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MU CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON AT COLGATE UNIVERSITY

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THREAT TO FRATERNITIES/SORORITIES AT COLGATE

On April 24 the Colgate Maroon published a full page article "The Writing is on the Wall" written by five women students. The article attacked the fraternities/sororities as being "dehumanizing and violent" - guilty of many explicitly unsubstantiated sexist acts. The Maroon article touched off a furor of investigative activity playing into the hands of minorities and faculty who would like to see Greek organizations abolished at Colgate.

The result of this has been the adoption by the University Board of Trustees at their July 13 meeting of very stringent and specific rules reducing freedom of action by the fraternities/sororities. They also will be subject to close scrutiny of an oversight committee which could be heavily weighted against the Greeks. For instance, daily unscheduled visits will be made by security personnel of all public areas of the houses. Rushing and initiation may be changed to take place in the Sophomore year instead of the Freshman year limiting living in the fraternity houses to Juniors and Seniors which could have a serious financial impact.

The new regulations were drafted by the Dean of Students. An ad hoc faculty committee, overtly interested in abolishing fraternities, was a principal participant. Input by alumni and students was poorly organized left largely to the Alumni Interfraternity Council whose only effort was a meeting at reunion time with no follow up. President Langdon did invite the new President of AIFC, Dean of Students William Moynihan and Fred Colvin to a luncheon meeting July 9 at which our concerns were presented. The President reassured us that he favored retention of the fraternities and sororities at Colgate.

There is no question that some remedial action was called for but it is probable that there was over reaction. This development will require increased collaboration of alumni with DKE undergraduates to implement these radical changes. The undergraduates are bound to resent the invasion of their rights and property.