

General Opinion

THE IFC COP-OUT

On Thursday, November 21, the Inter-Fraternity Council voted to approve the re-colonization of the historically black fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. With that vote the W&L community regressed into institutionalized segregation.

Twenty years ago none of the fraternities at W&L was integrated. Today, six of the fraternities have or have had at least one black member. True, the progress has been slow, it nevertheless has been progress. Now, rather than continuing forward, the IFC has abandoned ship.

Perhaps the most persuasive argument offered in favor of Alpha Phi Alpha is that it will enable the University to recruit more minorities. But do we want students to come to W&L intent on joining a segregated social fraternity? And just how social will this fraternity be without a house, without any plans of acquiring a house. The Fraternity Renaissance is the University's \$13 million testament that fraternity houses, the locale where bonds of brotherhood are cultivated and strengthened, are an integral aspect of Greek life.

Yet, the most disappointing and distressing aspect of the IFC proceedings, consisted not in the decision itself, but in the manner that several fraternity presidents who originally opposed the fraternity's colonization, changed their vote to dodge the odious label of "racist." But one is not a racist simply because he disagrees with eleven

black students. But some presidents attempted to preclude any accountability by requesting a closed vote.

Before reaching the IFC, Alpha Phi Alpha was first approved by the Student Affairs Committee, where E.C. President Giles Perkins cast the only dissenting vote. In his statement to the IFC, Perkins **claimed** that perhaps some could fault him for "living in the ideal" and foreseeing a time in which all the fraternities were integrated. Some could fault him? This is to his credit. Once we have stopped striding for perfection, what ideal do we have to target?

But the Alpha Phi vote was not decided on principle, but on pragmatism and expediency. With the return of Alpha Phi Alpha, the wishes of the myopic (for blacks and whites to each go their own way) have been achieved, meanwhile the long-awaited dream of integration has been pushed back once again.

BUT, IT SAID "WHAT?"

The Health Education Committee recently attempted to re-educate the W&L community concerning an admittedly sensitive and difficult

subject, sexual assault, in sponsoring the play *But I Said "NO."* But what message exactly was the play trying to promote?

For example, a typical episode of the play included a young woman angrily biting the genitals of a male. While this successfully incited the laughs and cheers of the audience, somewhere the message was lost. During this particular scene, the

young actress stated, "we were kissing and having a good time...the next thing I knew his ——— was in my mouth." She must have known how it got there. Are we to believe that she didn't?

And wouldn't parents and alumni be pleased to know that their daughters are subjected to such chivalric entertainment? Not to mention that the play's extremely vulgar language consistently profaned what was supposedly an important message concerning rape.

It is encouraging that the Health Education Committee is addressing the issue of rape. But why not sponsor a program that informs women and men how to avoid getting into precarious situations? Much of *But I Said "NO"* simply cracked jokes and made slurs, degrading society and men as a whole. Ironically, these productions which portray men and society as animals, are the first to portray surprise when they fail to meet certain behavioral standards. Why not stress abstinence from sex until marriage? This may seem unrealistic here knee-deep in the sexual revolution, but the consequences of that revolution which liberals still promoted is being witnessed with the vengeance of AIDS and the increasing reality of sexual assault. Rape is a difficult issue which cannot be resolved by silly, pedantic articles such as Professor Simpson's piece in the most recent issue of *The Traveller*. She claims that "college women are being raped by nice, ordinary college men. How does it happen?" Well Dr. Simpson, it doesn't happen. Nice, ordinary college men do not rape women.

The propaganda pamphlet issued by the Offstage Theatre Company of Charlottesville, who presented *But I Said "NO,"* claims "only 57% of women who were raped labeled their

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