

THE SCAB SHEET

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5¢ for the truth

Black Exodus...

Oregon State University Black Student Union president Mike Smith told a Memorial Union Ballroom gathering of more than 1,000 students and faculty Wednesday noon that Blacks could no longer tolerate "the plantation logic of OSU's administration and the hallowed institution of racism." Following Smith's three minute talk, 47 Blacks walked out of the University.

The creative, non-violent tactic which leaves OSU almost totally white, is believed to be the first of its kind in the history of American colleges and universities.

BSU supporters stood by in amazement as As Smith read the statement blasting OSU's infringement on human rights. When the Blacks ceremonially walked out of the Ballroom, white sympathisers gave them a standing ovation.

The Blacks then began their trek off the campus, walking through the famed east entrance of the University.

There, Annette Green, BSU program co-ordinator collapsed into the arms of fellow Black students.

The BSU statement reads, "As Black students, from kindergarten to college, we are expected to involve ourselves psychologically, culturally and socially in an enterprise which is designed supposedly for the purpose of broadening our horizons and providing us proper knowledge to better relate to the real world.

"In truth, this enterprise has proven unacceptable and essentially denigrating of our social and cultural background.

"This position has been adopted wholeheartedly by this institution and this can no longer be tolerated. To deny us as Black people the right to live our lives as we choose within the context of our own culture is to relegate us to the role of the 'Super-Masculine Menial' of this society... Huge muscular bodies of no value as human beings and individuals.

"To accept the administrative tokenism we have been offered would be denying our worth as human beings, and thus viewing our lives as conspicuously unimportant to the world in which we live. This, in itself, would be an act of self-defamation. It would be impossible to accept this position and maintain our dignity as Black people.

"After attempting vainly to deal with the spineless figurehead of this institution, we have become thoroughly disgusted and disillusioned with this institution. We have to take a stand against dehumanization and racist practices. President Jensen has attempted to delegate his authority to every conceivable scapegoat except the Beaver Boys' Club.

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Today, in the MU Commons, show your support for the fight for individual and human rights, by attending the rally, at two o'clock.

OSU Blackout...

The black students are gone, but the issues remain. The strike must continue. Without equivocation. Without retreat from a single demand. The Administrative Proposal absolutely must be signed by the President of Oregon State University. The departing blacks must be allowed to withdraw from school without responsibility for grades, rather than being failed in all class work. Complete amnesty must be granted all students involved in the ongoing efforts to make this University face its shortcomings in a straightforward manner.

Whoever is not with us is against us; whoever is not against us is with us. The boycott of classes must continue. The Administrative Proposal will be signed; it is simply a matter of time and dedication on the part of each student and each faculty member.

In the light of the Black Student Union withdrawal, the President's "cease and desist" order relative to the class boycott is absurd. The blacks fought with great courage and inspiration for a clear-cut commitment by the University in the area of human rights. For any student or faculty member sympathetic to the black cause to back down now would be to opt for the most blatant repression of human rights and cultural diversity.

The Faculty Senate this afternoon must soundly defeat the woefully inadequate Cervantes Proposal; only endorsement of the Administrative Proposal--in its entirety--can be considered as an act of good faith on the part of Faculty Senate.

This movement must continue as an uncompromising political campaign in support of moral values which have already been compromised by the University. This movement must live by the values of human rights which it professes; it shall be nonviolent, but it shall resist continued moral turpitude and it shall endure.

The values this movement has and will continue to affirm are clearly stated in the Administrative Proposal. That proposal is the end result of a rare candor and imaginativeness on the part of university administrators and faculty members. Those men--six of them; three deans and three professors--formed a presidential committee named by James A. Jensen. Their statement on human rights, by now well-known to all in the University, was not adopted as Oregon State University policy by the president. He preferred to sidestep the issue. He "affirmed the principle" of the Administrative Proposal while rejecting the committee's recommendations for implementing that principle.

