

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

LEWISBURG, PA.

April 15, 1960

OFFICE OF THE  
DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Mrs. Leila Feifer Shapiro  
1366 York Avenue  
New York 21, New York

Dear Mrs. Shapiro:

I can quite understand the feelings expressed in your letter concerning the cross burning incident. It is unfortunate but true that the public press always picks up and reports out of context "incidents" which occur on college campuses and elsewhere and gives almost no mention to the constructive work which goes on day after day.

The Phi Lambda Theta Fraternity, in front of whose house the cross was burned, has been a rather forward looking group in many ways. They currently have a Negro student as president (who by the way has been a fellow member of our swimming team with one of the boys involved in the incident) and have only recently collected \$100 among their members to help with the legal defense of students in the South.

About a month ago, eleven of our students spent a weekend in a work camp in the slums of Philadelphia. We have been involved in quite a number of interracial meetings and with interracial and with intercultural leadership here on the campus as a part of a continuous program. There is a proposal under consideration by the Student-Faculty Congress, initiated prior to the incident by the Christian Association, that we raise a scholarship for a Negro student from the South. Two of our students were at Howard University a year ago, and this summer two more are going to work in Africa with Reverend James Robinson from the Church of the Master in Harlem. One of these is a Negro student who is being financed in part by campus groups. The Chemistry Department has just brought to the campus a distinguished Negro scientist for a series of lectures. We have two Chinese professors and many Catholic and Jewish faculty members. We regard this sort of thing as the normal activities of the University, and we shall continue to try to involve our students in constructive and intercultural experiences. It is rare that an alumnus writes to commend the University on its progressive leadership in these areas and rare that newspapers find this sort of constant effort to be of any interest.

As far as the three students involved in the incident are concerned, a very careful investigation and consideration of their past records has convinced us that there was no antiracial intent on their part toward the fraternity involved or any of its members.



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Their action, however, was entirely reprehensible, and whatever may have been their intent, it was the kind of behavior which cannot be tolerated by Bucknell University. The disciplinary action taken was very carefully considered and is believed to be appropriate to the situation.

I appreciate your writing, for it does give me an opportunity to point out some of the things that alumni are so apt to overlook, perhaps because they may not be informed. I might also point out that most of our current foreign students are Buddhists and Moslems and that they have worked into our total campus situation very well. All of this adds to our total intercultural and interracial contribution.

Very sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
JOHN C. HAYWARD

John C. Hayward  
Dean

JCH/E

Blind copies to:

Mr. Forrest Brown  
Miss Trennie Easley  
Dr. Wesley Haines  
Dean Karl D. Hartzell  
President Merle M. Odgers  
Mr. John F. Zeller