

LETTER

Continued from Page 1

family housing. In it, he wrote that Xiangui had contributed much to the complex and deserved a fair chance at an extension. Neet indicated in the letter that he believes family housing is inconsistent in such decisions.

Although Briggs has no say on housing decisions, Neet sent a copy of the letter to him.

Neet expressed concern that "Chinese students are often at a disadvantage in our system because they are too polite to be

abrasive and wouldn't consider threats and retribution as appropriate."

Briggs responded with a letter to Tendick that was eventually shown to Xiangui.

In the letter, Briggs writes "I respect the rules you have and the difficulty in enforcing them. My experience with the Chinese (as one example used in your letter) tells me that they may be polite, but they also know how to work a system to their advantage.

"I'm told by my Chinese friends that we should be strict with them because they will run all over you if you let

them." Xiangui and a friend, Haiyang Yuan, director of the Chinese Student Association, decided to take action. Both said they were outraged when they saw the letter.

"I was shocked," Xiangui said. "I told Darrell, 'This is a racist letter.' I can't stand for this. I can't believe that someone in his position could say this."

Xiangui said his interactions with Briggs had been cordial in the past, but he "didn't get a good feeling" from him.

Briggs said he was simply giving Tendick advice on the

situation by telling him that "rules are rules" and should apply equally for everyone. Briggs said he was indicating to Tendick that the Chinese are polite, but have ways of ensuring that they get a fair shake, so Tendick need not worry about the issue.

Over the years, Briggs said, he has become acutely aware of cultural differences and has asked Chinese students for advice on dealing with other Chinese people.

"I've asked them to help guide me," Briggs said. "One of the things some of them have said is that if you give them a chance, they'll take advantage of it."

Briggs said he is anxious to talk to Xiangui about the situation.

"I regret very much that Wu saw (the letter) and was upset," Briggs said.

ASUO President Bobby Lee was also shocked by the letter and said he would push for Briggs' dismissal.

"It's stereotypes like this that we're trying to work against at this University," Lee said. "In

our own administration, a man working with students from 80 different countries says this. It's totally unacceptable. The University is not going to get away with this."

Lee, who is Korean-American, said he takes the issue personally.

"I've had to deal with this for a long time, and to see our administration conducting business based on stereotypes is just appalling," he said.

Xiangui was given the extension after he enrolled for 3 credits fall term.

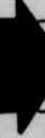
Tendick said that is the standard minimum requirement for an extension, although some exceptions are made. Extension requests are generally dealt with by himself, Shari Donahoe and Frank Gaddini, housing directors at Westmoreland and Amazon housing, respectively.

Tendick said he does not believe the process of granting extensions is discriminatory. He added that he did not see Briggs' letter as racist but simply an advisement that "we don't need to be overly concerned about (the Chinese) asserting themselves."

Weasel's World



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HOW ABOUT YOUR FOLKS?

NO WAY. THEY LIVE IN A DREAM WORLD!

ARE YOU SURE? HAVE YOU AND YOUR PARENTS EVER SAT DOWN TO DISCUSS SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY?

WELL, YEAH. ONCE, WHEN I WAS ABOUT 14.

AND?

THEY JUST WEREN'T READY.

MAYBE YOU WERE RUSHING THEM. SOME PARENTS NEED MORE TIME.