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## Lick addresses race problems, offers programs

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# Lick addresses race problems, offers programs

By Michelle Hikel  
Staff Writer

"No one should be intimidated because of race or color. People here should feel welcome and should feel comfortable to express their differences. That's what a university is all about," said University of Maine President Dale Lick at a press conference held at the Maine Center for the Arts Tuesday afternoon.

Lick called the conference to

share what UMaine is "doing regarding the question of pluralism on this campus."

Lick said the incident in which two black UMaine students were assaulted by nine white men was "regrettable" and that it "brought forth ugliness that has no place at this university."

"There is a (racial) problem here, and we must aggressively deal with it," he said.

Assistant VP for Student Affairs

Dwight Rideout said conduct officer Bill Kennedy is conducting a thorough investigation of the incident, but that the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 under the Buckley Amendment prevents him from disclosing any details.

Although he was not able "to reveal any details", Rideout said one UMaine student was charged and that action has been taken by the Judicial Affairs Office.

When asked what the full scope

of action the university could take against the student was, Rideout said "suspension and dismissal from this institution" were possible.

"I'm satisfied that there was racial motive in this incident, but at what point it became so, I'm not sure," he added.

Later in the conference Lick said he felt the Student Senate "has taken a very positive approach to this incident," in response to the various pluralistic programs they have

agreed to sponsor.

Lick then introduced several additional programs the university plans to undertake to create a more pluralistic campus:

-The Office of Multicultural Programs has invited and will pursue internationally recognized black leaders to speak on campus.

-The Council on Pluralism will develop a comprehensive campus

See MEMPHIS on page 14

## Conference

from page 1

plan for racial and cultural education to enhance multicultural understanding in surrounding areas.

- A multicultural curriculum revision.
- Recruitment of minority faculty and staff.

Lick also said UMaine is working to establish an Interaction Program, designed to give additional support to minority and international students on campus.

And "to help minority and international students succeed personally and academically," Lick said UMaine has created four-year scholarships "to attract more highly qualified minority students," to the university.

He said the UMaine system has also approved granting tuition waivers to minority and international students.

According to Lick, Residential Life is also working to develop a training program to teach its staffers to handle pluralism.

When asked how the university would be able to finance these new programs during a

period of budget cuts, Lick said UMaine will "put its money where its priorities are and pluralism is a high priority here."

Lick acknowledged the fact that funding for some other programs may suffer as a result of these new programs.

When asked if the programs will end if he is chosen to be president at Florida State University or Memphis State University, Lick said he didn't think so.

"This isn't Dale Lick—this is UMaine. There are many who are interested in pluralism here. I'm just a symbol of UMaine's values."

When asked how well he thought Lick was handling the situation, Donald Bradley, member of the Executive Council of Afro-Americans, said "based on the information he has, Lick is doing the best he can under the circumstances."

"But I don't think the Orono community has done the best they can," he said.