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by P.V. Christian

*Racism is both overt and covert. It takes two, closely related forms: individual whites acting against individual blacks, and acts by the total white community against the black community. We call these individual racism and institutional racism. The first consists of overt acts by individuals, which cause death, injury or the violent destruction of property. This type can be reached by television cameras, and can frequently be observed in the process of commission. The second type is less overt, far more subtle, less identifiable in terms of specific individuals committing the acts, but it is no less destructive of human life. The second type originates in the operation of established and respected forces in society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than the first type.*

*Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, Negroes in North America have been subjected to "victimization" in the sense that a system of social relations operates in such a way as to deprive them of a chance to share in the more desirable material and nonmaterial products of a society which is dependent, in part, upon their labour and loyalty. They are "victimized" also because they do not have the same degree of access which others have to the attributes needed for rising in the general class system—money, education, "contacts", and "know-how".*

St. Clair

*What white North Americans have never fully understood—but what the Negro can never forget—is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it.*

These quotations give us a sum of total of the position of blacks in this society. However, our primary concern at the present is the second type of racism (institutional), which we know is "less overt, far more subtle, less identifiable in terms of specific individuals com-

mitting acts. At present we are not concerned with the individual acts, but with the collective acts of those involved at this institution (Dalhousie). Here our basic human rights are violated and we are sure there is room to fight our cause under the Human Rights Act.

Blacks have been fighting for their basic rights for centuries. Our demands have fallen on deaf ears. Many whites admit that gross racial prejudice exists, but some of them are merely giving lip service to our cause. This lip service is true especially at Dalhousie Law School. Our plight in the search for equal opportunity has been a long and worrisome one.

*Blacks and Women as Minorities at the Law School*

Let us look at the reaction of this institution to women as a minority group. The recent outbreak of Women's Lib has received great response from this institution. The rapid increase in women enrolled in Law School has reached such a momentum that it is predicted that in the next two years, their enrollment will be about 50% of the first year class. At present they make up 25% to 28% of the first year class, indicating that they are given equal opportunity in the School; this is also true in other major professions. Blacks on the other hand, do not even make up one percent of the first year class. Is this justice, considering the centuries of outcry for equality?

At the law convocation for the last five years, President Hicks has said how proud he is to see the increasing number of women graduates in this profession. He has never made such remarks in relation to black graduates, not even when our largest number of blacks (a grand total of 3) graduated at the 1973 convocation. This shows where the priority of the School lies, and which group's needs it intends to meet. Let it be understood that we are not against equal opportunity for women, for we welcome these changes, as women have also been discriminated against; but to correct one form of discrimination while extending another, is unfair. We see no reason why the quota for women should be almost 25% higher than for blacks. What about the other 75%, which consists of white males. Let us also look at the failure rate in both groups being discussed. In the last five years probably not as many as 1% of the women enrolled in Law failed. Compare this with the 80% failure rate of blacks.

It seems that blacks in pro-

fessional schools (especially Law School), undergo rapid changes, perhaps out of fear of failure or victimization, we just do not know. After the publication of our first article, we asked some black students in professional schools about their opinions (without revealing our identities). They preferred not to comment. We understand their situation and sympathize with them.

Our people are also taxpayers—Dalhousie is not a private institution; it receives funds from the Provincial Government. We also hold a vote, so our problems can be presented to the government.

If these racist professors exist, as some people insist, we must expose them and make them defend themselves publicly. For the present time we play a kind of waiting game until the time is ripe to ask the Human Rights Commission to make a public inquiry. We have the backing of the black community. Our cause is theirs.

Please note: we would like to apologize for an error made in our sum total of black graduates in Law School, from 1967-74 there were only 5-1 in 1968, 1 in 1972, 3 in 1973 — a total of 5 out of 766.

## The Law School Story

Too the GAZETTE:

In the issue of *The Dalhousie Gazette* dated September 26 there appeared an item headlined *Prejudice In Professional Schools*. The article made sweeping allegations of prejudice against the professional schools at Dalhousie, and in the process all but named a professor, without proof of any kind to support its accusations. Accusing others of bigotry is an extremely serious charge and should not be made without irreputable evidence. Those who malign others in this cheap and shoddy way may very well find themselves in court facing charges of libel and defamation.

If the Nova Scotia Black Students Association for High Learning, who apparently sponsored the article, has proof to support its accusations of prejudice and racial discrimination against black students by the professional schools then they should take their allegations into a court of law. Yet it must be remembered that the article claims white lawyers are not very reliable when it comes to protecting the rights of

blacks. Such a sweeping condemnation against the vast majority of white lawyers who do their damned best to see that their client, whether white or black, receives fair treatment in a court of law.

The article went on to attack both doctors and dentists without even the flimsiest of proof and it would have one believe that M.S.I. has provided "little relief" for black people. Exactly why this is so was not explained. The "statistics" used in the article were most ineffective. To speak of 80% failure rates when using figures like 6 just carries no weight at all. Percentages in statistics only come to indicate a meaningful pattern when used in connection with much larger numbers. The overall impression one receives from the article is that blacks fail when they are discriminated against. Perhaps black students can just simply fail without any discrimination, just like white students. But perhaps such an opinion is unscientific, or even horrors, racist.

Yours truly  
Robin Reid

## The Med School Story

To The GAZETTE:

In the GAZETTE of September 26, 1974, an article appeared stating that "in the school year 1971-1974 (sic) two black students failed out of three, both in their second year of studies. These results are questionable since both students were among the top twenty of their first year class."

The above statement is false. One of these students has transferred to another medical school. The other was not in the top fifth of the class in the first year, but rather at the bottom of it. The same situation obtained the second year and his

papers were gone over by a committee of students to see if there had been a mistake. There had been no mistake.

We would be pleased if this matter was brought to the attention of the student body as a whole.

Sincerely,  
J.R. Hamilton  
Bob Gunn  
Bruce Wallace  
Dave Masters  
Bob Cooper  
Spencer McCleave  
Wendy Arsinault  
N.D. Smith  
Rick Winters

Ed. Note: We apologize for any names misspelt. The signatures were hand-written and difficult to interpret.

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