

Funds for Black Scholarships Gain Token Nod from Emory

Two facts have become apparent since students and faculty have begun pressuring the University administration to honor its commitment to “recruit more, admit more, and matriculate more” black students.

First, although the \$80,000 Rockefeller grant (the only major source of financial aid for blacks at Emory) has not been renewed, the administration refuses to pledge a set number of dollars to financially insecure blacks here. Secondly, spokesmen for the university insist there will be more blacks at Emory in the 1970 freshman class than ever before.

With \$80,00 less and no substantial increase in the scholarship fund, less students will receive financial aid. Since those funds cut were specifically for blacks it seems logical to assume blacks will be in need of funds.

What seems, then, to be emerging as new administrative strategy is to recruit, admit and matriculate more blacks who can pay Emory tuition. The Fourth Floor, it seems, intends to comb the black middle class of the Southeast to fulfill the University commitment to blacks.

Assuming [[assuming]] this to be true, the middle class could pay and be admitted on the basis of normal university standards. The plan eliminated the touchy problems of money and revamped admission problems.

The strategy is clever and treacherous and tokenism in its ugly form. The University Commitment of last May was directed towards pulling financially insecure, and educationally deprived blacks out of the slum ghettos; not to seek middle class blacks for a black “showcase” community which will be financially independent, educationally adequate and politically safe. (Blacks paying their own will be less apt to sacrifice their security to achieve needed reforms.)

Finally, as students press for University money for blacks, the administration smilingly encourages a student-run-fund-raising drive to show student commitment. Personal commitments such as donations are fine, but they do not take the place of the institutions commitment. The institution made the commitment and the institution should fulfill it. True, people make the institution, but the institution is far more influential than the individual.

If students and faculty are as ineffective in provoking University-fulfilled commitments, how does the administration expect student-faculty donations to change the institutional response to blacks?

Scott McCleskey

Admissions Policy Halts Black Student Increases

The question of more black scholarships is perhaps the most important issue now facint [[facing]] Emory College. Several students have demanded that the Admissions Office dramatically increase the number of black scholarships which are offered. These students feel that money and priority are the only problems involved, and the University should shift its main emphasis to enrolling more blacks in the college. Last May 28, Emory University pledged itself to eliminate racial discrimination in all aspects of the University, and this pledge should mean more black students.

Other factors besides money and priority need to be considered, and this writer was made aware of these factors during a very profitable discussion with Burt Carroll, Emory's Director of Admissions. Carroll emphatically repeated that Emory will have at least ten to twelve black freshmen in the college next year. If Emory accepts any black student who needs financial aid, the money will be made available to finance a scholarship. Emory's loss of Rockefeller Foundation money hardly implies that there will be no more black students. The money will be found to at least continue the enrollment of ten to twelve blacks each year, and hopefully, the Admissions Office can do better.

Before this column proceeds, some statistical data will be presented. In 1963 six blacks had applied to the college and four were accepted. One black student enrolled. In 1964, Emory accepted twenty-two blacks and forty-eight had applied. Twelve blacks enrolled in 1964.

In 1968, seventy-seven blacks had applied, and thrity-six [[thirty-six]] were accepted. Sixteen blacks enrolled in 1968. In 1969, sixty-six blacks had applied and twenty-three were accepted. Eleven blacks enrolled this fall. These figures compare very favorably to those obtained by Duke, Harvard, Tulane, and Vanderbilt in their efforts to get black students.

If Emory College is going to dramatically increase its number of black students, three things will have to be done. Obviously, Emory will need more money. University officials have been asking several foundations for scholarship grants to aid black students. Apparently, very few foundations are willing to give grants for scholarships; the foundations for one reason or another had rather put their grants in some long-range project with definite goals. However, Dr. Normal Uhl (formerly at Emory and now at Duke) is compiling [[compiling]] raw data to determine the validity of SAT scores as an admissions factor for disadvantaged students. The foundations may be interested in giving scholarship grants if the student under these grants would be surveyed to provide data for the College Entrance Examinations Board.

Emory will also have to obtain a better yield from the number of blacks it now accepts. Emory has begun to thoroughly evaluate every accepted black student who does not choose to attend. Previously, this evaluation was done periodically; now it will be done on a regular basis.

Emory can also lower its admissions requirements and accept low-marginal black students. Before this can be done, a remedial program will have to be established in the college. Emory's present curriculum would be impossible for low-marginal students to take. However, Carroll and the Admissions Office do not determine this sort of policy. If Emory chooses to lower its requirements and accept low-marginal students, and establish a remedial program, the University faculty will have to make the decision.

Carroll and the Admissions Office are doing all they can to get more black students to attend the college. They have explored several alternatives, recruitment has been stepped-up, Marvin Arrington, Assistant for Student Affairs, is working very actively in the recruitment program and changes have been made. If a significantly larger number of scholarships are going to be offered, a change will have to be made in admissions policy, and the faculty will have to make the change. Under the present admissions policy, Emory is getting as many black students as it can reasonably expect.