

The Emory Wheel Special Edition

“The South’s Most Independent Collegiate Newspaper”

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Vol. 50, No. 29

Tuesday, May 27, 1969

Black Students Present Demands

SGA Legislature Convenes Special Session

SGA, Haynes Keep Abreast of Last-Minute Developments

Charles Haynes, President of the SGA today called for a special session of the SGA Legislature to meet the issues raised by Emory black students in the last two days. After hearing the demands of the BSA on the quadrangle last night, President Haynes and his Executive Council met to decide what SGA could do in this situation.

The President will ask the Legislature to pass a resolution urging Dr. Atwood to show the steps of action taken by the administration toward realizing the BSA demands. The Legislature will also be asked to take direct action by funding a BSA orientation for black students next fall, give space in the Candler Library for a special black resources room and make funds available to buy the necessary material. At this time President Haynes is attempting to find a house where black students can render their activities. The SGA is gathering the facts to determine what has already been done in these areas.

Commenting on his proposals, the President said, “The actions I am urging the SGA to take are not compromises and are not merely supportive gestures. These proposals are the Executive branch’s attempt to answer the issues raised by black students. This is only a beginning and is not enough. But we do feel that the Student Government must help implement the plans unveiled by the black students if we are to have a meaningful government. Whatever the administration does or does not do, SGA still has to meet its responsibility to all students.

This is the latest in a series of actions taken by the Executive Council of the SGA during the current protests. Terry Miller, Advisor to President Haynes, defined the rule of SGA by

saying: “We must first maintain the confidence of all students and second work with the Administration to prevent an escalation of tension. Realizing the need for change and the validity of the black demands our role is to take immediate action where practical “and necessary.”

In the past two days Haynes has met with black students and administrators in determining the course of action by SGA. His Executive Council attempted to find the facts underlying the issues and decided to support the Cox Hall boycott in an effort to make all students aware of the situation. President Haynes said: “Realizing that white students have failed to provide a campus atmosphere and facilities needed for black students, the Executive Council asks the SGA to meet the black student demands with the resources available to Student Government.”

The request of the Legislature by the SGA Executive will provide funds for two or three of the demands listed by black students. Haynes hopes that this will show all sides the concrete concern of the SGA and urge the Administration to act where they can.

Last Sunday, the Executive Council acted with President Haynes to inform the student body by contacting the dorms and the IFC. The Attorney General of the SGA and Haynes worked with the administration during the demonstration to help decide a course of action. On Monday Haynes issued a statement asking that white students trust black students and called for a [[an]] examination of the issues.

Temporary Restraining Order

Judge H. O. Hubert of the Superior Court of DeKalb County has issued the following temporary restraining order (in part here) against all individuals involved in Cox Hall protest Sunday.

“Plaintiff shows that the facts of this case present a situation authorizing the grant of a temporary restraining order without notice to the adverse parties for the reason that immediate and irreparable injury, loss and damage will result to the plaintiff and its students by reason of the acts of defendants before notice could be served upon them and a hearing had relative to the issuance of the temporary restraining order sought by plaintiff.

Wherefore, plaintiff prays:

1) That process issue requiring defendants to be and appear at a place and time as set by law to answer this complaint.

2) That until further order of this Court the defendant and any and all persons or organizations acting for them or in concert or confederation with them, be restrained as follows:

(a) From interfering with worship services conducted by plaintiff on its campus.

(b) From interfering in any manner with the operation of Cox Hall or the cafeteria maintained therein.

(c) From blocking or in any manner obstructing any of the entrances, exits or cafeteria lines of said Cox Hall.

(d) From forcibly entering and taking or keeping possession of any building or facility of plaintiff anywhere on the campus of Emory University.

(e) From obstructing [[obstructing]] in any manner any of the entrances to or exits from the campus of Emory University.

(f) From taking any action, either individually or in concert with others, designed to disrupt the peaceful operation of Emory University as an institution of higher learning.

g) Plaintiff prays that this be treated as a class action to apply to any student at Emory University who undertakes to disrupt the peaceful operation of said University as alleged herein.

3) That a day certain be fixed upon which defendants shall be required to show cause, if any they have, why they should not be temporarily enjoined from committing the acts complained of herein.”

