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Response to anonymous complaint

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE
"CONCERNED MEMBERS OF
THE DENISON COMMUNITY"

My name is [redacted] in Zanesville, Ohio, and I am a graduate of Denison University of the class of 1926.

The unsigned letter I received in my morning mail was addressed to "Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Denison" but did not have the courtesy of a return address.

With reference to the request to "trust the integrity and judgment of the students and faculty of your university who are continually striving towards the better interests of this college", I am completely at loss as to whose integrity and judgment I am being asked to trust the better interests of Denison.

Do you refer to all or part "of the students and faculty"?

If not all, then what part of the students or faculty do you mean?

The further inference of said last sentence of your letter is that there are students or faculty or others who are opposed to "the better interests of this college". Who are they and of what does such opposition consist?

Referring to your letter's beginning, in what respect or respects are the lives of present black students "intolerable"?

Whose "lack of understanding" creates "intolerable" lives for the present black students?

What, at Denison, is "the unique horror of a Black student at a white university"?

And why do you presume to capitalize your "B" and commonize your "w" when speaking of "Black" and "white"? Traditionally, I have always believed that the only "BIG" at Denison is the big "D".

What is the "perspective" of "immense weight on the Blacks" that you equate with "the discomforts of a few" amidst "the comforts of our campus"?

While you imply "a token assimilation into the Denison community" in behalf of the blacks, you express preference for "an opportunity to become an equal body". Equal to what OTHER body? And does the latter expressed desire imply rejection of "assimilation into the Denison community"?

In your first paragraph you refer to "We the students, the faculty, the administration, the alumni and the trustees" but in your third paragraph you say that "The students feel compelled to impress upon you the immediate need to support these demands". Are you, in effect, asking the "Alumni, Parents and Friends of Denison" to support the "Students" or certain "Concerned Members" AGAINST the faculty, administration and the trustees?

Are we, who are addressed, to assume, or presume that such student judgment and so-called demands arising therefrom are superior in wisdom and maturity to the combined judgment and authority of the faculty, administration and trustees?

Finally, who are those charged with ultimate responsibility for the management and direction of any educational institution and to whom are the means therefor entrusted?

Whoever you are, your letter would become much more intelligible to a loyal Denisonian, if you have clear answers to the above questions.

Yours for understanding,