

# World and Nation

## Campus conflict

### Racial incidents at University of Connecticut spark debate

By STACI COX  
Staff Writer

The harassment of eight Asian-American students in December 1987 by two white football players at the University of Connecticut has sparked student and faculty charges that the university administration has been unresponsive to growing incidents of racism on the campus.

The Asian-American students alleged that they were accosted by the football players on a bus while on their way to an off-campus semi-formal dance. According to the students, one of the players spit tobacco juice on one of the students and yelled obscenities at the others while the rest of the passengers looked on or laughed.

At the dance, one of the players mooned the Asian-American students and exposed himself to one of the girls, dancing around her with his pants down.

In a university-conducted hearing, the football players were found guilty of harassment for their actions on the bus, and both were removed from student housing. The events at the dance were beyond university jurisdiction.

The names of the accused and the details of the hearing cannot be released under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

One of the players voluntarily left school, but the other moved off campus and was allowed to continue playing football.

"The university has really dragged

its feet on this," Jim Faris, professor of anthropology at Connecticut, said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "Overt racism is going on every day against everyone who is different on this campus."

Questioning during the hearing was one-sided, and two witnesses were recalled 12 hours after the end of the hearing in an attempt to make them alter their testimony, said Paul Bock, professor of hydrology and water resources.

"There were gross irregularities in the proceedings. The worst part in my mind is even though they were found guilty, the university said the football players had been tried fairly and could therefore play football," Bock said.

But administrators disagree. Vice President of Student Affairs Carol Wiggins, who handles all appeals for non-housing and severe housing infractions, said she reviewed the case thoroughly and found no irregularities.

"I am totally comfortable with the way the dean of students handled that case," Wiggins said. "Of course, that doesn't satisfy anyone."

"The case is closed. We can't have double jeopardy."

University of Connecticut President John Casteen made no statement concerning the 1987 attack until May 1988 during commencement, and then only under pressure from the faculty and students, Bock said.

Many students and faculty members were outraged by the seeming indif-

ference of the university toward the attack and other complaints of racism, he said.

"The president addressed the incident at commencement and joined the Asian-American students in wearing 'UConn against racism' buttons," said Debra Burns, executive assistant to Casteen. "It was a time to make the statement when students and parents were present and to remember that UConn does not tolerate racism."

Casteen does not make a statement about every incident on campus, and because students can take their final appeals to him, a public statement could be against the defendants' rights, Wiggins said.

"We're a huge campus with a diversity of people. There is no more racism here than anywhere else in the nation where so many different peoples are thrown together, and we are continually working against it," she said.

In 1986, racial slurs were written with feces on the wall and a dead chicken was nailed to the room door of a resident assistant who is of Vietnamese descent, Bock said. The university administration could not find the perpetrators and relocated the entire floor.

"That's like spreading a social disease," Bock said.

Focusing on an old case is not getting anything accomplished, and it must be left alone if the university is to move ahead and work against racism, Wiggins said. The admini-

stration operated completely within its guidelines and regulations to reach a decision, she said.

Faris and Bock accused the university of trying to cover up the incidents and reduce embarrassment. "They did insist on a complete hearing and following the letter of their laws," Faris said. "Well, George Wallace argued that for years on the steps of Alabama schools."

The administration has tried to dilute the problems and make them seem less important than they are, he said.

"They've set up committee after committee and tried to pass responsibility to somebody up the line. The university lives in mortal terror that they're going to be sued."

Bock said the university isn't doing enough to raise awareness of racism and its consequences. He cited an incident in which the student newspaper referred to a visiting speaker as "half American, half Asian."

"When we complained, they couldn't see that as a slur. He was an American citizen, not half anything," Bock said.

Faris agreed that students need to be educated about different cultures and that resident assistants in particular need extra training.

"UConn is in the middle of the countryside and doesn't offer much to the minority students, most of whom are from the inner city. A lot of the local good old boys rarely come in contact with different people until they get here," Faris said.

## Inaugural address to ask for public's support, Bush says

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — George Bush, on the eve of his swearing-in as president, said Thursday he plans no instant domestic initiatives, no "first 100 days" and isn't ready to entertain a new East-West summit or arms talks pending a reassessment of superpower relations.

Bush said his inaugural address, after taking the presidential oath at noon Friday, would be "a broad appeal to the American people to pitch in and help," but without many specific calls to action.

"It will be an expression of satisfaction about how far we've come as a nation, and a recognition that we've got a long way to go," the president-elect said in an interview. At the same time, he called the concept of a busy "first 100 days" initiative with Congress one "that doesn't really apply" to a sitting vice president elected to the presidency.

**Mayor denies drug connection**

WASHINGTON — Mayor Marion Barry Jr. appeared under subpoena Thursday before a federal grand jury investigating his ties to a suspected drug dealer. Barry told reporters he had done nothing wrong and was not the target of the probe.

