

TO THE DUKE COMMUNITY:

The Duke Conservative Union welcomes the sincere and eloquent apology of President Brodhead to the wrongfully accused lacrosse players and their families for his administration's failure to reach out to them during the preceding 18 months. We also welcome his recognition that the administration failed to differentiate the university position from that of rogue and in some cases hateful members of the faculty. While we believe that Brodhead's apology could have gone further and occurred sooner, it presents an auspicious beginning for a process of reform and healing.

Where does that process begin?

It begins with further reconciliation, which is necessary for this community to move forward. The faculty who signed the April 6 advertisement (and its "clarifier"), students who rushed to judgment and condemned the lacrosse team, and all others who abandoned valued members of our community in their darkest hour need to reach out and apologize. President Brodhead set the right example in his speech at the law school.

Is it really that hard to do the same?

As long as these individuals remain silent, we can only assume that which would be most deplorable: They still do not realize that their actions were wrong and hurtful; that their judgment was incorrect.

We hope this is not the case.

It takes courage to accept the truth, especially when it proves you wrong. Scholars, above all people, should be the first to recognize this, but so should others. As students of this university, we ask everyone to show courage now by admitting past mistakes. It is the only way to move forward and unite this community once more.

Only then can we commence the conversation on what reforms are needed to prevent this shameful history from repeating itself. The proposed law conference is a good start as would be an independent commission to review the University's handling of the case. But we must bear in mind that it is not others who will determine the future of Duke University. That responsibility falls to us.

The Duke Conservative Union

For more information, contact the DCU President, David Bitner, at: dcb19@duke.edu or send a letter to P.O. Box 99457, Durham, NC, 27708

Come see lacrosse case expert and co-author of
Until Proven Innocent
STUART TAYLOR
speak TONIGHT
at 6PM in LOVE AUDITORIUM (LSRC ROOM B101)