Steve Solnick

Separatism at two Ivy schools

(Second in a series)

A number of incidents of alleged "institutional racism" on the Harvard campus which were discussed last week have led to calls for a Third World Center at Harvard.

Are the racial incidents which have resulted in these calls the exception or the rule on this campus? This week we will look at the day-to-day atmosphere at both Harvard and its sister in the Ivy League, Princeton, where a Third World Center was established in 1973.

Harvard. The overall impression one gets from talking to Harvard students is that there is a large measure of separatism on the campus. Interestingly, many students felt that the selective eating clubs had a tendency to associate with other black students, but seemed very reluctant to judge who was more responsible to initiate contact.

Are Harvard's arrangements segregated? Disraeli certainly are, with blacks and whites usually choosing to sit at different tables (there are obviously many exceptions to this rule). Says Davis again, "Several white students noted, "why should we sit at a table with all whites and subject ourselves to strange looks?" Again, bridging the gap presented was a challenge.

In the living halls, Dean of Housing Tom Dingman said the dormitories "aren't at all segregated. Black students live in all of the houses." He added, "however, that of the houses there are sizable populations of black students but they are not segregated within the houses." The same is not true of the Harvard housing office, which is run by an all-white staff. According to Dingman, "there is nothing like a black house.

Davis points, however, to the finals clubs which serve at the cornerstone of the Princeton social scene. According to Davis, these selective clubs are "99 percent white." Also, the one dormitory with a predominantly black population, Carney House, has been the site of a large number of race-relations meetings.

One group is separating itself from the others, according to Davis. "There is the group of students who are called the "black fellows," while the other way around. Whites will die, and do, contest the opposite. Administrators and students call the schism a "real challenge to the college."

Princeton. The Third World Center at Princeton is housed in a small building just off campus. Its Board of Governors includes a large series of programs on minority concerns "to enhance the cultural experience of the whole college," according to World News editor Mike Casse coordination, which blacks feel has not suited their needs.

A social system at Princeton centers around the "eating clubs." One student said, "It is the only way to meet other cultures and how such a system which blacks have a tendency to cluster in two residential colleges at Princeton. Interestingly, some students felt that the selective eating clubs had higher prestige than those on the whole.

Here again we find tales of dining halls with groups of only black students eating together, although this separatism seems less popular in the dormitories, outside the residential colleges.

Is this separation good for the college? Said one black student: "I wonder whether or not it will hurt other cultures and how much we are being maintained in a positive way by whites and black." One white student: "Many blacks may feel whites simply don't understand the specific needs of black students."

Next week: MIT

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Steven L. Solnick, Editor-in-Chief, Ad-
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