UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON - DISCRIMINATION

Negro graduate student asked to leave University club at Madison.

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Negro Asked to Leave Club

U. W. Incident Revealed

Journal Special Correspondence

Madison, Wis.—A Negro graduate student at the University of Wisconsin was induced to leave the University club, where many members of the institution's faculty live, after he had received a night's accommodations there last month, it was learned Saturday.

The student is Arthur Burke, who is studying for a doctorate in English. While he was teaching at Hampton institute, a Negro college at Hampton, Va., earlier this year, he made a reservation to stay at the club upon his arrival in Madison. After he had spent the night of Sept 21 at the club, it was disclosed, he was asked to leave. He is now staying at the university YMCA.

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The incident came to light after a meeting of the club's board of trustees last Tuesday, at which the board was asked to rule on the action of the club's house committee in discouraging Burke's residence. The ruling was requested by Prof. Merle Curti, Pulitzer prize winning historian; Elizabeth Brandeis of the economics faculty; Dr. Louise Troxell, dean of women, and Harry Hamilton, representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at Madison.

Prof. Asher Hobson, president of the University club, would not divulge the outcome of the meeting, but others who attended said that no action was taken and that another meeting might be held soon.

As the incident was related Saturday, Burke was visited by Prof. Ernest F. Bean, chairman of the club's house committee, on the afternoon following his arrival. Bean expressed regret at inconveniencing Burke but said there was strong opposition to his continued stay on the part of some club members. He promised to help the Negro student find other living quarters and said the club would reimburse him for any loss he might incur.

Asked for Meeting

Burke asked that a membership meeting of the club be held on the matter, but he was told that although the club occasionally had quartered transient Negro guests it never had had permanent Negro residents. Burke also was informed that the club did not accept Negro members.

Burke, it was disclosed, rejected payment of his moving expenses in a letter saying it was "an affront to offer and would be craven to accept."

The club is not officially connected with the university.

Students Protest U. W. Race Issue

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Journal Special Correspondence

Madison, Wis.—At a meeting Monday night at the Wisconsin Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin students entered a controversy over the action of members of the University club in requesting a Negro graduate student to terminate his residence at the club.

Monday night's meeting was sponsored by the United States Students' association and was attended by members of various liberal groups on the campus. It was disclosed at the meeting that members of the club, made up of university faculty members, had received ballots inquiring whether they favored admitting Negroes to membership. The students voted to send representatives to the faculty members, urging them to raise no racial barrier to club membership.

The controversy came to light last week when it was learned that Arthur Burke, who holds a fellowship in English and is studying for a doctorate, had been asked to leave the club the day after his arrival in Madison Sept. 21. Burke had reserved quarters at the club by mail last August, when he was teaching at Hampton institute, a Negro college at Hampton, Va.

21 on U. W. Staff Protest Negro Ban

Journal Special Correspondence

Madison, Wis.—Exclusion of Negroes from the University club, where many male members of the University of Wisconsin's faculty stay, would damage the university's reputation for liberalism and democracy, 21 faculty members declared in a letter sent this week to club members.

Members of the club have been asked by its board of directors to turn in confidential ballots by Friday to determine whether it will be the club's policy to admit or to exclude Negroes. The ballots were distributed after an incident in which Arthur Burke, a Negro graduate student, gave up residence at the club at the request of its house committee.

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The letter urging members not to exclude Negroes was mailed Monday, but the fact that it had been sent was not disclosed until Thursday.

A "committee on democratic housing," composed of representatives of 15 campus organizations, was formed Wednesday in protest against Burke's exclusion.

University Club Makes Negro Student Member

Madison, Wis.—(AP)—The University club board of directors has voted to accept the membership application of Arthur Burke, Negro graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, who was ousted from his room at the club at the beginning of the semester. Prof. Ernest F. Bean, chairman of the house committee, Saturday announced acceptance of Burke's application. Club members voted to accept Negroes through balloting. Nonwhite students and faculty protest against Burke's ouster.

Education and Tolerance

Members of the University club at Madison have vindicated the faith that education can gradually lower the bars of intolerance. They have voted that the club will not exclude Negroes from membership.

The decision followed the temporary exclusion of an advanced graduate Negro student working for his doctor of philosophy degree. This man, it was agreed, was cultured and well mannered, but some members demanded—after he had been given a room at the club—that he be asked to get out, solely because he was a Negro. He was requested to leave and did. This caused a storm of protest from persons believing that university circles should be above such prejudice.

The majority vote of members of the University club at Madison shows that they are.

U. W. Student Board Protests Negro's Ouster

Madison, Wis.—(U.P.)—The student board of the University of Wisconsin, composed of delegates representing the entire student body, Tuesday night added its protest over the ousting of Arthur E. Burke, Negro graduate student, from the University club.

The board, by a vote of 9-1, opposed the ouster and adopted a resolution which called the action "contrary to our democratic beliefs . . . as well as the liberal history of the university."

Burke, who is studying for his doctorate degree, obtained a room at the club by mail last August and was asked to leave four days after he moved in. He claimed that customary measures had not been taken to put his name before the membership board.

U. W. Club Votes Negroes May Join

Madison, Wis.—(AP)—A count of ballots cast by members of the University club showed Saturday that a majority favor a policy of admitting Negroes to membership in the club.

The board of directors of the club had thrown the question open to the membership after receiving protests from members of the faculty and student body of the University of Wisconsin over the ousting of a Negro graduate student, Arthur E. Burke, from the room he had reserved at the club.

The exact count of the ballots was not announced.