

May 11, 1964

Dear Bucknell Faculty and Administration:

The Betty Ann Quinn Fund Committee has recently been formed by the Student-Faculty Congress to raise funds to provide scholarships for American Negroes at Bucknell. This Fund, itself, has been in existence for quite some time, but never with any appreciable financial backing. Its available income as of March, 1964 was \$26.00, not a very substantial scholarship at Bucknell. It was the opinion of the Student-Faculty Congress that the time was now ripe for Bucknell to show a definite interest in Negro scholarships.

The Betty Ann Quinn Fund Committee envisions its work as an effort to broaden the social and intellectual atmosphere at Bucknell, by providing a better opportunity for each student to formulate an attitude toward race relations, based on actual interracial experience, with Negroes of their own cultural and intellectual level.

We believe that the present enrollment of Negroes is low because of the high scholastic and financial requirements and the less than desirable social atmosphere at Bucknell. Negroes who are able to meet the academic requirements here can gain admittance to a large number of eastern colleges, many of which, finding themselves in the same position as Bucknell, are recruiting Negroes by offering them scholarship aid. We believe that the provision of scholarships specifically for Negroes would place Bucknell in a more favorable position to encourage academically qualified Negroes to enroll here.

The provision of scholarships would not necessarily affect the social atmosphere for a Negro at Bucknell. We believe, however, that this provision is a step in the right direction and that a successful drive for this purpose on the campus would indicate the willingness of the University to allow room for Negroes in its social system.

The question is immediately raised as to whether this is not replacing discrimination against with discrimination for Negroes. This is obviously and, we believe, necessarily the situation. The discrimination necessary to obtain more Negro students at Bucknell is not appeasement for current pressures or an apology for past wrongs. Rather, it is a realistic recognition of the small number of Negroes who are academically eligible for admission to Bucknell and of the financial disadvantage from which a large number of those eligible suffer. The provision for scholarships specifically for Negroes is an attempt to compensate for these conditions.

With these purposes in mind the Betty Ann Quinn Fund Committee hopes to raise \$5000 by the end of the semester. The total amount raised will be available for use in the freshman class entering in 1965. The size of the individual scholarships will depend both on the number of students eligible and on the financial need of each student. It is intended that those who successfully complete their first year on these scholarships would qualify for regular University scholarship aid for the remainder of their stay at Bucknell. To continue to keep the Fund alive, drives similar to this one will have to be held in succeeding years. The Committee believes that eventually Negroes will not have to be attracted to Bucknell by this means and the Fund could be discontinued.