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Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, "Edwardsville Bulletin: October 1, 1990" (1990). *SIUE "Bulletin"*. 448.

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October 1, 1990 Vol. 21, No. 12

MEMO TO: The University Community FROM: Earl Lazerson

One of the major values of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is that a humane, safe, and supportive environment is essential to the welfare, growth, and advancement of all members of the University community.

On Sunday morning (September 30) at approximately 1:30 a.m., a dispute involving student residents and guests occurred at Tower Lake Housing. The dispute became confrontational, and significant numbers of students apparently took sides along racial lines.

Last night a meeting was held at Tower Lake Housing to provide students an opportunity to express their views and concerns about the incident, discuss the way it was handled, and offer suggestions to prevent future occurrences of similar incidents. Numerous students expressed concerns about the way African-American students are treated on campus. Additionally, there were complaints voiced about the conduct of our University Police department.

To address these important concerns and other issues surrounding the incident that took place on Sunday morning, I have called for a prompt and thorough investigation. Neither acts of racism and bias nor violence have a place at this University, and such behaviors will not be tolerated. When the facts have been collected, I will report to you the findings and intended actions.