President Jensen has always held the balance of power in the black student controversy. His failure to lend that power to the cause supported by his own committee can only mean that he does not "affirm the principle" at all.

If President Jensen's continued vacillation has been a main factor in the departure of the blacks--and it undoubtedly has--then the rest of the burden must come to rest squarely on the shoulders of the OSU Athletic Department. If the blacks learned one thing from the streams of rhetoric by coaches and jocks, it was this: they are completely unsympathetic to the fundamental issues of human rights. The coaches have made no effort at all to reexamine their rights as coaches in relation to the human rights of student-athletes.

No wonder the blacks left; arrayed against them was a coalition of the University administration, the Athletic Department, the various athletic supporters, white athletes, Chamber of Commerce and alumni. This coalition stands solidly behind outmoded and corrupt practices of repression and discrimination; each of its member groups is prepared to deal the University an ethical and moral blow of devastating proportions in the simple hope of maintaining the athletic and academic status quo.

The mass departure of black students from the OSU campus yesterday was exactly that, too--a devastating blow to the intellectual and ethical environment of the University. But the blacks had no part in dealing the blow; they were forced to bear the direct force of it. Even before the current conflict broke out, recruiting of black students was a token project, the successes of which were dismal at best.

Black students did not want to come to OSU; the school already had a well-deserved reputation as an institution whose figures of authority were ill-prepared to deal effectively with minority problems, and could have cared less. Given that situation, it is difficult to imagine how the University community could permit the minority dilemma to deteriorate still further--to the point that the blacks could maintain pride and self-respect only by disassociating themselves completely from Oregon State University.

The repercussions of the black departure will be far-reaching; they will assuredly be far worse than if the President had stood firm for the principle--even if he had to
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Concern for Our Brother...

We come together here this morning to show the deep concern of the faculty and students of our University in the last several days. We come together to pay our deepest respect and to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. We find this a fitting moment to come together to express our most forceful resolution to eliminate the bigotry and prejudices in ourselves and in our nation.

The assassination of Martin Luther King was a most despicable and cowardly act. It is ironical almost beyond understanding that the life should be taken of a man so dedicated to the use of peaceful means in achieving racial equality.

About eleven years ago it was my privilege to spend an evening with Dr. King. Even then, no one could fail to feel his strong conviction and his dedication to move out against racial prejudices. Nor could anyone fail to perceive him as a gentle and compassionate person. His determination, his personal sacrifices, and his insistence upon the use of non-violent methods to correct the wrongs of racism are known to all of us.

In the circumstance of his tragic death each of us cannot help but feel a personal sense of shame. We feel especially a deep compassion for his family and for his associates.

The tragic events of the last several days are indeed sobering. The divisiveness of our nation, the acts and demands of extremists, the widespread disregard for law, the failure of education, government or society in resolving these problems and the overwhelming task of dealing with our difficulties seem almost impossible to contemplate. But contemplate them and deal with them and resolve them we must if our nation is to survive.

These are times that call forth our highest determination to stamp out all vestiges of hypocrisy and bias. These are times to search vigilantly for the truth. These are times to demonstrate trust and to act in fairness and in understanding toward all men.

It behooves every man and woman, every group and organization, every community and institution to re-examine their attitudes and their practices to make sure that all conform to the ideals of which we speak. This is the time as never before to be certain that we give absolute meaning to the words dignity, freedom, justice, opportunity and responsibility.

Never before has concern for our brother been so urgent. Perhaps never before have our own lives

The human rights movement is the only legitimate authority at OSU.

depended so much upon our ability to give the fullest meaning to unselfishness.

Let not the death of Martin Luther King have been in vain.

President, JAMES H. JENSEN
Oregon State University
Benton County Courthouse
April 8, 1968

OSU Blackout continued...

face a mutiny by the arrogant members of the coaching staff. Oregon State could stand to diminish the power of its athletic program without lasting ill effects; the black exodus means that OSU's academic reputation--deservedly strong in many areas, and experiencing astounding progress in others--has been bombed back into the stone age.

