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Institutions Ignore Basic Problems

A great deal of discussion is going on today in many colleges and universities regarding the place of Black studies in the academic world. There are probably as many different ideas as there are colleges and universities coming to grips with the problem. Emory, therefore, is not alone in the struggle. Yet there is a distinction that must be made. Some colleges and universities have committed themselves to the idea that there is relevance in the development of Black studies and are getting along with the task of enacting their commitments. Other colleges and universities are still quabbling about trite and irrelevant problems which question the validity of Black studies. In which of these categories does Emory fit?

A great deal of discussion is taking place on Emory's campus regarding racism, Black Studies and the response of the university. Yet when one gets through all the rhetoric and seeks that which can be lifted out as positive commitment the task becomes a bit difficult. One may wonder why this is the case, at least I do. Yet upon closer examination of the issues that are being raised the problem makes a little more sense. Many of the issues raised related to the problem of getting more Blacks admitted. And of course this inevitably lead [[leads]] to the problem of where will the money come from to support these students. The underlying fallacy in putting too much emphasis on these issues is the tendency to conclude that the problem is essentially one of admissions standards and economics. To be sure, there are many Blacks for whom economics or admission standards pose no problem. Yet these Blacks are not coming to Emory. Consequently, there must be other underlying causes. Emory is not alone here. Other predominantly white institutions are faced with the same problems. The problem stems from the fact that the institutions are seeking ways to bring Blacks into the system as it now exists rather than seeking ways of changing the university community to make it a more conducive place for Blacks to matriculate. This issue, though vital to the whole problem of institutionalized racism, is given little attention.