Monday Quad Rally Draws Over 500

The Black Student Alliance has given the Emory faculty and administration until 10 a.m. tomorrow to respond with “suitable action” to a list of eight proposals originally presented to President Atwood last March but which the BSA says the University has not acted upon.

“We expect a written statement from the faculty and administration by 10:00 Wednesday morning,” BSA triumvirate member and spokesman James Brown told a crowd of approximately 500 people gathered on the quadrangle last night.

If the BSA proposals are not met by the Wednesday morning deadline, Brown said the BSA was ready to resort to “any means necessary” to effect their requests.

Last night’s rally was reportedly called by the BSA to explain the reasons for the demonstrations Sunday and yesterday against what were termed the “racist policies” of Cox Hall. The meeting was also to document BSA charges of racism in all aspects of the Emory community and to present the BSA’s position.

Brown opened the meeting at about 11:10 by stating the purpose of the rally. “We are here tonight,” he stated, “to announce our intent to fight racism in all its forms on this campus. If this racism is physical, we will fight it physically; if it is intellectual, we will intellectualize against it.”

Larry Palmer then presented a list of incidents which he said illustrated the racism found on the campus.

“There was a freshman student on the third floor of Longstreet Hall,” Palmer said, “who was harassed and mistreated constantly. He was mistreated on Friday night, on Saturday night, on Tuesday night—all the time. So six members of the BSA went over to the dormitory to seek out this racism—but all they found was a quiet hall.

Palmer cited another instance on the first floor of Dobbs Hall which he said followed the same pattern. “We went over to the hall to investigate, and all we found was a quiet hall. It seems,” Palmer said, “the amount of racism depends on the size of the persons involved.”

Palmer also gave examples of what he said were blatant acts of racism on the part of the AMB, the faculty and the administration. “A change must come to this,” he said, “and by God a change will come. We’re (the BSA) going to work together and we’re going to change this world.”

James Gavin, a senior in the College, followed Palmer to the microphone and states that the black students at Emory wanted “no more games. Let’s not accept any more excuses,” he

said. "We're going to lay it on the line. We are following the principles of protest laid down by Martin Luther King."

Gavin demanded amnesty for the participants of Sunday's and Monday's protests which he said have received notices that conduct charges are to be filed against them. "We feel these charges are ridiculous. We feel these letters (concerning the conduct charges) should be burned," Gavin continued. "We want the photographs taken by the University in order to identify members of the demonstration to be turned over to the BSA and members of the SDS. We demand a response within 24 hours."

Hank Ambrose, also a senior in the College and former chairman of the BSA, pressed for a Black Studies program. "You better believe that the black man is here to stay. He may have come here involuntarily," Ambrose said, "but now he demands an equal chance."

Ambrose cited the recent Kerner Commission report which, he said, stated that "White racism is the white man's problem—not the black man's." He concluded by demanding that the University take some significant action on the establishment of a Black Studies program by 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Chuck William emphasized that the approach taken by the BSA in implementing their proposals would vary according to the reactions to the proposals. "The next cheek turned by a black man is going to be followed by a right jab," Williams said. "We will use any means possible to attain our demands. The black students have been very nonviolent up to now. I might point out that we're surrounded here tonight by very beautiful buildings now."

"Emory claims to be one of the largest employers in the area," Senior Gregory Coleman said. "She is also one of the greatest purveyors of warped minds in this country." Coleman demanded increased participation by black students "to a lively and respectable" extent in deciding the admissions policy toward black students.

Ed Ducree, member of the faculty of the Candler School of Theology, stressed that the time had come when he could no longer place the value of his job above the value of his conscience. "The peer relationship has stopped," he said. "If I have to hide behind the fact that I have a job here, then I am less than a man. As a black member of the faculty I have to say publicly that I support what the black people are doing here."

Ducree said he intended to continue working with the BSA. "This is the most magnificent thing I've seen."

After brief speeches by several other students, Hank Ambrose returned to the microphone and read a list of eight proposals presented by the BSA last March 12 to President Atwood. (See elsewhere on this page for the text of the statement).

