

Greeks Must Act

If you were told for a long time that you were not wanted by a group of people and then suddenly those people said they did want you, how would you react? How eagerly would you rush to join the same people who formerly ostracized you? You wouldn't; you would reject them just as they rejected you.

In simple terms, that is now the relationship which exists between Black students and members of the Greek system. Tuesday the Council on Student Life opened a hearing which rambled for nearly two and a half hours. The IFC did not know what CSL wanted and consequently came unprepared. CSL had no intention of acting then. The meeting was only a hearing, and so the Black students left in disgust. The only thing that was decided was that discrimination does exist right here at dear old NU.

Even the one concrete statement which emerged from the discussion was for all practical purposes useless. The statement was the opinion of one Black administrator. And that isn't where the problem is, and that is not where the answer should come from.

The Greek system must solve this problem themselves. The answer and the subsequent action regarding discrimination in fraternities and sororities must come from Greeks. NOW. Furthermore, Greeks cannot expect the cooperation of Blacks. They have no right to expect that cooperation. The people who created the problem, and perpetuated it, must now solve it.

The attitudes which now prevail among Greeks can be divided into three groups: (1) those who want no Blacks or other minority students at all, (2) those who are worried about the tarnished image of the system which is commonly labeled racist and (3) those who are willing and ready to accept a minority student as an equal person. The former two attitudes predominate.

But not until Greeks sincerely feel they want minority students in the system; not until they are ready to punish a house that won't comply to open membership rules by pulling a charter, will minority students, in turn, show any interest whatsoever in fraternities and sororities. Not until the Greek system is willing to PROPOSE themselves the same policy put forth by Walt Strong will any progress have been made towards resolving the issue.

Wednesday night IFC agreed that each house should put down for public examination their criteria for membership. That was a teeny-weeny baby step towards attacking the problem. IFC and Panhellenic must take significant action to open Greek doors to minority students. There will not be a massive rush of minority students to gain membership. But the opportunity should exist for anyone to gain membership.

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AACS charges questioned

by Dan Goodenberger

Now I know how one becomes a reactionary.

One becomes a reactionary in response to half-truths, misconceptions, and less than responsible charges leveled at one's identity groups.

REACTION IS a rather painful experience, particularly for one who has considered himself aligned with liberals on issues concerning discrimination and civil rights.

Nevertheless, certain of the accusations made at Tuesday's CSL meeting deserve and demand answers. Those concerning the fraternity system are most important, inasmuch as they deal directly with the quality of student life and living experience. The fraternity position would be much less defensible if it could be shown that the system had received effective administrative cooperation in its efforts to integrate itself.

Specifically, members of one fraternity asked for the names of all entering black students, in order that they might contact these men so that they could be acquainted with the system and encouraged to affiliate.

IN RESPONSE they received four names, grudgingly given. Men from this fraternity and several others contacted the incoming students listed, as well as several others. Only one of these students was induced to attend Rush Week.

The IFC indicated its sincerity by waiving the grade requirement in order that he might do so. As he checked in, he was met by several members of the Afro-American Collegiate Society. So effective was their discussion that he withdrew before unpacking. Thus Rush Week 1969 was an exercise in de facto segregation, but not because of lack of effort on the part of member fraternities.

Surely more administrative help could be expected. All this is not to say that discrimination does not exist; it is simply meant to affirm that there are concerned groups, and concerned individuals who could do much with proper backing.

IT IS TO BE hoped that responsible administrative forces will offer aid before they propose censure.

As I hate to see an organization maligned needlessly, I must point out that, Mr. Strong's opinion to the contrary, Corn Cobs is not a discriminatory organization. It certainly has the ability and desire to "select members on the basis of a

reasonable criteria which will not include race or color." De facto segregation exists, not by constitutional content or member intent, but because minority students apparently feel they can spend their time in ways more rewarding to them.

A charge of discrimination, however, is blatantly false. It is interesting to me that this organization was among those singled out, since to my knowledge no contact was made to determine the truth of the accusation.

DEFENSE OF these institutions should not be the point. More important are the implications for black-white relations which arose from Tuesday's meeting. Removing oneself from discussion is not the way to achieve a dialogue; I and a number of those with whom I have spoken feel that the black CSL members acted irresponsibly in doing so. The surest way to test Greek sincerity in non-discrimination is to encourage minority students to accept fraternities' invitations to join, rather than blocking their efforts.

CONFRONTATION must be replaced by dialogue, for confrontation can never foster the spirit of mutual trust which is so desperately needed.

Such a process helps to insure the accuracy of the predictions of the Kersey Commission report, the development of two societies in America; one black, one white, both armed. It is devoutly to be hoped that the schism can be healed before the prediction becomes reality.

EDIT CORRAL

