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Emory University

Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Housing Office

August 8, 1969

Memorandum

To: Dr. Sanford S. Atwood

President

From: Marshall G. Lamison, Jr.

Subj: 1746 Clifton Road

Per our conversation of August 6, arrangements have been made with Campus Security to periodically check the Black House. This check will only constitute driving through the area at night to see if everything is in order. Security will not go inside the building unless they have cause to believe that something is unusual. Security is presently checking the Communitas House in the same manner.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter from Michael Holmes, also a letter from Dr. Harvey Young. These letters were written at my request so that the University could better understand the black students' request for a Black House. Also enclosed is a memorandum from Mrs. Carolyn Moore, Supervisor of Women's Housing, listing furnishings now in the Black House.

MGL/ld

Enc.

June 5, 1969

Dean Marshall G. Lamison

Assistant Dean of Student Housing and Assistant Business Manager

Housing Office

Emory University

Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear Dean Lamison:

The Black Students Alliance is a non-profit group chartered by the university. A request has been made for a house which would serve the university as well as the black students. The university would have facilities which would be used in conjunction with the establishment of an Afro-American Studies program as well as an Afro-American lecture series.

Such a house would provide the university with facilities for orientation of black students, or students involved in urban studies, as for example, the Political Science program this summer which makes use of a cross-section of black students from college campuses. Such a house would serve educational purposes and could be equipped with library facilities of the black experience, tapes, records, films, and study areas. It would also provide a meeting place for black students and Emory faculty whereby students and faculty would have an opportunity to get together and get to know each other.

Since the house would offer the opportunity for expansion of any of Emory's educational programs involving black students, faculty, and black visitors to the campus, and in view of the fact that Emory would make use of these facilities in an effort to attain a more meaningful

educational experience for the black students on campus, we request that this house be rented to us for a nominal fee of \$1.00 yearly.

Living in an isolated white environment can and does destroy the cultural and psychological bonds of a race of people - the black students at Emory should not be forced to assimilate and thus disintegrate as a black race.

The house would serve as a center for community service projects. Many of Emory's community service projects involve black communities. It would be of tremendous value to have a meeting place for those involved in these programs, as well as those black students who want to become involved in community activity, where all these projects can be planned. Black people involved in such projects would feel more free to come to the university, knowing that there was a place where they would be most welcome. This would enhance service to the community greatly and give, for example, children involved in tutorials an opportunity to come to Emory and make use of black materials available in the library area of the house, view films, listen to tapes and thereby become more aware of their black experience.

We would appreciate hearing from you soon.

Yours for a better university,

Michael T. Holmes

Chairman – Activities Committee, BSA

Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322  
Department of History  
June 11, 1969

Mr. Marshall G. Lamison, Jr.  
Dean of Students for Housing and Assistant Business Manager  
Emory University

Dear Dean Lamison:

I write you at your suggestion after the recent conversation among you, myself, Henry Sharp, and Mike Brown of the Black Students Alliance. We seek to put on paper our interpretation of the attitude toward a Black House held by Mike and five other BSA Students with whom the College Committee supped and visited a week ago.

The most important thing about the Black House to the students, we believe, is that it is essential to black students feeling comfortable on campus, and they believe that the University, in admitting them, should have done what was necessary to make their environment one in which they could feel enough at ease to pursue their studies without having to undertake the burden of fighting for their rights. Within this context, they believe that the Black House should be provided them, with their "special" needs, at a nominal rent, which they stated to be \$1 a year. About the house on Clifton Road which they had been shown, they waxed enthusiastic as a site which would suit their purposes.

As members of the committee, we believe that the University should very quickly reach a decision as to the terms of a lease.

A decision to require more than "nominal" rent would obviously evoke the response that the University had "missed the point" of the entire protest episode. How much rent should be charged, where a possible subsidy might be secured (from SGA funds, from other University funds, from the black community, from other outside funds), when in the future a higher rent might be warranted, the committee does not know. The committee does know that, to the students, the Black House is invested with great symbolical value, and the committee hopes for a rapid resolution.

