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Discrimination report hits Greeks

"Fraternities are not for college days alone."
- an old fraternity saying.

by GARY SEACREST Nebraskan Staff Writer

University Regents and Regents-elect will probably recall their fraternity days when they discuss John W. Robinson's report on racial discrimination on the NU campus.

When the new Regents take office in January, the eightmember Board will have at least six members who were members of NU fraternities. Three are alumni of fraternities that Robinson singled out for "severe reprimand" because of racial discrimination and two others are alumni of houses that Robinson admitted he was undecided about.

Board President R o b e r t Raun's fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, was recommended for "severe reprimand." Also in this list was Kappa Sigma, the fraternity of two Regents-elect — Dr. Robert J. Prokop and Dr. Robert R. Koefoot.

Regents Edward Schwartzkopf (Delta Tau Delta) and John Elliott (Alpha Tau Omega) are alumni of

An advertisement in today's

Nebraskan tries to find out

'what improvements students

feel are needed in the University and the relative

importance of these improvements," according to Ed

Eggleston, spokesman for ASUN's Legislative Liaison

That committee, which is

sponsoring the questionnaire, will use the resulting set of student priorities to determine

its own priorities, Eggleston

Committee.

said.

Liaison Committee

to view student priorities

houses that were listed as "uncertain" in their position toward blacks.

Although Robinson's report described the Greek system as the "weak link" in the chain of implementing the Board's anti-discrimination policy, the report also dealt with all student organizations.

"Racial prejudice is common among students at the University," the report said, "This prejudice is often muted, but not infrequently expresses itself in various forms of racial discrimination." The "vast" number of students on campus are "gentle people of prejudice," according to the report.

Noting the Regents' antidiscrimination policy is not being entirely implemented, the report recommended that the Regents:

—Order programs of close inter-racial contact and education to reduce the level of prejudice.

-Reprimand five fraternities and one sorority for racial discrimination.

—Establish a permanent Anti-Discrimination Committee and a permanent Anti-Discimination Judicial Board "for the continuous survey of

The Legislative Liason Committee deals in research of NU

students and outstate speaking

activities to bring the University closer to Nebraska's

people. It also acquaints the state legislature with the stu-

dent point of view on various

Eggleston reported students could get additional copies of

the questionnaire in the ASUN

office, 334 Nebraska Union. Copies should be returned to

the ASUN office when they

have been filled out.

the racial situation at the University, and for the speedy rectification of instances of racial discrimination wherever they occur."

Robinson, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, noted that "with the exception of some fraternities and sororities there is . . . no deliberate and concerted racial discrimination in student social organizations."

He found that racial discrimination among selective student organizations "was much more common in the past (including the very recent past) than it is now."

There are also fewer incidents of racial prejudice in residence halls so far this year than last year, according to Robinson. However, he stated there is "not much real integration" in the University's residence halls.

The report also said problems of discrimination and prejudice were met by Indian-Americans and Mexican-Americans. However, most of the complaints centered on treatment of black students.

The report does not deal with a number of complaints, including one by blacks that there are too few black faculty members at the University.

members at the University.

Robinson reported finding little indication of black militance on University campus. However, he concluded that there is a growing tendency of black students to become "separatistic" because of the "pressure" of prejudice.

About half of the approximately 260 blacks on campus, the report said, belong to the Afro-American Collegiate

Society, which was described as separatist.

"It would indeed be ironic and disastrous," Robinson said, "if, while the white students were shedding some of their prejudices, and their organizations were opening up a bit to black students, the black students were becoming more separatistic."

The report said the current "de facto" segregation within the NU fraternity system stems only partly from racial discrimination since fraternities which are willing to accept blacks have had difficulty because most blacks are not interested in joining.

No blacks participated in this

No blacks participated in this fall's fraternity and sorority rush week. One of the two blacks who are now members

Turn to page 7

Greek reaction varies

by JOHN DVORAK released to

Nebraskan Staff Writer
"There's going to be some

hot alums."

"I didn't really think discrimination on campus was

that common."
"No comment."

Those are just a few of the comments from officials in the Greek system to the report by Dean John Robinson on racial discrimination. Even though the report takes particular issue with racial policies of a number of the campus's 45 houses, nearly all Greeks seem to be reacting calmly. Some are dismayed with the report;

others agree with it.

"I'm not going to try to defend any house if it selects only white members," said Paul Crist, president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

Although he is disgusted that

Although he is disgusted that the confidential document was on Robinson report released to an Omaha school year have been

newspaper by persons unknown, he emphasized that he "is not displeased" by the

"It's high time some of these houses get off their asses," he commented. "If it takes a reprimand to get them moving, then there will be a repri-

Crist said he was upset at the number of houses that say they "aren't ready" to pledge blacks or students of other minority groups. "That's ridiculous," he said.

The IFC president, whose one-year term expires this week, said the Board of Regents will have to decide what, if any, punishment should be meted out.

One alternative, he mentioned, is suspension of a house charter, which can only be done by the Regents. Charter suspension would force the house to cease all operations.

"I'm frustrated and tired of a Greek system that often functions as a white, elitest establishment," Crist said. "I have no desire to be put in a position of defending it."

Crist said he is optimistic that relations between minority groups and the Greek system have improved over the last year. But there is a long way to go. He pointed out that four or five IFC meetings during the

ference Room in the basement

The case of Rozman, an

of the Nebraska Union.

school year have been primarily concerned with black-white relations.

An officer of one of the fraternities recommended by the Robinson report for sanctions, said the document implies that the Greek system is making no attempt at all to improve the situation.

John Madsen, secretary of Sigma Nu Fraternity, said the investigation "did not dig deep enough."

He noted that a Nebraska Free University course on combatting racism has been meeting at the Sigma Nu house, and as another example, a Christmas party for orphans last week was attended by several black children.

Admitting that he was not aware that discrimination on campus was as big a problem as the Robinson report indicated, Steve Shanahan said: "I'm not sure what we'll do He speculated that some programs for education or other revisions of some kind would be made.

Shanahan is president of Kappa Sigma fraternity, another house recommended for reprimand.

The president of Phi Gamma Dalta, one of the largest fraternities on campus and one of those recommended for reprimands, declined to comment.



untenured assistant professor accused of acting "inappropriately" during last May's anit-war protest, was expected to be discussed by the Board of Regents at their Monday morning meeting.

