

Statement of Logan Kaufmann

1 My name is Logan Kaufman, and I'm a freshman at Utopia University. My first day of class, I
2 was tapped to join Zeta Iota Pi – just like my older brother Chip. It wasn't a surprise, given Chip's
3 connections, but it was an honor nonetheless. Yet things didn't go like I expected. Our pledge class – me,
4 Harper Finch, and Avery Koltasch – uncovered a big academic scandal in ZIP at UU. Even worse, Harper
5 died in a freak accident during our last pledge Feat of Fortitude. Since then, I've been a pariah on campus.
6 The rest of the Zippers were put on academic suspension and given failing grades for cheating, and Avery
7 dropped out. People still stare when I walk across the quad, but I have a tough skin. I'll be okay.

8 ZIP lost its charter at Utopia because of the scandal. But I'm determined to bring it back and make
9 it stronger than ever. I owe Chip, and my fellow Zippers, that much. So I have to clear the record, tell what
10 really happened, and make sure the media doesn't sway public opinion and prevent justice. If I can build
11 ZIP up again at UU, I'll earn my own place of honor in ZIP at UU and across the nation!

12 It's crazy that Grayson has been charged with murder. Sure, Grayson cheated on papers and faked
13 his/her way through some of Dr. McCabe's classes, helping other Zippers do the same. But that's a far cry
14 from murder! Grayson cared too much about ZIP and his/her own career to risk it all that way. Just
15 because Grayson didn't like Harper and was fanatical about termites doesn't make Grayson a killer. This
16 is just a blame game.

17 I still remember Chip coming home during Labor Day weekend of 2011, raving about this
18 amazing new pledge, Grayson Zayne. Chip was a senior and the Pledge Master, and Chip said Grayson
19 was the kind of Zipper that only comes once in a lifetime – loyal, ambitious, and selflessly dedicated.
20 Chip said Grayson would do anything for ZIP. A month or so later, Chip told me how Grayson was
21 struggling a bit academically, but Chip arranged some tutors to help Grayson improve his/her grades.
22 Chip told me that academic performance was important – ZIP is an honor society, after all – but other
23 things matter even more. Like loyalty and dedication to the group; Zippers stick together!

24 When I finally met Grayson last August, I understood why Chip was such a fan. I was setting up
25 my dorm room when Grayson walked in. I recognized Grayson immediately based on Chip's description,
26 and I was star-struck, stammering and awkward. Grayson took it all in stride and made me feel at ease
27 immediately, joking with me and offering advice on where to put my stuff. Before Grayson left, I worked
28 up the courage to ask about pledging ZIP. Grayson said the three pledges would be tapped on the first day
29 of class, August 18, 2014. I must've looked nervous, but Grayson winked and said I didn't need to worry.

30 Even with Grayson's assurances, I was pretty concerned. Zippers are the best and the brightest,
31 and while I did pretty well in high school, I wasn't valedictorian like Chip. In high school, my teachers
32 would comment on how I was "different" than Chip – and it wasn't a compliment. So when I was
33 selected, I could hardly contain my excitement! The other two pledges were Avery Koltasch and Harper

34 Finch. I knew Harper a bit from class that morning. During our writing seminar, the prof gave a pop quiz
35 on grammar. My brain froze on one question, and I snuck a glance at Harper's paper. Harper caught me
36 and ratted me out to the prof. Can you believe it?! Of course I denied it, so the prof didn't do anything,
37 but I don't think the prof ever liked me after that. I wasn't so thrilled that Harper was also a pledge.

38 Nothing could dampen my joy when Grayson told Avery, Harper, and me to move into the ZIP
39 house on August 20! Grayson even laughed about how I'd be setting up my room all over again. As soon
40 as we arrived, Grayson gave an amazing speech about how all of our lives would change forever, and ZIP
41 would help us achieve things we'd never dreamed possible. Grayson also talked about all the qualities
42 Zippers should strive for – excellence, loyalty, selflessness, honor—and gave a shout-out to Chip as the
43 ideal Zipper. Afterward, Grayson came up to me and whispered that s/he was sure I would do Chip proud.
44 I'm pretty sure Avery and Harper were eavesdropping because they looked at me unhappily. They looked
45 even angrier when Grayson gave me first choice of a room, but neither of them said anything. I figured
46 they were just sore because they were both compulsive about winning everything – even room selection!

