

Student pastor allegedly fired for inviting blacks to service

By Barbara Riddle and
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Auburn U.

Auburn U. senior John Clark claims he was fired from a pastoral position at a local church after inviting blacks to the church's revival.

Clark, named pastor of Loachapoka Baptist Church during the summer of 1988, issued invitations to the service

throughout the community. When he informed church members the next day, a deacon allegedly asked him, "You didn't invite any Negroes, did you?" Clark answered that he had.

The next day a deacon called Clark and said members of the congregation were upset. The group fired him in a secret ballot vote two weeks later. Church officials refuse to comment about Clark's dismissal.

"The idiotic philosophy of the 1960s is

occurring again," Clark said. "Today there are no white hats or capes, but the racism is still there." Racism is more subtle today but just as dangerous, he said.

Although he has no formal ministerial training, Clark has always been interested in public speaking. The 21-year-old history major spoke at several churches before he got hired full-time at Loachapoka.

The Rev. Donald T. Johnson, director of missions for the Tuskegee Lee Baptist

Association, said the circumstances surrounding Clark's dismissal were "blown all out of proportion."

"The best thing to do is say nothing," he said. "Each church in the Southern Baptist Convention can decide what they want to do, and that is what Loachapoka Baptist Church did."

Clark denied that churches have the right to decide against admitting members of any race. "A church is a church. Anyone should be able to worship there."

White group

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action and quotas." The group protects white students' rights and has charged the university with practicing racist policies such as imposing minority quotas,

Spletzer said.

"We want to educate people and let people know what's going on in the country," he said. "The American people are waking up to find that their rights are being walked on by minorities."

Moody said the Temple group reflects a national trend toward acceptance of

racism. "It's an indication of the new mind-set, bigotry and racism that's turning around the idea of reverse discrimination," she said.

Spletzer also believes the White Student Union will become a nationwide issue, saying he has received numerous letters from students across the country

who support the group's aims.

"It's like what happened with Martin Luther King Jr.," he said.

"Even though people abused him and his supporters, they continued to stand up for their civil rights. We're doing the same thing — we're white civil rights activists."

Med Schools

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attending lectures that cover only one subject, such as physiology or pathology.

Anderson said the change is necessary because "the mass of knowledge is changing so rapidly that by the time you get out of medical school, much of what you've memorized is out of date."

The new curriculum, called problem-based learning, was developed by McMaster U. in Ontario, Canada, about 20 years ago. Only 10 universities in the United States have adopted it. Of those, UH is the first to convert entirely to the new system.

The others, including Harvard Medical School, offer a choice of the traditional or problem-based tracks or a hybrid of the two.

Anderson said McMaster sent consultants to train UH faculty in the new methods last spring. Other help came

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— Todd Abbey,
UNM graduate

through correspondence with the U. of New Mexico, which started its problem-based format in 1979.

Two graduates from the UNM School of Medicine currently intern at Honolulu hospitals.

Graduate Todd Abbey said his class that graduated from the problem-based track enjoyed the first two years, normally the worst. He said he was not required to memorize as many facts for tests as students in the traditional format, but what he did learn he has retained better.

"It's because the information you learn is relevant instead of just for a test. You have something to tie it to — there's a patient, whether fictitious or real. If you just remember things to pass a test, it's gone soon after," Abbey said.

The World Health Organization published an evaluation of the 10 schools using problem-based learning. Graduates surveyed scored as well or better on national licensing exams and rated themselves to be as well-trained or better than their peers in traditional schools.

Many med schools suffer high dropout rates due to burnout, but the 1987 WHO study found problem-based learning schools lost fewer students. UNM had a 10 percent dropout rate, compared to the 20 to 25 percent national average.

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