

BRANDEIS BLACK BULLETIN



Photo by Manny Russell

FROM FORD HALL

The Afro-American Organization, contrary to all that president Abram has stated, has attempted to bring this situation to a resolution several times, because our interest is in the ten demands and their value to the black community at Brandeis. The Afro-American Organization feels these ten demands are the minimum necessary for black people here to have a relevant existence here and a necessary and valuable education. Our interest IS NOT in occupying a building, destroying property, or getting our pictures in the papers, but in obtaining the implementation of our demands. We will use whatever tactics we feel necessary and strategically valid to achieve our ends: the implementation of our ten demands.

The first examples of the Afro-American Organization attempting to bring this confrontation to a resolution was our delegation which had no negotiating power which repeatedly went to the president to tell him what our demands entailed and how they were to be implemented. The delegation came to the president in a clear attempt to clarify the demands; the president once they had left, turned around and played politics with the press. He told the press half-truths and lies about these meetings.

The president has not accepted any of the demands that the Afro-American Organization has presented. He has not accepted them since Jan 8, 1969, and he did not accept them in any manner

except "in principle" during all the time he has been sitting on the Afro-American Affairs Advisory Council (the body of black and white students, faculty, and administrators set up to negotiate our demands in April, 1968). What he has been willing to negotiate when we have the building, is his interpretation of our demands. When Abram claims he has accepted 9 of our demands, when he claims he has previously accepted 7 of our demands, he is talking about his interpretation of our demands. He is not talking about the demands the Afro-American Organization has outlined and presented to him.

Another example of the president's double-dealing is a further plan the Afro-American Organization sent him the morning of Jan 11, 1968. The plan was:

1 Ten members of the Afro-American Organization will leave the building prior to the faculty meeting

2 Ten more members will leave immediately upon our understanding that the faculty meeting has ended and ratified the number one demand with the qualification that at the point we leave the building the department will go into effect.

3 President Abram will come to Ford Hall, giving us two to three hours notice so that we are able to clean up properly and get the building in order. We will be leaving the building as he signs, in the presence of Roy DeBerry, the ten demands, saying that he will implement them, giving us complete amnesty.

There has been no mention of this plan in the press, there has been no response from the faculty whom Abram was to contact, and there has been no response from Abram on this plan of the Afro-American organization on how to implement evacuation of the building. The Afro-American Organization has given him a plan to implement evacuating the building and implementing the demands, yet president Abram has not responded. He has lied, he has dealt in half-truths and put on a false front not to sincerely resolve this confrontation, but to shroud the entire issue in rumors and phony rhetoric. The issue is immediate implementation of demands the university has been aware of since April, 1968, and which president has been aware of since July, 1968, and which the president has been negotiating since September, 1968.

The support that we have received from the black community, around the state and the nation has been most gratifying. We have received community support from agencies such as the Urban League, the United Front, the NAACP and United South End Settlement members. The support from the community has been in the form of food, money, bedding, mattresses, toiletries, cleansing agents, brooms and mops, and their physical presence. The support from universities is usually in the form of telegrams and sometimes money. Support has come from numerous alumni in the form of telegrams, legal advice and their physical presence. Individual support has come from all over the nation in the form of telegrams from doctors, newsmen, the press, rabbis and black authors (Floyd Barbour et al). The response has been so great that we now have food for at least two months, money enough for bail for all of us, and toiletries for a month. The morale is high but realistic and disciplined. The black students and community people have been willing to do their share, to do more than their share because they realize what happens here has importance for black people all over the country. The routine, therefore, has evolved into duty shifts, general meetings, informal bull sessions, study and relaxation. The building is a tightly organized world of sleeping area, storage (food, toiletries, bedding, etc.), security, communications, study rooms and recreation areas. (Signed) Lloyd Daniels, Lothar Johnson, Ray DeBerry

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CLARIFICATION OF BLACK STUDENT DEMANDS

I Afro-American and African Studies department with the right to hire and fire. The administration first told us that a department was not possible. After considerable debate over a prolonged period the administration finally consented to grant us a concentration in Afro American Studies. This concentration we were told would be implemented by September 1, 1968.

