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The September 29th Movement's Homepage

The September 29th Movement is dedicated to the elimination of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and classism at Iowa State University, recognizing that changing the name of Catt Hall, a symbol of exclusion, must be the first step in that struggle.

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● Get Involved!

*"The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the
foundations of our nation until the bright day justice emerges,"
-- Martin Luther King, Jr. in "I have a Dream."*

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An Agenda for Mediated Discussions Between The September 29th Movement and the ISU Administration

Issues for Resolution:

The September 29th Movement is dedicated to the elimination of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and classism at Iowa State University, recognizing that changing the name of Catt Hall, a symbol of exclusion, must be the first step in that struggle.

1. Reopen the naming process of Catt Hall. The past two years have been filled with marches, speeches, rallies, and an overall atmosphere of activism regarding the name of Catt Hall. Much of this energy has manifested itself in exhaustive research done by faculty, staff, and students. This research shows that Catt did not utter one regrettable phrase but acted continually in a fashion which promoted the hatred of non-majority groups on the basis of ethnicity and geographic origin. As a consequence, we request the following:

- That the naming process of Catt Hall be reopened.
- That a new committee be formed to decide on the name of the building formerly known as Old Botany.
- That this committee will be a special body formed in response to the distinct circumstances surrounding the naming of Catt Hall. This committee will replace the regular process for the naming of streets and buildings and will have full authority to decide the name of the building formerly known as Old Botany.
- That this committee will be composed of 8 members to be chosen by the ISU administration and 8 members to be chosen by The September 29th Movement. The committee will select a 17th member who will act as chairperson but who will remain impartial to the business of the committee. The chairperson shall be empowered to vote if and only if there is a tie.
- That this committee be formed within two weeks of resolution of this proposal (Item #1 of this agenda.)
- That this committee will hold public forums during its decision-making process.
- That this committee will otherwise hold private sessions for other business.
- That this committee will conduct or supervise the research of potential alternative names for the building formerly known as Old Botany.
- That this committee's final decision will be made by a simple majority.
- That this committee's decision should be made within the 97/98 academic year.
- That the decision of this committee will be binding on all parties. The September 29th Movement will recognize that this new naming process was fair. President Jischke will approve the decision of the committee and will forward this decision to the Board of Regents within one month of the committee's decision.

The items which follow are essential to mediation, but are presented here in general form. Specific proposals with numerical figures will be proposed before discussion of these issues.

2. A large increase in funding to all cultural studies programs targeted at increasing tenured faculty and program curriculum. For quite some time, Iowa State's cultural studies programs have been funded in poor fashion. For example, Native American Studies has been very poorly funded since its inception. If our commitment to becoming the best land grant institution in the nation is serious, we must strengthen and nurture all of our academic disciplines regardless of the fact that this is an institution originally founded in science and technology. The study of other cultures is crucial to the development of science and technology. Throughout history there have been many scientific and technological advances made by other cultures that have directly effected the science and technology which we build on today. Thus, not only will increased funding to cultural studies programs enhance the ability of graduates of ISU to understand others and communicate in an ever-growing global community, but it will also build upon the outstanding technological and scientific reputation of this institution. This commitment of funding

should be made available for the Fall 1998 Semester.

3. The creation of an Asian/Asian-American Studies Program. Asian/Asian-American students constitute the second most populous minority at Iowa State. Justification for the creation of such a program is the same as is provided in Item #2.

