department is to send out mailings. Recently sent out a packet of forget-me-not seeds to those who have not donated yet, reminding them of Lawrence. According to Weiner, the department also coordinates class agent mailings. For Milwaukee-Downtown and Lawrence, class agents have been selected or elected for the classes of 1903 to the present. The class agent writes a letter to fellow classmates to ask for support. Weiner said that the members of the development office think of their work as "friend-raising, not fund-raising." The personal contact between current and former students during the phonathon creates communication about campus events and attitudes. Communication is also increased among alumni by class agents, allowing old college friends to keep in touch. The other departments are major gifts and development. "The Bust." After five months, however, the loneliness and her own need "for a voice" as she says, sipping a glass of steaming tea, led her to sit down at the computer and write her first poem in English, "I am very lonely. In China we have circles and there is a poetry generation."

Wanhong finds writing in English a "beautiful" experience that is different in form, style and subject matter from poems written in Chinese. "I write something more lyrical. In Chinese the language without the limitation of the subject matter."

Liao Wanhong, photo - McKeel M. Mele hear and Wanhong accepted and recommended her to Lawrence and Wanhong accepted with great enthusiasm. "I wanted to see the world," she said.

Wanhong is modest about her prestigious family background—her mother and she are direct descendants of a very famous Chinese poet—wanting people only to know that "my parents both write and I got something from them."

Wanhong's English poetry teacher recommended her to Lawrence and Wanhong accepted with great enthusiasm. "I wanted to see the world," she said.

When I first arrived in America, she says, I dared not try to write in English. After five months, however, the loneliness and her own need for a voice as she says, sipping a glass of steaming tea, led her to sit down at the computer and write her first poem in English, "I am very lonely. In China we have circles and there is a poetry generation."

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Wanhong, but a beginning was as both a challenge and a freedom. When I first arrived in America, she says, I dared not try to write in English.

For the past month she has faithfully continued to write after classes and written over 30 complete poems in English. "I find the combination of the computer and a foreign language as very strange," she says, "but I know my poems convey my real self."

Wanhong plans to remain in the country at least another year, to travel and write. She hopes to have a collection of poems published in the United States before her two year passport expires. "I can do nothing better than write poetry," she says as she looks at the creative abstract art sculpture on her chair. "I want Americans to know what a Chinese student is thinking, but I do not know how far my English writing can go. I am trying. I am afraid. I may stop, but I hope not."

Spoon, Pound: Next week's special guests

Two of the nation's foremost authorities on the late American poet and expatriate Ezra Pound will present lectures at Lawrence next week. Oimar Pound—poet, translator of classical Arabic and Persian poetry, and son of Ezra Pound—will present a poetry reading Tuesday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Center lecture hall. Spoon, a 1979 magna cum laude graduate of Lawrence, holds a Ph.D. in English from Princeton University. Besides Ezra Pound, Spoon's research and teaching interests include British and American modernism, James Joyce, and Irish literature and culture.

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See page 8, column 3

Features

April 7, 1989 PAGE 6

Anybody Can Pick Up

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WORD
Women's softball full of questions

After finishing with a school-record 16-7 mark last year and winning their second straight WIC-WAC championship without a senior on the roster, there's no question of the Lawrence University women's softball team definitely looking bright. A year later, that forecast has gotten considerably cloudier.

Head coach Mike Galus heads into the 1989 season with some major questions that are taken up last season's finale, he's lost six players, including four starters, from his '88 championship team, but not all of those will be missed, said Morrison. Three players are spending the term at Lawrence's London Center, two have transferred, and one is taking a year off from school. What one looked like a relatively set lineup has since been thrown up for grabs.

"You don't lose six regulars off of a championship team and expect to just plug in six replacements," said Galus, who takes a 47-37 career record into his sixth season. "The fear of the unknown is my biggest concern right now. You can practice in the gym, but it's hard to know just what you've got until you get outside and see them in game situations. So many new players, I just don't know what to expect." Five returning starters and four freshmen head up the roster. Morrison said that the fraternities "has discussed the issue of a lawsuit. Morrison said that the fraternities was considering what useful purpose will be served by legal action. "If they don't take the legal action, it won't be because there's not justification for it," said Morrison.

Morrow said that in addition to the Sentence, the story was covered by the Associated Press, United Press International, Channels 2, 5, and 11 in Green Bay, the Appleton Post-Crescent, The Milwaukee Journal, and radio station WIXX.

