

THE BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN STUDENT COMMUNITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM
133rd Street and Convent Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10031

TO: THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF CITY COLLEGE

FOR RELEASE: 12: 00 noon April 26

This is the first in a series of communications to the City College and the community at large which will clarify our position and possibly shed light onto the question, 'Why this Liberation of South Campus by the Black and Puerto Rican Student Community (BPRSC)?'

We are committed to make this college more relevant to the community. The Administration, through its inaction, implicitly declares itself hostile to the community. Given the geographical position of the College, it is illogical for them to move in such a suicidal manner. Although they have not openly declared their hostility to the community, there has been only tokenism and evasive action taken to conceal this hostility. Thus, as representatives of the community, we have taken the initiative. In our eyes, this part of the campus belongs to the community and we have named it accordingly, The University of Harlem. The renaming of buildings will occur today.

We have fed and sheltered the hungry and the sick of Harlem, giving them the use of our medical staff, sleeping facilities and preparing meals for them. Members of the community are constantly coming onto the campus to examine what we are doing and to give support. The community at large has received us openly and warmly. Many individuals have taken it upon themselves to collect food and money for continuing our work. Once inside, these guests are free to participate in classes held by the students. Most of these sessions, led by students, are political and social analysis of what is happening in this country. The courses include Political Pressure and Social Change, Evolution vs Revolution, Black Nationalism, etc. The first classes of the new University of Harlem began in H. Rap Brown Political Science Building (once Wagner Hall) in room 09 at 11:00 A.M.

Tutoring makes up a major part of the educational activity that is going on now. Those students who are proficient in certain areas, have made themselves available as tutors. Members of the Black and Puerto Rican Faculty have said that they will also

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hold tutorial classes whenever possible. Any person from the community can get free tutoring in any subject and many have taken advantage of this.

An attempt was made to relate our entire position to the faculty on Wednesday morning but it should be made clear that we took it as a personal affront that neither the President nor the Faculty Arrangements Committee contacted us to help develop the agenda for the College-wide meeting. We see it as a tactic to conceal Administrative hostility towards the community. The hidden reason is a lack of desire to make the school relevant to the community.

An attempt has been made by the Administration through the use of the media, to make us appear 'the irresponsible extremists', but we are the ones involved in positive action, they are not. We suggest that they follow the leadership of the Student Senate and declare themselves adversaries of the community. In this manner, they would stop deceiving the community and also those students who have a sincere commitment to their people.