

Morrill Hall demonstration

Open reform

seems to me that this demonstration caused the "Establishment" to fold its token for civil rights. A change in policy wasn't asked, only a series of reforms were. This victory is merely a mock victory, one which will allow a few groups to put themselves on the back. The victory block has its "nigger" also, otherwise the situation hasn't changed. If the racism does not change, the protesters gave the University a convenient way out; the University's "nigger" is the signed pledge with its pledges.

The various compuses across the nation, we now have black-this, black-that (never red or yellow, they aren't important anyway). The actions are also tokens given to the colleges and universities. However, this raises another problem that of apartheid, but this is South Africa—so why worry? The method of demanding and frequently being satisfied, that is by the demonstrators and is used, by the University, only in a minor token — like things, is a wish and is like taking contact with a cold. It relieves a particular set of symptoms, but the problems persist and, in this case, only to appear elsewhere.

If you want to eliminate war, you must stop war totally. You do not cling to the war system through gradual disarmament. To end racism you must go beyond the creed, prejudice, or what you do to the person—the disindividual Human Being. If it means to equality demands the right of respect for others and the giving of the rights of others, you are nothing but hypocrites.

Martin Luther King dreamed of us all together; together not as white, red, yellow, etc., but together as brothers, together as transcending the "I" and approaching the "Thou." Just as racism is an infringement on the rights of , so also is the closing of Morrill Hall.

The closing, "Beware the extremist cure is often worse than the evil he seeks to overcome." This is a deep-gut, hick saying and, I think, well applicable to the problems of today.

Louis Bedor
CLA sophomore

Motion of censure

At the Pioneer Hall Council, I present this resolution as our expression of censure. Although we are not necessarily in disagreement with the demands of the African Action Committee, we do think that their actions of January

14 and 15 are in violation of the University policy on demonstration. We feel that they have disrupted the normal functioning of the University and have caused considerable inconvenience to students, faculty, administrators, and University employees.

Furthermore, we feel that the demonstrators should be held accountable for any damage or inconvenience resulting from their irresponsible actions and that disciplinary measures should be seriously considered.

(Editor's note: This motion was passed Wednesday night at the Pioneer Hall council meeting.)

Society's needs

Since the educational system is supported by a society for the purpose of providing educated citizens for the function of that society, the needs of the society should be the overruling consideration in determining the curriculum of the educational system.

As far as I can see, there is no necessity, no social function, for a person with a B.A. in Afro-American studies. Granted, the material of this field would be invaluable to educators and sociologists in relating to the blacks in the community. But a four-year course in it would be superfluous and absurd.

H. L. Berglund
B.A. 1968

Apology demanded

I enclose a letter which my friend James Gripes has asked me to forward to you for publication in your opinion column. Of course, Gripes is a bilious a*s. You were entirely correct in publishing an accurate quotation of the remarks concerned. They are part of the reality in which our black students and all of us live. The mentality they express cannot be excused from responsibility for the difficulties that we have undergone. I hope his threat causes you no apprehension.

D. Burnham Terrell
Director of Honors Div., CLA

"I note that in two news stories printed on page seven of your Jan. 16 edition, there occurs a six-letter word (seven letters in the plural) that ill-bred persons vulgarly use to apply to the descendants of African slaves brought to this country under a miserable system of human degradation that existed on this continent for centuries. It is applied also to others, not necessarily descendants of slaves, who share with them the same color and heritage."

I refer to the word n****r. Being of Southern background, at one

time many years ago, I used that expression myself, before I came to understand how offensive and demeaning it is to those to whom it is applied. It has become offensive to me infinitely more so than the four-letter word referring to sexual intercourse that I am able to hear and read with untroubled spirit.

I write to demand an apology to myself and your other readers for the disgusting pollution of your news columns by this filthy expression. In the event that such an apology is not forthcoming, I am prepared to submit to the appropriate authorities a demand for your removal from your position, as you will have proved yourself incompetent and irresponsible to fill it.

James Gripes

Reverse discrimination

Aside from the criminal aspects of this act, which are apparent, the University's tolerance of the blatant violation of the rights of the overwhelming majority of students and personnel merely foreshadows even greater atrocities in the future. Reason: violation of the cardinal rule of the psychology of learning, that a wrongful or inappropriate act should never be reinforced.

It is true that Pres. Moos faced a difficult choice. He could call in authority to quell the disturbance, and thereby polarize sentiment in favor of the blacks. Or he could do what he ultimately chose to do—be intimidated by a small minority, many of whom were not even students.

In my opinion, he made the wrong choice. Unless the offenders are disciplined, as it would be practical to do with any other group of that size, the moral of the story will be that reverse discrimination is as acceptable to the administration as racial discrimination has been to the majority of the population for so long.

