



# Reckoning with Our History: UW-Madison's History of Discrimination and Resistance

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Who am I?



## A Few Things to Note

- Take breaks, stretch, eat, drink, doodle – do whatever you need to do!
- This event is being recorded.
- There will be breaks for questions and a Q&A at the end of the event. Feel free to drop your questions in the chat!
  - The History of Teejop/UW-Madison's early history
  - Housing Discrimination
  - Resistance & Protest
- A lot of history... but not all the history.
- Content warning



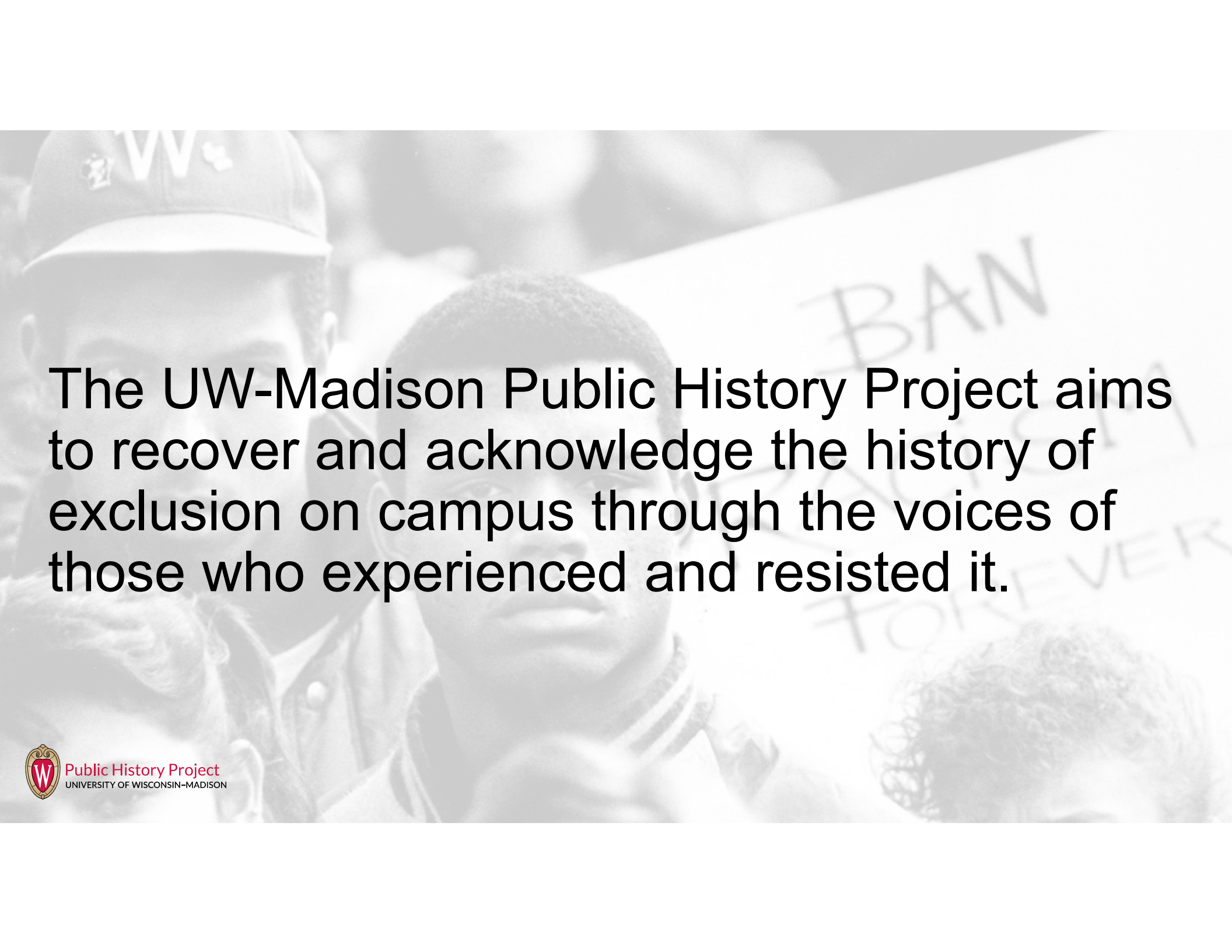
## The Badger



Top Row: Buell, Ardiel, Tark, Jones, Bell, Page, Thompson, Rietten, Frawley  
Second Row: Fairbanks, Vorsegat, Stegeman, Blossen, Frawtche, Butts, Hask  
Third Row: Oakford, Murphy, Clark, Warner (Pres.), Schou, Townsend, Crane

## Ku Klux Klan





The UW-Madison Public History Project aims to recover and acknowledge the history of exclusion on campus through the voices of those who experienced and resisted it.

# Reckoning (noun)

1. The action or process of calculating or estimating something
2. A person's view, opinion, or judgement
3. A bill or account, or its settlement

# The Treaty of 1832

## WISCONSIN FIRST NATIONS

American Indian Studies in Wisconsin

**BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWAS**

- population within state: 8,800
- reservation on tribal lands: 8,800
- reservation size: 24,400 acres
- seat of government: Red Cliff

In 1835, they signed the first treaty to cede 100,000 acres of their original reservation. This treaty led to the purchase of the land and opened the door to settlement.

**MEMONINIE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN**

- population within state: 6,700
- reservation on tribal lands: 6,700
- reservation size: 138,000 acres
- seat of government: Neeshewa

They first signed a treaty in 1837, which was later replaced by the 1854 Treaty of Prairie du Rocher. The 1854 treaty gave them 100,000 acres of land in the state of Wisconsin.

**WESTERN WAGON**

- population within state: 1,200
- reservation on tribal lands: 1,200
- reservation size: 10,000 acres
- seat of government: Red Cliff

The Western Wagon tribe is a band of the Menominee tribe. They signed a treaty in 1837, which was later replaced by the 1854 Treaty of Prairie du Rocher. The 1854 treaty gave them 100,000 acres of land in the state of Wisconsin.

**ST. CROIX NATION**

- population within state: 15,400
- reservation on tribal lands: 15,400
- reservation size: 100,000 acres
- seat of government: St. Croix

The St. Croix Nation is a band of the Menominee tribe. They signed a treaty in 1837, which was later replaced by the 1854 Treaty of Prairie du Rocher. The 1854 treaty gave them 100,000 acres of land in the state of Wisconsin.

**RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWAS**

- population within state: 8,800
- reservation on tribal lands: 8,800
- reservation size: 24,400 acres
- seat of government: Red Cliff

In 1835, they signed the first treaty to cede 100,000 acres of their original reservation. This treaty led to the purchase of the land and opened the door to settlement.

**WISCONSIN CHIPPEWAS COMMUNITY BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWAS**

- population within state: 1,200
- reservation on tribal lands: 1,200
- reservation size: 10,000 acres
- seat of government: Red Cliff

The Wisconsin Chippewas are a band of the Menominee tribe. They signed a treaty in 1837, which was later replaced by the 1854 Treaty of Prairie du Rocher. The 1854 treaty gave them 100,000 acres of land in the state of Wisconsin.

**ST. CROIX COUNTY INDIAN BAND OF WISCONSIN**

- population within state: 1,200
- reservation on tribal lands: 1,200
- reservation size: 10,000 acres
- seat of government: Red Cliff

The St. Croix County Indians are a band of the Menominee tribe. They signed a treaty in 1837, which was later replaced by the 1854 Treaty of Prairie du Rocher. The 1854 treaty gave them 100,000 acres of land in the state of Wisconsin.

**WISCONSIN CHIPPEWAS COMMUNITY BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWAS**

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The Wisconsin Chippewas are a band of the Menominee tribe. They signed a treaty in 1837, which was later replaced by the 1854 Treaty of Prairie du Rocher. The 1854 treaty gave them 100,000 acres of land in the state of Wisconsin.