Ultimately, it is the black students themselves who have stood as the only witnesses to the values of human rights. Although many of them were in the midst of brilliant athletic and academic careers, they refused to give ground on the ethical goals which transcend all other considerations. They--not the hatchet men in the Athletic Department or the impotent intellectuals in the administration--have pointed the way for the University community to follow. Ironically, and tragically, they had to commit academic suicide in order to pinpoint the difficult path which must be followed.

The actions of the black students have at all times been in complete accord with the values of human rights which they affirmed and wanted to see institutionalized by the university. In the midst of frustration, anger and misunderstanding, they have acted with dignity and respect--for others as well as for themselves. Their courage and resolution in pursuit of principle is not diminished by the fact that they lost this particular round to "the system."

Their forbearance in the face of great provocation and adversity should be emulated by those students and faculty who are now charged with continuing the fight. We should not be sidetracked by personalities and innuendo in the coming days. We know now the administrators and athletic staff members for what they are: small, blind men whose stunted pride in themselves and this University has made them unable to understand or to sympathize with the legitimate demands of an oppressed minority.

The boycott is continuing; let the administration bring it to a halt if it can. Any authority which can blithely crush the rights of a minority group is not legitimate authority.

ASOSU President Raps...

Throughout the last four years, while I have attended Oregon State University, numerous incidents of discrimination have been brought to my attention. Typically, no notable action was taken to correct these situation, but it is not until now that I realized that this inaction is actually an institutional policy of Oregon State University.

This reality has been brought much closer to home in the last two weeks by the action, or rather inaction, of the administration of this institution. The inaction of the University Administration constitutes tacit support of the racist policies initiated by the OSU Athletic Department.

I don't mean to imply that the Athletic Department is solely responsible for the racism that exists in the University, but their total lack of concern for the welfare of the black people who live and work and study here has been clearly pointed out lately.

It does not require a very perceptive person to see that the prevalent attitude among Corvallis residents and campus old-timers is one that can be expressed as "The worst thing that happened to Oregon State University is when they brought those damn nigger jocks here." I suppose that such an attitude on the part of a Corvallis resident might be excusable, but on the part of a University Administration, it is criminal. And this is exactly where it is showing up.

Oregon State University last year turned back over one hundred thousand dollars in federal money earmarked for recruitment of minority students. This sort of action on the part of an administration certainly does not show the concern for the minority student that they profess to have.

The Oregon State University administration, since it sees fit to monopolize all the power in this institution, is morally responsible for the protection and preservation of the rights of every individual student enrolled here, and further, it should see that the rights of these students are not infringed upon in the community at large, in areas such as housing, services, etc.

Unless those in power move immediately to insure that the rights of every student are respected, those who are concerned will be forced to take action to see that individual and human rights are respected. And if such action on the part of those concerned becomes necessary, the administration should remember one thing: Until everyone's rights are respected, no individual can expect his rights to be respected.

boycott basketball...

Dissident Oregon State students are now laying plans for a "pre-game anti-rally" to be held Friday night at 6:15 in the Commons.

A cheering section is planned for the basketball game with the University of Oregon, which black athletes from U. of O. are boycotting. Black members of OSU's squad have already been dismissed for their participation in the boycott. Appropriate yells will be worked up and an en-masse exodus from the game discussed. OSU students will sit with U. of O. students to demonstrate their solidarity in boycott sympathy.

Further information will be available Friday through leaflets.

Black Exodus Continued...

"After watching in amazement the final finagling which has been demonstrated on this campus for the past week, we have no desire to remain here, therefore, we condemn this institution for its corrupt and racist practices and leave Oregon State University as a standing memorial to the 'plantation logic' of the administrators and the hallowed institution of racism."