4. Increased support for LGBT students, faculty, and staff. The needs of LGBT students far exceed the time and resources that are available under the current system. As a consequence, we request the following*:

- That the staff position in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Student Services (LGBTSS) be promoted to full-time director.
- That the office space for LGBTSS be enlarged. This larger space should house the Director of LGBTSS, the merit staff member, and the graduate assistants. Space within the expanded LGBTSS office area should be provided for a LGBT student center and the current LGBTSS Library and the space should be conducive to future expansion.
- That improved training and orientation of staff and faculty regarding LGBT issues be developed under the auspices of the Center for Teaching Excellence.
- That an introduction to LGBT issues and resources be included in new student orientation.
- That the recruitment and retention of LGBT faculty be improved. The health insurance provided to unmarried couples costs \$110 per month more than that provided to married couples as a direct result of ISU policy. The city of Iowa City offers health insurance to unmarried couples at the same rate as married couples. Thus, there are no state or federal laws that prevent such a policy from being implemented.
- That the creation of an LGBT studies program be initiated through the recruitment of faculty who study LGBT issues. The study of LGBT issues should be promoted in the classroom as a part of the diversity requirement.

* Many of these suggestions were proposed by the Task Force on Retention of Undergraduate Special Population Students in its final report of March 24, 1997.

5. A large increase in funding to the Carver Academy aimed at the following:

- The recruitment of larger numbers of low income (as defined by the Department of Education), first generation, and minority students.
- The employment of additional staff to assist with larger numbers of students.

In a nation in which one of the fastest growing segments of the population are those who speak Spanish as a native language, it is vital that educational institutions dedicate themselves to the recruitment of Spanish speakers. The same is true for the disproportionate number of African American and Native American peoples who live at or below poverty level. By improving the ability of MSA to reach out to these populations, Iowa State will become a leader in efforts to expand educational inclusion whereby a larger number of students who are eligible to participate in the Carver Academy will be provided opportunities for success. Such action will greatly contribute to efforts to diversify our campus. Increased funding should be made available for the Fall 1998 Semester, recognizing that new staff will need to be hired during the summer to accommodate new students.

6. A large increase in all MSA programs whose purpose is the retention of the populations MSA serves. Once students have been recruited to Iowa State and begin their academic careers here, it is vital that very strong retention programs exist to promote academic excellence and to support the efforts of students toward success. Without these programs, recruitment efforts will not succeed in diversifying our campus and will only create a revolving door of failure. Clearly, if recruitment is to succeed it must be complemented by very strong retention programs. Increased funding should be available by the Fall 1998 Semester, recognizing that new staff will need to be hired over the summer to accommodate new

students.

7. A commitment by Iowa State University to renovate Morrill Hall into a Multi-Cultural Center. If Iowa State University is to be the best land grant university in the nation, it is imperative that there be a building located on central campus dedicated to the research, discussion, and celebration of a multiplicity of cultures. Morrill Hall provides a unique opportunity for such a center, and would emphasize the connection between land grant institutions and diversity. This commitment should be finalized by the end of the Fall 1997 Semester.

8. A large increase in funding for the Kuumba Multi-Cultural School. Extension is an essential component of the mission of land grant institutions. Thus, it is important that Iowa State branch out its diversity goals into the surrounding Ames community.

9. A commitment by the Iowa State administration to be more inclusive in decision-making. The controversy surrounding the naming of Catt Hall might have been avoided had the administration made a greater effort to be inclusive in decision-making. The administration should commit to increased inclusion of students, faculty, and staff in decision-making. The administration should also commit to the inclusion of representatives of diverse groups on campus.

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The September 29th Movement

HAND-DELIVERED

February 11, 1998

Martin C. Jischke
President
117 Beardshear Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50010

Dear President Jischke:

In response to your letter of February 2, 1998, we express our strong preference for a series of meetings between our parties, to be scheduled immediately and to begin within the month of February. Since your letter of February 2, we have made our preference for meetings abundantly clear, both through conversations you and your representatives have had with Dr. George Jackson, and in news publications such as the Iowa State Daily and the Ames Daily Tribune. We do not believe that there could have been any confusion on your part regarding our insistence for meetings with you, but, because you have requested this letter, we are delivering it to you to make our position clear beyond any possibility for misunderstanding. Because we have already expressed our preference for meetings through other means, we hope that your response to this letter will be prompt.

