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blackraft... ...white sea

a small black raft
floats seemingly peaceful
on a massive
white
ocean
struggling to keep afloat
lest
it be swept under
and
overpowered by
waves of whiteness
continuously rocking it
teasing it
taunting it
and
maliciously challenging it
from all sides.
For, the raft is
black—
a minority
the minority
nothing new—yet
the white mass upon which it floats is
huge and
cold and
the small black raft
is
continually reminded of its
aloneness
as it struggles to remain
afloat.

by John Stanton

Such is the position of the Black Student Union on predominantly white college campuses today... such is the position of the Black Student Union at University of the Pacific. Since March of 1968 the handful of black students at Pacific have fought to retain some semblance of black identity within a BSU dedicated to promote black progress and white understanding. (such terms as "black" and "white" seem so impersonal and general yet they are real terms that have to be dealt with and understood.)

Following the formation of the BSU there have been inquiries on the part of administrators, faculty and students concerning what the BSU is doing, where it's doing it, why it's doing it and how it's being done. As a result, it's been obvious that it "bugs" some people that they can not have control and full knowledge of what is being done within the BSU. It is within the closed minds of these particular people that most of the "problem" lies. The closed minds of administrators. Faculty and students have done much to slow down the efforts on behalf of BSU and its supporters to achieve its goals of combating racism and dealing with the

promotion of human rights.

Close-minded people like:

... those "liberals" who, at the chapel during the enactment of Dutchman by Cindy Smiley and George Sloan, were compelled by the "profane" language to take a laissez-faire and apathetic attitude towards the human rights movement.

... those white students who were not permitted to enter the BSU dance because they were white and therefore called on Dr. Burns or attacked the BSU before attempting to pursue the reason behind the dance being closed at the last minute... some of these students have been known to admit that discrimination is a terrible thing.

... those white students who, upon learning of the demand and final plan for UOP admitting 200 black students in the fall, assumed the attitude that: "thirty-four were ok, but with 200 they'll take over, the value of the school will go down and they'll keep bringing more in..." or that "the bringing in of the 200 black students is the cause for the tuition raise."

Close-minded people who allow their negative attitudes toward the actions of other BSU's to influence their attitude toward the BSU at Pacific without taking time to find out for themselves "what the deal is." Close-minded people who let lit-

tle things and events further close their minds to the reality of a situation of racial demoralization, are people who are generally "tired of hearing about racism." These are people who fail to realize that black and other racially oppressed peoples have been sick and "tired of hearing about racism" and have been for a much longer period of time.

It would be simple if a line could be drawn between the close-minded and open-minded even on this campus; but, realistically, it is not possible. And also, there are the hypocrites: those that wear the masks of being openminded and are actually not.

The BSU is working on a premise that there is an unquestionable right (that is not white) that all are capable of comprehending. The close-minded of white and black people who refuse to see this right create the sick situation present today.

Strangely enough, the BSU is not made up of carbon-copied black people who totally think and act alike, though there is evidence that some whites desiring such have sought others who fulfill this category. The BSU is made up of individuals who pursuing the establishment of human rights. As individuals, members of the BSU may choose to support the actions of other individuals as "concerned students;" this speaks for itself.

In the long run, "concerned students" will have had to accept the bitter along with the sweet in adopting the Roman philosopher, Epictetus's doctrine of self-discipline allowing their will to control their attitudes toward events in this movement. Epictetus states that "Is is our attitudes towards events, not events themselves, which we can control."

Needless to say, this campus is not totally unaware of pertinent issues at hand in this movement. The BSU acknowledges the new degree of shown open-mindedness on the part of Dr. Burns, the administration, faculty and concerned students here as a contribution towards achieving the desired right. Because of this, the black raft will not always be small, yet it may be struggling for a long time as there continues to be a refusal to understand within the devastating white mass.

Y Film:

"A Thousand Clowns"
140 Ac Fac
3:30, 7 9
Friday, April 18

Mardi Gras:

"Bacchanalia Spring Rites"
April 26, 1 p.m. to dusk
Anderson Y Lawn

Bacchanalia Spring Rites Sets Mood For Faire

The open-air Spring Pleasure Faire, an integral part of the celebration of Spring and Mardi Gras is to be styled after the days of the Renaissance in Europe.

According to Faire Chairman Jim Shumway, the event will boast strolling minstrels, a roving recorder troupe and a town crier proclaiming the various ac-

tivities to the public. Aside from the usual group game and concession booths, the Faire also promises an open-air stage with such entertainment as folk singing and modern dancing. Student crafts such as jewelry and leather work will also be displayed and on sale to the public.

Shumway stated: "It will be much the same as last year, but better. We're having a big response from campus groups who wish to sponsor booths." He also stressed that the Faire is "... a community event as well as a student event." He further explained that this year's Faire is better named because it ties in with the "Bacchanalia Spring Rites" theme of Mardi Gras. Last year's International Pleasure Fair was so named as a result of sponsorship by the Model United Nations and International Students Association.

This year 30% of proceeds and the slight admission charge will go to the sponsoring PSA and Anderson "Y" Center, while 70% of the proceedings will go to groups participating in the Faire.

The events itself will take place from 1 p.m. to dusk on Saturday, April 26 on the Anderson "Y" lawn. That evening the "Bacchanalia Spring Rites" will be celebrated at the annual Mardi Gras Ball, and the following morning the annual Strawberry Breakfast will be offered on the Anderson "Y" lawn.

NSF Grants \$17,000 To UOP Grad School

The National Science Foundation allocated \$17,041 to the University of the Pacific's Graduate School. The allocations will be used for three 9-12 month traineeships and one summer traineeship under the NSF's Graduate Traineeship Program.

More than \$28.7 million in grants have been awarded to 216 institutions. The awards are aimed at accelerating the output of students with advanced degrees in science, mathematics and engineering.

Initiated in 1964 with engineering students as the target population, the traineeship program now covers all fields in the natural and social sciences, and includes interdisciplinary fields such as oceanography, geochemistry and meteorology.

STUDENT REPS RAP IN R.E. FACULTY MTGS

At the invitation of the Chairman of the department, Arthur Maynard, the majors and graduate students of the Religious Studies Department met on March 13 to hear the department faculties proposal for student representation at regular department meetings.

Dr. Maynard stated that the faculty had proposed one representative from underclassmen, one from upperclassmen, and one representative of the graduate students. The faculty left and the students voted to accept the proposal of student representation. After a short discussion as to whether the representation should be on the basis proposed by the faculty or on the basis of the divisions within the department (Religion, Religious Education, Pre-Ministerial),

it was decided to elect representatives on the basis of the faculty proposal. Paula Walker was elected to represent the underclassmen, Barry Woodbridge to represent the upperclassmen and both Alice Glenn and Stan Croker were elected to represent the grad students.

This representation entitles the student to attend all departmental faculty meetings, participate in deliberation including the right to vote or question matters concerning curriculum, course offerings, special activities such as various lecture series, etc.

This action was highly commended by the Dean of COP, William Binkley who noted that this was the first department to formally include students in departmental meetings.