-A white person is chairing this committee. This committee has not been allocated a budget To effectuate this demand, nor has it been given power to hire faculty, a decision which has to go through departmental procedure.

What we are demanding is that: 1 A Black person chair the dept of Afro-American and African studies.

this dept.

2 That this dept be given the right to hire the faculty to staff

3 That consultants on Black culture, art, ideology and curriculum should be engaged by the dept., and that a budget of \$25,000 be provided for consultation

fees, travel, and other expenses.

4 Black Director . Selection committee chosen by Afro-American

Organization to: A. Set up qualifications; B Funds to actively recruit same immediately;

C Make Final Selection.

II Year round recruitment of Black students.... We have been to the administration five times

in regard to carrying out a year round recruitment of black students. We have even offered 3 names of qualified Black persons to direct the recruitment effort. All our efforts were frustrated, nothing was done to see this commitment was carried out. (Separate Committee as outlined in demand #1).

What we are demanding is that: (1) A selection board of black students be created for the screening of all incoming black students. (2) That a director be hired to coordinate the recruitment program at a salary of up to \$15,000. (3) That a minimum of five student recruiters be hired at the going university rates. (4) That an initial \$15,000 be set aside for travel expenses. (5) That an office, secretarial staff, and telephone charge line be provided for full time use.

III There must be Black Directors for the Upward Bound and Transitional Year Programs. To this date there has only been one person contacted by the university. This person refused the position.

What we are demanding is that: (1) An immediate nation wide search be effected for directors. among those agencies contacted should be the national urban league, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Congress of Racial Equality, the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee, the Black Panthers, and all Upward Bound Programs. (2) That a Black representative be sent to major cities such as New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago to make contact with potential candidates. (3) That an advertisement be placed in several Black owned and operated newspapers such as the Amsterdam News, the Chicago Defender, the Afro American, the Bay State Banner, Muhammed Speaks and similar publications for the recruitment of directors. (4) The Brandeis Afro American Organization will have final say on the selection of the directors of both Transitional Year Program and Upward Bound Program.

IV Immediate action on the part of administration to hire Black Professors. We have asked the university to keep a file of potential Black faculty people. So far they have not done this. We feel that if the university set up the requested file when originally proposed there would not now be the dearth of candidates that seems to have paralyzed the university's ability to find same.

What we are demanding is that: (1) The file we recommended be set up immediately and that universities and professional educational organizations be contacted for interested candidates. The URBAN LEAGUE's Black Skills Bank is an excellent contact. (2) That candidates of less than national repute be given priority consideration. (3) That until the more qualified candidates can be found that visiting lecturers such as Andrew Brimmer, Harry Edwards, Kenneth Clark, Leroy Jones, John O. Killen, Maulana Ron Karenga et al. be hired on a semester basis to supplement the impact of the one existing Black visiting professor. There would be at least five visiting Black professors each semester. This should be continued until such time as all the university's departments have at least one permanently appointed Black professor. (4) That \$60,000 should be immediately set aside for the hiring of five Black professors for the Afro American and African Studies Department. (See demand #1 for Clarification). (5) That a search be initiated in Tanzania, Nigeria, the West Indies, parts of South America, and other nations of color for visiting professors of a darker hue and a third world view. (6) A Black person can teach and gain tenure here without a B.A., M.A., or PH.D. as long as he is competent in his field.

V Establishment of an Afro American Center designed by Black students. The proposal for this center was sent to the administration one month and a half ago. We presented this with a design of the room and they have not contacted us since.

What we are demanding is that: (1) The proposal which was submitted one month and a half ago be immediately implemented.

