

The New Hampshire

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DURHAM, N. H. — May 20, 1955

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DISCRIMINATION ISSUE NOT DUCKED

Inter-Fraternity Council

A Statement

Dear Editor Hoey,

After reading the last issue of *The New Hampshire*, the Inter-Fraternity Council feels that a retraction and correct statement of the facts is owed to us. They are as follows:

On May 2, 1955 at AGR the following resolution was presented to the council: "That the fraternities at the University of New Hampshire are opposed to discrimination clauses. Those fraternities who are forced by national fraternity clauses to practice discrimination, hereby pledge themselves to work at their national conventions for the removal of these clauses." As this resolution was of vital importance to the fraternal system the resolution was tabled until the next meeting, May 16, 1955, to permit the delegates to discuss this important problem at their fraternity meetings. It was felt by the council that this resolution should be discussed by all the fraternity members, not just representatives on I.F.C. It was clearly understood, at the time of tabling, that the resolution was to be on the agenda of the next meeting.

On May 16, 1955 at A.T.O. the resolution was brought up and discussed. The resolution was overwhelmingly passed. This is an important milestone for the Inter-Fraternity Council as it is the first time a stand has been taken on this all important question. We hope that this is only the first of a series of actions that will eventually wipe out selectivity clauses on our campus.

It now becomes apparent that *The New Hampshire* edition of May 19, 1955 was completely incorrect, and misrepresented the facts concerning this action. We hope that you realize the potential damage and consequences of your article and editorial, not only for the fraternity system, but for the University also. Because of this, we hope you will be able to publish a retraction before this school year is over.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Brody

President; Inter-Fraternity Council

I F C Overwhelmingly Approves Pledge To Fight Greek Clauses

The New Hampshire

A Statement

Last Thursday's edition of *The New Hampshire* carried, as its lead story, the erroneous report that the Inter-Fraternity Council had "ducked" the vital issue of discrimination by allegedly tabling a resolution.

Through a gross misinterpretation of data this publication fully misrepresented the Council's action. Somehow, the report of the tabling action was construed to mean that the issue had been put aside until next year. The actual fact of the matter is that it was on the agenda at the next meeting of I.F.C.

In the faulty coverage of this information, *The New Hampshire* has committed journalism's most serious crime: that of altering the news to result in an alteration of public opinion from an area of approval of action to one of disapproval.

Clarification of the Inter-Fraternity Council's action has reached this office, and we of *The New Hampshire* declare a complete retraction of the news item and its corresponding editorial. *The New Hampshire* wishes to fully endorse the passage of the resolution by the Council as an exemplification of

mature thought and wholesome attitude toward a highly pressing problem.

Through its declaration of a belief in complete freedom of selection of one's partners in exacting community life, I.F.C. has expressed a more healthy attitude that students have adopted against any form of discrimination or bigotry.

Mr. Edward D. Eddy Jr. Administrative officer of the University applauded the action taken by the council because he stated that it was student sponsored and directly concerned students. He commented that a state university should be interested in a person regardless of his race, color or religion, and that it was heartening to note that the Fraternities reflect agreement with this basic University attitude.

There is a cliché stating that a retraction never quite catches or corrects that which is being retracted. We hope it is incorrect in this instance.

Jack Hoey, Editor
Christine Brehm,
Associate Editor
The New Hampshire

For many years the National Inter-Fraternity Council has avoided the problem of discrimination clauses which exist in fraternity constitutions. Two years ago, they felt that the administration of a university or college had no right to enter in this problem. However, one year ago, the feeling changed somewhat and discrimination in fraternities was opinionated as being wrong and unjust. The National Inter-Fraternity Council felt something should be done about it.

Most Houses "Open"

Although most of the fraternities at the University of New Hampshire have done away with this clause in their constitutions, the Inter-Fraternity Council, on campus, felt that some resolution should be made in order to help abolish the clause from all houses. Consequently, at the I.F.C. meeting of May 2, 1955 this problem was discussed by the members. Following this discussion, a resolution was presented to the council which is as follows: "That the fraternities at the University of New Hampshire are opposed to discrimination clauses. Those fraternities who are forced by national fraternity clauses to practice discrimination, hereby pledge themselves to work at their national conventions for the removal of these clauses."

The resolution was tabled, however, until the next meeting in order that the members of the fourteen fraternities on campus could think about this resolution and then give their opinion on it at the house meetings. Tabling an issue is a routine move frequently made by I.F.C. in order that resolutions brought up may be discussed not only by fraternity representatives but by their members as well.

11-1

The Inter-Fraternity Council held their next meeting on Monday, May 16, 1955 at Alpha Tau Omega. At this meeting the resolution was discussed and a vote was taken. The members were overwhelmingly in favor of such a resolution. Eleven houses voted in favor of the resolution and one voted against it. Two houses were not present.

Significant Step

The Inter-Fraternity Council feels that this significant decision is a step toward abolishing all unjust and irrational clauses which exist in fraternity constitutions today. However, they realize that the process will be a long one and not one which will occur in a short period of time.

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