

DEMONSTRATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
AGANINST GENOCIDEL RACISM IN THE CITY UNIVERSITY

This demonstration at the United Nations is to denounce the genocidel racism in the City University. It is to give world wide focus to the racist standards to be imposed on students in the City University.

On December 15, 1975, the nine member board of the City University, voted 7-2 to restrict admissions to only those students who have attained a minumum eighth grade reading level. The deficient education that Black and Hispanic children receive in the public school system makes this eighth grade reading level biased and racist.

In the book "Dark Ghetto", by Kenneth B. Clark, he states the results of reading test by the New York City School System.

"In reading comphrehension, the ability to understand what one is reading, 30 percent of the Harlem third grade pupils are reading below grade level, compared to 21.6 percent who are reading above. For sixth grade pupils, the story is even more dismal; there 80.9 percent of the pupils score below grade level in reading, while 11.7 percent score above, indicating a rather rapid relative deterioration in reading comprehension with in three years. Between grades three and six, word knowledge falters also; in third grade, 38.9 percent score below grade level, 18.7 percent above. Arithmetic shows a similar pattern of underachievment,

though figures are only available for the sixth grade (57.6 percent are below grade level in "computation," 66.6 below in "problems and concepts"). By eighth grade, three-quarters of the Harlem junior high school students score below grade level in reading comprehension and word knowledges in arithmetic, their performance is even more discouraging-83.8 percent are now below."

With the 8th grade reading level being the criteria for entrance in the City University, we must dismiss the ethics, that an education is the vehicle to prosperity, because Black people are being denied an equally efficient education and on the same basis are being denied entrance to the City University.

The City University admits itself, that the majority of the students who are academically deficient are Black and Hispanic students.

In its study entitled "Effects of New Admissions Criteria upon the ethnic composition of the City University of New York." It indicated, "that 72 percent of the Black students sampled scored below a eighth grade reading level in either reading or math ability, that 65 percent of Hispanics students similarly scored below that level and that 20 percent of the Whites did."

The study was drawn up by David E. Lavin Professor of Sociology at Lehman College. It was based on a large sampling of students who entered the City University in 1971.

The imposition of a eighth grade reading level is racist and genocidel to the future of Blacks and Third World students, because Black people have been denied an equal academically efficient secondary education and are now being denied entrance to the City University. This is an infrinement of Black people's Human Rights,

because it denies them an equal education and penalizes them for having an inadequate education; this is racism.

The Board of Education and the Board of Higher reading results indicate a history of deficiency in reading and other academics by Black children, stemming from a history of racism in this country. Let us note that it was only 111 years ago that it was against the law for Black people to learn to learn how to read or write.

In the final analysis we as people can never obtain life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that is noted in the Declaration of Independence, because we are subsequently denied an equal education.

This is mass genocide against Blacks, Hispanics and also poor Whites who receive substandard education, which chains them to an unending spiral of poverty, and degradation, and to never as a mass obtain life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Titus Walker

PRESIDENT OF THE
BLACK STUDENT UNION