## CURRENT RESERVATIONS AND TRIBAL LANDS

**LEGEND**

- Tribal Lands and Communities
- Tribal Seat of Government
- State Capital
- City Name
- COUNTY

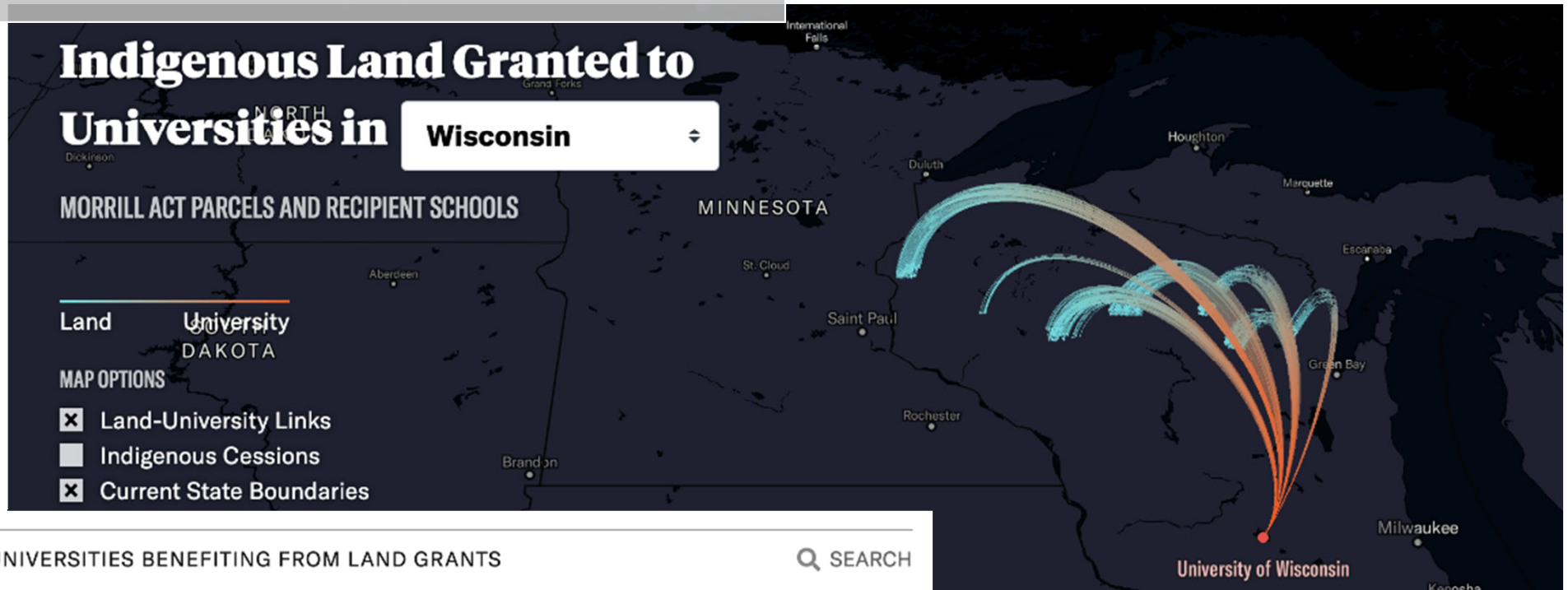
**WISCONSINFIRSTNATIONS.ORG**

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Resource: [oursharedfuture.wisc.edu](http://oursharedfuture.wisc.edu)

Resource: [wisconsinfirstnations.org](http://wisconsinfirstnations.org)

# “Land Grab” University



## UNIVERSITIES BENEFITING FROM LAND GRANTS

	UNIVERSITY	STATE	ACRES	U.S. PAID	UNIV. RAISED ▼	RETURN
1	<u>University of Wisconsin</u>	WI	235,530	\$12,449	\$303,439	24x



## Indigenous “culture” without Indigenous peoples



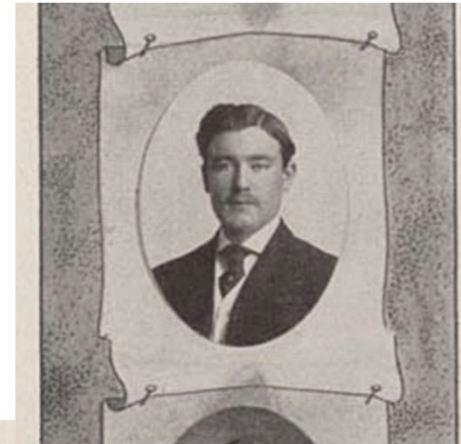
## Notable “Firsts” – What can we know?

First Native American man to attend UW-Madison



Thomas “Ted” St. Germaine (1904)

One of the earliest Mexican men to graduate



WILLIAM F. TERRAZAS  
“Cesar”  
Chihuahua, Mexico

Agriculture.  
Entered as Senior from Iowa State Agricultural College.  
International Club. University of Wisconsin Agricultural Society.  
Thesis: The Influence of Feeding on the Amount of Water Drunk by Swine.

“I traveled among unknown men  
In lands beyond the sea;  
Nor, Mexico, did I know till then  
The love I bore to thee.”

William “Cesar” Terrazas (1906)

## Notable “Firsts”

First African American male graduate



William Noland (1875)

First African American female graduate



Mable Watson Raimy (1918)

## Notable “Firsts” and Access

First woman to graduate



Belle Case La Follette (1897)

First African American female graduate



Mable Watson Raimsey (1918)

First Native American person and first Native American woman to graduate



Mary Dooley (1946)

21 years



28 years

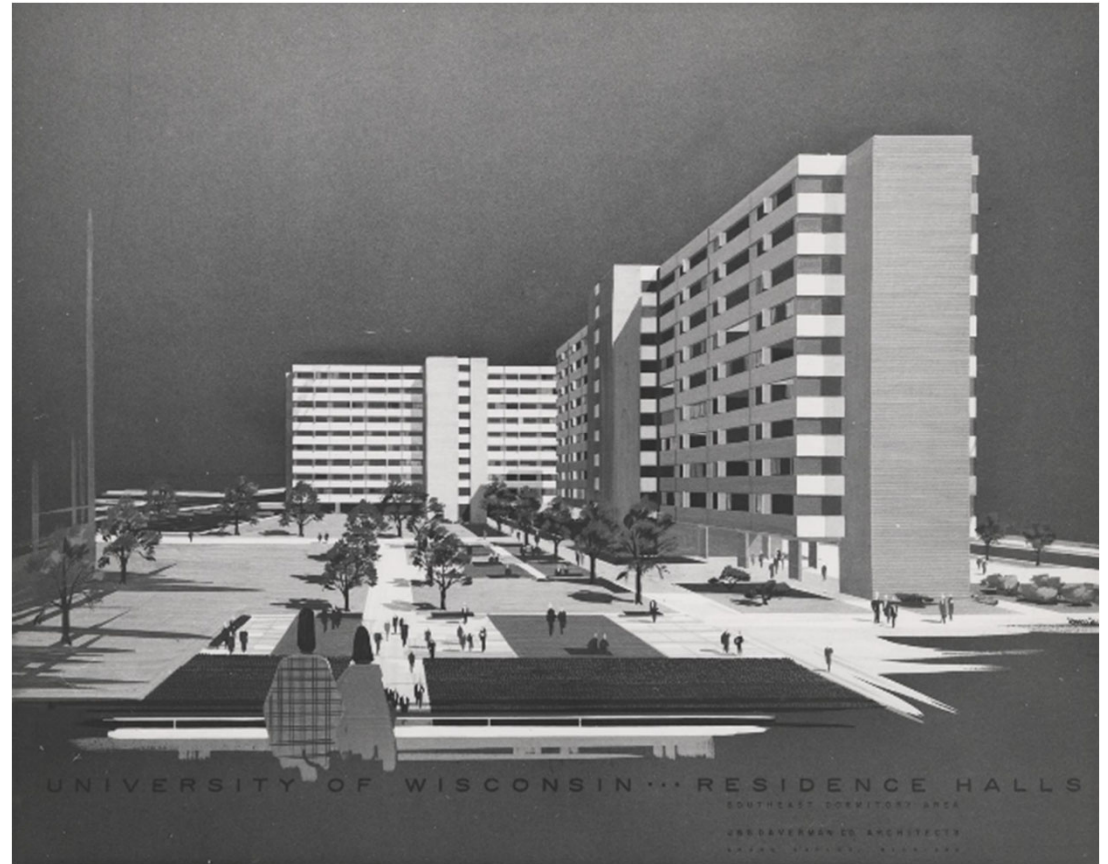


49 years



## Question Break 1

## Housing Discrimination at UW



# Mildred Gordon

## Ban Racial Tests, Mrs. Berger Asks

Madison, Wis. (AP)—The question of racial discrimination at the University of Wisconsin was brought before the board of regents Wednesday in a resolution by Mrs. Meta Berger, Milwaukee, which asked the board to disapprove of any rooming house for students that discriminates against race, creed or nationality.