Again, our requests are very simple:

We would like to schedule a series of meetings between the Ames Branch of the NAACP, the Iowa-Nebraska Branch of the NAACP, the UCCM, representatives from the Black Faculty and Staff, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as well as your office and representatives of The September 29th Movement. We would request that the meetings be scheduled before the close of the week. We would request that the first meeting occur before the close of February, and that a majority of the meetings occur before Spring Break.

We understand that your schedule is very busy. As a consequence, we are willing to schedule meetings for the evenings, for the weekends, or for any other times that would match your schedule.

We request that the content of the meetings be recorded for review by the citizens of Iowa upon completion of all meetings. However, we are willing to forego recording if you insist against it.

It is not necessary to wait for the completion of the compliance review being conducted by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) of the Department of Education. Representatives of the Department of Education have confirmed that their investigation into the climate at ISU was not prompted by complaints made by The September 29th Movement. Furthermore, they have stated that meetings between your office and the Movement would not interfere with their investigation. Considering that the OCR will not be on campus to conduct its investigation until late April, it would be an unnecessary delay to wait for the completion of their investigation to resolve the issues between us.

You have, in the past, expressed a preference for less structured meetings, similar to the meetings described by our proposal above. You have also said that you are always willing to meet with students. As a consequence, we see no reason why meetings between your office, The September 29th Movement, and the organizations listed above, should not proceed immediately. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Johnson
for the Central Committee, The September 29th Movement

cc: Dr. George Jackson, NAACP Ames Office



The September 29th Movement

Solidarity Page -- In Solidarity with Allan Nosworthy

☒ Toward Resolution

The purpose of this page is to provide information about the ongoing efforts to resolve the conflict between The September 29th Movement and the ISU Administration.

● The hunger strike by Allan Nosworthy.

"In My View" by Allan Nosworthy, Iowa State Daily Opinion Page, 9/22/97

This details the reasons behind the hunger strike

A diary by Allan Nosworthy

A day by day accounting of the hunger strike

Allan Nosworthy discusses the hunger strike after it's over.

Iowa State University Daily Coverage

9/23/97

9/25/97

9/29/97

9/30/97

Editorial Support

9/24/97

9/29/97

Some Letters of Support

Meron Wondwosen and Randall Duval

Joshua Weems

Bob Mohr

Mariama Hodari

Crystal Voight

AD Selha

Brandon Lacy

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Day 2

And so we begin. Each one of us chooses how, where, and when we fight and what it is we shall fight for. I seem to have the consistent disposition of fighting for the "have nots" no matter where I seem to travel. What I would ask of each of you to do is spread the word. In New York, I'm sure that WBAI (downstate) would like to get a hold of a story like this one. At SUNY Buffalo, there are some active student groups who might be willing to support something like this as well as start up similar requests on their own campus. Out in Anchorage, I'm sure students would be interested in these issues. Spread the word. However each one of you thinks would be fitting and would be supportive, spread the word in such a manner.

Everyday, starting on 9/22/97, at 11:50am, I will leave my office or home and go to Beardshear Hall, the main administration building at ISU. I will bring a radio with me. When I arrive, I will walk up to the second tier of stairs and place my radio on the stone staircase. In the cassette deck I will have a tape of speeches. The only speech I will play lasts for approximately 27 minutes. It is a speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. titled "But, if not". I shall play this speech everyday at the same time, in the same place. It is a powerful presentation of some of King's most heart felt desires and drives and serves as a message to each of us that although we have come so far, we still have a long way to go.

And this shall be my vigil. Other than that, I will go about my daily activities such as classes and my position in the Student Support Services Program (SSSP). The one thing I've learned quickly in all of this is that practicing for a hunger strike is a lot different than carrying it out... rehearsal is nothing like show time. My nerves feel very different now than when was practicing. My body also feels different when compared to how it felt during the practice runs.

I've removed all the food and drink from my home. (I'm sure there are going to be a lot of questions about whether or not I'm eating.) Also, I won't be working with any medical staff during this venture at this point. This may change as time goes on. It is 5:33pm on 9/22/97 and I weigh 145 pounds. I feel pretty good and my first day on this hunger strike is almost over.

