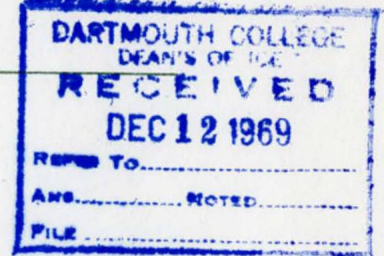




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Dean Brewster
Shockley



For Immediate Release:

HANOVER, N.H.---The eight members of the Judicial Advisory Committee for Black Students resigned last night (Tuesday) following a decision of Dartmouth College to place 17 black students on College Discipline for one term, without restrictions, for their participation October 15 in a clapping demonstration that prevented Stanford University physicist William Shockley from delivering a controversial talk on race and genetics.

The Judicial Advisory Committee, established to hear disciplinary or academic standing cases involving black students on their request and to make recommendations to the College Committee on Standing and Conduct, had urged in a lengthy and detailed report that no penalty be assessed against the 17 black students charged with violation of Dartmouth's regulation on Freedom of Expression and Dissent in the Shockley incident.

The members of the Judiciary Committee, comprising four students and four members of the faculty, wrote in a memorandum addressed to the Dartmouth College Community: "The Members of the Black Judiciary Committee at Dartmouth College have resigned, effective immediately. We have taken this action because of the ruling of the College in the Shockley incident.

"Our 29-page report to the College concluded after rational argument that the students were not guilty for three basic reasons. First, free speech is not violated since Mr. Shockley's proposed speech amounted to group libel not protected by the Constitution. Second, the students acted in self-defense. Third, responsibility for the incident lay with all parties involved with Mr. Shockley, primarily, but also with the Academy and the College as well as with the students. To single

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out for punishment students who were most likely to be harmed and insulted by the speech does in our opinion demonstrate an inflexible attitude on the part of the College. This makes any further activities of the Black Judiciary Committee futile.

"The Black Judiciary Committee came into existence because black students on campus indicated a lack of faith in the ability of the College Committee on Standing and Conduct to judge cases involving them. When the College approved the Black Judiciary Committee it implicitly acknowledged the difficult communications problem between blacks and whites on campus. Unfortunately the most recent action by the College only serves to exacerbate the problem. The judgment to penalize the students failed to answer any of the arguments put forward by us.

"It is now clear to members of the Black Judiciary Committee that the College Committee on Standing and Conduct representing the College betrays an inability or unwillingness to grapple with the central issues raised in our report. To find students guilty and hand out a mild penalty because of "extenuating circumstances" is, to our mind, an exercise in appeasement. We recognize the College's concern with the opinions of those outside the immediate campus community. But we feel that such concern should not take precedence of the welfare of members of this community. Any evasion of truth or a refusal to face realities will threaten the very life of the institution."

The memorandum was signed by all members of the committee, which was chaired by Larry Stephans, '70, of Roosevelt, N.Y. Other members are: Larry Barr, '72, of Charleston, S. Carolina; Robert Carter, '71, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Isaac Heard, '71, of Charlotte, N. Carolina, all undergraduates; and Henry Ehrmann, the Joel Parker Professor of Law and Political Science; Errol Hill, professor of drama and associate director of theater; Jonathan Mirsky, assistant professor of Chinese and co-director of the East Asia Language & Area Studies Center, and Robert G. McGuire, III, instructor of social science, and coordinator of the Black Studies Program at Dartmouth.