On the suggestion of Harry L. Butler, Madison, that the board should investigate any legal entanglements which might arise should a rooming house be sued, the regents referred the resolution to an executive committee. A report is to be made in March. **JAN 15 1930**

The resolution came as an aftermath to the recent controversy over alleged discrimination by owners of Langdon Hall, inhabited by university women students. Mrs. Berger suggested that the regents should take a stand after recent publicity regarding the exclusion of Jewish students from the dormitory.

Miss Mildred Gordon, Chicago, brought suit against the owners of Langdon Hall for \$10,000. In her complaint she said she had told the owners she was Jewish and that after engaging the room was told the hall could not accommodate her.



Co-ed Asks \$10,000

Mildred L. Gordon, 20, of Chicago, a junior at the University of Wisconsin, started suit Thursday, asking \$10,000 from officers of Langdon Hall, a women's dormitory. Miss Gordon charges discrimination against Jewish girls.

## Jews Barred, Suit Charges Chicago Girl Demands \$10,000 From U. W. Dormitory

A suit to collect \$10,000 from officers of Langdon Hall, a women's dormitory at the University of Wisconsin, for alleged discrimination against Jewish girls was begun Thursday in federal court at Madison by Mildred L. Gordon, 20, of Chicago, a junior at the university.

Summons were served on R. D. Malone, Madison, secretary-treasurer of the Mendota Building Co., which operates Langdon Hall, by Atty. M. M. Wittenberg, counsel for Miss Gordon. She is the daughter of M. L. Gordon, 7424 N. Pauline, Chicago, a district manager of an insurance and guarantee company.

Miss Gordon, who says her room reservation at Langdon Hall was accepted last Aug. 21 with her application fee of \$25, was refused admittance to the dormitory when she arrived with her trunks and baggage to enter the university Sept. 19, she alleges.

No Notice, She Says  
Owners of Langdon Hall, recently completed at Lake and Langdon sts., told her Sept. 19, she alleges, that they could not accommodate her because the dormitory was filled, even though her application had been accepted and she had received no notice excluding her.

The application blank which Miss Gordon filed asked her church affiliations. She wrote that she was Jewish. Several other Jewish students who applied for admittance to Langdon Hall were rejected, according to Atty. Wittenberg. He cited the case of an Antigo girl, a member of a prominent family there.

Charges Jews Barred  
Miss Gordon charges that the owners of the building have adopted an iron bound policy to deny Jewish women at the university the right to live at Langdon Hall. Literature sent out by the owners, she said, indicate no rules discriminating against any race or religion. Refusal of the owners to allow Miss Gordon to live at Langdon Hall, she says, has humiliated and embarrassed her and caused her mental anguish.

Miss Gordon now is living at 625 N. Frances st., Madison.

Other officers of Langdon Hall are F. G. Oetking, president, and W. L. Bluteau, vice president. They have 20 days in which to file an answer to the complaint.



# Arthur Burke

**The Daily Cardinal**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1944  
No. 10,742

## Students Discuss Political Parties For Roundtable

Roundtable on Political Parties... will be the subject of a discussion for the Student Union on Monday, Oct. 23, at 4:30 p.m. in the Union.

## PEACE WILL BE PRO-CON TOPIC

How to make the peace... will be the topic of the Pro-Con meeting Wednesday night at 8:15 p.m. in the lounge of the Memorial Union.

## University Club Ousts Colored Grad Student

To the Union Council, and Student Board, and the Committee on Student Life and Interests: The President and the Comptroller have had under consideration the Report of the Student Life and Interests committee, which deals with the relation of the Union Council, the Student Board, and the Student Body to the University. Because of other administrative pressures, the President has put off formal action on the report over-long. It has recently been brought to his attention that early action is desirable and necessary in order to settle certain new controversies as between the Student Board and the Union Council.

## Dykstra Approves Board's Report

October 20, 1944  
The report of the Student Board and the Committee on Student Life and Interests... has been approved by the President.

## Campus Groups Call for Action

Under the authority of the Union Constitution as adopted by the faculty, notice is now given that the recommendations of the Student Life and Interests committee are hereby put in effect as of this date by the President and the Comptroller of the University of Wisconsin.

## Don Cossacks Again Display Distinctive Musical Qualities

THE DON COSSACKS... conducted by their leader, displayed their distinctive musical qualities in a recent performance.

## NCF Endorses USSA Objection

The National Council for the American-Soviet Friendship... has endorsed the objection of the USSA to the proposed American-Soviet Friendship League.

## LATE BULLETINS

ADVANCE OF LETTERS... LATE BULLETINS... and other news items.

## Student Board Calls Cowed to Volunteer For War Activities

FOR THE STUDENT BOARD... calls for more active participation in war activities.

## Cercle Francais to Hold First Meeting Tonight

THE CERCLE FRANCAIS... will hold its first meeting tonight at 8:00 p.m.

## Weather

Forecast for the next few days: Partly cloudy with some rain.

**The Daily Cardinal**  
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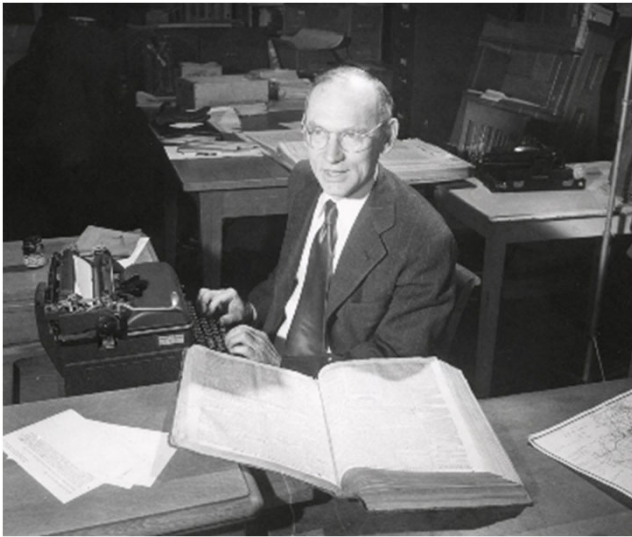
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## Arthur Burke



