Extra **THE UBYSSEY** Extra

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## AMS GENERAL MEETING

# Religious Clubs' Suspension To Be Reconsidered Friday

Student Council President Dick Underhill has called a special general meeting of the Alma Mater Society for Friday in an attempt to win reinstatement for the Newman Club and the Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Student Council will present this motion for student approval at the AMS meeting, to be held at noon in the Armouries:

**"That the rule against discrimination shall not prevent religious clubs from restricting membership, to those of their specific religious beliefs."**

Also to be presented at the meeting: A motion reaffirming AMS repugnance to "unfair" discrimination, and calling for Student Council action against discrimination in fraternities

The motion will be presented by a group of students which includes second-year artsman Sandy Manson and Teacher Training student Vaughan Lyon, who have secured a petition of 100 names to insure that their motion will not be ruled out of order.

Student Council motion was approved by Councillors Monday night, after a storm of public protest against the suspension of the two clubs by Student Council March 22 on the grounds that the clubs' constitutions contain "discriminatory clauses."

Suspension of the two clubs resulted from the general AMS meeting of March 19, 1953, when students voted to give all campus organizations one year to remove discriminatory clauses from their constitutions. Councillors said they were "forced" to take action against the Newman Club and the VCF.

The protests by the general public included attacks against UBC in two editorials, three newspaper columns, and dozens of letters to Student Council and President N. A. M. MacKenzie.

The letters prompted Dr. MacKenzie to summon Student Councillors to a meeting at the Faculty Club two days after the suspension, where he and five other Faculty Council members attempted to persuade Councillors to rescind their ruling.

Councillors admitted that the action was unjust, but refused to backtrack, on the grounds that they had been given a direct mandate by the students. Instead, they agreed to call a general meeting to allow students themselves to reconsider the suspension.

**"Since then, however, an Undergraduate Societies Committee meeting (Monday noon) defeated by only a 4-3 margin a motion reaffirming suspension of the two clubs. Most of the USC representatives abstained from the voting.**

## EDITORIAL

**If a motion reinstating the Newman Club and the Varsity Christian Fellowship is not approved by students tomorrow, at least part of the blame must be shouldered by President MacKenzie.**

**After the President's tactless statements to the downtown press, and his apparent dictating to Student Council at the meeting in the Faculty Club, students may be resentful enough to refuse to backtrack solely to affirm the right of student autonomy.**

**Despite any such resentment, however, it is plain that the two clubs should be reinstated, just as it is plain that the motion aimed at discrimination in fraternities should be supported. Reason for this can be found elsewhere on this page.**

**A few Students may have struggled through a welter of considerations and principles to come up with the conviction that the two clubs are unfairly discriminatory, but even with this view, suspending the two clubs would mean tenaciously holding to shaky principles in the face of all facts.**

**And these facts are that suspending the clubs has been responsible for a new height of ill-feeling both within and without the University, while retention of the restrictive clauses by the two clubs in the past has caused no trouble at all.**

**The Student Council motion is satisfactory except in one respect: allowing "religious clubs" to restrict membership leaves a loophole which would permit unfair discrimination by other groups.**

**The motion should be amended to grant the right to restrict membership only to clubs whose primary purpose is furthering a religion otherwise, a fraternity could argue that it is a "religious" club merely because it says prayers before each of its meetings.**

**It is with fraternities that the entire issue of discrimination on the campus arose. Tomorrow, we can re-direct our attention to fighting unfair discrimination where it actually exists at UBC.**

## Issue Arose Two Years Ago

Here is the entire history of the issue, starting from the general AMS meeting two years ago which first outlawed discrimination:

**March 18, 1952:** Annual general AMS meeting passed this motion:

"Whereas the students of UBC regard racial and religious discrimination as fundamentally evil, and;

"Whereas certain campus organizations practice such discrimination, thereby bringing the name of the university into ill repute;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alma Mater Society recommend to the Faculty Council that all campus organizations with discriminatory clauses in their constitutions be instructed to remove such clauses within a reasonable time."

**March 19, 1953:** Annual general AMS meeting amended the above motion to read "within one year," instead of "within a reasonable time."

**March 15, 1954:** Faculty Council refused to issue an ultimatum to discriminatory fraternities, on the grounds that the fraternities, who have already twice gone on record as being against discrimination, would be unable to vote for removal of the offensive clauses at their international conventions — the only method by which the clauses can be removed.

**March 18, 1954:** AMS general meeting approved Faculty Council report which refused the request for an ultimatum, and voted disapproval of a motion submitted by AMS Treasurer Allan Goldsmith which would exempt the Newman Club and the Varsity Christian Fellowship from the one-year ultimatum issued AMS clubs.

Goldsmith's motion asked that minority groups be given the right to discriminate against majority groups.

