



# WEEKLY



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# Racial Harassment Suit Filed Against Macalester

by Stephanie Erickson and Robin Holden

A racial harassment complaint filed against Macalester led to an approximately \$30,000 settlement and bound all parties involved to silence.

Former Associate Director of Minority Program, Lyle Frank, filed the complaint through the Minnesota Department of Human Rights in St. Paul on January 7, 1991.

The *Macalester Weekly's* investigation of the Minority Program revealed Frank's Human Rights Complaint and settlement. This reflects the continuing turmoil in the Minority Program Office. In the last year there has been a high turnover rate among secretaries and work study students, five staff resignations and three complaints filed against students and staff.

"There has been a lot of turnover. Some turnover is good in any sort of system, but when it gets to the rate it's at now, it's much too

high," said President Bob Gavin.

The above Human Rights Complaint was withdrawn the second week of February, 1991. That same week, a settlement was signed by Frank and Macalester. Some aspects of the settlement include: Frank receiving approximately \$30,000; no derogatory comments may be made or complaints filed by either party against the other; and the settlement must be kept confidential.

The Human Rights Department investigator, Sharon Barch, explained the process of filing a Human Rights Complaint and the possible outcomes.

"Anyone subjected to any type of discrimination has a right to file a charge with the state, within one year of the incident(s). Lyle notarized it, and a copy was sent to the school. A case number was assigned, and I was to wait response from Macalester for 45 days. But it was settled

and Lyle signed a withdrawal form," Barch said. "If [the case was] continued it could have been reported to the State Attorney General's Office to become the State versus Macalester."

Frank's attorney, JoAnne Mullen, of Reinhardt & An-

son. I don't know about the settlement, so I can't respond to that."

Dean of Students Mary Ackerman had no comment.

President Bob Gavin acknowledged Lyle Frank's Human Rights Complaint, and said that Frank withdrew

due process was not used in the meeting and that LaFloe's concerns, involving behavior between a work study student and a staff person, should be further investigated.

"Lyle told them [Bowen, Wilderson and Ackerman] that he didn't think I was treated fairly and that further investigation should occur. He challenged them," said LaFloe. "I think they got scared, and from that point on they were trying to get him out of the Minority Program. They treated him like an outsider."

Lyle felt discriminated against, as stated in his Human Rights Complaint against Macalester College. The following is the Charge of Discrimination:

"I am an American Indian male who has been employed by [Macalester College] since August of 1990, most recently as Associate Director of Minority Program.

My supervisor [Wilder-  
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**"If [the case was] continued it could have been reported to the State Attorney General's Office to become the State versus Macalester,"**  
--Human Rights Department

derson said, "I helped Lyle Frank negotiate some type of settlement."

Director of Personnel Duane Elvin, acknowledged the settlement, but stated, "the details of Lyle Frank's resignation are confidential, period."

Former Director of Minority Program Thad Wilderson stated, "I am not aware of Lyle Frank's suit against the college, and I have no re-

sponse. I don't know about the settlement, so I can't respond to that."

Dean of Students Mary Ackerman had no comment.

President Bob Gavin acknowledged Lyle Frank's Human Rights Complaint, and said that Frank withdrew



The Bells spoke to a large group.

Photo by Lisa Wright

## The Bells discuss parental notification laws

by Sally MacNeill

Pro-choice activists Karen and Bill Bell spoke Wednesday night to a packed crowd in the Union South Room about parental notification laws and a possibly impending change in the current abortion law in Minnesota.

In 1988, the Bell's 17-year old daughter Becky, not wanting them to know she needed an abortion, died from an illegal "back-alley" abortion because Indiana's strict parental notification law requires that both biological parents of a minor be notified before a legal abortion can be performed.

The Minnesota legislature is currently considering a revision of its strict parental

notification law. There are thirteen other states with similar laws, and with the 1990 Supreme Court decision to let states decide the abortion issue for themselves, many states are considering adopting similar laws.

The Bells came to St. Paul to try to persuade legislators to accept the more lenient "Trusted Adult Bill" being considered.

The bill would allow a guardian, a step-parent with custody, an adult family member over 18 years old, or a professional counselor such as a clergymember to be notified in place of the biological parents, if a young woman under 18 so chooses.

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