47 Grayson cut me slack in other ways, too – like not making me get up before 6 a.m. to make
48 Grayson's breakfast and clean his/her room. Harper got really mad about it, barging into my room at 6:30
49 a.m. on the third day and yelling about how it wasn't fair that I got special treatment as a legacy. Harper
50 threatened to tell the national ZIP leadership that Grayson was hazing her and Avery. I calmly replied that
51 I didn't know what Harper was talking about, but I doubted the national leadership would take Harper's
52 word over the ZIP President and Pledge Master. Harper stormed out angrily, but I'm pretty sure Harper
53 didn't do anything else because I kept sleeping in. I guess Grayson did favor me a little, but that was
54 Grayson's right, you know? I think Grayson did it because s/he knew I'd always been in Chip's shadow
55 and Grayson wanted me to feel that I belonged.

56 As pledges, the three of us had to complete four "Feats of Fortitude," which are basically
57 glorified bonding and service activities. Brilliant as always, Grayson decided to base our Feats off of
58 recent social media trends so we could post videos to the ZIP Facebook page and have a wider impact.
59 Avery, Harper, and I had all been athletes in high school – I played tennis, the one sport where I could
60 beat Chip – so I asked to add an athletic aspect as well. Grayson applauded my initiative!

61 Our first Feat was to film an ALS Ice Bucket Challenge video. I had the idea to sneak into the
62 school natatorium (pool) after hours, swim 10 laps, and then sit in a whirlpool of ice while dumping huge
63 cups of it over our heads. Avery and Harper were enthusiastic. Avery got the Athletic Director – a fellow
64 Zipper -- to let us in and help us fill the whirlpool; the AD even filmed us! I was sure Grayson would
65 really like the video, and the three of us pledges were having a good time together.

66 We were, that is, until Avery and Harper started comparing their valedictory speeches on the way
67 back to the ZIP house. I rolled my eyes a couple of times, hoping they'd get the hint, but they were

68 obsessed about bragging about their brilliance. Finally I said, “there’s a lot more to being a Zipper than
69 your GPA, you know.” Harper answered scornfully and said ZIP was an honor society, so of course
70 academics were at the top of the list. I mumbled something about how Grayson wasn’t even that good of a
71 student, yet s/he was a leader in ZIP. Harper asked what I meant, and I told them about the long list of
72 tutors Chip had gotten for Grayson, and how once Chip had mentioned getting Grayson in a class that was
73 a “guaranteed A.” For once, Harper was silent. It felt good to know more than they did about something.

74 On August 25, Grayson called us into the ZIP assembly room and told us our second Feat was to
75 make a dance video showing what it means to be a Zipper. I asked if we could donate the money we
76 raised to the “Save the Wolf!” campaign, in honor of Judge Carla Wolf, who was fighting blood cancer.
77 Judge Wolf had helped with mock trial when I was in high school, so I really wanted to support her
78 campaign to raise awareness and recruit donors for the bone marrow registry. I was highly motivated to
79 make the dance video amazing. Grayson was all for the idea, as were Avery and Harper.

80 The three of us spent hours that night brainstorming, but we couldn’t come up with anything
81 creative. The next morning, we approached Grayson for help. Grayson suggested we do some research in
82 the ZIP academic archives room, and maybe even do some filming there as long as we didn’t bother the
83 files. That was the spark we needed, and we decided to film the Zippers dancing all over the ZIP house,
84 using Pharrell Williams’ “Happy” song for the soundtrack. We’d finish up in the archives room with a
85 break-dancing contest and confetti! We also planned to do the easy cheek-swab to join the registry
86 ourselves. The other Zippers were excited by the idea, and we knew it would be an awesome video.

