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## Black faculty and administrators support rejoinder against comments made by T.J. Rice

Denison University

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TO: The Denison Community  
FROM: Black Faculty and Administrators  
DATE: November 25, 1975

In the November 13 issue of the Denisonian, Dr. T.J. Rice is quoted as saying, with reference to the recent faculty meeting in which black and white students voiced some of their concerns which they thought ought to have been community concerns, that "making demands is ridiculous. I was amazed at the naivety of the students. It was just an exercise in rhetoric. I would have been more impressed if the speeches had been more constructively made. I was somewhat bored." Dr. Rice went on to say, according to the Denisonian that he knew of no evidence for the theory that black faculty are needed to serve as role models for black students, saying, "you don't need to be black to serve as a role model."

Early last week a rejoinder to Mr. Rice's remarks as quoted in the Denisonian was released. That rejoinder expressed the black community's deep dissatisfaction with Dr. Rice's remarks (as quoted in the Denisonian) and expressed also a sincere hope that his sentiments were not pervasive in the Denison community. Since that time, black students have been castigated and intimidated. Some faculty have tried to make black students feel guilty and apologetic about the publication of the rejoinder and have all but demanded that they (black students) either disown the authorship of the rejoinder or retract in toto the contents of the rejoinder, when, at the same time, no\* public statement of denial or retraction or qualification has been forthcoming from Mr. Rice or other faculty, with reference to his remarks as quoted in the Denisonian.

Thus, Denison's black Faculty and Administrators, both collectively and individually, go on record as unequivocally and unapologetically stating that we support and endorse the contents and intent of the rejoinder to Mr. Rice's statements in the Denisonian, and that not to have responded, in great dismay and utter disdain to such statements, would have been an acquiescence to dehumanization. Furthermore (and needless to say), we find Mr. Rice's remarks uninformed and insensitive, at best, and both professionally and personally insulting.

Should there still remain any doubt as to the authorship and sponsorship of this rejoinder, we the undersigned, in no uncertain terms, take full responsibility for the same.

Arthur L. Zebbe  
John L. Jackson  
E. B. Thorne  
Benjamin M. Keever

Frank Bernissant  
William W. Thorne  
Mark Rawlings