

YON CLARION BELL

MU CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON AT COLGATE UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 1985

AS YOU ALL KNOW THE DEKE HOUSE WAS CLOSED DURING THE SPRING TERM AND WE WERE NOT PERMITTED TO PLEDGE LAST SCHOOL YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

YOU MAY ALSO KNOW THAT THE ALUMNI LEADERSHIP VIGOROUSLY SOUGHT TO HAVE THE SANCTIONS MODERATED. WE MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEAN OF STUDENTS SEVERAL TIMES FOR THAT PURPOSE BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE EVEN CONSIDERED SEEKING RELIEF THROUGH LITIGATION.

IT HAS BEEN OUR POSITION THAT THE MISCONDUCT OF A FEW SHOULD NOT HAVE RESULTED IN PUNISHMENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGRADUATE FRATERNITY BODY. THIS AND THE RESULTANT FINANCIAL PENALTY OF APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 ARISING FROM THE CLOSING OF THE HOUSE AND THE ONGOING DRASTIC REDUCED MEMBERSHIP RESULTING FROM A LOST PLEDGE CLASS IS EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT IN OUR OPINION.

WHILE WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THESE VIEWS, IT IS OUR CONSIDERED OPINION THAT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE FRATERNITY WILL BE SERVED BY PUTTING ASIDE OUR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY IMPOSED SANCTIONS AND BY DEVOTING OUR COLLECTIVE ENERGIES TO THE RESTRUCTURING AND REBUILDING OF THE FRATERNITY. HOW CAN THIS BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED? FIRST, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE UNDERGRADUATE MEMBERS THEMSELVES, AND SECOND, BY THE SUPPORT OF ALL ALUMNI BROTHERS.

THIS SUMMER WE HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATING WITH THE 25 RETURNING UNDERGRADUATE BROTHERS (NORMALLY 55 TO 70) AND THEIR LEADERSHIP REGARDING OUR JOINT RESTRUCTURING PLANS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER. (SEE ENCLOSED COPY OF OUR MEMO TO THE UNDERGRADUATES) THE FIRST WEEKEND AFTER LABOR DAY WE WILL BE CONDUCTING MINI-SEMINARS WITH THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP AND ALSO WITH ALL DEKE UNDERGRADUATES. THESE MEETINGS WILL DEVELOP PLANS FOR IMPROVING DEKE'S IMAGE WITH THE UNIVERSITY, STUDENT BODY AND COMMUNITY. IMPROVED RUSHING AND PLEDGING TECHNIQUES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND THE UNIVERSITY SANCTIONS WILL BE REVIEWED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL RAMIFICATIONS ARE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD.

TO COPE WITH THE FINANCIAL PENALTY, WE MUST LOOK TO THE ALUMNI BUT WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNIVERSITY HAVE AGREED TO ASSIST US WITH BRIDGE FINANCING UNTIL OUR INTERNAL FUND RAISING IS COMPLETED. THE UNIVERSITY WILL EXTEND US A LINE OF CREDIT ON REASONABLE TERMS TO PARTIALLY HELP US OFFSET OUR INCOME SHORTFALL FOR THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO.

(OVER)