BSA Spokesman Brown then

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday, Monday Protests

Demonstrations Focus on Cox

By Jeff Way

Wheel Staff Writer

Cries of "All Christians racists go through" and "all bigots eat well" rose above the normal clatter of Cox Hall Sunday, as approximately 35 members of the Black Student Alliance blocked the cafeteria lines in protest to "economic slavery" at Emory.

The demonstrations began at University Worship, when the students interrupted the service and made speeches protesting alleged racism in the Christian Community. From Durham Chapel the protestors marched to Cox Hall, where they distributed hand-outs decrying "Emory's slave tactics" and urging a boycott of the cafeteria.

Black Students' Alliance Cites Need for Wide Variety of EU Changes

(Editor's note: The following are proposals presented to President Atwood on March 11, accompanying the letter on this page.)

In an attempt to attain for themselves and those black students who may attend Emory University in the future an education which is both relevant to the needs of society as well as our own black communities, the black students of Emory University propose:

1. That the administrative officials of Emory University re-evaluate the objectives of the 1963 decision to bring black students to Emory. Black students are being asked and are themselves asking – "Why were we invited here?" Did Emory have a "black objective" or was it

an attempt to assimilate a small minority into a white-oriented culture, thereby detaching them from a black-oriented culture. Since Emory has embarked on a program of admitting black students, we request a statement of policy regarding the admission of black students.

2. That Emory enroll more black students, with financial aid. We suggest that they be admitted not on the basis of SAT scores, or high school background, but on the basis of academic promise, individual achievement goals, and recommendations from family, and high school faculty, counselors, and administrators. Once the student has matriculated, the black students of Emory will participate in any tutorial capacities as needed. Such tutors will be paid for their services by Emory University.

a. We suggest that black students already in attendance at Emory accompany admission officials when recruiting black students

b. We request that the Black Students Alliance be given access to the necessary funds and facilities to provide an orientation for incoming black students. This orientation will be geared toward preparing the black student for the adjustments demanded by the white Emory community

3. That black students be provided with the necessary facilities (a "Black House") to serve the following needs:

a. A place where black students can come together as black people. Living in an isolated white environment destroys the cultural bonds of a people, and the black students at Emory should not be forced to assimilate or disintegrate as a black race

b. A black house would provide an opportunity for mutual understanding among black students, and meaningful separation in order to combat the evils of a predominant culture

c. The house should be provided with study areas for individuals as well as for tutorial projects

d. The house should be provided with a kitchen, lounge and dining area, and recreation room for books, records, and tapes.

e. The house would also serve as a "community service" house. Students involved in community activities would make use of the house, and it would serve as a base for other types of community action and activities.

4. That Emory hire on a full-time permanent basis, a black administrator. Such personnel would be responsible for all administrative details concerning black students, i.e. black admissions policies, black functions and programs on campus, black lecture series, and serve in the capacity of "advisor" to black students. Such personnel should be mutually acceptable to both the administration and black students at Emory.

5. That Emory hire either on a full-time or part-time basis the services of a black psychiatrist, who would provide the black students with assistance in emotional adjustments, academic adjustments, and social adjustments.

6. That Emory establish an Afro-American Studies Program. This program would be geared to providing city, private and federal governments with trained personnel in urban problems. Emory should make efforts at a possible merging of the Atlanta University Center in this area. (A suggested structure for this program is appended. (Editors note: See last week's Wheel for the proposed structure).

7. That the need for black scholars be supplied by the appointment of additional joint-professorships with the Atlanta University Center and the enlargement of the visiting lecturer program to involve black scholars in various disciplines. This necessarily implies stronger and more meaningful interaction with the Atlanta University Center and other black institutions.

8. That Emory incorporate an Afro-American Reading Room in the library. This room would be equipped with the following:

- a. A resource person (librarian) either full or part-time with knowledge in the field of Afro-American Studies.
- b. A card catalogue which would include those books which are in the Martin Luther (sic) Library, and the library at Atlanta University.
- c. Periodicals (Ebony, Negro Digest, Ramparts, etc.)
- d. Display cases with artifacts purchased or on loan from Atlanta University.
- e. Records (Malcolm X, Leroi Jones), films, and tapes.