A message in departure, the Black Students of the Black Student Union, Oregon State University.

Oregon State black students were accompanied in their protest march by well over 100 students from the BSU at U. of O. They had chartered two buses and brought several cars for the trip up here.

Standing at the gate, they ceremoniously shook hands and one student from the U. of O. said, "we're going to clean up own own house."

Dick Jones, U. of O. Student Body President, told Scab Sheet reporters that he didn't think either blacks or whites would play in this week-end's basketball games between OSU and U. of O.

While human rights activities proceeded in Corvallis, a sympathy rally was held at Portland State University. Dennis Payne, president of Portland State's BSU and others condemned OSU for its "policy of tradition." They said, "not allowing athletes to wear mustaches or whatever is not in accord with what's going on today."

No Way Out...

"I can see no solution for Oregon State University," Karl Helms, Director of the Office of Minority Affairs, told Scab Sheet reporters yesterday.

Helms, who is also advisor to the Black Student Union, said after the noon rally that he had just returned from the University of Oregon where he had talked to Acting President Arthur Johnson. "He indicated to me that he was very appreciative of the position by Oregon State's BSU," Helms said.

Faculty members at U of O were to have met yesterday afternoon to consider a resolution to expedite the admittance of black students from OSU, according to Helms.

The statement which would have satisfied most BSU members here, Helms said, would read, "As long as an individual's performance does not demonstrably affect his performance or the performance of those around him, no one should be able to dictate personal appearance to him."

The BSU members do not plan to drop their education but are transferring to other schools, Helms said, following the mass exodus of Oregon State's black population, announced yesterday. "They had to look inside themselves to decide on this important step," he added. "Each must find out where his own battleground will be."

Speculating on future black enrollment, Helms said that with no black students and no BSU here, he doubted that any more would come. "The reputation is too poor now."

Helms himself intends to resign and move to another university.

The American Civil Liberties Union is now preparing a case for Fred Milton vs. OSU, according to Helms. The ACLU will take the issue of human rights to court.

A federal investigation into discrimination in this institution is being instigated by various individuals, too, he said. "There's plenty of room for an investigation here."

Unless positive action is taken soon, "I don't see any way to get rid of the rosy-cheeked, blue-eyed, blond-headed, all-American image that we are forced to conform to as individuals," Helms feels.

"The results of this whole thing are just kind of disgusting," he concluded.

Cervantes Haps...

Faculty Senate will consider again today a proposal made by Fred Cervantes and four other faculty members, one of many suggested to arbitrate the conflict between black athletes and the Athletic Department.

"I think the chances for adoption of the proposal before the black walk-out were extremely good and the chances now are not as good as then," Professor Cervantes told the Scab Sheet last night.

Cervantes fears that a lot of people will revert back into a mentality of "well, they've gone, the problems solved, so why cause waves?"

"The situation still remains and there are ramifications for all of the black students who are withdrawing and ramifications for all of the white students who are involved in this, on the side of the boycott particularly," Cervantes warns.

When asked how the BSU walk-out would effect the University community, Cervantes replied, "Oh, it's going to hurt it. It can't help but hurt it. What's going to happen when you try to get black students to come to OSU?"

"I think it might have dire implications in the role of the various BSU's up and down the coast and for OSU's participation in Intercollegiate Athletic events," he continued.

"There's also the question of federal funds which could be affected if the racial issue is pushed," Cervantes added.

After the physical walk-out of blacks yesterday, Cervantes said that he questioned whether or not his proposal was still relevant. "But after looking at it again, I decided it was still relevant to OSU and that I would continue in my attempts to gain the approval of Faculty Senate," he said.

Dennis Hedges, Executive Assistant to the Athletic Director, says "The way I personally feel doesn't speak for the Athletic Department because any statement I could say could possibly undermine any statement by my superior, Mr. Barrett, or in essence, my real boss, the President of the University."