Allan Pina Nosworthy

Day 3

Today was a long day. This morning I had Shakespeare class at 9:00am for about an hour and a half. Then I had to go to work at 11:00. I finished up all the Student Support Services Program (SSSP) applications and then prepared to walk over to Beardshear (main administrative building at ISU). Everyday at twelve, I stand on the front steps of Beardshear with a fairly small portable tape player and play a sermon given by Martin Luther King Jr. titled: BUT, IF NOT. It's a powerful piece which challenges the listener to stock in their own beliefs and their own ways of living and compels each one of us to "take a stand for that which is right." It took a few listenings before I

really understood what Dr. King was getting at. Today the media was there, TV and print. There were some photographers (possibly unassociated free lance) there as well. The Movement held a press conference at 11:30am concerning this issue across the street from Beardshear and it seemed to have attracted a lot of folks so by the time I got there, there was about 50 people present. I was suprised. The sermon lasts about 27 minutes. After that, I pick up my radio and go back to work. Today I addressed the crowd briefly and told them that I would like to stay and speak with them but my energies really don't allow for that. I also told them that although I don't speak while I'm there, I always appreciate their presence.

The VP of Student Affairs wanted to speak with me as I was walking back to work. He is the first black male to ever hold a position like that at ISU. (Three guesses on what situation opened that door for him.) He wanted to know why The Movement cancelled a meeting with the president. I had no idea what he was talking about. But I did ask him if the president was willing to meet the group with a mediator present. He dodged the question. I asked him again and again he dodged the question. After I asked him a third time he said "It would be a breach of confidence" for him to tell me the presidents opinion on the situation. (Sometimes, when black people get into fairly prestigious (sp?) positions we really loose our minds.) The reason The Movement wants to meet with a mediator present is because the president, on numerous ocassions, met with different groups, faculty/staff/student, and absolutely nothing was resolved by the end of the meeting. We don't play that. If we go in to the meeting with a mediator then it will be clear that decisions will be made during the process of the meeting. (We have even made sure that from a legal perspective this holds true. Also, Black's Law Dictionary also offers further proof of this.) Needless to say, after five minutes around this gentleman, I grew quite tired.

After speaking with him, I went back to work and finished up some office stuff. I've received letters of support from a few people. They are all very encouraging. Also, on the front page of the Daily today, there was a student who said that I might be hiding Ding-Dongs in my back pack. Freshman. What can you do. If you guys get a chance to read it today, feel free to look it up on the net. Some of the other responses were equally ignorant and humorous.

It is 5:09pm on September 24,1997. I haven't weighed myself yet and I feel a little tired but I'm still doing well. No headaches, no stomach pain. We are on the move and I feel/hope my ancestors are watching over me. Spread the word, spread the word.

Allan Pina Nosworthy

Day 4

Yes, you have all been moved to friend status at this point. (: Today was also a little busy. When I woke up I felt a little weak. By the middle of the day I was doing O.K. but right now I'm feeling a little weak. My body is mpving through the different stages involved in this process, faster than it did during my practice runs. I think that is

mostly due to my surroundings and activities being different at this time.

Today the Dean of Students instructed her staff that no "political paperwork" could be placed on office doors. I don't know if she was instructed to do this or not. (The Movement has been putting up signs that say "In Solidarity with the Hunger Strike") This seems so typical of college administrators. Instead of trying to deal with the problem as a whole, for the most part, they attempt to cripple actions by reacting to things like posters. I wouldn't be surprised if the poster issue got more publicity than the hunger strike.

Today's paper was fairly alarming. Lots of ignorance and misinformation. You should all read it. Some of it is even humorous. One misguided soul even went so far as to call me a terrorist. And he's getting an education? These are strange days.

