

A Professor

Speaks Out

IT'S GOOD TO SEE a professor with the courage to speak his mind on matters social as well as academic. Good criticism, based on facts, sound judgement and reason is always good for the spirit of a person or of an institution.

THOUGH PROFESSOR F. DAVID MARTIN's recent remarks may have been taken and reported "out of context," he certainly must have meditated on their content for some time. However, the very context of the race issue in our nation, stirred to front-page fury by the civil rights debate in the U.S. Senate plus nationwide demonstrations tend to distort the problem on which the professor's remarks were focused.

WE REMEMBER in earlier years that a famous-or-infamous-gossip columnist, Dorothy Kilgallen, had some unkind things to say about the "wealthy, spoiled" student body at Bucknell, adding some more acid comments about the institution.

THOSE REMARKS did not end Bucknell's growth, nor did it spoil the institution's "image." And Professor Martin should be granted a complete hearing before he is injudiciously branded as a man who bandies about "careless remarks."

D. I. D.

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BUCKNELL TRADITIONS have come in for closer examination as the result of an Associated Press story from Richmond, Va. attributing to one of the university's professors a charge that the student body is "bigoted and narrow-minded." Dr. F. David Martin, the educator, quoted by the news agency, has stated that the purported remarks were taken out of context and were unfair to Bucknell and to himself. At the same time he cited the university's progress in the cultivation and advancement of equal educational opportunities.

While admission of Negro students was the subject under discussion by an inter-racial panel at Virginia Union University in Richmond in which Dr. Martin was a participant, the liberal tendencies of Bucknell in recent years should dispel any insinuation of bigotry. Speaking of tradition, students from Burma have been welcomed at Bucknell from the earliest days, an annual Burma Weekend has long been observed on the campus along with a late summer institute for foreign students, many of them non-white.

With respect to liberalization in recent years, there is ample evidence that Bucknell University students pursue higher learning in an atmosphere entirely free of narrow-mindedness and provincialism.

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