

# Why Howard Week-End?

2-17

This week marks the twentieth anniversary of the Howard Exchange Program here at Bucknell. Hence the idea is far from a new one. Perhaps it is time for us to consider what value this activity actually has.

Its main purpose is to let Bucknellians see that students of a different race and color are essentially no different than themselves. Only by living in close, prolonged contact with students such as those from Howard can we successfully achieve this end. Hence in actuality, a week-end program can at best yield only a portion of the understanding of others that is so important.

The ultimate value of a weekend such as ours goes beyond this understanding. Through contact with a group whose environment is slightly different from our own we are able to gain insight regarding common problems. The headlines in a recent issue of the Howard newspaper, "Interest in Student Elections Deplorable", "Freshmen Sign Statement Protesting Recent Elections for Class Officers", bear striking resemblance to our own headlines. This is more than a chance coincidence. Essentially all college students experience the same problems. Apathy, scholastic dishonor, dissatisfaction with courses, over-conformity, etc., are problems which are common to many colleges. These problems that we experience are universal to almost all students. Through a sharing of common problems, and a exploration into the views of others as to their solutions, can we hope to arrive at an answer. The Howard Exchange program becomes meaningful in terms of this aim, even if its initial purpose can not be fully realized!