

University's leaders confront the problem of minority retention

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for contributing to a valuable experience in their own eyes and in their peers'; he said. The first facet of this respect is faculty, Young said.

Yvonne Kent, director of the Undergraduate Student Government department of minority affairs, said some black students do not relate well to the white faculty and a greater number of black faculty members would help alleviate that problem.

Young said respect could develop if white students and faculty members could interact with black students and faculty members.

Yet, the black faculty simply is not here in sufficient numbers, he said.

Now at the University, 38 of 3,284 full-time faculty members are black.

There is a need for black role models for both blacks and whites in academia, not just in sports, Young said.

Role models and mentoring are important for black students because they have a history of "self-concept assassination," he said. Blacks' self-perceptions have been demeaned and need to be positively reinforced, he said.

"(Role models) are a reaffirmation that people like me can succeed; therefore, I can succeed," he said.

Yet, a one-on-one mentorship between a black student and a black faculty member would be impossible because there are so few black faculty members, he said.

Thus, more black faculty members and in turn, more positive black role models would benefit retention, he said.

Black Caucus President Lorraine Vincent said the retention problem could be defined in academic, social and financial terms. Once students and administrators are aware of exactly what the problem is, something can be done about it, she said.

"It's nice to recruit, but once recruited, they don't stay," Vincent said. "It's more important to keep the student here than to recruit others."

"The academic environment should be more liberal but I don't see that happening," she said.

Vincent said the University should be more interested in bringing blacks and whites together in more varied programs than those that exist now.

The University has many resources that should be re-evaluated, she said. For instance, the University should promote the black studies program, she said.

Vincent disagreed with a suggestion in a Daily Collegian editorial that a black studies class be a requirement for all students.

Students should be not forced to take a black studies course, she said. The class may reinforce prejudices that students hold, she said.

"It's important to educate students but I'm not really sure if you can predict the outcome — it may be dangerous," she said.

James Stewart, director of the University's Black Studies Program, also disagrees with a black studies requirement for all students. For the majority of students, one course will not change 18 years of prejudicial attitudes, he said.

Half of the students and professors in the Black Studies Program are not blacks. The important aspect about the program is the content and interaction that takes place, he said.

The white students who enroll in the program are not threatened and want to broaden their perspectives, Stewart said.

"Students are monocultural and uninformed about the global society," he said. "Students who have finished the program have a better cultural repertoire."

The University should correct that, but the average student is unwilling, he said.

The University has a conservative reputation but the University must find ways to alleviate the problem, he said.

Stewart said he is enough of an optimist to think that students will participate in racial workshops and study groups. He said he is realistic also in his belief that the vast majority of students would be unaffected by a black studies course requirement.

Students may then face the situation in which a lack of previous knowledge of minorities will interfere with their ability to function in the traditional terms of American life, he said.

Most people coming out of the University do not take advantage of the opportunity to learn about many different things, he said.

"Students must critically assess their current beliefs, career goals and world view with respect to the opportunities that Penn State offers, with the idea of broadening those things," Stewart said.

Despite review, Bash set to go on

By TONY PHYRILLAS
Collegian Staff Writer

The Briarwood Bash will go on as scheduled this year on May 6, but concern about the annual event by the State College Municipal Council has prompted a review by the council of the event's activities.

The council discussed problems associated with the event at its meeting last week and decided it needed more information on the event before making a decision on its future.

The council approved an activities permit for the Briarwood Bash, but with a stipulation that both the State College Police Department and the organizers of the event submit reports to the council after the event.

The Briarwood Bash was first held nine years ago as a private celebration for tenants and guests of the Briarwood Apartments complex, 681-B Waupelani Drive. But in recent years the celebration has spilled over into the streets of State College, causing parking and traffic problems.

Council member Fred J. Honsberger, calling the Briarwood Bash a "drunken fiasco," voted against the activities permit and asked the other council members to oppose it.

But after a lengthy discussion of the issue at the meeting and assurances from State College Police Chief Elwood G. Williams Jr. that the State College police can handle the situation, the council voted 6-1 to approve the permit.

Honsberger said he was surprised that the Police Chief Williams and Mayor Arnold Addison had approved the activities permit before it went to the council because of complaints from residents and from police officers.

"This thing is a fiasco," Honsberger said. "Our own policemen have told me to discontinue this thing."

the borough could be held liable for actions taken by citizens on private property.

Honsberger also complained that the Briarwood Bash was attracting too many outsiders from communities as far away as Lock Haven and Philipsburg.

Police Chief Williams assured the council that problems that have occurred in the past with the event

'This thing is a fiasco. Our own policemen have told me to discontinue this thing.'

—Fred J. Honsberger, council member

Technically, Williams said, the event's organizers do not have to ask for the borough's permission to hold the event. Municipal solicitor Robert K. Kistler explained that because the event is held on private property, the borough can not prohibit it.

The event organizers apply for an activities permit to give the State College police department notification of the event, Williams said, and the department can then express any concerns it has.

Williams said the State College police have received calls in the past about underage drinking and noise, and his department will enforce all applicable laws.

Honsberger said he was also concerned that the borough might be liable for damages or injuries that might occur in the area.

However, Kistler told the council last week that he did not see how

are being taken care of, and the organizers of the Briarwood Bash have taken steps this year to improve the situation.

For example, the event's organizers have agreed not to advertise the event this year except to residents of the complex, Williams said.

Honsberger said the event may be profitable for the borough because of all the traffic tickets written in the vicinity of the event. The borough took in \$1,000 in parking fines on Briarwood Bash weekend last year, he said.

Williams said he is not defending the event, but from his past experience, the problems are caused after the Briarwood Bash officially ends.

"The real problem is with the parties that start up when the Bash is winding down," Williams said. "Last year, approximately 54 apartments were having individual parties after the Bash ended."

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