Greek Pullout

Once again this year, Northern Michigan University’s winter carnival week has been nearly spoiled by the last-minute withdrawal of the Inter-Fraternity Council from competition. We say “nearly” because we believe that the week has gone well, primarily due to the dedicated efforts of the student newspaper editors.

We also must point out here that many individual Greeks are very disturbed by the IFC’s actions of the past week, though they have no power to overrule that organization’s decisions.

It seemed at first that the biggest “bone of contention” was the system of awarding the sporting events planned for the FunFest Week. But when it came right down to the “safety-first,” IFC fatality seemed to be the biggest problem of all.

According to Director of Student Activities Miss Carol Huntoon, Greek men and women were not sure of the residence halls because it would “destroy the Greek system” and, after all, Greeks are unique.” Also, according to Miss Huntoon, it seems that the residence halls now have so many benefits (open houses, recreation programs, etc.) that the IFC is finding it difficult to attract pledges.

Our heart bleeds.

Anyway, it seems that the FunFest Committee was actually willing for the sake of the week—to revive the point system and place the Greek men and women in a separate category. The Marquette Mirror members and women, I say, the IFC still voted to remain out of FunFest.

This week, the Northern News contacted IFC President Kevin Kiley and asked him why the IFC pulled out of FunFest, even after concessions were made. In a printed statement, Kiley said that the “inter-fraternity” went deeper than a mere argument over the awarding of sporting event points.

The IFC, says Kiley, is upset over the “tight off-campus housing policy” (which does not allow for more fraternity houses) and the lack of adequate on-campus accommodations. Kiley also stated, “IUC approaches on the positive programs.” Kiley includes “homecoming, All-Events, Greek competition, athletic events, community-action programs (and) in general, student opportunities for growth and leisure.”

Quite frankly, we must all be led to the impression that homecoming and All-Events (I.E., FunFest) were ALL-UNIVERSITY activities and not the exclusive property of the Greeks. As far as we know, these activities do receive “support” (whatever that may mean). As for the other exclusively Greek activities mentioned, we would observe that “support” for these activities should come from Greeks only. If such support is lacking, that seems to be a Greek problem.

In both cases, we are not impressed by the IFC’s excuses for pulling out of FunFest. The Greek system is in trouble all over the country primarily because of the “we’re better” attitude it often manifests. Today’s Greeks don’t buy such nonsense, and the NMU IFC had better realize this fact before it writes its own obituary.

Facts Missing

The decision of the Student-Faculty Judiciary to acquit those blacks charged with being involved in the December 19 sit-in has met with mixed reaction among the students of Marquette. Predictably, the Marquette Mirror—the weekly local which has made a career of defaming NMU and the Marquette Daily Mirror—had plenty to say about the situation in last week’s edition.

As the Mirror stated in its fact-filled editorial, the Mirror referred to the Student-Faculty Judiciary as a “kangaroo court.” The reference to the first charge, gentlemen, let me assure you that it was indeed the Student-Faculty Judiciary in action, and not any group of people pointing the S-F J. And in case you don’t have a copy of your office, mine says this about the “kangaroo court,” “an unofficial group of people who are not acting as a court of law.” Again, let me assure you that the S-F J was established by the university to deal with university affairs and is not an arm of the government. You may not be aware of it, but the decision of the S-F J was upheld by the court in regard to the money involved in the S-F J.

Perhaps you didn’t know, or don’t care, but in an editorial of approximately two hundred words you made five references to various internal organs. I can only say that I am both shocked and disgusted! If God wanted us to talk about our internal organs, He would have put them on the outside of our bodies, where they could be seen, or at least moved more effectively. I hope I am not misinterpreted.

Dear Mirror

To the News:

An open letter to the Marquette Mirror:

Gentlemen, I have observed the growth of your paper from its very outset, and it was with considerable interest that I read your recent front page editorial concerning the trial of the black students by the NMU Student-Faculty Judiciary, which prefaces running in the local.”

First of all, in your editorial you refer to the Student-Faculty Judiciary as “phony,” and a “kangaroo court.” In reference to the first charge, gentlemen, let me assure you that it was indeed the Student-Faculty Judiciary in action, and not any group of people pointing the S-F J. And in case you don’t have a copy of your office, mine says this about the “kangaroo court,” “an unofficial group of people who are not acting as a court of law.” Again, let me assure you that the S-F J was established by the university to deal with university affairs and is not an arm of the government. You may not be aware of it, but the decision of the S-F J was upheld by the court in regard to the money involved in the S-F J.

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Now you claim to know people in the community who are so weak-willed they are forced by circumstance to commit crime and violence in the “guise of academic freedom and freedom of the press.” I am a citizen of Marquette, and I’ve never met these people, but who am I to doubt the word of anyone who for years has praised the merits of Third Street, and the Third Street Development Association, then quietly moved to South Front? I am against violence under any guise, and that includes backing down on the long-haired hippy type sounds like a violent proposal to me.

As I said, I am a citizen of Marquette, and I and many of my friends, who are also citizens of Marquette, and pay taxes and vote, seriously wonder just what those people mean when they claim to stand up for the freedom of the press. It seems to me that your whole editorial was written with the purpose of enlisting support for your paper. Could it be that you are having problems with your circulation? I suppose it is connected socially with NMU because you don’t like them, and not the press. But why is that more important? Could it be that you are the kind of people who would not print the truth because it is not your friends? Then they have no right to print the truth about NMU, because you have no friends there?

In closing let me say that, yes, I am an African-American, and we all know how you feel about long hair. Perhaps you are against it because it looks effeminate, or because it isn’t in style. In any case, my wife begs to differ with you. But I wonder if the real reason you hate long-haired people is that you yourself don’t wear it so they know who is a black person against long hair is openly and proudly being carried about by hundreds of people, and they wish to alienate themselves from the unwelcome, uneducated, unwholesome, companionship of bigots.

Charly Marquette

Editor’s Note: Name withheld at writer’s request.

Sad to the News:

Four years ago when I was first introduced to the community I was impressed with the feeling of growth and change on this campus. Things seemed to be alive and happening.

The social life was more interesting. Campus events were more exciting. Thechanges were more exciting. The changes were more exciting. The changes were more exciting. The changes were more exciting.

My fondest memory of that year was All Events Week when students really pulled together to build the many excellent snow statues and the sport events were always accompanied with screaming spectators. Also the Michigan College Snow.

Cont’d on page 6