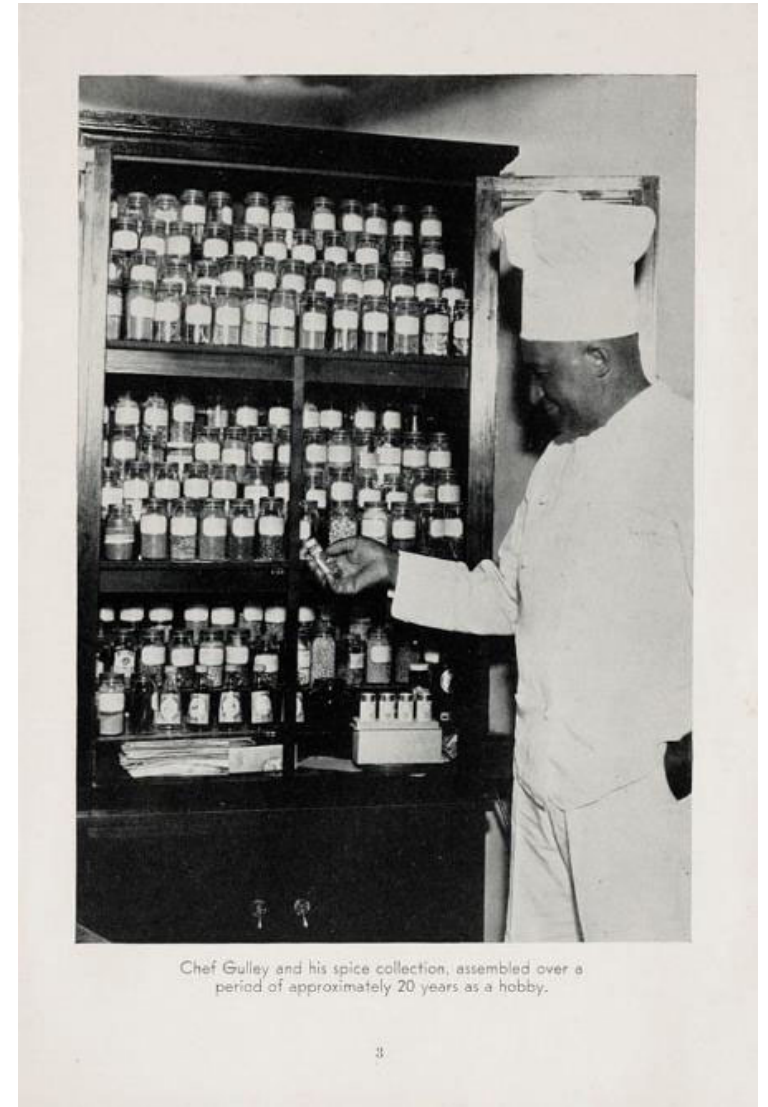
Madison, Wisconsin  
651 University Avenue  
apartment 5  
October 28, 1944

Dear Dr. Du Bois,

A-35-16  
The past ten days has witnessed at the University of Wisconsin a flagrant case of discrimination against a Negro student, Arthur E. Burke, who teaches at Hampton Institute and is an Adams fellow working for his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin.

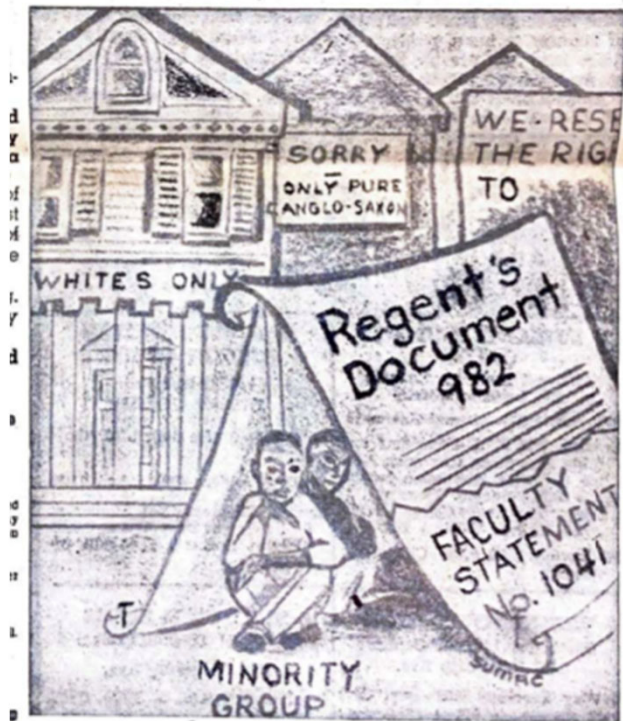
Burke through correspondence secured a room at the University Faculty Club which is available for graduate students and faculty members. Twenty four hours after he moved in he was visited by Mr. Bean, Chairman of the Housing Committee, and was asked to move because Mr. Bean felt there would be strong resentment of club members against Negro residents. Mr. Burke

## Carson Gulley



## Housing Discrimination at UW

### 'U' Enforces Its Policies...



## Raps Student Housing Body

### Race Bias Charged

Journal Special Correspondence

Madison, Wis.—The University

of Wisconsin student housing bureau is tacitly approving racial and religious discrimination by owners of private dormitories, the Daily Cardinal, student newspaper, charged Friday.

The paper said that members of the Wisconsin Student association's human relations committee, posing as Negroes, had telephoned 59 houses seeking accommodations. Fifty houses turned down the applicants on grounds of their race.

#### House Owner Quoted

One house owner said, "The housing bureau knows we don't take Negroes; why do they keep sending you people around?" the Cardinal reported.

Prof. John E. Conway of the student-faculty human relations

committee, referring to the survey, commented that "if anything your figures are too low."

The only recourse of students who feel they have been discriminated against by private "dorm" owners is to the human relations committee. But, the Cardinal charged, the housing bureau has not been informing students of this right.

#### Penalty Is Provided

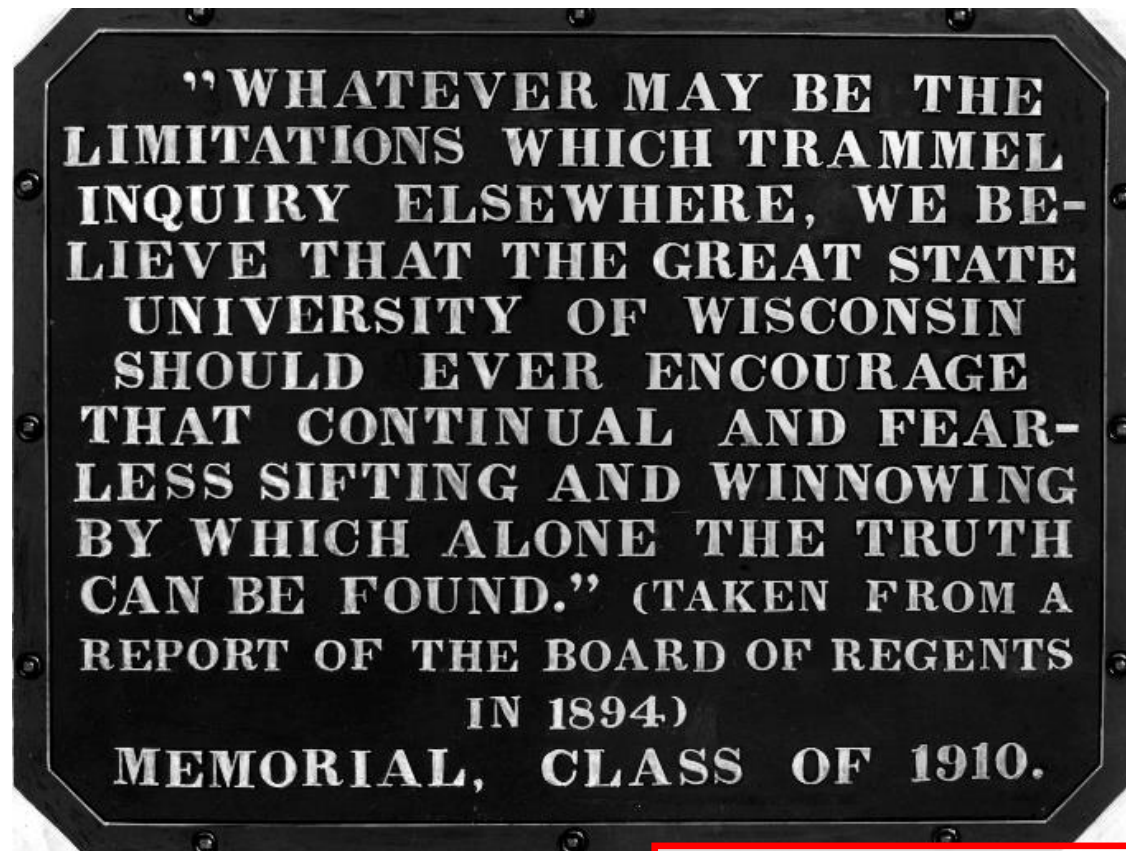
A house which is proved guilty of discrimination can lose university approval, which means that its rooms cannot be rented to students.

