

The Peoria Transcript
Established 1855

CONTINUING
The Peoria Journal
Established 1877

The Peoria Star
Established 1897

B. U. Statement Sound

Bradley's statement of principles is balanced and sound. It is neither a white nor a black orientation.

It recognizes a fundamental problem which the recent Irish-American funsters overlooked, and yet by their very antics emphasized. What made the Irish-American satire a comic performance was the obvious fact that these "Irish-Americans" don't NEED the things they demanded. The demands were not only not serious, but absurd BECAUSE NO SUCH NEED EXISTS. Hence, satire!

Yet, there was a time when there was an intense "revival" of Gaelic, a mystic philosophic reverence for a glorious old "pastoral paradise" which was a mythical Irish past, glorification of a handful of second-rate and obscure patriotic Irish "poets" and artists, and militant "Fenian" societies.

(For a time many of the truly great Irish men of letters, etc., were regarded as the Irish equivalent of "Uncle Toms.")

The Irish have outgrown those obvious feelings of a once intense NEED for special identity, and acquired confidence in their individual identities as persons independent of such artificial window-dressing.

Effective Education

The fact that this was now a joke to them only underlines the obvious truth that they have a confident and comfortable place in society that the Black Students Alliance people do not share. It only cries out the louder that there is a empty space for the Black students that desperately needs filling.

Filling it is not the business of Bradley university, nor does Bradley have the resources for such a task — but, insofar as it relates to making the university's educational task EFFECTIVE for Americans regard-

less of race, the university does have some responsibility in the matter.

The statement faces that fact, and recognizes where the line of responsibility begins and ends calmly, carefully, and with great balance and judgment.

At the same time, with an example of activity or a tactic that steps out of the bounds of tolerability, the university has made it clear that complementing its efforts to do its appropriate share to make educational opportunities fit the different situations, violations of civil rights will not be tolerated.

It is tragic when in the confusion of these problems the sacred and fundamental civil rights of any student, white or black, is arrogantly abused or ignored — and that struggle must go forward on behalf of the black student. It has not been fully accomplished yet.

It is certainly unfortunate when the struggle is diverted and confused by any incident which makes it necessary to protect the civil rights of white students.

Such actions are a self-indulgence that injures the causes the Black Student Alliance has embraced by violating the very principle on which their claims must stand, and by confusing the issues and the merits of their case.

Fortunately, Bradley university has not let itself be confused, and the administration has laid out the problem, its proper aims and capacities, and the inescapable rules by which the school MUST operate on these matters if it is to be a workable and responsible academic institution.

The statement of principles was unruffled, balanced, and sound.

It will have to be implemented with conviction whichever way the ball bounces, regardless of race, of course.