

Rid Rutgers of Racism

The shocking assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King on Thursday has suddenly prompted students and faculty alike finally to recognize the inherent and implicit racism that permeates Rutgers - The State University, and in particular, Rutgers College.

While we can be fairly certain that the University does not intentionally nor consciously abet white racism, we must at the same time realize that as long as this institution continues to reflect and perpetuate the sick, immoral traditions of white American society, it, in the process, perpetuates the racism that slew Dr. King and hundreds of others fighting for equality.

The University should serve as the gadfly of society. It must be the vanguard of truth, seeker of wisdom, and perpetual iconoclast. Its purpose should be to purge a community of its wrongs, not to maintain those ills. It should educate men to cleanse a nation of its social diseases, not to further instill the perverted values of a decadent society into its students.

Rutgers College has regrettably failed to achieve these goals. As part of the State University it has done more to reflect the innumerable racial faults of New Jersey rather than to correct them. As a result, the neglect that the black man has suffered at Rutgers College and the ignorance that white students have retained is appallingly great.

We must therefore recognize a vast need for changes within the College and its dealings with the nearby community:

- a large increase in the number of black students enrolled at the College.
- more scholarship aid to needy black students rather than allotting funds to athletes and preceptors who may not need the grants.
- more black professors.
- more black administrators.
- more courses on Negro and African culture and history, including the possible formation of a new department to handle these courses.
- an increase in black literature at the University Library.
- an investigation of the operation of the Campus Patrol in light of charges of racism from black students.
- increased efforts on the part of the University to aid the deprived citizens of New Brunswick.
- an investigation of Messrs. Metzger's, Weinberg's, Hopp's and other University personnel's involvement and intentions with the Middlesex County Economic Opportunity Corporation (MCEOC).

In addition, we demand that within one week, President Mason Gross, Provost Richard Schlatter, Dean of Rutgers College Arnold Grobman, and other affiliated administrators, hold a public forum to explain why the College has failed to meet the needs of this state's black students, and to propose immediate and tangible plans to correct these unequal conditions. If necessary, we urge that classes be cancelled one day this week so that all students and faculty might discuss this important problem.

Furthermore, we urge all students to participate in tonight's MCEOC rally leaving from The Ledge at 6 p.m. to demonstrate white students' concern for the problems of the poor in New Brunswick.

We concede that Rutgers College has made some progress in alleviating these problems and that solutions are not easy to find. Nevertheless, it is more imperative than ever before that definite change be effected.

If the University fails in this pursuit, it has failed to establish any special purpose within this society. Then it might as well sit back and watch men destroy themselves.