

Special Wheel Supplement

Two Statements: From BSA and SGA

Statement from the BSA by Rena M. Price

The recent order issued by the courts of Dekalb County rescinding the restraining order issued upon 35 student demonstrators states:

“The defendants, and all other students assembled at the said meeting, agreed to cease any agitation and activity of the type previously engaged in which had given rise to the issuance of the restraining order and further agreed to abide by the regularly established policies and practices of Emory University as proscribed in matters of student conduct and agreed generally to abstain from the conduct proscribed in the restraining order.”

No, we were not wrong by our actions! Our tactics were not out of order, nor were they in any way violent. Our method of demonstration was in keeping with the late Dr. Martin Luther King’s philosophy of non-violent protest. This we believed, and therefore stood firm in our picket lines while white racists trampled over women’s feet, and punched and kicked peaceful, non-violent and orderly demonstrators.

No, never in any conversations with any of the university deans or officials did we admit that our actions were wrong. More than anything, we believed that those with whom we spoke were convinced and proud of the way in which we conducted our protest.

James Brown, BSA moderator, comments, “No, our actions were not wrong. We, the black students, would never have conducted a protest if we felt that what we were doing was not by the right means. We conducted a protest using means which we felt would be most effective in bringing to the attention of this campus the racist issues which need to be changed. Because we believe our method of protest was right, and

our actions both in the chapel and Cox Hall did not in any way obstruct or inconvenience anyone, we, the black students, will not hesitate to resort to those same means of protest if and when there are situations which warrant their use.”

To Set the Record Straight -- By Steve Abbott and Charles Haynes

Emory has no cause for joy, unity or reasonableness unless it is based on a correct understanding of recent events. President Atwood, the faculty, and the students have admitted racism exists at Emory. But what does this mean? Although men have been divided and have suffered for centuries because of all kinds of racism, only one kind of racism is the major problem of American and of Emory today -- WHITE RACISM!

Definition: White racism is the conscious and unconscious belief deeply ingrained in all white people by their institutions, that White Culture and the White race is superior to all other cultures and races.

Secondary effects: 1) The dominant White Race in America, taking white values as "the standard," consciously and unconsciously seek to assimilate all other races and cultures into White culture, downplaying differences.

2) If whites cannot dominate other races and cultures, we feel an unconscious need to destroy them, or what is equally bad, pretend that the differences in other races and cultures are "invisible" and don't really exist.

I have had to open my eyes about myself this week, and see White racism in myself -- I who thought I was so free from racism. I have realized that by doing nothing, by remaining complacently silent and ignorant, that I have perhaps been a more dangerous, insidious racist than if I openly pushed racist actions and philosophy, for if we whites are not actively a part of the solution, we are a part of the problem. By not challenging actions

of other Emory whites, both older and younger, by not challenging [[challenging]] racism as institutionalized in educational and employment policies, by not encouraging others to challenge my own unconscious attitudes and actions, I am to blame for recent events.

BSA was fully justified in its recent demonstrations for only such a shock could wake us up. As an observer and participant, I firmly believe that BSA was non-violent in the intention and execution of its demonstrations.

But we are more concerned with the future than the past. It will be hard to fight attitudes ingrained in us for twenty, forty, maybe even more years. We will have no excuse if we don't make this effort our number one concern. Only if Emory carries out in concrete action the spirit of the Wednesday convocation, only then can I or anyone else carry out the pledge to obey all conduct rules and "normal" procedures, for our most important pledge -- to ourselves, to BSA, to God -- is to end racism, both personal and institutional racism.