This letter would have reached you a little sooner had I not checked its text with the members of the committee who are, besides Henry Sharp and myself, Edward Ducree, David Hesla, Dennis Ippolito, James Jordan, and Leon Mandell. Henry would have joined me in signing the letter were he not away from the city this week.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey Young

Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322  
Housing Office  
August 7, 1969

Memorandum

To: Dean M.G. Lamison, Jr.  
From: Mrs. Carolyn C. Moore  
Re: Furnishings for Black House

The requested furnishings for the Black House are expected to be in the House by August 15.

Living area:

The sofa and one overstuffed green chair are now being repaired and have been promised by Mr. Steph by August 15. (Not to exceed \$175.)

3 other large chairs are there now and 9 rattan chairs that can be used either in living or study areas; and also a coffee table.

A rug approximately 13' by 15' has been placed in the House and cleaned by Anderson & Co. (10.00)

14 metal folding chairs were moved into the house the weekend of July 25. I have been unable to find out where they came from. Rena Price knows nothing about them, she says. I have not put other chairs in the house until I can find out if the ones there are permanent and of adequate number.

Library area:

4 bookcases have been moved into the area.

1 large conference table is now at Maintenance [[Maintenance]] being painted and having a formica top placed on it.

Kitchen area

A stove and refrigerator are now in the kitchen area.

Other equipment:

I have done nothing about trying to secure a tape recorder. Also nothing has been done about additional lights except the lamps in the living room area.

3 desks not requested which can be used for study have been moved into the House.

I have made an unsuccessful [[unsuccessful]] search for draperies and curtains. I discussed this with Rena, who says that the mother of one of the girls in the group says she may be able to help with curtains.

Carolyn



Meeting at 4:30 P.M. On Wednesday, June 4, 1969 with:

Dr. Sharp, Math Department

Dr. Young, History Department

Mr. Mike Holmes, BSA Representative

M. G. Lamison, Housing

The meeting was held to discuss the BSA request for a Black House for Emory Black Students. Dr. Young started the meeting with a general review of the background and history of his involvement and the fact that they had had a meeting with BSA Representatives.

Since I had been designated by the President in his letter of May 30, 1969 to act in regard to the Black House, these persons were meeting with me to see what could be accomplished. I read to them, my letter for June 3rd directed to Mr. James Gavin and Mr. James Brown.

The meeting then became centered around a discussion of the 1764 Clifton Road property, and it was determined that this was the property the Black Students felt was the most appropriate at this time. In a discussion of the financial arrangements for such property, it was determined that the BSA felt that \$1.00 per year would be in order. It was also my understanding that Dr. Young and Dr. Sharp concurred.

I advised them that I could not speak to this point but would direct the matter to Vice President Myers. I explained that we had worked out special financial arrangements with Communitas in the past and that I felt an arrangement could be worked out with BSA, but that I did not feel qualified to speak for the \$1.00 per year arrangement.

During the conversation that followed, Mr. Holmes asked about the possibility of painting, renovation and general upkeep of the property and whether the University would be responsible for this. My answer was that until we determined what sort of lease was to be agreed upon it would be difficult to respond to this inquiry, that these matters were usually included within the lease.

Dr. Young expressed an urgency to resolve the matter of the Black House because it was not as complicated as the other 12 points listed in the President's letter.

Earlier in the discussion, I commented to them on the fact that I had visited with Charles Haynes, President of SGA, and that Mr. Haynes had expressed to me that SGA would be glad to assist in any way possible.

Although it was not discussed at this meeting, Henry Sharp and I briefly touched on the garage apartment adjacent to the 1746 Clifton Road property. This may come into discussion later on.

I asked Mike Holmes to put in writing to me just exactly how the Black House was to be used and what kind of program was to be developed.

Both the BSA and the Faculty are going to follow through on this. I asked that their Black House communications be directed to me since I have been assigned this responsibility.

M.G. Lamison, Jr.