The university faculty and regents are on record as opposing discrimination.

Mrs. Blanche B. Stemm, director of the housing bureau, said that "there is a housing shortage and the university must find room for all students, not minority groups."

## Question Break 2

## Resistance & Protest at UW-Madison



## The Dow Protests



## The Dow Protests



## The 1969 Black Student Strike





## The 1969 Black Student Strike

"If we're setting up a program to teach all whites to feel sorry for blacks, most students would pass a qualifying exam for placement with flying colors."

– Warren Lehman, Law Professor

The report is a "momentary response to political pressure," an admission to the "militant minority"

– Bernard Cohen & E. David Cronon, Professors and Authors of the Minority Report



Public History Project  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# UW Faculty Backs Black Studies Dept.

MADISON (AP) — Faculty members of the University of Wisconsin have approved creation of a full-fledged black studies department, one of 13 demands submitted to the university Feb. 7 by Negro demonstrators.

Students suspended a classroom boycott Feb. 17 to wait for a reply from the faculty concerning the Negroes' demands. Demonstrators had said the boycott would be resumed this week unless they won a favorable faculty response.

About 1,000 persons attended Monday's faculty meeting. The black studies department demand was accepted on a voice vote after the faculty voted 56-114 against considering creation of a black studies program, instead of a formal department.

The process of setting up a department in which a student could earn a degree could take a year. The faculty set a target date of July 1, 1970.

The next step would be appointment of a steering committee by Chancellor H. Edwin Young. A committee recommendation would be submitted to members of the College of Letters and Science, under which the department would be set up.

Approval of reports and the Coordinating Council of Higher Education would also be required.

And funds would have to be authorized by the legislature, which currently is complaining about state aid to students who engage in campus disorder.

The black studies department has been one of the chief issues in campus disturbances that broke out on the UW campus in February.

More than 50 persons, most of them from out of state, were taken into custody before demonstrations subsided and 1,500 National Guard troops were withdrawn.

The faculty's action Monday was based on a report submitted by a study committee, whose chairman is Wilson B. Thiede, professor of curriculum and instruction.

The committee had been established last May. The faculty sent the report back to the committee Monday for re-

writing after some speakers objected to a few of its phrases.

"I cannot approve of the rhetoric in which these recommendations are phrased," said Warren Lehman, a law professor who sponsored the motion to return the report to the Thiede committee.

He cited such phrases as "shameful neglect" and "woeful lack" of Negro studies.

"If we're setting up a program to teach all whites to feel sorry for blacks, most students would pass a qualifying exam for placement with flying colors," Lehman said.

"We must not CON students that the department will have a bias we do not intend," he said.

The Thiede committee report was accompanied by a minority report, which contained the recommendation for a program using seven existing departments instead of setting up a new department.

The minority report called the full-department plan "a momentary response to political pressure."

Bernard Cohen, chairman of the Political Science Department, who signed the minority report, said he is not certain what students want.

"As I've heard it, black studies is not a subject matter we should look at, but a way we should look," he said.

He said the field is not yet disciplined, and qualified faculty members are not available.

"Students say we don't know what quality is. They say we have a Ph.D. hang-up. I say professional qualifications and standards are relevant."

S. K. Heninger, chairman of the English Department and a majority report signer, said students requested the department out of respect for education.

"This is a rational response to a long-standing, legitimate request," he said.

He said student demands became non-negotiable only after their requests and recommendations had been ignored.

"Student behavior has paralleled this progression from order to violent," he said.

Sheldon Klein, associate professor of computer science and linguistics, suggested postponing the proposal until one year had passed without a student disruption. His plan was rejected.

Klein claimed any action by the faculty as the present time will indicate a "surrender and recognition of violence and force as legitimate."

*Alpha Omicron*

WISCONSIN  
Press Association  
235 Washington Building  
MADISON 1, WISCONSIN  
Clipping Bureau Division  
Waukesha Daily Freeman  
MAR 4 1969

## The 1969 Black Student Strike



# International Concerns

**EL PORTAVOZ**  
VOL. 111 NO. 4 JULY 1, 1983

**MIGRANT TUITION BILL**  
A U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION that provides for in-state tuition for migrants will be introduced for co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives on June 15th and introduced in the Senate on June 21st. The bill will give migrants an exemption from non-resident tuition in a Wisconsin university or college if the migrant did farm work for at least 2 months each year for 2 of the 3 years preceding registration, or a month each year for 2 of the 3 years preceding registration. Although the bill will improve the lives of the migrants, it is still not the solution to the problem that migrants average only 4 to 6 years of education. H.R. 2034 is now faced with the task of lobbying for the bill in the various legislative committees and awaiting the House bill number.

Letters of opinion call it to support via 50 cents.

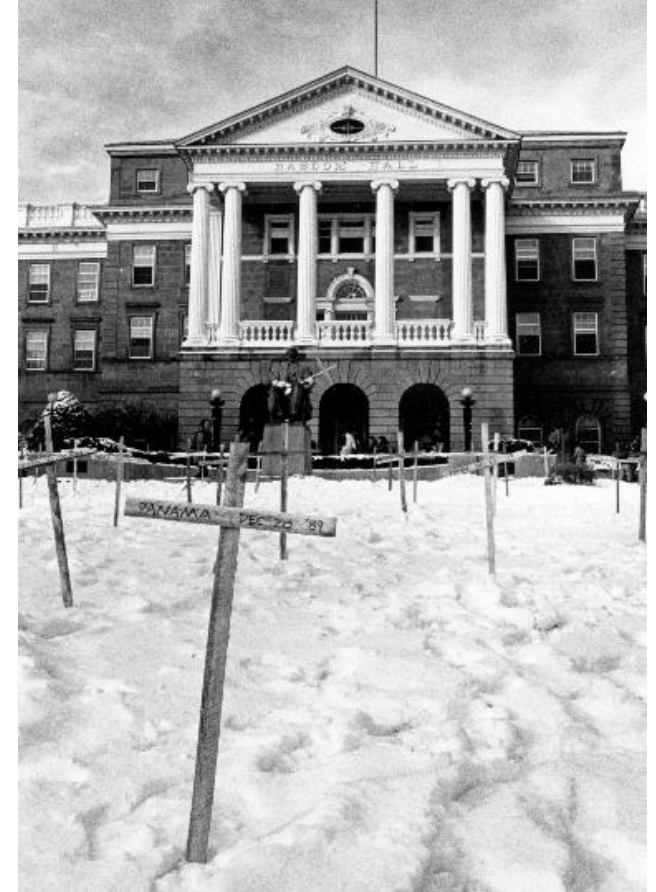
Carl Otto  
State Senator  
St.oughton, Wis. 53181  
P.O. Box 1002  
Phone: 262-335-1000

