Administration, Commission respond to incident

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Staff Writer

This week, both the administration and students are taking steps to assure that last weekend's racially charged incidents will not be forgotten or repeated. The recipient of the racially motivated hate letter, has returned to "K" after several days away.

"I'm scared," said the victim of the incident, when asked about his feelings towards life at "K." plans to continue his college studies. However, he is not sure whether he will stay at "K." he said.

One major step being taken is the establishment of a SafeWalk program. This is a program run by students for the students. President of Student Commission, Ben Indieke, said that while the program is still in its planning stages the school has already promised to support the program financially.

The SafeWalk program is designed to assure a safe campus at night by having qualified students patrol the campus in teams of two, one male and one female. The program would rely on volunteers at first, however Indieke said that the "SafeWalkers" would eventually be paid.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the program should attend an organizational meeting on Sunday at 6 p.m. in the President's Lounge. "I personally think that there is a pretty strong commitment from commissioners to fund events that support racial diversity," Indieke said.

Vice President of Experimental Education and Dean of Students Marilyn LaPonte said that the SafeWalk program has "limited appeal" for her because of the difficulty of organizing and monitoring it. She said that she would rather that students counted on one another.

A crucial step towards resolving this incident is finding those people or events responsible for the fire and the racist note. Both investigations are still in progress and the college has agreed to funnel any information received concerning the incidents to the Kalamazoo City Department of Public Safety.

Vice President of Experimental Education and Dean of Students Marilyn LaPonte said that the college will wait until the Public Safety Department completes its investigation. If they find that the offender is someone from within the college then the administration will hold its own judiciary meeting concerning the incident.

Until then LaPonte said that the administration will continue to encourage programs and activities that educate the students on the issue of diversity. More emphasis will be placed on how to deal with issues of race and diversity in the training of R.A.'s, Peer Leaders, and...
News

Learning Center at 'K' intended to help students improve in math and writing

Shea Hogan
Index Staff

The Learning Center is now open to help students who would like advice on math and writing assignments.

Although separate math and writing help centers opened independently a few years ago, they recently joined to form what is now known as the Learning Center.

Anne Dwekewe, whose predecessor was Joe Baird, took the director's position on Aug. 31 of this year. She also runs the Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program. This program gets upperclassmen to help first-year students with rigorous science classes like evolution.

The Learning Center is open Sunday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. in Olds-Upton room 321. According to Dwekewe, about five math tutors and 10 writing tutors work during the week. The number of students who go for assistance usually varies, with Sundays and Thursdays commonly being the busiest.

Dwekewe told students that the room itself is open all of the time. Anyone who wants a quiet place to study is more than welcome. The room also contains math and reference books for student use.

In the future, Dwekewe said that she hopes that the Learning Center will give instruction for time-management, help students with learning disabilities, and tutor other subjects like economics and languages.

Mexico: Changing Times and Changing History

Thirty years ago, soldiers and policemen crushed Mexico's first major pro-democracy movement with a massacre of demonstrators that is often likened here to the Tiananmen Square massacre in China. This year, the anniversary was for the first time declared an official day of mourning, with the demonstrators who died honored as revolutionaries.

On Oct. 2, 1969, thousands of demonstrators were surrounded by security forces who opened fire from tanks and helicopters. In diplomatic cables at the time, American embassy officials estimated that at least 2,000 people had been killed. Mexico's government said only 27 had died.

"This is a triumph of free expression over authoritarianism, of the Mexican people's version of history over the government's version," said Carlos Monriva, a prominent intellectual. But the complete truth is still out of reach. Recent revelations show that President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz orchestrated the bloodshed because he feared embarrassment by protests when Mexico City hosted the Olympics that month, and that his government went to great lengths to conceal his action.

China Bans the Sale of Blood

Reflecting a growing awareness that China's heavy reliance on paid blood is contributing to the rapid spread of AIDS, a new law banning the buying and selling of blood took effect last week.

Medical centers all over China are bracing for disruptions. To meet rising medical needs, China's hospitals use a system in which economically deprived people sell their blood, sometimes to middlemen who falsely declare that their products have been screened for disease.

Paying for blood, rather than relying on voluntary donations, has been virtually banned in most countries because it promotes the spread of AIDS, hepatitis and other infections.

But China is unusually reliant on paid sources. According to official statistics, 40 percent of all blood used in China has been sold, in some provinces it is even 90 percent. In part this is because many people fear, according to traditional belief, that giving up blood will harm their health. Some people suspect the overall hygiene at donation centers, and there is no ethic of giving blood to strangers in China.