

*Stud Org -
BSA*

AN OPEN LETTER TO BLACK STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

As a result of the King Memorial March of predominately Black Students, we have become the most powerful student group on campus. We can call upon hundreds of Black students at Michigan State, in Lansing, as well as white activist groups to join our ranks. This is very important. Why? Because we have an organization which can immobilize this university by massive civil disobedience. This does not mean indiscriminate romantic disruption for the sake of sensationalism. It means that we are rapidly approaching the organizational stage where we may become the most powerful Black student activist group in Michigan.

We are now in a position to effect radical changes in university policies. We shall move this university into the area of social relevance or close it down by massive civil disobedience.

We must close ranks as Black students and realize what the King Memorial March meant: it meant that Blacks are becoming social revolutionaries, both theoretically (as exemplified by the Steering Committee's all night planning session while the university slept), and pragmatically.

We are on our way toward relevant Black student power. We are rapidly developing a posture of organized strength from which to bargain. Never before on this campus has any Black group reached this stage. We intend to stay a relevant and a powerful organization. We cannot afford to be too trustful of tactics conceived in the face of confrontation to placate us. We intend to make this university relevant to all people. We shall hold constant vigilance over the administration lest it lapse into irrelevant tea and cookie do-nothingism.

It is up to us to see to it that this university makes good the promises of its recently acquired concern. We must keep this university honest and relevant to the needs of humanity and not just a manufacturing plant producing automatons to perpetuate a sick society.

--The Steering Committee of the Black Students Alliance

April 11, 1968

[1968?]

STATEMENT OF THE BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE

The Black Student Alliance feels that the administration's primary importance is educating people and not programming them. The University should be responsible to the students and should not be a dictatorship; the University should not decide what is right and wrong for us. The University should not in any manner suppress intellectual freedom, freedom of thought or freedom of speech. When the University co-operates with the FBI, the CIA, and local police they are in effect doing just that. They pervert the primary duty of law enforcement officials because they are no longer servants but instruments of suppression and terror.

The University should support democracy, but this University at present is not a democracy. The reason the University exists is because the students exist, therefore, the University must be responsible to the students.

We (The Black Students Alliance) support the demand that the University not cooperate with outside police authorities. We support the demand that the University police be brought under the control of a faculty-student committee.

It is becoming increasingly evident everyday that the status-quo cannot be tolerated. BSA, being composed of Black students, has merely been exposed to more overt and hostile suppression on the individual level than most white students. It should now be obvious that this is not strictly the Black man versus the White man, it is the old versus the new, the "haves" against the "have-nots", and above all a battle to establish fundamental truths at the expense of the perverted ideals that this system now embraces.

We as a generation are fully aware that the world situation as it stands now is in bad shape. The responsibility for the present situation does not lie on our shoulders, but the responsibility for the future does. If we do not strive together as human beings toward a truly just community of man, then we will not in effect have sold out the entire human race.

BSA is totally committed to revolutionary changes for the benefit of not only Black people, but for all of mankind. Black is not just a description of the color of one's skin, it is primarily the color of one's mind --- and Black is Beautiful.

Members of the Black Student Alliance

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