**CONTENIDO:**

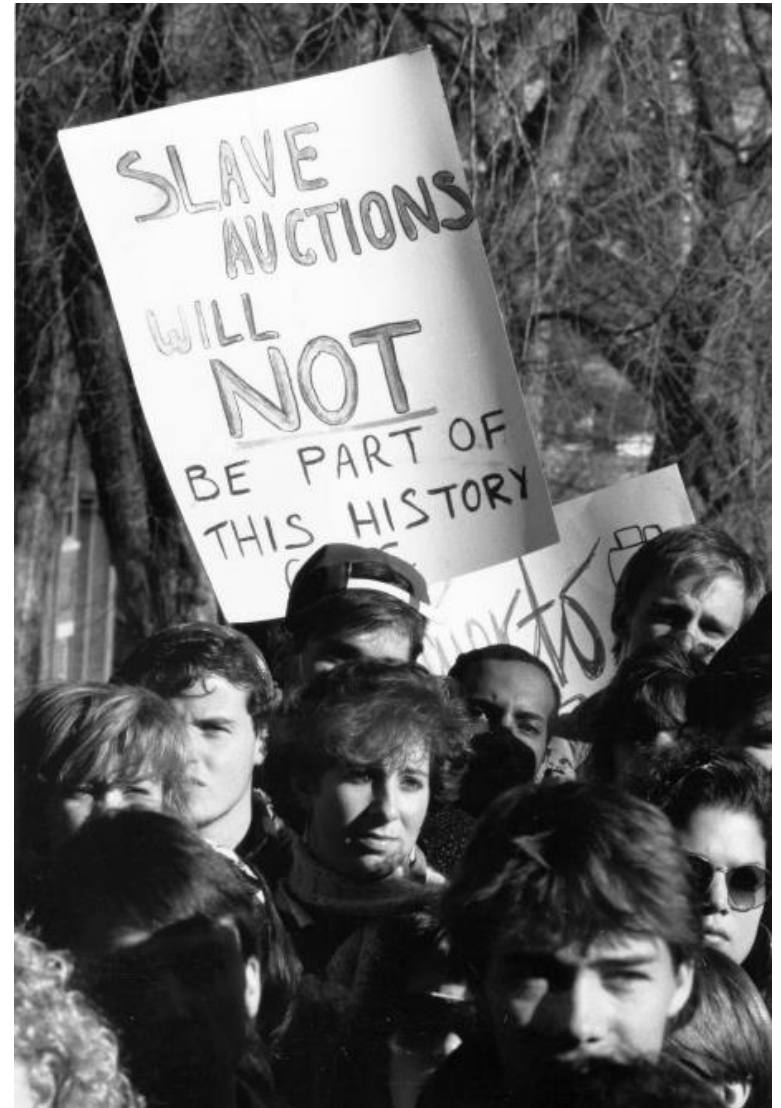
- AGRICULTURE RIGHTS..... P.2
- AMERICAN/INDIAN..... P.2
- THE CONVENTION..... P.2
- PROTESTS..... P.2
- INDIAN MARRIAGE..... P.2
- CONSTITUTIONAL..... P.2
- U.S. / POLITICAL THEORY..... P.2
- CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS..... P.2
- ARTS..... P.2

**RALLY PROTESTS NICARAGUAN INVASION**  
A DEMONSTRATION AND COUNTER-MARCH HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 22, PROTESTING THE VIOLENCE OF THE MILITARY INVASION OF NICARAGUA FROM OVER 1,000 PEOPLE TO THE STUDENTS OF GOVERNOR MADISON. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD TO PROTEST THE PATRIOTIC DOMESTIC POLICIES OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION. THE EVENT WAS SPONSORED BY PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MADISON AND THE UNION FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND WAS THE RESULT OF A CALL PUT OUT BY M.A.C.A., THREE WEEKS EARLIER PROTESTING THE U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THE U.S. SUPPORTED CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFLICTS.

CONTINUED ON PG.2



## Anti-Racism Protests of the 1980s



## The ROTC Protests 1990



— The Badger —



Top Row: Baell, Ardell, Tak, Jones, Bell, Paige, Thompson, Ristien, Fraxley  
Second Row: Fairbanks, Vorreger, Stegeman, Blosson, Frazschi, Batts, Hask  
Third Row: Oakford, Murphy, Clark, Warner (Pres.), Schae, Townsend, Grant

Ku Klux Klan



(ISSN 0013-0031)

# WISCONSIN MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin • Vol. 77, No. 1 • Autumn, 1993



## The Campus Klan of the University of Wisconsin: Tacit and Active Support for the Ku Klux Klan in a Culture of Intolerance

By Timothy Messer-Kruse

IT was the spring of 1919 when a group calling itself the Ku Klux Klan Honorary Junior Society made its first appearance at the University of Wisconsin, a growing land-grant university whose sprawling, wooded campus dominated Wisconsin's capital. (Madison, the state's fifth-largest city, had a population of less than forty thousand residents; the university enrollment exceeded seven thousand.)<sup>1</sup>

There is no evidence that the new organization was in any way tied to the better-known Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan. But for four years the group prospered under the name Ku Klux Klan, and it made no attempt to distinguish itself from the Invisible Empire. Nor did the question of its affiliation ever become an issue for the university administration or the campus press. The campus Ku Klux

Klan was never the object of debate or controversy; to the contrary, it blossomed into one of the most prominent and powerful interfraternity societies on campus, and its members, all male, included some of the university's best and brightest. Still, even though the Klan was instrumental in organizing the fund drive that helped to build the Memorial Union on Langdon Street, its heyday was brief and it did not have much lasting impact on either Madison or the university community. Seventy years later, like many another campus organization, it is all but forgotten. But the rise and fall of the campus Klan is historically instructive because it serves well as a barometer of the cultural and ideological climate of Madison and the university campus in the 1920's.

IN May of 1919, members of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity took the initiative by inviting a number of juniors from other fraternities to a secret meeting in Madison where a branch chapter of an honorary fraternity called the Ku Klux Klan was to be organized. Franklin

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I should like to thank Professor David Zislerman and Professor Herbert Hill, both of the University of Wisconsin—Madison, for carefully reading an earlier version of this article. Their critical comments kept my ideas focused and my rhetoric in check. My thanks also to John Shaw and the staff of the University of Illinois Urbana Research Center, and J. Frank Cook and his staff at the University of Wisconsin Archives in Madison, all of whom went out of their way to assist me.

<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin Blue Book, 1922, pp. 119, 191.



The Badger



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 Second Row: Fairbanks, Yonoverat, Stegeman, Blumens, Frazzette, Butts, Hook  
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Ku Klux Klan



Officers

GORDON B. WANCER  
 MORRIS BELL  
 JOHN BLOSSOM  
 SAM THOMPSON

President  
 Vice-President  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer

Seniors

LESLIE GAGE  
 RUSSEL FRAWLEY  
 JAMES L. BRADDER  
 JOSEPH HOOK  
 GEORGE GATES  
 EDWARD FRAWLEY  
 EVERETT W. JONES  
 J. HOUSTON SCHEE  
 MORTON FROST  
 HAROLD C. BUTELL  
 HUBERT TOWNSEND  
 VILAS HANKS  
 MORD BOGIE  
 LEE McCANDLESS  
 ALLAN HALLINE  
 RICHARD GIBSON  
 NELSON FAIRBANKS

Organization

Alpha Delta Phi  
 Alpha Tau Omega  
 Beta Theta Pi  
 Chi Phi  
 Delta Kappa Epsilon  
 Delta Tau Delta  
 Delta Upsilon  
 Kappa Sigma  
 Phi Delta Theta  
 Phi Gamma Delta  
 Phi Kappa Psi  
 Phi Kappa Sigma  
 Psi Upsilon  
 Sigma Chi  
 Sigma Nu  
 Sigma Phi  
 Theta Delta Chi  
 Zeta Phi

Juniors

JOHN BLOSSOM  
 PORTER BUTTS  
 EZRA CRANE  
 GORDON WANCER  
 NORMAN CLARK  
 A. VINCENT STEGEMAN  
 SAMUEL THOMPSON  
 HOWARD RISTEEN  
 DELBERT PAIGE  
 ARTHUR ARDELL  
 CARL YONNEGUT  
 CALVIN OAKFORD  
 MORRIS BELL  
 JOHN GILBREATH  
 WALTER FRAUTSCH  
 JOHN F. MURPHY  
 DOUGLAS GIBSON  
 MERRILL TAIT

The Good  
 Old Days

No strikes, no riots, no dope; the Board of Regents would have loved it. Just good, wholesome fun—with only an occasional flaming cross.  
 —Photo taken from the 1924 Badger Yearbook by Arthur Folluck



# The Badger Herald

THE INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The University of Wisconsin  
Division of Student Affairs  
Office of Student Housing  
Coordinator of Fraternity Affairs

## The Daily Cardinal

Volume III No. 5

October 8, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Back in 1924, each fraternity on this campus elected one junior and one senior to serve in this certain honorary organization. The name of it was the *Ku Klux Klan*.