"I'm not in trouble," Barry said at an impromptu news conference as he headed into the grand jury's meeting room in the federal courthouse. "The public sometimes has

### News in Brief

the impression that going before a grand jury means that someone is guilty... but it only means they are investigating. That's the American way."

The mayor was subpoenaed after failing to answer an informal request that he appear. Barry is expected to testify before the grand jury again next week, Mundy said.

**Marcos remains in hospital**

NEW YORK — A hearing on whether Ferdinand Marcos is too sick to stand trial on racketeering charges was interrupted Thursday with word that the deposed Philippine president had suffered a collapsed left lung.

Prosecutors were cross-examining a doctor who had testified that Marcos was a "dying man," too ill to be brought to trial, when a FBI agent entered and handed a note to a prosecutor with word on the 71-year-old former president.

After conferring with lawyers in his chambers, U.S. District Judge John Keenan announced that Marcos' left lung collapsed that morning and that he was returned to the intensive care unit at St. Francis Medical Center in Honolulu, where he has been since Sunday with pneumonia and bronchial asthma.

## Reagan concerned over continued hostage captivity in Lebanon

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Thursday that he was frustrated over his inability to free Americans held hostage in Lebanon and conceded, a day before leaving office, "We don't know where they are."

Even to the end of his presidency, Reagan said, officials were continuing to explore "quietly and privately" how to win freedom for the nine Americans. "There hasn't been a moment that this isn't on our minds,"

he said.

"We know that any overt attempt at rescue, even if we did have a hint or a clue (about their whereabouts), could run the risk of their assassination or execution before we could get them out," he told reporters for The Associated Press and other news services.

Reagan also said in the wide-ranging interview:

He continues to believe U.S. arms sales to Iranian elements in 1985 and 1986 did not constitute an attempt

to trade arms for the hostages, held by pro-Iranian Lebanese kidnapers. Viewing the sale as an attempted swap amounted, he said, to "a total media distortion."

He still feels former White House aides Oliver North and John Poindexter will be found innocent of criminal wrongdoing in connection with the arms deal. He seemed to rule out granting pardons for either man before leaving office at noon Friday, saying to do so would "leave them forever after with that guilt hanging over them."

He said he has great confidence in George Bush's ability to handle U.S.-

Soviet relations.

As to the hostages, Reagan said their situation did not parallel that of the 52 Americans freed from captivity the day he took office, Jan. 20, 1981, after 444 days as prisoners in Iran.

During the 1980 campaign against Jimmy Carter, Reagan criticized the president for being unable to win their release.

Reagan had criticized Carter's handling of the hostage taking at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran as "too sluggish" and had said on Jan. 7, 1980:

"I believe it's appropriate to suggest that anything that has been done by the administration so far, could have, should have, been done in the first hour."

In Thursday's interview, Reagan declined to take back the criticism.

"We were facing two very different situations," he said, noting that in the earlier situation, more than 50 people had been taken prisoner in the embassy and had been kidnapped by the government of Iran.

On the other hand, he said, the Americans held in Lebanon were kidnapped individually by terrorists.

Nine Americans are prisoners. Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson has been held the longest, since March 16, 1985.

On the question of U.S. dealings with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Reagan said he thought Bush would move forward on the issue of reducing stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons, but that caution should be used.

Reagan said he does not believe he is less popular in Europe than Gorbachev, as some polls have said.

"I can't quite accept that he's more popular than I am," Reagan said.

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## Violent protests persist in Czechoslovakia

From Associated Press reports

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia — Riot police beat protesters with clubs Thursday and formed human cordons to drive 2,000 people from Wenceslas Square, where activists demanding more human rights have rallied five straight days.

More than a dozen protesters were beaten badly and at least 10 were

dragged away by police during a melee that broke out after authorities shouted through loudspeakers that the rally was unauthorized.

It was the most violent clash between protesters and police since the gatherings began Sunday.

The crowd had been chanting slogans demanding broader freedoms in the communist-ruled nation, but

those slogans changed to "Gestapo! Gestapo!" when the baton-wielding wave of riot police swept through, lashing out indiscriminately.

Mayor Vdenek Horcik appealed for the "provocations" to stop. In an address on national television, which appeared after the main evening news, Horcik urged parents and teachers to keep young people off the streets and said the police action was necessary to maintain order.

The crowd assembled shortly after 5 p.m., when many Prague residents were on their way home after work.

They shouted "Free Havel!" and "Let them go!" referring to human rights activist Vaclav Havel and 14 others jailed for taking part in earlier protests.

Hundreds of officers poured into the half-mile-long square from side-streets when the protesters refused to leave, charging the crowd and pushing them along the boulevard.

Police vans and ambulances with sirens blaring arrived to help force away the demonstrators. Water cannons were brought onto the square but not used.



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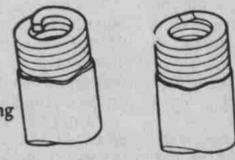


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