It wasn't a completely bad day however. One womyn came by the office and told me a long story about how she compared this situation to David and Goliath, Jobe and the devil, and other biblical figures. She made some very interesting and concrete connections. Then she asked me if I would pray with her and I did. It has been a very long time since I have done something like that. She really thinks God is watching over this situation. I hope she's right.

President Jischke's email address is mcjisch@iastate.edu
If anyone is interested in emailing him, please feel free. By this point, I think all of you are educated enough on this situation to form intelligent opinions. I hope you will all speak your minds.

It's 5:29pm on September 25, 1997. I haven't weighed myself yet. I feel a little weaker than I did yesterday but no serious problems or pains. The for our people is not far now. I know we are getting close. I can hear the drums and they're getting closer now, much closer now.

Allan Pina Nosworthy

Day 5

"Ol pirates yes they rob I,
sold I to the merchant ships.
Minutes after they took I,
from the bottomless pit.
But my head was made strong,
by the hand of the almighty.
We foward in this generation,
triumphantly.
Won't you help to sing,
these songs of freedom,
'cause all I ever have,
redemption songs."

Dear Friends,

Another long day. For those who don't fully understand what is happening here, know that you are not alone. If I was outside of this situation, it would probably take me a while to put the pieces together and understand things. I do hope that people will check the ISU Daily website and continue to read the letter I wrote on 9/22/97. That should help clarify things. If any of you have questions, please feel free to ask me any questions you may have. I would be more than happy to answer.

I'm feeling a little weaker today but I haven't had any headaches yet and my stomach is still doing fine. But the light headedness is starting to kick in. The feeling is similar to the last half mile of my old x-country races. Sorry for not writing too much today. I'm a little tired and will need to sign off early. Will write again tomorrow.

It's 4:57pm on September 26, 1997. I haven't weighed myself yet. I feel a little light headed but I'm ready for Saturday and Sunday and Monday and Tuesday . . .

Sincerely,

Allan Pina Nosworthy

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The September 29th Movement

In response to charges of "bad faith."

This page was created for the purpose of providing a thorough, honest, and complete accounting of the October 29, 1997 conciliated meeting which not only "broke down," but resulted in the Department of Justice criticizing The September 29th Movement for "bad faith."

Late last week (the week of January 26th, 1998) we got a message from President Jischke through one of his messengers. The message was this: the Movement was to back off requests to meet with President Jischke or else President Jischke would release the letter from the Department of Justice in an attempt to embarrass us. Our response was this: Go ahead and release the letter. *We welcome it.* We are tired of an administration which operates in secret and tries to bully its students in the manner demonstrated by this threat. We see this as just another excuse to not address issues, such as the naming process of Catt Hall.

We consider the letter from Atkins Warren (Department of Justice) to be a real gem. Mr. Warren is the supervisor of Pasqual Marquez, the conciliator who was present at the October 29, 1997 meeting. In his letter Mr. Warren insinuates that the meeting broke down not because of the actions of DOJ conciliator, Pasqual Marquez, but because the Movement demanded that all of our concerns "be met no matter what the cost to the other party" and that we seek to "win by embarrassment." *Neither President Jischke nor Atkins Warren can produce any documentation which supports either of these assertions.* In fact, the transcript and tape of the meeting demonstrate that we were negotiating in good faith.

- At no point did the Movement ever state or imply that our concerns be met no matter what the cost to the other party. Pasqual Marquez had previously stated that the intent of the conciliated meeting was to come to a mutually agreeable resolution and we embraced that definition. We were more than willing to negotiate on any issue as long as a meaningful and honest dialogue existed. That did not happen.
- We had been told that by a senior level DOJ representative on October 28, 1997 that the DOJ has no official policy on recording meetings and that the guidelines for the meeting *had not been agreed upon* by both groups.
We do not seek to "win by embarrassment." There is absolutely no evidence that supports this allegation.

What Led to the Breakdown of the Meeting?