The *Ku Klux Klan* was given a full page of recognition in the 1924 *Badger Yearbook*, and that page was dutifully reproduced in the October 6 issue of the *Daily Cardinal*. It gave its editors another opportunity to harass the Regents, flay the Greeks, and foam at the mouth over our wicked heritage. The *Cardinal's* caption read: "The Good Old Days--No strikes, no riots, no dope; the Board of Regents would have loved it. Just good, wholesome fun--with only an occasional flaming cross."

Bullroar. That's a gross misrepresentation, as we are about to prove, and we demand that the *Cardinal* editors print an immediate correction.

Back in 1924, there were three inter-fraternity organizations. *Intergate* and *Skull and Crescent* were honorary organizations for sophomore Greeks. The *Ku Klux Klan* was for junior and senior Greeks, a supra fraternity for super Greeks.

Much to their credit, the *Ku Klux Klan* never went on strike, never rioted, and never shot dope. That part of the *Cardinal* is correct, and we applaud the compliment paid them by the *Cardinal*.

But they never burned a single cross. Earl Settlemyer, Coordinator of Fraternity Affairs, denies vehemently that the *Ku Klux Klan* had any affiliation whatsoever with the infamous group by the same name. Further, the meticulous memory of Porter Butts, former director of the Union, denies that the group ever did anything that could in any way identify it with that other group by the same name.

The *Ku Klux Klan* organized the successful 75th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin. It also initiated the concept and raised the funds for the original student union. They raised \$50 in contributions from one out of every two undergraduates, indicating a community support far greater than any recent drive for bail money.

Not in any way being associated with the infamous group by the same name, the *Ku Klux Klan* changed its name. It became *Tomas*--same group and same ideas, but no one could call them a dirty name for having a bad name.

No one, except the *Cardinal*. Forty-six years later the *Cardinal* dug up some dirt, and gleefully threw it around. But the *Cardinal* was wrong, dead wrong.

But even if the *Cardinal* was correct, and we indeed had a southern-style KKK on this campus, we need only look to one of the *Cardinal's* heroes, Atty. William Kunstler, for justification. The *Cardinal* quoted him as saying of the bombers, "You may disagree (with them), but we must live by our own individual morality."

If the KKK blew up the Afro Center and a weatherman faction of Young Americans for Freedom blew up the *Cardinal* office, can we count on Kunstler to rush to their moral defense?

Kunstler probably can't be counted on for anything, since his judgment and sanity are seriously questioned since he called the *Cardinal's* Sept. 16 editorial "one of the most sensible and meaningful observations about the bombing."

But the *Herald* was wrong once, too. For the ecologically minded, we printed the phosphate content of various detergents in a consumer information column. We wanted to picture the product with the lowest phosphate content, but goofed and pictured the powder form of the product, which has a much higher content than the liquid form. So in the very next issue, we ran a headline that read "CORRECTION" and, by God, we corrected ourselves.

All we ask is that the *Cardinal* offer its readers the same sense of responsibility. We won't tell you it's powder when it's really liquid, but will the *Cardinal* tell you it's black when it's really white?

On October 6, 1970, THE DAILY CARDINAL ran a reprint of a page of the 1924 *Badger Yearbook*. The page was that of a student organization, *Ku Klux Klan*. The page listed the names of the members and the organization to which each belonged. At the bottom of the reprint, the *CARDINAL* printed the following: "The Good Old Days No Strikes, No Riots, No Dope; The Board of Regents would have loved it. Just good wholesome fun--with only an occasional flaming cross". The inference being obvious.

The *CARDINAL* apparently did not research the organization; I did and found the following:

During the 1920's, there were several interfraternity social and leadership societies, similar to today's Interfraternity Council. At the University of Wisconsin sophomore Fraternity men were nominees to *Skull and Crescent* or *Intergate* by the members of their own Fraternity. Juniors and Seniors were nominated to *Ku Klux Klan*. Because there was a national organization with the same name but entirely different purposes and beliefs, this honorary society changed its name to *Tomas* in the late 1920's.

The men in these organizations were instrumental in setting up the celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the University and they played a major part in a fund raising project to build the Union, which produced donations of \$50 from one out of every two undergraduates on campus.

ES:jj



Public History Project  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

8 May 1984

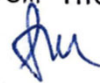
Jack Cipperly, L&S Dean's office, called today, just having seen and been shocked by the Ku Klux Klan page the 1922 Badger (page 457).

He was satisfied by the information in this folder.



6 Nov 1984

Neil Stoeffler of State Journal called to see if there was any truth to the rumor that there was a KKK in a 1920's Badger (this during the Fiji racism incidents).





Top Row: Barth, Ardell, Tark, Jones, Del, Paige, Thompson, Roston, Fraxley  
 Second Row: Fairbanks, Vorse, Stangor, Blomson, Franzke, Blatts, Hank  
 Third Row: Oakland, Murphy, Clark, Warner (Pres.), Schae, Townsend, Crane

President  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer

Juniors  
 JOHN BLOSSOM  
 PORTER BUTTS  
 EDNA CRANE  
 GORDON WANCER  
 NORMAN CLARK  
 MERVIN STEIGMAN  
 MABEL THOMPSON  
 HORACE RUSTEN  
 DELBERT PAIGE  
 ARTHUR ARDIEL  
 CARL YONNEGAT  
 CALVIN DAWFORD  
 MORRIS BELL  
 JOHN GILBREATH  
 ALGER FAULSTICH  
 JOHN F. MURPHY  
 DOUGLAS GIBSON  
 MERRELL TAYLOR

**Ku Klux Klan**



RICHARD GIBSON  
 NELSON FAIRBANKS

Theta Delta Chi  
 Zeta Psi

**The Good  
 Old Days**

No strikes, no riots, no dope; the Board of Regents would have loved it. Just good, wholesome fun—with only an occasional flaming cross.  
 —Photo taken from the 1924 Badger Yearbook by Arthur Polluck



8 May 1984

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*AM*

6 Nov 1984

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 a 1920's Badger  
 acism incidents).

*AM*

University of Wisconsin:  
 the Ku Klux Klan

...ver the object of debate or  
 to the contrary, it blossomed  
 he most prominent and pow-  
 ernity societies on campus,  
 bers, all male, included some  
 sity's best and brightest. Still,  
 the Klan was instrumental in  
 he fund drive that helped to  
 emorial Union on Langdon  
 yday was brief and it did not  
 asting impact on either Madi-  
 niversity community. Seventy  
 ke many another campus or-  
 it is all but forgotten. But the  
 of the campus Klan is histori-  
 tive because it serves well as a  
 of the cultural and ideological  
 ation and the university cam-  
 1920's.