VI Written clarification of the position of the TYP students.... We have recruited 23 Black students for this program. It has been rumored that many of these students are not expected to be enrolled next semester. In addition, it has strongly been suggested that the enrollment of the Transitional Year Program will be reduced considerably next year. The programs of inconsistency in regards to the position of the TYP students stems from a definite breach of promise, facilitated by the failure of members of Afro to have those commitments made in the summer by the administration put into writing. As originally conceived, the program would admit students normally ineligible for acceptance to Brandeis into a program which would provide the following: a. That the students be assured at least one year. The Transitional Year at Brandeis. The Transitional Year was originally verbalized as highly flexible. A student who had done well might be able to progress to freshman status in one semester. A student making slower progress might take as long as three semesters before freshman status was attained. b. That the students be assured acceptance to Brandeis pending satisfactory completion of the Transitional Year without submitting a formal application. c. That students be

4 provided full tuition, room, board and stipend for the Transitional Year. As well as the full fees for the following four years.

These are terms of the program as they were explained to us. We in turn explained them to candidates during recruitment this summer. Therefore, they are also the terms under which students in the Program entered Brandeis. They are not the conditions under which the program is presently functioning.

What we are demanding is that: (1) Immediate explication of the intent of the university in regard to the Transitional Year Students. (2) That the number of students in the TYP program should be doubled next year, and the administration board should support and actively campaign for the necessary funds.

VII Expulsion of the white student who shot a Black student before the Christmas holidays.

What we are demanding is that: (1) The university immediately provide some justifiable resolution to this situation.

VIII The brochure entitled the Black Student at Brandeis must be accepted in the present form or only with changes accepted by Black students. This brochure was to be originally designed by Black students for the recruitment of other Black Students. It was first presented to the administration in JULY 1968. Since that time delay after delay by the members of the administration have brought us to Jan 1969 and there is still no Black Student Brochure.

What we are demanding is that: (1) The brochure must be published immediately. (2) In the future all projects which the university agrees upon and says the Afro is to implement shall be Black administered and Black evaluated.

IX Intensify recruitment of Africans in the Wein Program. The fact that many of the African students will be graduating this year calls for intensification of recruitment in that area. This point was considered essential and necessary when the demands of the Afro were presented to Dr. Sachar in April 1968. To this point no word has come from the administration about plans to recruit more African students.

What we are demanding is that: (1) At least five Black students from Africa be recruited each year. (3) Newly recruited African Students should come from the lower economic brackets of the respective countries. Latin American students of African descent from similar economic strata should also be recruited.

X Ten Martin Luther King or Malcolm X full scholarships for on and off campus Black students (This should include transportation from the TYP Program to Seniors). The Martin Luther King Jr scholarships are perhaps the greatest farce that has been perpetrated upon the Afro American Society at Brandeis. These scholarships were originally conceived to be full four year, room board and tuition grants issued to fifteen students of Afro American origin and lower economic backgrounds on the basis of need. The philosophy behind the scholarships was that they would provide the opportunity for Black students from the ghetto to obtain the education needed to improve home conditions. What has occurred is that virtually no scholarships have been awarded. Letters from the university were received by a number of Black students stating that they were designated Martin Luther King Scholars. However such an award contained no monetary increase so that the financial aid picture for these students has not been changed. They were issued to students of upperclass standing already attending Brandeis. The scholarships presented in this manner provided no honor dignity, or monetary gain.

What we are demanding is that: (1) All Martin Luther King scholarships should be set aside in a manner similar to that of the Wein Program and that each student be judged on first and foremost his economic need. In effect these scholarships should constitute a full grant rather than the regular financial aid package of scholarship and (accumulated) loan monies.

We also want to express our sympathy to the struggle of the students of San Francisco State College and the Efforts of the Cabinet of the King Timothy School to gain community control.

Signed: Floyd Daniels, Lothar Johnson
and Roy DeBerry

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January 13, 1969