Previous to the meeting of October 29, 1997, Pasqual Marquez (Conciliator for the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service) had told us that his list of guidelines "is not all-inclusive, feel free to develop additional ground rules to contribute to meaningful dialogue if you feel they are needed." Unfortunately, when we suggested additional or revised guidelines, Mr. Marquez and President Jischke were completely unresponsive. In fact, they didn't even respond to some of our questions and concerns

The evening of October 28, 1997 (the night before the conciliated meeting), Milton McGriff spoke with Atkins Warren's supervisor, Jonathon Chase (Deputy Director of DOJ-CRS, Washington, D.C.). During that telephone conversation, Mr. Chase expressed concern that our groups were not yet ready to meet because we had not agreed to the guidelines. Mr. Chase informed Milton that although he wasn't speaking for Mr. Marquez, he felt Mr. Marquez would work to resolve the issues which weren't yet agreed upon as his first order of business – *before* conducting the meeting. With regard to the issue of recording the meeting (discussed below), Mr. Chase told Milton that the Department of Justice Community Relations Service department *has no policy against recording meetings.*

To be honest, we were torn whether or not to attend the meeting. On one hand we hadn't yet reached an agreement on all of the guidelines. We had been trying, but Mr. Marquez and President Jischke were unresponsive. On the other hand, a date had been set and we knew that President Jischke would claim that we refused to meet with him if we didn't go. So we went with the expectation that resolving the guidelines would be the first order of business, as suggested by Mr. Chase (supervisor of Mr. Marquez and Mr. Warren). We sincerely hoped that the remaining disagreements on guidelines would be quickly resolved so that we could move forward with our discussions.

The meeting began with Mr. Marquez asking the students to identify themselves. Mr. Marquez did not ask the administrators and faculty to introduce themselves. It was apparent that he had previously met with them long enough to have established a rapport.

The ISU administrators and representatives in attendance were:

Martin Jischke (President)
Thomas Hill (ISU Vice President of Student Affairs)
Barbara Mack (attorney and ISU Professor)
John Kozak (ISU Provost)
Charles Dobbs (ISU Executive Assistant to the President)

The students attending this meeting were:

Milton McGriff
Allan Nosworthy
Meron Wondwosen
Monica Willemsen
Brian Johnson
Bob Mohr

Following the introductions of the students, Mr. Marquez started the meeting by passing out a list of ground rules and stating they had been agreed to by both groups. *Remember, the ground rules had **not** been agreed to by both groups.* At this point Milton interjected and clarified that we had not agreed to the list of guidelines. Mr. Marquez then acknowledged that was correct -- ***the guidelines had not been agreed to.***

Although Mr. Marquez initially acknowledged that an agreement *had not been reached on all of the guidelines*, he then stated that "as mediator" ***he*** had agreed to all of the guidelines for us.

The following hour focused on the guidelines which were not yet agreed to.

Specifically, the guidelines which were discussed were:

- 1) Issuing a press release that meetings were taking place;
- 2) The number of persons allowed in the room during the meeting (which we conceded on in an effort to move the discussion forward); and finally,
- 3) Recording the meeting.

On October 7, 1997, a meeting was held to work out some of these issues. Present at that meeting were representatives of the NAACP, Mr. Marquez from the DOJ, ISU Vice President Thomas Hill, Milton McGriff, and Allan Nosworthy. We asked that the October 7, 1997 meeting be recorded and Mr. Marquez objected. We acquiesced because the NAACP representatives were in the room with us. We felt that in the event there was a disagreement over what had been discussed at that meeting, the NAACP representatives could serve as witnesses.

A decision *was* reached during that meeting to issue a joint press release that meetings were going to take place. Later, however, Thomas Hill and Pasqual Marquez forgot portions of that discussion. They were the only two persons at the October 7th meeting who had trouble "remembering." Had the meeting been recorded, we could have referred to the tape or transcript for accuracy. But because there was no

record, our discussion stagnated at the "he said/she said" level. *That is exactly why we wanted to record the meeting -- so we wouldn't waste time later on disputing what was really said.*

Secrecy and Confidentiality. It was made clear to us that President Jischke wanted secret meetings. He did not want the community to know that he was meeting with us and he wanted the meeting off-the-record. We strongly objected for a couple of reasons. First, this is a public institution. Secondly, The September 29th Movement has been visible and active for over two years. Therefore, we feel it is important for the community to understand that we are meeting to achieve conflict resolution.

