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## Letter from Nicole Kimball to Hugh Saunders on University of Maine's Sororities Membership

Nicole Kimball

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337 York Hall  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine  
March 7, 1963

Mr. Hugh C. Saunders, Chairman  
Maine Advisory Committee  
Commission on Civil Rights  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Saunders,

In answer to your letter of February 15, requesting my comments on Panhellenic policy in matters pertaining to Civil Rights, I should like to say first of all that none of the sororities at the University of Maine have clauses in their constitutions which restrict membership because of race, creed, or national origin.

Although all the sororities are predominantly Christian, there are none which are decidedly Catholic or Protestant in nature. In addition, there are at present, or have been in the near past, Jewish girls in most of the groups. Consideration of the large percentage of Christian women in our sororities should include recognition of the fact that the majority of the women students on this campus are of Christian backgrounds.

To my knowledge, no consideration is given to national origin in the selection of members by any sorority. This is evidenced by the fact that there are in all the groups girls of various national origins.

None of the sororities have Negro members. However, because there are only two Negro women students attending the University at this time, I cannot make a valid statement of actual sorority policy concerning racial discrimination.

In general, I feel that the complexion of sorority membership closely correlates with the nature of the total population of women students at the University of Maine.

I hope I have explained our policies to your satisfaction. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have concerning the above information.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Nicole Kimball, President  
Panhellenic Council