Media

Continued from page 1

story. He said that if legal action is taken up it will be by the fraternity and not the university. Morrison said that the fraternity "has discussed the issue of a lawsuit. Morrison said that the fraternity was considering what useful purpose will be served by legal action. "If they don't take the legal action, it won't be because there's not justification for it," said Morrison.

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D.G." an apparent reference from an Eddie Murphy movie with no sexual connotation. "We're looking into it to see if it was a gross typographical error or whether they were using false information," said Hartford.

The afternoon match was against North Central. The singles featured LU victories by Conta and Feider as well as by Mark Fiegel in No. 1 singles (6-1, 7-5), Eric Peterson in No.6 singles (1-6, 6-2, 6-2), and Steve Shibleis in No.7 (no score available). LU also gained wins in doubles with the victories coming from Eric Schacht-Jason Spaeth and Fiegel-Peterson. The Vikings next meet is Saturday here at Lawrence versus Lake Forest.

LU pitcher Bart Isaacson  

photo by Suzanne Barrow

Baseball team cools off

After an undefeated spring trip in Florida, the Vikings’ baseball team has cooled off, going 1-2 this past week in action at Wittenberg.

Lawrence played two games on Saturday, earning a split with division rival St. Norbert. In the first inning of the St. Norbert game, Lawrence got off to a quick 4-2 lead on a 3-run double by Duffy Thomas. However, during the course of the game St. Norbert was able to pull away in the lead and eventually take a 7-5 going into the seventh inning. Despite an RBI by Shawn Koerner, the Situation finally fell short and they lost 7-6. Bart Isaacson went the distance for LU in the loss while striking out five.

Tennis team earns split

by Peter Elliott

The LU Men’s tennis team recorded a split last Saturday in action against Wheaton and North Central. In a 6-3 loss to Wheaton, the squad could only muster victories in the singles category. Jeff Conta won in No.3 singles 6-4, 6-3, Mark Feider won in No.4 singles 6-2, 7-5, and Jason Spaeth was victorious in No.5 singles 6-2, 7-5. The Vikings fell short and they lost 7-6. Bart Isaacson went the distance for LU in the loss while striking out five.

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Philadelphia

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CONKEY'S

TERM 3 TEXTBOOKS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE PUBLISHERS STARTING ON MONDAY, MAY 8

Tuesday, April 18, 4:30 p.m. in Riverview Lounge

Tuesday, May 2, 4:30 p.m. in Riverview Lounge

Tuesday, May 9, 4:30 p.m. in Riverview Lounge

Tuesday, May 23, 4:30 p.m. in Riverview Lounge

1989 L.U.C.C. SPRING TERM MEETING SCHEDULE
Sanctions...
Continued from page 1
what this punishment does is to turn a bad experience into an educational experience for the house. LU Public Affairs director and Sig Ep faculty advisor Rich Morrison said that revocation of the fraternity's charter was discussed by the university but rejected because simply disbanding them would not change insensitivities, he said.

Earlier this year, the fraternity made a public apology to the Lawrence campus for a party which depicted a man dragging a woman by the hair. A source who wished to remain anonymous said that the fraternity also held an annual party dubbed "rape a Theta." Despite the two previous incidents, the fraternity was not "getting off with a slap on the wrist," he said.

Development...
Continued from page 6
purchasing costly science equipment, and the support of programs like East Asian Studies. They also looked for money to increase the amount of endowment. In the past four years, the endowment has increased from $36 million to $68 million. The deferred gifts department takes care of wills, bequests, and gifts of insurance policies. Hirby explained that, by communicating with alumni, Lawrence has increased donor participation from 22% to 57%.

Sklar
Continued from page 5
something to worry about. It doesn't seem to be a realistic problem in a place like Appleton." Sklar explained that, even in Appleton, AIDS is a reality. "I'm quite certain that there are cases on campus," he said.

The general attitude which Sklar has heard on campus is that it really isn't a problem. Sklar maintains that "the large-scale treatment of AIDS did not really start until it was realized that many people, people who were the ones in the position necessary to start the process of full-scale treatment, were themselves at risk. So, the problem was no longer 'someone else's.'"

"As Hurley (James Hurley, an AIDS victim) said, 'the issues are such simple issues...once you begin to deal with these symptoms on a daily basis, it all looks silly that people want to sit around and discuss what we should all do about AIDS. It's too late. These are arguments that we should have had years ago...I have AIDS, and AIDS is not my problem any longer. AIDS is your problem, and I hope you'll do something about it.'"