Mr. Marquez did not seem to have any objection to Jischke's condition of conducting secret meetings off-the-record. In fact, in a direct response to our objection to secret meetings, Mr. Marquez asked whether we really wanted our concerns to be addressed by President Jischke. In other words, we should concede to secret meetings in exchange for the opportunity to get to the table with Jischke.

Another point of confusion was who exactly objected to issuing the press release. Was it President Jischke or Mr. Marquez? President Jischke's canned response throughout this process was that he was deferring to Mr. Marquez's 26 years of experience. Initially, Mr. Marquez stated he did not want to issue a press release before a meeting had taken place. At one point, however, Mr. Marquez directly contradicted himself by telling us that he actually has no problems notifying the media or even having them in the room. The issue was whether both groups agreed to it, not that Mr. Marquez objected. He stated he would welcome notifying the media as long as both groups agreed to it [and the groups *had agreed* to this at the October 7, 1997 meeting].

About 40 minutes into the discussion, Iowa State Professor Barbara Mack asked "I have one quick question. Is that a tape recorder?" We answered affirmatively. At that point Mr. Marquez "lost it" for lack of better words, alleging that the Movement had acted in bad faith. He carried on, muttering under his breath, minimizing our concerns, and finally stating he was leaving and not coming back. During this time, Milton, Brian, and Meron all objected to the charge of "bad faith" stating that there was no agreement on the issue of tape recording.

When Meron tried to speak to Mr. Marquez about the charge of "bad faith," Mr. Marquez interrupted her stating "this meeting is through, I am through." When Meron asked Mr. Marquez if she could finish her sentence, Mr. Marquez replied in a hostile tone "*No, you cannot finish.*"

Meron did finish her sentence, and Milton and Brian supported her concerns:

Meron: "We did not agree to all the issues here, and our understanding is that we are here today to discuss the guidelines."

Milton: -- and Mr. Chase, Mr. Chase was also very clear about that, Mr. Marquez.

Brian: Mr. Chase has said that there is no Department of Justice policy on recording.

Mr. Marquez then responded, "*It is for me. This is my meeting, okay?!*"

Mr. Marquez later added: "*This is my process, okay. This is my process.*"

Meron asked President Jischke to explain his objection to recording the meeting. Jischke deferred to Mr. Marquez's "26 years" of experience. When pressed, however, President Jischke explained that he felt the taping would affect his ability to be honest, stating "It doesn't allow for honest dialogue." *Note: We do not have a problem with being honest regardless of whether or not we are being taped. We do not understand why President Jischke feels he can't be honest if he's being recorded.*

Mr. Marquez left the meeting after only one hour.

Our Thoughts about the Conciliated Meeting and Mr. Marquez

Mr. Marquez's unprofessional behavior alarmed us greatly, and we filed a complaint with his supervisor (Atkins Watkins).

First, Mr. Marquez stated the guidelines had been agreed upon. Then he acknowledged they weren't. Then he stated that "as mediator" he agreed to them for us.

Second, we question Mr. Marquez's judgment in urging us to consent to secret meetings just for the sake of "getting to the table" with President Jischke.

Third, Mr. Marquez changed his story during the course of an hour as to who exactly was objecting to issuing a press release that meetings were taking place. Initially, he explained he objected but then later contradicted that statement by stating he had no problem as long as both groups agreed to it (which they had on October 7, 1997).

And finally, Mr. Marquez lost his cool over the issue of the tape recorder. He muttered under his breath, minimized the issues raised by the students, stated he wasn't going to come back, and even swore at the students before leaving. For a conciliator with 26 years of "professional" experience, it is alarming that Mr. Marquez stormed out of the meeting after only 60 minutes. Mr. Marquez was supposed to be a neutral, professional conciliator. We lost complete faith in his ability to continue serving as the conciliator in this process.