87 We filmed on August 28, and the shoot went perfectly! Of course, the archives room was a mess
88 when we finished. Luckily for me, Grayson said there was a mixer between ZIP and AXS (Alpha Chi
89 Sigma, the Chemistry co-ed fraternity) right after the shoot, and Grayson wanted to introduce me to
90 people. That meant I didn’t have to stay behind with Avery and Harper to clean up. Sweet!

91 When I got back to the ZIP house after the mixer that night, Harper and Avery were bent over
92 some old papers that looked like the ones in the archives that Grayson had told us not to mess with. I
93 asked what they were doing, and Harper snapped at me and told me to mind my own business. I shrugged
94 and left, figuring Harper was ticked off because I didn’t have to clean up with them.

95 A few days later, on September 1, Grayson gathered us to announce our third Feat. I think the
96 stress of pledging must’ve been getting to Harper, because she looked terrible. Her eyes had deep circles
97 like she hadn’t slept, and her arms were covered in red bumps. When I asked about it, Harper said she’d
98 been bitten by bedbugs all night! That didn’t really surprise me, since Harper had snacks and food all over
99 her room. It looked like she was preparing for the end of the world or something. All those crumbs had to
100 attract a multitude of pests. I guess I should mention that on August 30, someone who reported being a

former ZIP member came by and asked me where Harper's room was. S/he told me to say "hi" to Grayson, which slipped my mind. But I did point him/her in the right direction.

The third Feat was a 5K "Krispy Kreme Challenge" fun run to raise money for the American Diabetes Association. We all thought that was a cool idea. Harper seemed especially excited. Every participant would run half the distance, snarf down 6 donuts, and then run back. We scheduled it for Labor Day weekend because it gave the students who were still in town a fun thing to do. Nearly 200 signed up! It was great publicity for Krispy Kreme, especially since they donated the donuts.

On the day of the race, the three of us were ready to go. We led the pack to the donut station and began gobbling our donuts. Avery and I stopped after six, but for some reason, Harper kept going and ate a whole dozen. When I started kidding Harper about being greedy, Harper glared at me and said, "It's not my choice. Grayson insisted." Harper never told me why. We started running back to the ZIP house when all of a sudden, Harper ran to the curb and threw up. Harper looked kind of ill, but she insisted she was fine and started running again after a minute or so. I thought maybe Harper had food poisoning or something. When we neared the finish line, Harper stumbled and almost fell. Avery caught her and insisted on taking her to the hospital. Grayson seemed concerned, too, and offered to drive, which I thought was really nice. Several hours later they came back and said everything was fine. Avery seemed upset, though, and kept glaring at Grayson. So later, I asked Grayson what had happened, and Grayson said Harper got sick after eating all the donuts. "I told her to eat 12 as a consequence for having such a messy room. It's embarrassing that we had bedbugs in the ZIP house! I guess Harper just couldn't handle it." I thought that sounded a little like hazing, but I trust that Grayson was just trying to push Harper to be the best she could be – like any good leader.

Harper seemed kind of quiet and unhappy after that. A few days later, Avery and I stopped by Harper's room to see if she wanted to come to dinner with us. Harper was on her computer, reading the hazing section on the national ZIP website. Harper said she was just doing research, but I was concerned she wanted to get Grayson in trouble. Doing that could hurt our whole chapter, and maybe even end up with us on probation. So I told her she couldn't seriously think that eating extra donuts was hazing! Most students would've been happy to get more. She just said, "yeah, maybe..." and shut her computer.