May of 1919, members of the  
 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity  
 iative by inviting a number of  
 other fraternities to a secret  
 Madison where a branch chap-  
 oratory fraternity called the Ku  
 as to be organized. Franklin

*Yearbook, 1927, pp. 419, 494.*

Report to the Chancellor  
 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Stephen Kantrowitz and Floyd Rose  
 of the Ad-Hoc Study Group

April 4, 2018

**SUMMARY**

... sign of the fiery cross, and the image of robed and  
 racist, anti-immigrant, and anti-Semitic violence. In  
 1919 and 1926 two distinct student organizations at  
 W) took this name. In Fall 2017, Chancellor Rebecca  
 story and advice as to how to acknowledge it "in lig  
 s to maintain." (See attachments 1 and 2)  
 'history of these organizations, placing their creation  
 contexts. These contexts include the history of the K  
 de after the Civil War; its power as an image and ide  
 twentieth centuries; its re-emergence as a national  
 twin but historically related pathways that led to th  
 bearing its name; and the relationship of these  
 Wisconsin, including the City of Madison.  
 it does not fully capture what the Study Group  
 context of all: the fact that, on our campus during th  
 part of a pervasive culture of exclusion that presse  
 mpus life and subjected them to routine and persiste  
 culture, like the Ku Klux Klan itself, was a defining  
 id was not unique to this campus. This helps explain  
 do casually or eagerly adopt the name "Ku Klux K

wake of the protests and deadly violence in Charlot  
 supremacists marched with torches and chanted Na  
 d winter took place amid a sharp and renewed natio  
 'white supremacist politics in the United States and  
 luding here in Madison, over Confederate memorial  
 d history of racism. Many people, on campus and b  
 an group on UW's campus—an interfraternity societ  
 a leaders of the student body. Two of their names, P  
 ntly displayed on facilities in the Memorial Union, v  
 l Madison) bear the names of other members of this  
 rstood from the outset that many people would exp

# Reckoning (noun)

1. The action or process of calculating or estimating something
2. A person's view, opinion, or judgement
3. A bill or account, or its settlement

# Public History Project Blog

## **“A National Problem”: Badger Athletics and the Fight Against Segregation**

Posted on February 11, 2020

The 2020s have defined us by isolation and aspects of long ago for safety

## **“Successful Beyond Expectation:” Blackface, Minstrelsy, and Racist Entertainment at the University of Wisconsin–Madison**

Posted on October 15, 2020

In 1909, students at Madison on the campus of Hise’s home school. Minstrel production, versatility, and by all accounts, alumni. So successful entertainment

## **Surviving Conditions and Competing Visions: The Fight for a Chicano Studies Department**

Posted on October 5, 2020

Since the 1960s, the legitimacy of the University of Wisconsin–Madison has been a topic of lobbying and create the the restriction to get def between ( 1980s and continues

## **The Rise and Fall of “Ethnic Centers” at UW–Madison (1968–1974)**

Posted on May 12, 2020

In October 1974, 1000 University Avenue. It sponsor even Afro-American among administrative officials and

## **Access Denied: Brigid McGuire vs. the University of Wisconsin–Madison**

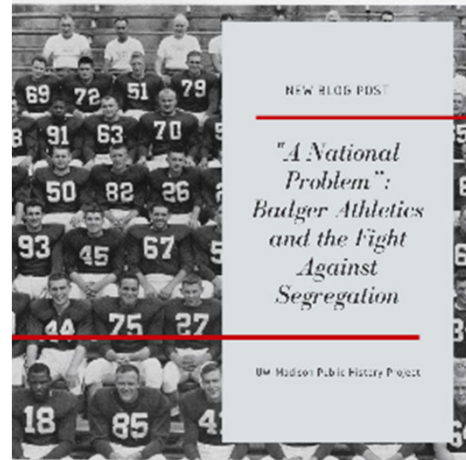
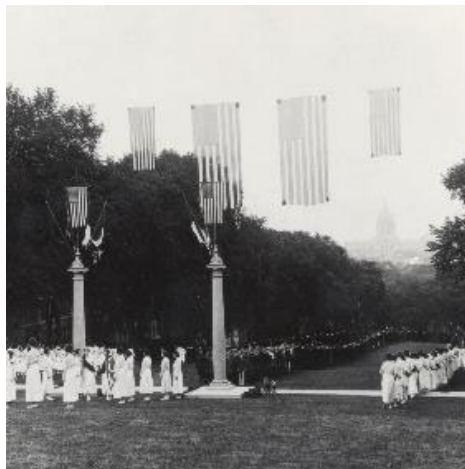
Posted on April 1, 2020

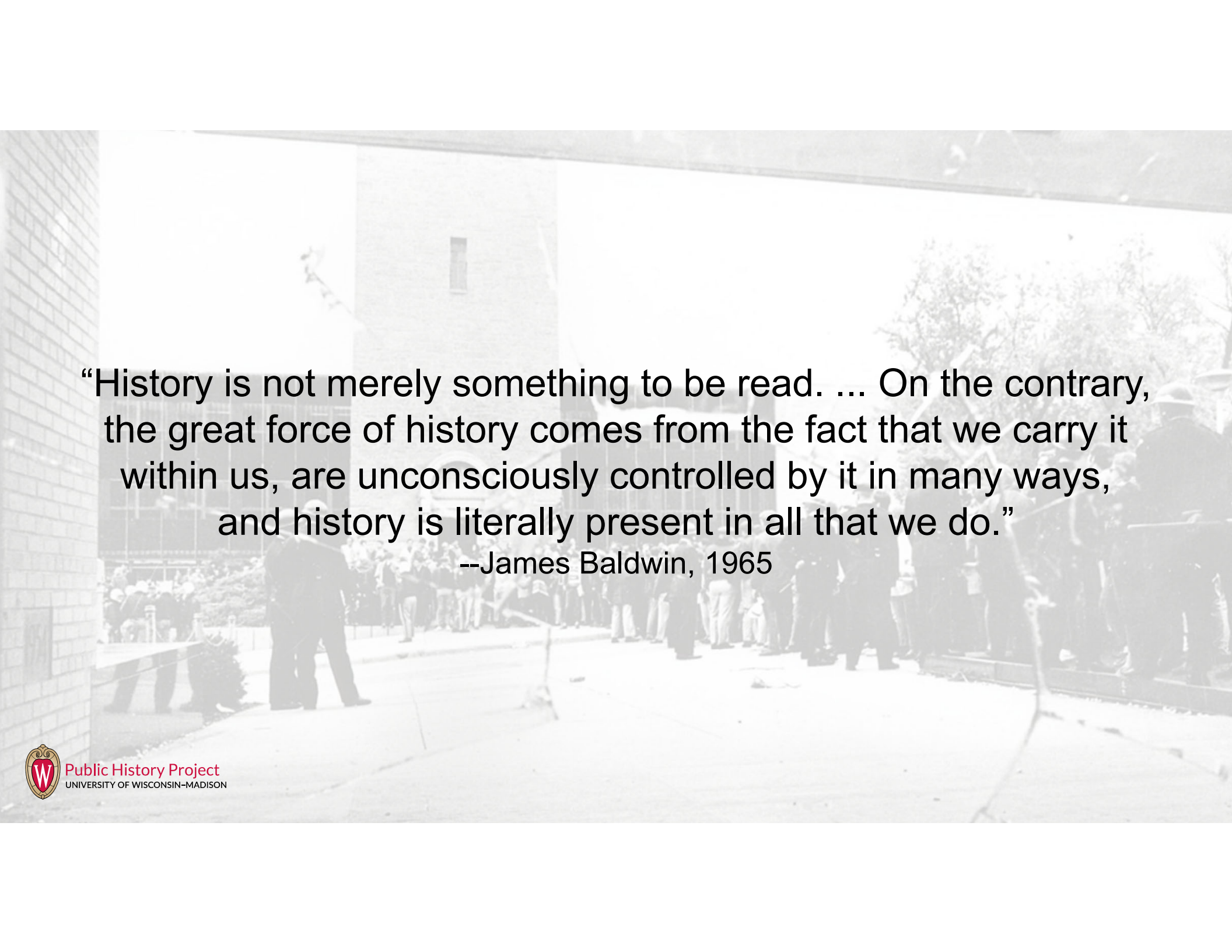
“I’d like to take my place among you as your classmate,” UW law student Brigid McGuire announced to her civil procedure class on September 7, 1994, before revving up her circular power saw and cutting off a portion of her desk to make room for her motorized wheelchair. Amid applause, she added, “My hope for this action today is for this law school to get a carpenter in here and do the right thing.”

# Public History Project Instagram



@uwpublichistoryproject





“History is not merely something to be read. ... On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do.”

--James Baldwin, 1965



# Call To Action

Want to get involved?  
Have questions?  
Something you think we should look into?

Contact us! [publichistoryproject@wisc.edu](mailto:publichistoryproject@wisc.edu)  
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