This was not the first problem we had encountered with this process. At the end of September 1997, we learned that Mr. Marquez had not been reliable in his communications between the ISU administration and the Movement. For instance, there were a couple of times that we asked Mr. Marquez to relay information to President Jischke and we later learned he had not done so. This resulted in some bad feelings because we felt that President Jischke was not responding in a timely fashion when in fact Mr. Marquez had not relayed certain information as asked. It was also not the first time Mr. Marquez swore at a student. In a phone conversation with Allan a couple of months earlier, he lost his temper and swore at Allan. At that point, Allan requested Mr. Marquez's supervisor's name from Mr. Marquez himself. Although we were concerned about Mr. Marquez's professionalism, we nevertheless proceeded because we were so close to a meeting date. We felt that if we refused to utilize Mr. Marquez at that point, President Jischke attempt to claim we weren't willing to meet.

Even after we filed the complaint with Atkins Warren, President Jischke still continued to publicly state that he wanted to continue the process with the Department of Justice. That seems highly inappropriate considering Mr. Marquez's previous behavior and our complaint regarding his unprofessional behavior.

The Tape Recorder

The room was set up with two long tables facing each other. At one table was Iowa State's President Jischke, Thomas Hill (Vice President of Student Affairs), Barbara Mack (attorney and ISU Professor), John Kozak (ISU Provost), and Charles Dobbs (ISU Executive to the President). At the other table were ISU students Allan Nosworthy, Milton McGriff, Meron Wondwosen, Monica Willemsen, Brian Johnson, and Bob Mohr. At the end of both tables (in between) sat Mr. Marquez.

The tables were covered with white tablecloths. In the moments preceding the beginning of the meeting, Allan opened up a carrying case and removed a tape recorder. It was not a pocket tape recorder, but one of the old fashioned types (estimated dimensions: 11 inches long, 6 inches wide, 2 inches high). The color of the tape recorder was black. Allan placed the recorder directly in front of him on the table which was covered with a white tablecloth. All five administrators were sitting at the table directly across from the students, facing us. As the meeting began, Allan pushed the tape recorder forward and pressed the record button.

Allan and the other students felt the first conflict would be over the tape recorder. But as Allan pressed the record button, President Jischke was staring right at him – and said nothing. The other administrators too were all staring. It was a relief to know they weren't going to protest the tape recorder. Of course, it didn't dawn on us that they didn't see the recorder because they were facing us and staring at Allan when he put it on the table and turned it on. It was a black tape recorder sitting in plain sight on a white tablecloth right in front of them.

Dear President Jischke,

I am writing to you to express my concern for naming Iowa State University's (ISU) most recently renovated facility Catt Hall. Unfortunately, this name choice has created an uncomfortable atmosphere on campus due to the history of the person this building is named after.

Being that this is the case, I look forward to assisting the University in changing the name of this facility. I understand that this will be a rigorous process, but I strongly feel that this action will further promote a campus environment that is sensitive to all its student populations as well as strengthen the bonds between the ISU administration and the multiple student populations on the ISU campus.

Please keep me informed on your progress to completing this goal and let me know if I can be of further assistance to you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

***Over 1,000 signed and hand-
delivered to ISU President Jischke***

Links to Information

About the Catt Hall Controversy

and The September 29th Movement

at Iowa State University

- [In Solidarity](#), The September 29th Movement's home page.
 - W. Scott Thune's [Catt Resources for Researchers](#) page.
 - A brief explanation of the ISU controversy surrounding the naming of a building in honor of [Carrie Chapman Catt](#), and some links to some of her writing, as well as to other information about the controversy.
 - Some [essays](#) that I wrote on the Catt Hall controversy at Iowa State and on racism and White privilege.
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Back to [Kel Munger's home page](#).