Steve Abbott

EU White Racism Constitutes Obscenity

At 11:45 last Sunday, members of the Black Student Alliance formed a picket line in front of the food lines in Cox Hall. They were not protesting the food. They were protesting the substandard wages that their Black brothers and sisters earned behind the counters. They were protesting the humiliating and blatantly racist regulations that have always applied to Black workers at Emory. BSA did not prevent anyone from going through the lines, but they did make it impossible for us to continue to ignore worker racism at Emory.

Most of you, like myself, are members of the white middle class. We have received good food, a nice place to live, a good secondary schooling. But have we who quite arbitrarily share in these privileges, asked ourselves how we got where we are, more importantly what have been the secondary effects of our actions?

Many whites found it easy to say "I approve of your goals but not of your methods." But what would you say if you were a Black student here. Could you continue to eat in Cox Hall daily, see indignities and injustice heaped upon members of your own race, persons who could be in college themselves if it was not for an economic and educational system that prevented them from having the opportunity—could you daily see all this and do nothing? Think about it. Think about it hard. After all, your own white skin color's only an accident of birth.

The Civil Rights Office has been investigating Emory and has found it to be racist in its employee regulations and working conditions. President Atwood indirectly has admitted this in his "Affirmation Action" paper (a report which was supposed to be released to the Wheel but, mysteriously, was not). Thus it is totally irrelevant [[irrelevant]] whether the Emory worker gets five cents more or less. It is relevant that the salary is too low to live on. Would Orie Myers, Sanford Atwood, would you be content to earn \$1.31 an hour to support a family? Not once during the Sunday or Monday boycott did Administrators admit that Emory is racist. On Monday the Administration even had the gall to issue a press release (see Atlanta Journal, May 27) to pretend Emory is not, has not been racist. Then why bother with "Affirmation Action."

But even more we have ourselves as White students and faculty to blame. We have continued to co-operate with Emory's institutional bias toward white skin. Either, like the

Administration, we have shut our eyes and refused to see let alone fight racism, or, what is equally bad, we have sought to paternalistically “help” and “support” Blacks assuming they were somehow inferior and thus needed our Great White Father control to guide them along. The whole myth of white society has been built on a denial of differences. The only hope for eventual peace and cooperation between races must be based on a mutual appreciation of the importance of, and respect for, these differences. Thus it is not only right but necessary that Blacks proudly assert their identity, that they define themselves and their actions quite apart from white meddlers. It is not for us to worry about what Black students will do or not do. It is not for us to worry whether or not their picket signs were obscene. The real obscenity at Emory is White Racism. Our only question is what we, as Whites, are going to do to end it. If we fail to act, we betray ourselves.

Black Students Vow Action on List of Eight Proposals

(Continued from page 1)

asked all of those present to consider the question of commitment. “We sent our list of proposals to Atwood more than two months ago,” Brown stated. “What we want now is action—definite action.”

“You say that violence is two black students breaking a window in a building or demonstrating,” he continued. “I say that violence is when a little black baby in the ghetto is starved by the very same racist attitudes which are right here at Emory.”

Brown said the BSA was not just trying to make certain points but was demanding action. He claimed that it was now up to the white students, faculty, and administrators to decide if there was to be violence. “How much longer will they (the blacks) restrain themselves?” he asked.

“What can’t change has to be destroyed and replaced with something better. Black people have bled and died for long enough. We’re going to take our scars but we’ll keep on fighting. We’ve stated ‘What’; it’s up to you to state ‘How’.

A demand was presented by the BSA asking for a written apology from Charles Watson, director of admissions, and Orrie [[Orie]] Myers, vice president of the University, for alleged

conduct against several black women during the demonstrations in Cox Hall Sunday and Monday.

A request by Brown for all faculty members present sympathetic with the BSA position to come forward and be recognized drew little response. Faculty member Ted Brodek, from the History Department, addressed the crowd and explained that the faculty had met that afternoon and decided to give the administration the authority to appoint a representative to the BSA to present them with a statement. Brodek asked if such a representative was present. In response, Dean Charles Beall, Dean of Men, came to the microphone.