## Council Directed To Suspend

**March 22:** Student Councillors suspended the Newman Club and the Varsity Christian Fellowship. VCF requires that all would-be members sign a card affirming their belief in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and the Newman Club will grant voting privileges only to members who are Roman Catholics. Student Council ruled that these restrictions are "discriminatory clauses."

At the same time, Student Council decided not to launch further investigations into discrimination in Greek Letter Societies, following a report from WUS President, Nan Adamson, that there are no discriminatory clauses in the charters of UBC sororities.

**March 25:** President MacKenzie summoned Student Council to a meeting in the Faculty Club. Also present: Dean Walter Gage, Dean Geoffrey Andrew, Dean Henry Angus, Dean S. N. F. Chant, and Dr. Gordon Shrum. Councillors voted at this meeting to hold a special general AMS meeting.

**March 29:** USC meeting rejected motion urging continued suspension of VCF and Newman Club. Proposed by Teacher Training representative Roi Daniells, the motion won support from two other representatives. Four voted against, and the remainder abstained.

**March 29:** Student Council meeting approved motion to be presented at general meeting almost unanimously. No one voted against it, but two Councillors abstained.

# Cooperation With Frats Needed, Says Manson

Obviously the first thing we must do on Friday is to take the ban off Newman Club and VCF, since only a warp-minded Council could possibly think them "discriminatory" to the point of being evil.

Is there anything more we should do?

Myself, I should say we might redirect our attentions to the fraternities. After all, the offending clauses are still there. However, in doing so, there are one or two things we should keep in mind. We have learned a few things since first we set out on this crusade.

First, we have learned that most fraternity men are in wholehearted agreement with us. Second, we have learned that the fraternities are not under AMS jurisdiction. And third, we have learned that Faculty Council, which IS in authority over the fraternities, will not in this case make them do anything they don't want to do.

To be specific, I think that by passing a resolution attacking discriminatory clauses—not the fraternities, but the discriminatory clauses—in the strongest words possible, and promising investigation of all possible means by which their removal may be effected, we can give intelligent fraternity men some very strong ammunition with which to pepper their international conventions.

There is also the possibility that we might do this in conjunction with other student bodies on other campuses. This would be an even greater blow.

So let us move such a motion, and let us urge Council to discuss the whole question with other university Councils across the continent. Far from having lost the battle, we have only now begun to fight.

— SANDY MANSON

# Joint Statement By Newman, VCF Clubs

Members of the B.C. Dental Association met in convention recently at Victoria. They held meetings, set policy, and moved through a schedule of functions planned for them. Only dentists were allowed, but no one screamed "discrimination."

Why not? Because everyone understands the objectives of the B.C. Dental Association. They recognized the Association's right to base its membership on certain professional qualifications.

If the objectives of the Varsity Christian Fellowship and the Newman club were as well understood there would be no problem in recognizing their right to base their membership on certain religious qualifications.

V.C.F. has its object "to unite men and women who in university life are earnestly desiring to extend Christ's kingdom at home and abroad." (Constitution).

The objective of the Newman Club is to provide a balanced religious intellectual and social program based on practice of the Catholic religion. The practice of Catholicism is the foundation of the whole program.

Both V.C.F. and Newman have well defined objectives. All they ask of an applicant is that he believe in and be able to live up to the objectives of the club he joins before he is given the right to contribute to the policy of the club.

The V.C.F. and Newman do not want the right to "discriminate" but they want their right to operate recognized.

**The Ubyssey was unable to find, up until press time, a student who was willing to make a statement arguing for the continued suspension of the Newman Club and the Varsity Christian Fellowship.**

# Student Council Presents Motion

In asking for clarification of the question of discrimination, Student Council wishes to reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of discrimination based upon bigotry or prejudice.

Student Council feels however, that a religious club which wishes to limit full membership to adherents of its own faith is not discriminating because of bigotry or prejudice. No one feels hurt or humiliated because they can't vote at a religious club's meeting.

We believe that there is no simple definition or phrase which will provide a universal test for determining what amounts to discrimination. Instead we are presenting a brief and specific proviso to the general rule condemning discrimination on the grounds of race and religion.

Council feels that if the students pass this resolution, we will be better able to carry out the spirit of the resolutions against discrimination.

Three general meetings of the A.M.S. have gone emphatically on record as condemning all discrimination by campus organizations on the basis of race or religion. Student Council felt that the suspended clubs were within the terms of these resolutions.

In suspending the two clubs, Council did not feel that the two clubs were practicing harmful discrimination. Rather we felt that is was our duty to carry out the clearly exprsessed wishes of the students.

We feel that nothing less than a decision of a general meeting of the A.M.S. can relieve us from the obligation to suspend any campus organization, no matter what its purposes are, which restricts religious membership on the basis of religion.