

The nationalist implications of Black Studies suggest that white people lose their prevalent visibility in determining the direction of Black students. Acknowledging that the society and, therefore, that society's institutions, are inherently and helplessly racist in nature does profound things to that victim's view of the world.

In education the racism lies in studies which usually make no pretenses of cultural affinity toward that Black student. That the studies common to white America are just as relevant to black Americans can not at this point be denied, it is reality, as are Black folks. That these same studies are vital, in that they enrich his life, that they inform of the contributions of other cultures other than his own are in this context good.

Rarely do these studies run down the simple facts that he/she is Black, which establishes a relationship with the world and establishes itself. Jazz as a "classical" music, John Coltrane as Johann Sebastian Bach, Africa as America, Huey Newton as his Black self, me as you, are some of the vital (essential to life) possibilities which Black people are considering when education (knowledge derived from experience) is reduced to "white taught by white".

Because Black people is essentially a new if not radical idea for America the evolution is necessarily slow (Chekov before Hughes, Beckett before Jones). This is after all, only the beginning. Black studies is young despite the fact that it should pervade white studies, as should all cultures.

Black Studies must be by necessity immediately for Black people. It is that simple.

At Bennington College the sense of immediacy which must pervade the establishment of a program of Black Studies diminishes in essentially a school of white students. That the school urges the student to pursue what he must is not being questioned in this statement. The immediate issue becomes one of Black students rather than of Black Studies. An increased number of Black students demands a sensitivity to his cultural needs as a Black person. Hence Black Studies. These needs after all were created by Black people.

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