Beall said he was authorized to ask the assembled group if they would approve of a university convocation to be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to consider the BSA demands. After presenting the question to the crowd and getting a mixed answer, Beall also asked the BSA if they would agree.

Brown refused to come to terms and informed Beall that the "black students will decide when and where the convocation will be." There was no further discussion of the matter and the black students left the quadrangle, singing "Time is Windin' Up," and the crowd dispersed.

Two Months Ago

Letter Exchanges Reveal Atwood Prior Responses

On March 12, 1969 Hank Ambrose, Chairman of the Black Student Alliance, sent a letter enumerating black student proposals (the same as those stated at the Rally Monday night and printed in the article above) to President Sanford S. Atwood.

The letter and proposals were answered by President Atwood in another letter on March 25, 1969. All this correspondence was secret. The black students made public the text of their letter and proposals Monday night. The Wheel received copies of Dr. Atwood's letter and replies late this morning. The two letters and President Atwood's responses are printed below (the numbers prefacing Dr. Atwood's responses correspond directly to the black student's proposals listed above).

March 12, 1969

Dr. Sanford S. Atwood
President, Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dr. Atwood:

Please find with this letter a copy of proposals being made to the University by the Black Students' Alliance of Emory University. Regarding these proposals, we request the following:

1) A reply to our proposals be made within two weeks after the beginning of Spring Quarter

2) No statement concerning these proposals be released to the press or any form of news media without the consultation of the BSA and until after you have made your statement known to the members of the Black Students' Alliance of Emory University

3) You or your office make arrangements for a meeting time and place within two weeks after the beginning of Spring Quarter at which time you can make a statement concerning our proposals to the BSA at large.

Yours for a better university,

J. Henry Ambrose, Jr.

Chairman,

Black Students' Alliance

March 25, 1969

Mr. J. Henry Ambrose, Jr., Chairman

Black Students Alliance

Emory University

Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

Your proposals have been given thoughtful consideration, and reactions to your specific points are included on the attached sheets.

The meeting you requested has been arranged for Thursday, April 3, at 4:00 p.m. in the theatre on the second floor of the Alumni Memorial Building. Dean Stephens will accompany me. We will be glad to discuss the whole matter with you at the meeting and on a continuing basis. Several of your suggestions have already been implemented, and we will need your assistance to accomplish others.

Your desire for no publicity has been respected, and I expect you to treat this reply with the same confidence.

Sincerely yours,
Sanford S. Atwood

Dr. Atwood's Response:

1. Before the September, 1962 decision of the Georgia Supreme Court (Emory University et al. v. Nash, Tax Commissioner, et al.), Emory had no "policy" denying admission to black students, but it would have lost its statutory tax exemption if they had been admitted. Immediately following that decision, the Emory Board of Trustees voted to admit students "with no restriction as to race or color..." That course has been followed since then, and related practices are constantly being reevaluated as to how they can be implemented most effectively. Your suggestions concerning improvements that might be made in Emory's practices will be welcome.

2. Emory will accept as many black students as apply and are qualified. Special tutorial services have been provided to certain students and will be to the limits of available resources.

(a) Black students will be asked to assist in recruiting.

(b) Orientation activities are provided for all students. Special problems of black students have been and will continue to be accommodated within this program.

3. Provision for a "Black House" has been ruled contrary to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Until this question is clarified, no action will be taken. On-going discussions concerning special programs and facilities will be continued.

4. Emory must comply with Federal legislation regarding "equal opportunities." Search for black administrators will be intensified. If a suitable person is available, he will be considered together with all other qualified applicants.

5. (same as 4)

6. Special curricular activities with an Afro-American emphasis will continue to be a matter of concern of the Emory faculty and will be augmented as personnel become available and the faculty approve such actions. Help is solicited from representatives of black students in working with the Dean of the College and his faculty for planning in this direction.

7. Cooperative endeavors with the constituent schools of the Atlanta University Center have led to many significant accomplishments. Emory is devoted to further development along these lines wherever productive working relations can be agreed upon.

8. Emory is an integrated institution, and this applies to the organization and use of the Library. The Union Catalogue already includes cards from the Atlanta University Library.