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Dean Marshall G. Lamison

Rena M. Price, Asst. Chairman, BSA

BSA House Furnishings

July 14, 1969

Since you have been designated by President Atwood as the university official responsible for the BSA house, I am writing directly to you with regard to furnishings for the house. In a memo to Dean Jones dated June 18, I listed several items which were needed immediately. In responding, Dean Jones stated that you and he would continue the search for available furniture.

It is necessary that I know what progress has been made, and what kinds of furnishings you have been able to locate.

RMP/

cc: Dean J. D. Jones

President S. S. Atwood

June 26, 1969

Miss Rena M. Price  
Black Students Alliance  
Post Office Box 21208  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear Miss Price:

Reference is made to your letter of June 18 concerning rental of the house at 1745 Clifton Road. As Dean Lamison has explained to you, this house is now available as a facility to enhance the activities and educational programs for black students on the Emory campus.

Insofar as the cost of the house is concerned, it should be pointed out that operational expenses for all University properties—including insurance, general upkeep, and other related costs—must be paid and accounted for by the University through some regular University account. Such costs are, therefore, paid either through a University budget account or through a rental income account from an individual.

In this case it was agreed that, rather than require direct payment by individual users of the house, the University would finance, at the minimal rate of fifty dollars per month, the expenses of the University budget as a charge to the student activities portion of the Student Affairs budget account. This plan was approved by Dean Jones and by Mr. Charles Haynes.

Very truly yours,

Orie E. Myers, Jr.

Vice President for Business

cc. Mr. Michael T. Holmes

Dean Marshall G. Lamison

Dean J. Donald Jones

bc: President Atwood

Black Students Alliance  
Emory University  
Post Office Box 21208  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Memorandum

June 18, 199

To: Dean J. Donald Jones, Assistant Dean of Students for Student Activities  
From: Rena M. Price, Assistant Chairman  
Black Students Alliance  
Subject: Furnishings for BSA House

As per our conversation on Monday, it would be greatly appreciated if you would try and locate the following items for the BSA house on Clifton Road. These are a few of the items which will be needed as soon as they can be made available.

Living Area

One – large sofa or couch

Two – four – accompanying chairs

Two – end tables

Two – lamps for the end tables

One – coffee table

One – large rug

Library Area

Four – wall-type bookcases

One – large conference-size table, or two smaller tables of comparable size.

Ten to fifteen accompanying chairs

One – small table (approximate top size 4" x 3")

#### Kitchen Area

One – four-lid stove

One – refrigerator

#### Other Equipment

One – tape recorder

Fluorescent lights will be needed in the library area, as well in two other rooms.

As other needs become apparent, we will be in touch with you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

RMP/

cc: Michael, T. Holmes

Dean Marshall G. Lanison

President Sanford S. Atwood

Black Students Alliance  
Emory University  
Post Office Box 21208  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

June 18, 1999

My. Orie E. Myers, Jr.  
Vice President for Business  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear Mr. Myers:

In his letter of June 5 to Dean Lamison, Michael Holmes,  
Chairman of Activities for the Black Students Alliance,  
listed a request for a nominal fee of \$1.00 yearly to  
be charged for the rental of the house at 1746 Clifton Road.

Recently, in talking with Dean Lamison, he relayed the  
fact that your office had not approved this request. In  
view of this, it would be greatly appreciated if you  
would provide us with an explanation stating the reasons  
why our request was not approved.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



(Miss) Rena M. Price  
Assistant Chairman  
Black Students Alliance

RMP/

cc: Michael T. Holmes  
Dean Marshall G. Lamison  
President Sanford S. Atwood

Dean J. Donald Jones

Rena M. Price, Assistant Chairman

Lease Agreement for BSA House

June 18, 1969

A meeting of the Black Students Alliance is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 19.

I will be in touch with you on Friday, May 20, for further discussion on the lease agreement.

RMP/

cc: Mr. Orie E. Myers, Jr.

President Sanford S. Atwood