

BRIGGS

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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 said he was 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 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."

Lee was also shocked by the letter and said at the time he would also push for Briggs' dismissal. Now he says his role is to meet with Chinese students on both sides of the issue, try to come to some consensus and keep the students from remaining divided.

Both Lee and Xiangui said mediation is not the answer.

"Mediation might help us get a better understanding of the situation," Lee said, "but it won't change people's attitudes. We need something more progressive than that."

Xiangui said that division is sad, "but I don't know why they're defending him. I can't speak for them, but I think the reasons are complicated."

Xiangui, who has spoken over the phone to Briggs since the letter became public, said he will not meet with Briggs. He also said he was not satisfied with Briggs' letter of apology and wants him to move to another position at the University "until things cool off. Then maybe he can come back to that job."

In his position, Briggs deals with many issues surrounding students who come to the University from other countries.

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

Tendick said that is the standard minimum requirement for an extension, although some exceptions are made.

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."



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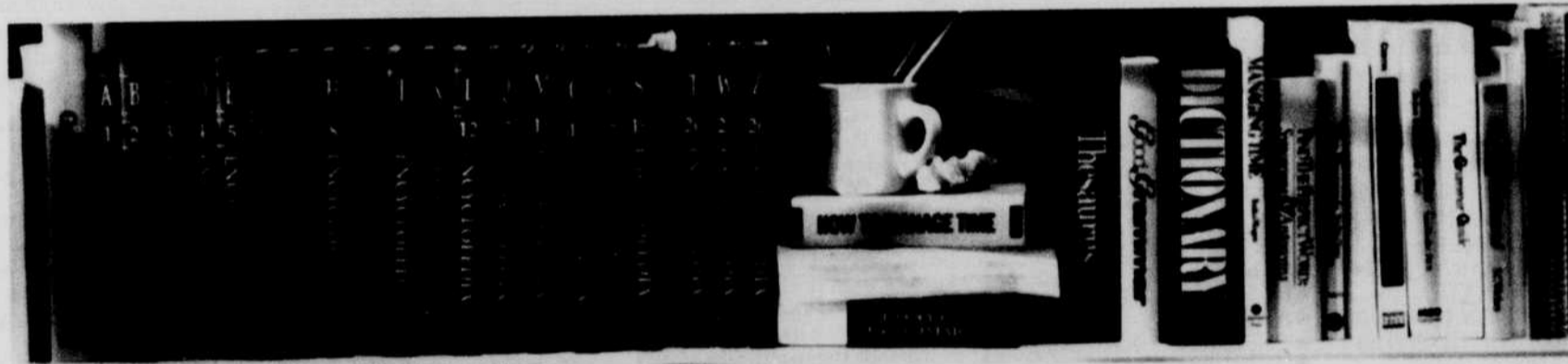
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