

ABC Demands Administrative Policy Changes

The Association of Black Collegians has presented a list of demands to the college administration.

Speaking at the ABC forum in Colton Chapel Monday evening, Gary Moorer '71, listed the demands:

1. Admission of more black students to the college.
2. Addition of more black instructors to the faculty.
3. A black studies program at the college; i.e., the offering of more black courses.
4. The end or neutralization of racist attitudes at the college.
5. A "black house" to serve as a cultural center for black students.

"What we want," said James Hairston '71, the keynote speaker, ". . . are changes vital to our existence here."

To be a black, Hairston stated, is to have one's culture ignored. It is, "feeling the same way as many whites but not being able to do a thing about anything," he added.

The next speaker, Lawrence

Lennon '71, talked about the recruitment of more black students for the college. Lennon urged the college to give more opportunities to culturally deprived and "risk" students, because, "the black man's concern is his constant struggle for survival in white America."

Lennon asserted the black man had come to college to get tools for defense against white racism. He urged the entire college community to become more responsive to the needs of the college's blacks.

Gerald Gill '70, opened his speech by citing his involvement in many college activities. However, Gill added, "Tonight I speak to you as Gerry Gill, the black man."

More Black Studies

Gill acknowledged an increase in the number of black writers studied at the college since his freshman year. However, he maintained that the writers studied are the same -- primarily Ralph El-

lison. He called for the establishment of a separate course in black literature and the study of more black writers in English courses. He claimed that the college now has the basis for the establishment of a black studies program.

Theodore Brown '73, the only freshman on the ABC panel, asked, "What can we as a college community do to meet these problems?"

Brown maintained that each college student had a responsibility besides "living for the party weekend -- that of solving the problems of society.

Enrichment in black studies would give whites a sensitivity to black culture, Brown said. With the addition of more blacks on campus, there would be a greater wealth of opinion of what it is like to be black in America, he added.

Brown called for at least one fulltime black administrator on campus to keep the staff in touch

with the black condition here.

"It is up to you not to be apathetic and to carefully study our proposals," Brown concluded.

In the ensuing discussion, the

panel was asked if it wished to have a fixed percentage of blacks admitted to the college each year. Lennon answered, "We want no

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limit to the number of black students that this college can take."

Questioned about the demand to eliminate racism, Hairston stated that the meeting of the other four ABC demands would tend toward its elimination. He stressed the importance of looking into oneself to discover racist manifestations.

Lennon added that all of America has the responsibility to give the black people skills for defense.

Hairston wanted compensatory and remedial programs for "risk" blacks.

Proposed Class '70 Scholarship Grant

Gill insisted that he did not want a separate black college on campus, but rather hoped the senior class would give toward black scholarships.

When asked by Jon Marcus '70, "How can you avoid tokenism," Lennon responded, "Tokenism is not part of the game. . . Racism is inherent in society, not in a human being." He added that more whites must take part in the black experience.

Dr. James Crawford, associate professor of mathematics, questioned the panel about the purpose of the black house. Crawford wished to know if the house would be a copy of the fraternity system. He felt a black fraternity would be just one more divisive feature

at the college and would take the black experience away from the whites.

Moorer answered that one of the functions of the house would be to provide a social experience for blacks. "A black house is the least of our demands," Moorer explained.

Assume Individual Responsibility

Dr. Crawford cautioned the audience not to pass off to the administration the responsibility for the black demands. He urged the audience to ask, "What can I do, not what are they going to do?"

Countering a charge by Brown that the IFC's recent move to investigate black admission was a political move, Miles Overholt '70, IFC president, responded, "We did not do it for political reasons; we did it for the good of the campus."

Overholt further noted the IFC would meet with alumni representatives December 13 to discuss allotment of money for black scholarships.



Lawrence Lennon expostulates on black demands at ABC forum Monday night.