Thresher Surveys Negro "Strikes"

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Anonymous Rice Students Lend Aid To Racial Dispute

USING MAJOR FROM KANSAS CITY EXPELLED TYPICAL CAMPUS PRIDE IN THE NON-VIOLENT ASPECT OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND UPHOLDS RACLIFF'S STATEMENT THAT THE STRIKERS WERE INSPIRED BY SIMILAR ACTIONS AT OTHER SOUTHERN NEGRO COLLEGES, AND WERE NOT PARTICULARLY INSTIGATED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE CURRENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS OR THE NAACP. AS THIS REPORTER APPROACHED A GROUP OF TSU STUDENTS, THE RACIAL TENSIONS THAT HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN AT ONE OF THE BUSINESSES BY ANONYMOUS GROUP OF RICE STUDENTS

THIS RUMOR WAS "UNOFFICIAL" CONFIRMED BY ONE RICE STUDENT, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH ACTIVE SUPPORT HAD BEEN GIVEN BY STUDENTS ACTING AS INDIVIDUALS, SO AS NOT TO DRAW DIRECT CRITICISM ON RICE OR ANY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

The Cougar, student newspaper at the University of Houston, had reported rumors last week that the Methodist and Presbyterian organizations at Rice and the University of Houston were publicly supporting the demonstrators. Leaders of the religious groups quickly denied any official support by these organizations.

Cathy Young, editor of The Cougar, said Tuesday that the TSU striker's conduct was not a direct threat to the University of Houston campus. She said the student group had been under increasing pressure from the NAACP and other organizations.

The major of the students, questioned by The Thresher, said that they knew nothing about the demonstrations, and or expressed concern. A small but surprising number didn't know where or what Texas Southern University was.

HOWEVER, QUITE A FEW LIGHTENED DR. WHITE FOUND THE CITY EXPRESS GRO UNEED ASSEMBLY-MONSTERATIONS AS APPALLING.

A small number of anonymous Rice students actively supported the Texas Southern University students in their recent sit-down demonstrations at Houston lunch counters, an appallingly large number of Riceites expressed ignorance of the local Negro college students' attempts to bring racial discrimination by Houston businesses into national focus.

The demonstration, which ended last week after five days and six "struck" lunch counters were successful in drawing local and national attention to the existing racial discrimination.

Elijah W. Ratcliff, president of the TSU student council, told The Thresher the initial desire of the demonstrators was to show the dissatisfaction of Negro college students with the present conditions in the South, as was recently done by students at Alabama State, Fisk, Tennessee State and Florida A&M.

Although a relatively small percentage of TSU's 3100 students participated in the demonstrations, the TSU student body was virtually unanimous in its support, according to Ratcliff.

"WE ARE PROUD OF ALL OUR STUDENTS WHO ACT WITH DIGNITY FOR THEIR RIGHTS," DR. IRA A. BOLTON, DEAN OF STUDENTS AT TSU, STATED TO THE THRESHER. ADDING THAT THE DEMONSTRATION DID NOT RECEIVE THE SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT.

The leaders of the demonstrations drew a strong warning Tuesday from Mayor Lewis Cutrer that any future strikers would be prosecuted under a Texas law prohibiting unlawful assembly.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDENTS IS TO MEDICATE WITH AND BRING PRESSURE UPON LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO "RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE" AT THEIR LUNCH COUNTERS IN HOPES OF ELIMINATING THE DISCRIMINATION SHOWN AGAINST NEGRO CUSTOMERS.

PROUD OF THEIR WELL-ORDERED DEMONSTRATIONS, THE TSU STUDENTS ARE EXTREMELY LEERY OF BRINGING ANY VIOLENCE TO THEIR CAUSE.

Ratcliff firmly denied any connection between the demonstrators and the NAACP, although he pointed out that area NAACP leaders had expressed sentiment with the student strikers.

George Collins, president of the TSU sophomore class and accounting major from Kansas City expressed typical campus pride in the non-violent aspect of the demonstrations and upheld Ratcliff's statement that the strikers were inspired by similar actions at other Southern Negro colleges, and were not particularly instigated by the civil rights issue currently before Congress or the NAACP. As this reporter approached a group of TSU students, they asked questions about the situation, they became suddenly silent. A faculty member quickly approached and explained that students had been cautioned about discussing such touchy matters with the press.

President Ratcliff, a senior pre-law student from Livingston, expressed appreciation to Rice students for not being opposed to the demonstrations. He said he had heard that some students had been questioned at one of the businesses by an anonymous group of Rice students.

"WE JUST WANT TO DO "THE RIGHT THING" AS LONG AS EVERYBODY ELSE DOES IT," HE SAID, VOICING THAT CONCERN'S FEELING THAT BUSINESS COMES FIRST. HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON "THE RIGHT THING."

SEVERAL GROUPS OF WHITE SYMPATHIZERS ARE HAVING STAMPS MADE TO EXPRESS THEIR APPRoval OF INTEGRATED LUNCH COUNTERS ON BILLS AND CHECKS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES, ACCORDING TO THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. HE SOLICITED THE Aid OF RICE STUDENTS IN EXPRESSING SUCH SENTIMENT TO HOUSTON BUSINESSES EITHER USING THE STAMPS, WRITING LETTERS TO THE LOCAL NEWS PAPERS, OR ANY OTHER "ORDERLY" METHOD.

However, future attempts to infringe upon Houston's well-ingrained white supremacy may well mean trouble from local residents of both races, as evidenced by the recent KKK CARVING INCIDENT.

This incident, denounced by Senator Ralph Yarborough as "NOT A PART OF THE TEXAS WAY OF LIFE," BROUGHT REACTIONS OF HORROR FROM AUSTIN, WASHINGTON, AND THE VATICAN.

The THRESHER's survey of the TSU demonstrations revealed generally racially prejudiced ineligibility, relatively unconcerned about strong feelings a few blocks from Lovett Hall which may in future weeks cause a double-take or a chuckle from distant observers of the "LAND OF THE FREE."