On September 15 Grayson told us about our final Feat – taking a photo of each other "planking" at a famous location on campus. I thought it sounded like fun, but Avery and Harper didn't seem enthused. Then Harper suggested a change – "pandaing" instead of planking. Evidently pandas like to lie on their stomachs on tree branches with their legs hanging down. Harper said we could start a new fad while raising money to help Utopia Zoo buy a panda! As much as I didn't care for Harper, I had to admit it sounded cool, and Grayson agreed. Then Grayson told us our assignments: the Student Union for Avery; football stadium for me; and the old *Paifang* gate near the botanical gardens for Harper. I was

jealous of Harper, to be honest. Since we were raising money for pandas, I figured that photo would get the most “hits.” Grayson emphasized that we should all be very careful and not take any stupid risks. “No more trips to the hospital! Be creative, but be smart.”

After the announcement, Grayson pulled me aside and said how proud s/he was of me and all the pledges. I felt like Grayson should know what Harper was doing on her computer, researching stuff on hazing. Grayson looked really angry for a second, then s/he smiled and thanked me, saying s/he would “take care of it.” I wasn’t sure what that meant, but I trusted Grayson to do the right thing. I have to admit, I took a bit of pleasure in tattling on Harper after the way Harper ratted me out in class.

The three of us met up around 7:00 p.m. to film our “pandaing” session. First we went to the Student Union, where Avery “pandaed” on the wooden wall out front where people posted ads and notices. It would’ve been kind of “meh” except Avery had made a nice “Zippers Stick Together” poster to go on the board in the photo. I wanted to be a bit more adventurous. When we got to the stadium, I shimmied up the goal post and “pandaed” on the crossbar. It was a bit scary, but I knew it made a great photo.

Finally we went to the *Paifang*. The only place Harper could really “panda” was on a little ledge at the very top, about 30 feet off the ground. Avery looked scared and said it was too dangerous, reminding Harper that Grayson wanted us not to take risks. She suggested Harper “panda” on a nearby tree, and we could just make sure the *Paifang* was in the photo. I thought that sounded lame, though, and I said as much. Harper agreed; she insisted on “pandaing” on the *Paifang* itself to get the best photo. Harper seemed determined to prove that she had as much fortitude as anyone. I had to admit that I was impressed – and a bit aggravated. I’d hoped my photo would be the most awesome, but it looked like Harper would show me up yet again.

As soon as Harper started climbing, the gate started creaking. Avery freaked out and told Harper to come down, but Harper kept going. I admit I egged her on a bit, but I swear I didn’t think anything bad would happen. When Harper finally got to the spot near the top, she exclaimed, “Eww...there’s a bunch of bugs up here!” All of a sudden there was a loud “crack,” the shingle where Harper was lying snapped, and Harper plunged to the ground head-first. It all happened incredibly fast; I didn’t have time to react at all. We called 911, but I’m pretty sure Harper died instantly. Avery was hysterical, and I felt sick to my stomach. I did pick up a piece of wood that fell off the *Paifang* when we ran over to check on Harper, and it practically disintegrated in my hand. I didn’t see any bugs, though.

Of course what happened to Harper is a tragedy – for all of us, not just Harper. It’s ridiculous to blame Grayson. Harper is the one who insisted on climbing the *Paifang*, after Grayson told us all to be careful. No one made Harper do it. I know it sounds cruel to blame the one who died, but if Harper hadn’t been so determined to show everyone up, none of this would’ve happened. Now our ZIP chapter is shut

168 down and may never be reinstated. Harper paid the highest price, but her choices hurt a lot of other
169 people, too.

170 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following: Exhibits 1 – 3
171 (the ZIP bylaws, pledge promise, and hazing page on the national website). The attorney also showed me
172 Exhibit 7, and the photos look like what I saw on the night of the accident. Also, the photos on Exhibit 11
173 are correct about “planking” and “pandaing.”

174 I swear or affirm to the truthfulness of everything stated in this affidavit. Before giving this
175 statement, I was told it should contain everything I knew that may be relevant to my testimony, and I
176 followed those instructions. I also understand that I must update this affidavit if anything new occurs to
177 me until the moment before opening statements begin in this case.

Logan Kaufmann

SIGNATURE

December 9, 2014

DATE

Subscribed and sworn before me this 9th day of December, 2014

Patti Parrish

Patti Parrish
Notary Public in and for the State of Utopia