He did tell a Scab Sheet reporter later in the interview, though, that, "I think the walk-out is very unfortunate and doesn't solve a thing."

Barometer Sucks...

On the wall of the Barometer office there hangs a large framed document presenting the Oregon Code of Ethics for Journalists.

The Barometer, with appropriate fanfare and publicity, recently adopted the code. As a result, the Barometer supposedly now now adheres to a code of ethics which calls for fair and impartial treatment of all news, which considers accuracy in all reporting to be the prime principle upon which all reporting rests, and which labels intentional deletion of known and relevant facts in a story to be equitable with outright lying. The Barometer has lied and continues to lie.

Instead of adhering to its own code of ethics, it has perpetrated a policy of reporting only half-truths which, in the journalism profession is equitable to reporting no truth.

The reasons and sequences of events behind this policy of distortion constitute the ugly and untold story which the Barometer will never tell. It involves the BSU.

The following sequence of events constitutes the first part of this untold story.

During the week before Feb. 25, Editor of the Barometer signs contract with BSU leaders allowing them to check for approval any and all stories in which the BSU is quoted. It is agreed that if BSU leaders cannot be contacted, the Barometer will only say: "a Black said."

Monday, February 25-- BSU leaders are allowed to read and edit copy referring to their organization at the Barometer night office downtown.

Tuesday Feb. 26-- That night, after the BSU demonstration at Centennial Convocation-- Barometer editors suddenly decide to break contract, declaring it null and void. BSU leaders accuse editors of side-stepping in their written contract. The Barometer, by signing a contract which its own editor drew up, by all rights, should have been legally bound.

The results of the Barometer policy to "get the BSU" were not long in coming. Entire stories which were sympathetic to the BSU in any aspect never saw print. Large sections of other stories were dropped, resulting in distortion. Direct quotations, even from influential and respected faculty members and administrators were deleted from stories if they resulted in a sympathetic tone to the BSU. A decision was made to represent only the administration and Athletic Department view in a sympathetic light, while no attempt was to be made to get the other side of the story."

This resulted in many interviews and presentations of policy from the administration and Athletic Department.

Exclusive interviews and statements of policy were given to the Barometer. Why? Because the administration knew that they would be presented in a favorable light with no deletions. The Barometer noticeably printed the entire content of administrative policies and statements while merely paraphrasing statements from the BSU, and concerned faculty members and students to the extent that they were almost complete distortions.

The following are just some of the examples of the Barometer policy "to get the BSU" which the Scab Sheet has discovered.

Wed Feb 26-- decision to delete direct quotations from world-famous professor supporting BSU. The quote was supposedly "inflammable."
Thur Feb 27-- Fri Feb 28-- Decision to begin using stories of "rumoured" threats to black athletes from the BSU. The information was provided by the Athletic Department. Demonstrable proof was put forward to the Barometer that the Athletic Department had threatened white athletes with loss of scholarships if they didn't fall in line with the Athletic Department's policies and views, and look "real clean, real fast."

Sun, Mar 2-- decision made to "Down-play" the BSU's Saturday rally. Though several persons spoke, only two were quoted in Tuesday's Barometer.

Mon, Mar 3-- Decision made to reject entire ~~xxxxx~~ quote, thus distorting a story about a teacher who supported the boycott. This story later made statewide news.

Tuesday, Mar 4-- Decision made to delete entire quote, thus distorting the story, though the quote contained no foul language, but only made comment on existing situation unfavourable to the administration.

Wednesday, Mar 5-- Decision made to quote only partially Mike Smith's "farewell" statement to OSU which presented the reasons why the BSU left. Large amount of space was given however, to an interview with President Jensen.

The Scab Sheet believe it is unfortunate that in a time of stress when a free and open press was needed to present all the "facts", the Barometer chose to "lie."

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Today, at two in the afternoon, in the MU Commons, there will be a rally at which you can show your support for the fight for human and individual rights.

BE THERE!!!