But justice is not an exact mathematical concept, and giving hand-outs and lowering standards would ultimately do more harm than good to blacks; it would cheat them of a good education, and it would make them dependent on whites.

Michael Miller
law freshman

The wrong battle

I hate the slowness and ineptness of bureaucracies myself, but, especially in an academic community, discussion, openmindedness, understanding, and patience should be the ground rules for the game of change.

The frustration of blacks must be

extremely great, for my own frustration with the status quo is great enough. I admire their restraint thus far but the physical coercion, demands, ultimatums, and disavowing of Morrill Hall that we have witnessed here are out of place, (and unimaginative) in an institution for the exchange of ideas. The black battle is for white men's minds, not their buildings.

Patricia Wolff
medical school freshman

Unhealthy precedent

It would appear that reason and free advocacy are appealing to them; rather they would dispense with discussion in favor of coercion.

Perhaps because I am an Irish American who is fond of his heritage and because I could probably gather together a minority of Irish Americans who would like to see a department devoted to the study of Gaelic, we should occupy all the men's rooms on campus. That way we would not only be causing the majority of male students a great inconvenience, but we would be airing our grievances.

Undoubtedly, some well meaning liberal will sit back and say that I've missed the point or accuse me of being glib about a matter which should demand our attention. Just what is the point?

Is it that a minority of dissenters may disrupt the day-to-day procedures of an institution devoted to serving a majority of interested and otherwise peaceful students? Or will the point have been that they

tried coercion and it works?

I fear this will be the case and minority will have set an unhealthy precedent for civil disobedience on this campus. And if that day should come when you lie broken and bleeding with no class to attend who will you have to thank for it?

Raymond H. Stadum
CLA freshman

300 years late

After living in comfort, silence, and patience, and after 300 years of being irresponsible, unfair, and unreasonable, the robber now judges his victim. Incredible.

Dave Coulter
anatomy instructor

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MSA Senate passes resolution supporting black students' efforts

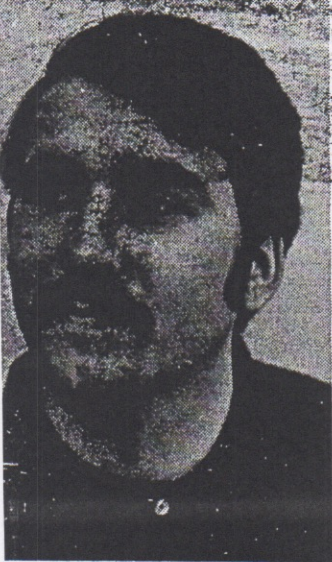


Photo by Joe Coursole

Joe Kroll

Minnesota Student Assn. President

characterized as the path of "political reality," relying on the majority to author reform bills. Frustrated with the failure of reform bills to pass, minority members have announced they will tie efforts to improve the Minnesota Legislature this session.

The Minnesota Student Assn. (MSA) Senate passed a resolution Friday supporting black students' efforts to obtain more "significant participation" in programs "they can identify with in a white society."

The resolution proposed an educational series to "increase racial sensitivity" and a study to "investigate the problems created by institutional racism" on campus.

"THE RESOLUTION makes no attempt to condemn anyone inside or outside Morrill Hall for the sit-in," said MSA Pres. Joe Kroll, stating this was the responsibility of the commission set up to investigate the sit-in.

"It is not up to us to judge whether this act was a justifiable tactic," the resolution says, adding that it must be considered "in the context of the situation . . . We must address ourselves to the conditions that precipitated the incident."

The resolution says "the community was made aware of the University community's lack of sensitivity and understanding regarding the needs of a certain segment of the student population."

It maintains that methods must be incorporated in University structures to respond to "needs and pressures for change" that "constituents" present to them.

Progress towards demands made by blacks last spring, the resolution says, "were held up due to a severe lack of communication between the groups working towards these solutions and the persons who were responsible for the original requests. Where communication did exist, a great deal of misinformation was also transmitted. These two factors combined to produce a situation in which positions hardened and all avenues of communication between the parties were cut off.

"IN FACE of this," the resolution continues, "those students concerned found it necessary to bring attention to their demands through the use of means outside the established structure. The manner through which the opposing forces regained contact, and later trust, and the solution which came about through this rapprochement is a hopeful step in the direction of an ultimate solution to these problems."

In the resolution, MSA:

- Instructed the student members of the University Human Rights Task Force to investigate "the problems created by institutional racism" on campus;

- Instructed the MSA Human Relations Commission to hold a briefing "for the student body on the incidents and events which occurred at Morrill Hall;"

- Instructed the Human Relations Commission to establish an "educational series to increase racial sensitivity;"

- Urged "involved or informed" students to relate to other students and groups "the events of the past week."

THE RESOLUTION commended black community leaders for "helping to achieve a solution," University officials for "controlled reaction and exemplary manner" in handling the negotiations, and black student representatives for "understanding and willingness to reach a settlement."

