



Memorandum:

To: Paul Bernish, Chief Communications Officer

From: Rhonda Miller, Private Event Coordinator

Date: Monday, March 29, 2010

I wanted to send a memo outlining the appalling conduct of the attendees to Alpha Xi Delta's Sorority "Formal" from Miami University on Friday, March 26, 2010 at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The members of the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority and their dates acted in such a disrespectful, horrific, and damaging manner, that it was truly disturbing to me. I was completely unprepared for the magnitude of the occurrences, and incredibly disappointed in their actions. Following is an outline of the evening:

When we were setting up for the event, I was confronted by Benson's Catering staff regarding this particular sorority. According to the bartenders and wait staff, this sorority was banned from BB Riverboats following an event where several couples were caught having intercourse in the hallways and on the top deck of the boat. They warned me that this event would be wild. The DJ supported this assumption by saying he had DJ'd for this group before. He said, "They are a fun group of girls....but they always include their liquor. Some girls hold it [liquor] better than others."

The buses arrived at 6:40pm, at which point everyone unloaded to come into the Freedom Center. There was one young woman who was so inebriated that she was unable to stand up and even hold herself in a sitting position. Friends of hers held her up as she vomited into a trash bag held by my sorority contact, Alexis Bento. As I went out to tell the group of students that this girl would not be allowed into the Freedom Center in such condition, a cab pulled up to take her, her date, and another couple back to Miami. Her date, also inebriated, threw a fit and was very upset about being sent back to Oxford. When he comprehended that he would have to pay the cab fare, he refused to get in the car. When concerned members of the sorority confronted him, he got in their faces, and approached me screaming that he would, "F**k you up." I called security at the point. Upon seeing our uniformed officer approach the group, he calmed down a little and walked away.

As the evening began, the first girl to vomit did so after eating dinner, around 7:30pm. She vomited over the table, table linen, her date's legs, and the floor. No sooner did we get this cleaned up when we realized that seemingly every single sorority sister had illegally brought alcohol into the building in plastic juice or soda bottles, and flasks. We (meaning the Freedom Center staff, Benson's Catering staff, and myself) began collecting any outside bottle and dumping it. Throughout the evening, we collected 50-60 plastic bottles of alcohol and no fewer than eight flasks. Upon collecting flasks some of the attendees got defensive and obnoxious saying that we had no right to take their

personal property. Most, if not all of the alcohol illegally brought into the Freedom Center was brought by *underage* Miami University students.

Things went from bad to worse as the night progressed. Security had to lock the family restroom on the first floor after we observed three different couples exiting from it with more couples lined up to go in. I had to approach at least five couples from our third floor area--which, with the lights turned off, and stairs sanctioned off was obviously closed to the public and event attendees. One girl vomited in the ladies restroom, but in missing the toilet, soiled the wall, floor, and stall around it. At one point in the evening, the girls had a 'tissue war' throwing balls of toilet paper and paper towels at each other making the ladies room nothing short of a disaster.

Their dates were just as horrible. The boys who attended were so inebriated that they relieved themselves all over the walls and corners of the men's room, and caused one urinal to overflow for about twenty minutes. We had a puddle in the men's room, which took a considerable amount of time for the janitorial staff to clean up. I observed one young man duck under the stanchions around the slave pen. In catching up with him, I found him about to relieve himself on the corner of this priceless and sanctified artifact. In no uncertain terms, I told him to get out of the closed off area and use the restroom on the main floor. A Bensons Catering employee later found the same boy attempting to relieve himself on the freight elevator where Bensons had stored their food and again pointed him to the restrooms on the first floor.

The dance floor seemed to be the epicenter of their destructive behavior. Despite not being allowed to smoke inside a building in the state of Ohio, much less inside a museum, someone smoked on the perimeter of the dance floor. Our security guard had to repeatedly prevent students from smoking on the terrace, even though the terrace doors clearly ban smoking on it. Students would go to the bar, have a brand new drink, and if a 'good song' came on they would proceed to the dance floor where they would throw down their cup, shattering the plastic and spilling their drinks all over the floor. Three times, we had students approach the bar and attempt to steal bottles of alcohol. The students were getting so out of hand that the DJ approached me and said he was ending the music fifteen minutes early in an effort to have all of the students out of the building at 11:00pm.

After everyone left, we were able to survey the damage. The Grand Hall floor was decimated. According to the Bensons Catering Supervisor of the evening, Jean Paul Peyron, he has, "never seen the Freedom Center this completely trashed," as after this event. The floor was so wet from all of the thrown/dropped drinks that floor tiled popped out of alignment in four areas. It took multiple cleanings to get the floor clean enough and remove the stickiness for the next day's visitors to walk on. The day after the so called "formal" Freedom Center staff was still finding hidden bottles of alcohol and new places where students had vomited from having had too much to drink.

The conduct of this sorority and their dates is so incredibly disturbing. Alpha Xi Delta touts themselves as responsible, well-rounded girls realizing their potential and growing as leaders. Miami University and Alpha Xi Delta should be ashamed of having these girls and boys as a part of their institutions. I have never seen such disrespectful, obnoxious, irresponsible, careless behavior in my life. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is first a place of education and inspiration for visitors. The

Freedom Center is an event venue second, and we expect our patrons to act in a way that is respectful and honorable, especially taking into account our subject matter and one-of-a-kind exhibits. Attempting to urinate on our artifacts, stealing Bensons Catering property, defacing our restrooms, and vomiting throughout our building are not tolerable or acceptable forms of behavior. Never again will the Freedom Center host Alpha Xi Delta Sorority for any event. It is so incredibly disgusting and discouraging to think that this group of students is supposedly the 'future' of America.