

To the Community Council:

The following is a summary of the activities of the Student Action for Human Rights Committee which had its origin in our appointment by the Community Council in April of 1960. The appointment was to investigate the background and purposes of the then current Southern Sit-in Movement, and to determine whether Macalester students could properly play a part in this movement. Since then the committee has expanded to make information on the American racial situation available to Macalester students and to encourage their interest and participation in activities in this field. SAHR has sought to be a committee, not a club, and attempted to work in and through already existing campus organizations.

The first major project was the raising of \$100.00 plus from the campus to be sent to the National Student Christian Federation for their fund for legal defense and bail costs imposed on students arrested for their participation in Sit-ins.

During the fall of 1960 several informative meetings were held to explore the various areas of racial tension in St. Paul and the state of Minnesota as well as the Southern section of the U.S. This eventually led to the picketing and housing surveys conducted by Macalester students in February of 1961. Early in February several visitors to our campus aroused interest in specific action here in St. Paul. Timothy Jenkins, Vice President of NSA, spoke to the student body at Convocation and informal discussions; Rev. Wyatt Walker, assistant to Martin Luther King, spoke in chapel the following Thursday. The presence of these two men sharing their urgency over the current racial unrest stimulated enough interest to motivate 150 Macalester students to actively participate in six weeks of picketing of the Paramount and Riviera theaters in St. Paul. These theaters are part of the ABC-Paramount Theater Chain which has segregated theaters in the South. Our demonstration was a demonstration of sympathy with the direct action of Stand-in in Southern theater which was done at the urging of the Southern Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee, (SNCC), the National Student Association (NSA), and the National Student Christian Federation (NSCF). Edward B. King, Jr., head of SNCC, visited Macalester and spoke to a group of interested people and joined the picketing lines one evening.

Also in February, 1961 a housing survey was taken by Macalester and Hamline students to aid passage of a Fair Housing Bill before the Minnesota Legislature at that time. Leading up to this were the panel on Open Occupancy sponsored by the Religious Forum Commission, a discussion of the Fair Housing Bill by Senator Donald M. Fraser before a group of students, and a presentation of the surveying technique by Dr. Walter Mink of the Psychology Department. Six hundred homeowners were surveyed for their attitudes on the subject of Open Occupancy. The results of this survey were compiled and presented to the Minnesota House Civil Administration Committee at the hearing on the afore mentioned bill.

During the Spring and Fall of 1961 SAHR's work was mainly centered around the distribution of information on current developments in the field of racial relations; the 150 students on the SAHR P.O. list were encouraged to write letters of support and encouragement to Southern students presently involved in integration activities. A report from Knoxville College informs us that approximately 75 letters were received from Macalester students supporting their theater stand-ins.

Presently there are two students from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, attending Macalester, two Macalester students attending Morehouse, and two Macalester students attending Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee. This is the first initial semester of a Semester Exchange Program which we hope will be fruitful in terms of better understanding; we hope that the program will be continued.

With this report we wish to submit our resignation as co-chairmen of SAHR. We would strongly urge that Community Council establish SAHR as a standing committee under the Citizenship area. We would further suggest that appointment of the chairman or co-chairmen be made anew in January or February of each year.

May we suggest that the Community Council consider Miss Gerry Rook, a junior, for this year's appointment of a chairman. She has been interested and active in the past activities of SAHR and has indicated an interest in the future work of the committee.

With this report we submit a file of literature and information used by SAHR since its establishment.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dirks

Bill Henderson

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