The Senate also declared its "share of the responsibility in failing to respond to problems created by institutional racism."

The crowd outside Morrill Hall freely made admission of racism

By Bob Klepinski

The salient characteristic of the population of our University and its surrounding area has remained fairly well-hidden despite constant warnings and attempts at description. Only when there is an incident such as the Great Siege of Morrill Hall, where the almighty Midwestern dollar is threatened, does the truth glare. This trait is hard, though dormant, racism.

This is not a particularly startling statement, but it is saddening to realize that it took me three years in this institution to reach this conclusion. The crowd around Morrill Hall provided the tragic empirical proof for the hypothesis.

Sad. In the supposed intellectual training ground of our state I can only feel fatigue.

Moving about among the rabble was a disgusting experience. There was blood in the eyes of those who were decrying the violence of moving desks. The racial hatred normally suppressed could now be shouted, for it carried the hollow support of the letter of the law. Those blacks had stepped out of line and we now had the means to beat the hell out of them legally.

Those who could stand silent at centuries of inequality and unheeded laws now had a chance to turn the tables and vent their hatred because they had felt for one instant their right to enter a building denied.

"If I were the president of this place, things would be different. There'd be heads cracked."

Separate facilities had never phased them. That a man could not choose which restaurant or rest room he used was simply unfortunate. That was some distant land. But this was different. We are upstanding white Midwesterners and they are in our building.

"I'd throw in some tear gas."

Values rose to the surface immediately. An ethnic history department? That was irrelevant to the crowd. The burning issue was whether or not the paychecks would come out on time.

"White Power. Let's get our own building."

Racism,

(Continued on page 5)

Racism . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Classes in Afro-American history, scholarships, and conferences are all too abstract for the mob. Property is what counts. Paychecks, desks, and buildings are the real values.

"That's my \$135 they are destroying."

While our administrators were keeping their cool and negotiating, the real will of the people was being yelled in the street. Hate. The generation gap was certainly shown to be a myth in Minnesota. Students, parents, and legislators were all joined together in the common bond of racism.

"I just wish I had an excuse for trying to get in. I'd show 'em. They wouldn't push me around."

The blacks had committed the fatal error. They stepped out of line in the North. That sort of thing is all right in the South where they had been victims of prejudice, but not here in Minnesota. That just doesn't happen here. If the group had shuffled politely and said "Ya sah," things would have worked out smoothly.

Yes, they stepped out of line and asked people to admit their racism. It was freely admitted and flaunted.

The 24 hours did more than the Minnesota Multiphasic Test to define the University student. We are middle-aged racists while yet young. What is to come when we grow old? What more can senility bring?

(Klepinski is a CLA senior and IFC president.)

campus forum

to the editors:

Question of tactics

The occupation of Morrill Hall has significance beyond the demands made by students. It has posed a question of tactics, who has denied whom his rights, and how to treat minorities.

Today 12.5 million blacks live below the poverty level (\$3335 per year for an urban family of four), as do 18 million other Americans. Minorities have been denied jobs and housing, not for anything they were, but because individuals and groups have felt they had rights to act on whim. The resulting humiliation and frustration have bred violence, and the mood of minorities has become assertive and self-compensatory.

But is it not also violence when a majority anonymously determines a child has no chance to leave the ghetto because his education will be inadequate or his sub-culture will be unacceptable? Is it not a special kind of violence to tell someone that only if he accepts majority values, just maybe he will himself be accepted?

Middle - class institutions of change have a limited meaning for the poor. A man does not get a good job without training, and he does not get training without good schooling. Politics depends on connections and contributions of time and money. The poor have the least of these. Democracy requires an informed and concerned electorate to consider issues peripheral to itself. If the structure of a system resists necessary change, change will come from outside the system.

This is not to condone the seizure of Morrill or ignore the responsibility of minorities to society. But one would like to think that providing an education to far more people than receive it now (people who could not otherwise afford it), though they do not act as we would have them act, will return the investment to society,

and not just minorities, but all of us, deserve better cities, though this will come by helping minorities.

One would like to think a man does not gain dignity by undermining the dignity of another. And one would hope that this society can make a commitment to economic assistance as minorities define their own needs and to juridical equality, while accepting people as different, as individuals, without waiting for violence to prod it.

John Scherer
Alumnus

● Dress rehearsal

The recent takeover of Morrill Hall by black students helps to point out once again the actual

status of all students on this campus. Let's face it, the University administration runs this school for its own sake, not for the benefit of the students or community at large. Only lip service is paid to these latter goals while the truth is that the primary function of the administration is to keep the University machine running smoothly and efficiently.

