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anonymous complaint - racism at Denison

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MAR 18 1970

Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Denison:

There are thirty-nine Black students at Denison University who find their lives intolerable due to a lack of understanding of the unique horror of a Black student at a white university. We the students, the faculty, the administration, the alumni, and the Trustees have failed time and again to recognize the immense weight on the Blacks. They have attempted repeatedly to communicate their perspective to us. However, the comforts of our campus have made it too easy to overlook the discomforts of a few.

In desperation, they drew up a list of viable demands which would help to make Denison an environment in which we could attain an education necessary to cope with today's world. What the Blacks are asking for is not merely a token assimilation into the Denison community, but rather an opportunity to become an equal body which would add to the diversification of Denison. Such diversity and the exposure to varying ideas and points of view which it implies, is in our belief the purpose of a liberal arts education. Only after we have been exposed to such issues, analyzing them from all perspectives can we formulate our own ideals.

Our period of unawareness is over. The students after careful consideration, feel compelled to impress upon you the immediate need to support these demands. Let us emphasize that these demands have been looked at from every aspect to determine their viability and their desirability. We feel that we have made a highly responsible decision to back these demands.

We cannot stress to you how important our decision is nor how urgent. We ask that you trust the integrity and judgment of the students and faculty of your university who are continually striving towards the better interests of this college.

Concerned Members of the
Denison Community