

To: All Members of the Community

From: Gail and Tom Parker

October 9, 1972

The trustees were concerned about much of what they heard last week first at the meeting with Black students and again at the admissions and financial aid committee meeting. Instead of producing an ambiguous general statement about their feelings on a number of interrelated issues, they have asked us to outline some of their specific concerns.

1. There must be more Black students.
2. The College must make changes in its financial aid policy. In defining the new policy it seems clear to the trustees that:
 - a) student expenses should be calculated on a twelve and not a nine month basis.
 - b) there should be no question in anyone's mind that changes in the amount of aid offered in the course of a student's time at Bennington be based solely on changes in his or her financial situation.
 - c) no method of estimating need is acceptable unless it makes it possible to notify students exactly how much aid they can expect for the coming year early enough in the spring to make realistic plans.
3. The College must seek out new sources of scholarship and loan money, and information about these sources must be made available to all students.

Outlines, of course, can be just as meaningless as ambiguous rhetoric. However, the trustees felt sufficiently concerned about what they heard last Friday to call a special meeting here at the College before Thanksgiving to focus on what can be done in the next few months to translate parts No. 1 and No. 3 (above) into reality. We personally would hope that the financial aid policy (No. 2) can be worked out before then.