I recently overheard a conversation between two minor functionaries of the bureaucracy. The scorn and contempt of these two men showed for students was very appalling. After hearing these two men, and after the 3½ years of being only a number in this "great

Campus forum
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The Intellectual Community

campus forum

to the editors:

(Continued from page 4)
by mediocrity," one can only feel
at this opinion of the students
as become a semi-official policy
of the administration.

If this contempt for the rights
and feelings of the students con-
tinues, then I feel that the take-
over of Morrill Hall will be looked
on as a dress rehearsal for some-
thing worse to come. So far, the
lack students have been the only

ones with guts enough to confront
the administration.

686287
Ken Johnson
Ed. Senior

● True nature

I am writing this letter in re-
sponse to Bob Klepinski's letter
of Monday, Jan. 20. Sadly, I must
confess that his account of the
proceedings outside Morrill Hall
is the only one that accurately de-

picts the situation as it occurred.
What I saw and heard while stand-
ing in the midst of that mob on
Wednesday last still rings in my
ears as a shameful reminder of the
racist society in which we live.

For a moment the crowd was
Lester Maddox; George Wallace,
and Robert Shelton. When the
demonstrators departed from "sa-
cred" Morrill Hall and the crowd
outside realized it no longer had

an over object of hate, it sadly re-
verted back to its hypocritical
Middle West state of stagnation.

It would seem that when our
student body's true nature was re-
vealed it was not as most Minne-
sota conservative legislators fear it
to be. Instead, it was as racist, nar-
row-minded, and bigoted as any
Mississippi mob could ever hope
to be. It might prove to be an in-
teresting parallel that the last
chant I heard coming from the
mob was, "burn the books."

Ron Rosenbaum
CLA Junior

submitting a petition demanding that
those involved in occupying Mor-
rill Hall be severely punished.

Members will attempt to present
the petition to University Pres.
Malcolm Morse sometime this week.

David Lam, Medical School
freshman, said he and some friends
decided last Wednesday to circulate
it when they "realized Morse was
not about to do anything."

The petition reads in part: "We
the undersigned members of the
University Community feel that the
recent occupation of Morrill Hall
was illegal, and the perpetrators of
this action should be punished se-
verely."

"We demand that the students
who participated be immediately
expelled from the University; the
petition continues, "as at the very
least be suspended for the remain-
der of the term, with failing grades

non-students who participated be
permanently barred from the cam-
pus."

St. Paul group offers dialogue on grading

A student-faculty discussion
of the University grading system
will be held between 11:30 and
12:30 today in 202-44 of the St.
Paul Student Center. It is open
to all interested students.

A proposal to gradually elimi-
nate all grades in the College
of Agriculture, Forestry and
Home Economics (AFHE) is
currently being considered. AF-
HE's Committee on Instruction
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Lain said he did not know how
many signatures the group had col-
lected but said the response had
been "good, very good."

"No matter how many we get,"
he said, "somebody will have to
take this into account when we dis-
cipline these people."

Asked what he would do if Morse
rejected the petition, Lain said,
"Nothing. Unlike the people who
took over Morrill Hall, we believe
in due process."

Asked the same question, Bob
Lundgren, Business Director, said that
future plans were "very fluid."

Of black invaders of Morrill

YAF members demand punishment

Members of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) are circulating a petition demanding that those "involved in occupying Morrill Hall be severely punished."

Members will attempt to present the petition to University Pres. Malcolm Moos sometime this week.

David Lam, Medical School freshman, said he and some friends decided last Wednesday to circulate it when they "realized Moos was not about to do anything."

The petition reads in part: "We the undersigned members of the University Community feel that the recent occupation of Morrill Hall was illegal, and the perpetrators of this action should be punished severely.

"We demand that the students who participated be immediately expelled from the University," the petition continues, "or at the very least be suspended for the remainder of the term, with failing grades

in all their courses, and that all non-students who participated be permanently barred from the campus."

St. Paul group offers dialogue on grading

A student-faculty discussion of the University grading system will be held between 11:30 and 1:30 today in 202-4-6 of the St. Paul Student Center. It is open to all interested students.

A proposal to gradually eliminate all grades in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics (AFHE) is currently being considered. AFHE's Committee on Instruction is sponsoring the dialogue, called "Are Grades Necessary?" to encourage further discussion of the proposal.

It accuses the demonstrators of "willfully and wrongly":

- preventing free access to public buildings;
- destroying and damaging public property;
- disrupting the normal University functioning, in violation of regulations concerning student demonstrations.

Lam said he did not know how many signatures the group had collected but said the response had been "good; very good."

"No matter how many we get," he said, "somebody will have to take this into account when we discipline these people."

Asked what he would do if Moos rejected the petition, Lam said, "Nothing. Unlike the people who took over Morrill Hall, we believe in due process."

Asked the same question, Bob Lundgren, Business junior, said that future plans were "very fluid."