Emory Must Provide Funds For Scholarship Commitment

Nick Garin, John Schmeltzer and Dave Taylor of the Student Center Board have proposed a suggestion that all funded programming of the SCB (except for that already contracted) be cancelled immediately and that the remainder of the budget be turned over to the Administration for use in funding black scholarships for the coming year. This move is designed by its promoters to do two things: first, to show the Administration that the student body is willing to sacrifice a significant part of its activity funds in order to honor its commitment to bring more black students to Emory; and, second, to provide funds for black scholarships specifically for this year since no funds have been allotted by the University for this purpose.

This sum is to be handed over to the president only on condition that he actively seek out funds from within the University budget for this purpose. It is recognized by the promoters of this resolution that he is reportedly seeking funds from outside sources, but they feel the University should not depend on outside sources alone. Rather, funds from within the university budget should be allocated, demonstrating the university’s real commitment in this area. Such allocations may require sacrifice in other areas, such as development, for example, but the supporters of the resolution feel the admission of black students is a higher priority than something like the renovation of the AMB. The SCB will probably vote on this resolution next Tuesday. But regardless of its vote, the idea will almost certainly be presented to the Student Body for approval or disapproval in a referendum—sponsored probably by SCB or SGA. The results of this referendum will be used by the SGA, which has the power of review of the use of all student organization funds, in its decision whether to fulfill the proposals of the resolution or to order the SCB to use its money in the way it had originally planned, i.e., to fund its committees.

Last May, a commitment was made by official representatives of the student body and by the President of the University to recruit more, admit more, and matriculate more black students at Emory. The Wheel fully supports this commitment and believes it must be honored. However, only eleven black students entered Emory in this year’s freshman class of 644.

The way things are now, there will probably be fewer in next year’s class. One of the biggest reasons is the lack of funds—the Rockefeller grant that was used specifically to aid black
students last year will not be renewed. The University has not committed any of its own funds to this purpose. Something must be done immediately. The suggestion of Garin, et. al, should be considered as a possible means of fulfilling the commitment made in May.

It is indeed a radical proposal, but there have been no other suggestions put forth to alleviate this very real financial crisis. Emory has made a commitment; it is high time it was fulfilled.