Forbes columnist fired for calling drunk women ‘the gravest threat to fraternities’

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on September 26, 2014 at 3:18 PM, updated September 26, 2014 at 3:23 PM

Forbes has fired one of its writers who caused outrage with a recent column titled "Drunk Female Guests Are the Gravest Threat to Fraternities."

The article, written by contributor Bill Frezza, appeared for just a short amount of time on Forbes.com before being removed on Wednesday, but not before cached versions of the entry were copied and shared around social media, The New York Post reported.

Frezza, the president of the alumni association for MIT fraternity Chi Phi Beta, sparked a huge backlash with his column, which largely blamed "drunk female guests," rather than fraternity brothers, for causing all of the problems that land college fraternities in trouble.

"As recriminations against fraternities mount and panicked college administrators search for an easy out, one factor doesn't seem to be getting sufficient analysis: drunk female guests," Frezza wrote.
The column appeared just a day after a female Rutgers student died shortly after being taken to a hospital from a frat party, the New York Post reported. A photo showing an apparently drunk woman lying on the floor with her shirt unbuttoned accompanied the post.

Frezza admitted the photo of the intoxicated woman was overboard, but besides that, "I stand by every word I wrote," he told The New York Daily News.

The article is no longer available, and the cached versions have started disappearing, but Jezebel.com managed to copy the entirety of the text before it vanished. Here are a few more choice excerpts:

Frezza wrote that Alumni boards can lay down rules for their members, but "we have very little control over women who walk in the door carrying enough pre-gaming booze in their bellies to render them unconscious before the night is through."

He said it's more socially acceptable for bouncers to stop drunk men from entering parties because they are perceived as "irresponsible jerks." He then added, "In our age of sexual equality, why drunk female students are almost never characterized as irresponsible jerks is a question I leave to the feminists. But it is precisely those irresponsible women that the brothers must be trained to identify and protect against, because all it takes is one to bring an entire fraternity system down."

Frezza expressed concern over deaths and injuries happening at frat houses as a result of binge drinking, but seemed more worried about "false accusation of rape months after the fact triggered by regrets over a drunken hook-up, or anger over a failed relationship. And false 911 calls accusing our members of gang rape during a party in progress."

He warned frat brothers not take drunk female guests to their bedrooms, because it might get them kicked out of school and it would look bad for the fraternity: "Based on new standards being promulgated on campus, all consent is null and void the minute a woman becomes intoxicated - even if she is your fiancée. And while a rape charge under these circumstances is unlikely to hold up in a court of law, it doesn't take much for a campus kangaroo court to get you expelled, ruining your life while saddling your fraternity with a reputation for harboring rapists."
Boston.com staff writer Rachel Raczkas reached out to Frezza for a response to his firing and to the backlash to his column. He wrote back this statement:

"First, I would ask that readers read the entire column as written and not just the spin, venom, and ad hominem attacks that it seems to be provoking. I stand by my words. And second, when everyone is done with their sport and the social media flash mobs move on to the next pecking party, that they consider the terrible predicament we have put our colleges and fraternities in - particularly the well behaved ones, as ours is - when we move from a regime of personal responsibility for one's behavior to institutional liability. I have complete confidence that the men in my fraternity will comport themselves responsibly. I have no such confidence in their guests."

According to the Post, Forbes employs thousands of unpaid contributors in the interest of posting a lot of content more frequently. Because of this, content like Frezza's column may not have been approved or reviewed before he posted it.

A Forbes spokesperson told the Daily News that Frezza was "removed from Forbes.com almost immediately after he published" the column.