

Sandy

I think Johnson's article in last Wheel was right—

Henry

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February 14, 1970

Dr. R.A. Day
Department of Chemistry
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear R. A.,

You were most thoughtful to write me as you did February 13th. I read with great interest the letter to the faculty from Arrington. He had previously apologized to me in person for the Wheel article, stating it did not correctly quote his remarks. He tends to generalize from specifics.

The matter of admissions at Emory, it would appear to me, would be something which would be handled by the faculty and administration

determining what standards for admission shall be and the admissions office making certain that the persons admitted meet those standards.

Certainly to make special lower or higher standards for any group of students, be they black or white, violates basic concepts of propriety. The decision by faculty to admit stated numbers of students of any color contradicts the policy adopted in 1968 by the Board of Trustees which states:

"Admission to Emory University is open to applicants who are able to meet its admission standards, regardless of race, creed, color or place of origin; persons are not to be admitted to any of its divisions or schools by any quota or any formula based on race, creed, color or place of origin."

I had previously read the statement in the New York Times which you sent me concerning Wesleyan University. I am passing it on to other trustees who had not seen it. It was an amazing account, and in depth, of a tragic experience. I agree with you that it grew out of the very same approach that is apparently desired by the faculty members who voted on this last week. I have, within the last few days, had other faculty members, administrators and alumni express great concern over this attempt to lower standards.

It is pretty clear to me that when we invite a less well-prepared student into an environment where he has to compete with those whose preparation is required to be superior, we are placing the poorly prepared student into a situation leading to almost certain failure and bitterness. Though it is true that there may be exceptional students who may be able to measure up despite the preparation disparity, nevertheless, it should not be Emory's function to admit numbers in order to identify the few.

We are not in preparation business but in higher education where adequate preparation should be a pre-requisite to admission.

Please do not despair. Please continue to work for the maintenance of higher standards of admission and performance by Emory students and Emory will continue to be the fine University it has been.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Bowden

HLB: lrd

February 13, 1970

Mr. Henry Bowden

First National Bank Building

Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Henry:

As you have probably heard by now the faculty of Emory College voted last Monday to admit 20 additional black students without regard to the usual admission requirements based on SAT scores and high school grades. This proposal (copy enclosed) calls for remedial work in the summer and possibly a reduced course load. The cost of such a program has been estimated at a minimum of \$50,000 per year for the first year only. The faculty at that meeting seemed to buy the argument that this was a matter of principle - let others worry about the financing.

Some of us tried in vain to oppose this program. You may recall some material we sent you last fall concerning remarks made by Dr. Kenneth Clark against lowering standards for blacks in job-training programs. For this and for Leon Mandell's speaking out on the issue, our entire department was accused of entering into a conspiracy against the program. (Copy of Mr. Arrington's letter to the faculty enclosed.) This is exactly what we pointed out tends to happen whenever one tries to debate openly matters of this importance. One is either labelled a racist, ultra-conservative, or conspirator.

We urge that you and our other administrative leaders resist to the fullest this attempt of the faculty to lower admission

standards to Emory College. Even without the enormous cost factor, we oppose it because it opens the gate to a flood of similar requests which will, we feel, ruin Emory College and greatly damage Emory University.

Enclosed also is a copy of an article on Wesleyan University which appeared in the New York Times Magazine on Jan. 18, 1970. What has occurred at Wesleyan is the result of essentially the same program which is proposed for Emory. This was pointed out at the faculty meeting but completely ignored by most of those present. How we can fail to react to actual evidence available to us so that we can avoid the same pitfalls, is amazing to us. However, knowing the lack of rational thought by so many of our faculty, we have begun to see the hopelessness of debate and reason.

Here are two points worth noting, we feel: (1) Less than one-third of the college faculty actually voted for this proposal. We believe that many stayed away because they did not wish to commit themselves in public as being against the proposal. (2) The educational needs of the 2400 students now attending Emory College should receive highest priority if any additional funds are available. We cite only the desperate [[desperate]] need for book funds - our department has no money left for any book purchases after February every year - and the desperate [[desperate]] need for improving the safety conditions of many laboratories in our building alone. There are dozens of legitimate educational needs of the current student body which greatly exceed in importance the proposal to undertake a social experiment which has already proved disastrous

at other schools.

If we can provide further help, please call on us.

Sincerely,

R.A. Day, Jr.

Professor of Chemistry

J. H. Goldstein

Candler Professor of Chemistry

RAD/jd

P. S. We apologize for being unable to attend your luncheon talk.

Two of us (L.M. and J. H. G.) were out of town trying to raise money; the other (R. A. D.) was ill.

cc: Dr. S.S. Atwood