

# A Clarification

Much has been said about discrimination on the Bucknell campus, both on the printed page and in heated and some not-so-heated discussions. In view of the recent exchange of letters to the editor, the **Bucknellian** wishes to clarify its stand on discrimination.

We originally raised the issue in order to obtain some concrete proof for the charge that the admissions staff discriminates in their selection of students. We are happy to recognize, as a result of figures released last week, that this charge is completely unfounded.

Moreover, a check of scholarship records shows that the Betty Ann Quinn scholarship mentioned in last week's editorial has been awarded to a Negro student every semester for the past five years. At present, it is not being used because its recipient withdrew at the end of the first semester.

In addition, a check of applications shows that Irwin Roberson, the star athlete described in last week's editorial, did not apply to Bucknell. It is thought that he was interested in this school and may have been approached by the athletic department, but no facts are available to corroborate this rumor.

A clarification of these statements by no means closes the issue; if anything, it should make us more aware of the problems at stake. As we see it, the question of discrimination is two-fold. (1) To encourage more Negroes to apply to Bucknell, two steps may be taken: the picture now requested on the application could be eliminated, and pictures requested only after the applicant has applied for admission. Secondly, the admissions team might make more of an effort to seek out qualified Negroes in their interviewing.

(2) To make the social climate amenable to Negroes, students must evidence a desire for real understanding of and friendship with those of other races. Paul Pearson's letter indicated that none of the fraternities on this campus have discriminatory clauses. This reassurance relieves us from making a token gesture to remove such clauses. The question is not one of clauses, but one of attitude. We would hope that the individuals comprising each fraternal organization reserve the right to choose members on the basis of personal qualities, and that each chapter, in turn, is free to extend membership accordingly.

But why, you ask, should we bother to diversify the student population? There is an answer to this question: it is unrealistic and provincial for a university to exist as an island in the midst of the racial problems confronting the rest of the United States. To discourage contact with other races and nationalities is to shelter today's student and to submerge him in a stagnant environment.

By the educative process, woven of both social and academic threads, we expect individuals to learn to recognize other human beings for their abilities and attributes, regardless of their racial or socio-economic heritages.

is the Bucknell community ready to accept this responsibility?

Dear Editor:

During the past several weeks there has been much discussion, thought, and comment on the discrimination issue. The degree of concern about this is now evidenced by the fact that the faculty has resolved that diversity among different religious and racial groups should be welcomed and considered essential on the Bucknell campus and "that the University should be directly concerned" in preventing discrimination. Students and faculty alike have shown concern by letters to **The Bucknellian** and participation in last Thursday's debate, where over one tenth of the campus population crowded a fraternity house to discuss the issue.

In view of this activity, the administration has asserted its official admissions policy of "neither discriminating for nor against" minority groups. But what about future University policy? Has there been any change in recruiting procedures and attitudes, or will the trend toward the elimination of some minority groups on campus continue until we virtually

ly represent a single socio-economic group?

The issue can be dragged on and hashed over for months, but it seems appropriate for the administration to issue a statement at this time. The campus would like to know how the University will "be directly concerned" in preventing discrimination. What steps will be taken, relative to admissions procedures, to insure a diversified campus population?

Sincerely,  
Rick Arnold

Dear Editor:

I have read with interest your weekly editorials during my first semester here at Bucknell. I have found most of them to contain complaints that seem very trivial. I was therefore very pleased to read your editorial in the Feb. 3 issue of **The Bucknellian** entitled "Discrimination?"

Your editorial exposes a problem that should be of vital concern to every Bucknellian. It is doubtful that the administration will heed your editorial, but in spite of this you have done Bucknell a service in bringing to our attention this mar on the reputation of Bucknell as an outstanding institution of higher learning.

I am in hopes that your future editorials will follow the fine example that has been set by this one, and contain only that type of proper criticism that is worthy of being taken seriously by us.

Respectfully,  
David C. Myler, Jr.