

# Penn State Blacks Stage Sit-In, Demands Unknown

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STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Black students at Penn State who staged an 11-hour sit-in at the school administration building are waiting until they meet Friday with top administrators before they disclose their demands.

But black students waiting outside the building Tuesday said Penn State wasn't attracting enough minority students or faculty and wasn't acting on other minority issues.

"The university has put these concerns on back burners," said Robert Blair, director of political services for the Black Caucus, a student organization.

Ten black students refused to leave the waiting room to university President Bryce Jordan's office Tuesday until Jordan and about a dozen senior administrators agreed to meet with them to discuss concerns about minority issues.

In a statement released after they left the building at 9:30 p.m., the students said they had taken a "serious stand to the ... forms of injustice existing within the fibre and fabric of the Pennsylvania State University."

Three other students joined the sit-in as a show of solidarity.

About 50 students, most of them black, joined hands outside the building during the protest, chanting slogans and singing songs.

"We Are. Fed Up," they shouted, parodying the football cheer "We Are. Penn State."

Protesters in the Old Main Building numbered from 20 to 30 at the height of the demonstration Tuesday afternoon, but many left when they were threatened with arrest when the building closed for business at about 5 p.m.

No criminal charges or university disciplinary action would be taken against the students, who left peacefully, said Carol Cartwright, chairman of the university's Equal Opportunity Planning Committee and vice provost.

Ms. Cartwright said the agreement was made after Jordan was reached by phone at a West Coast airport. Robert A. Clough, assistant director of education and community services for the state Human Relations Commission, traveled from Harrisburg to help negotiate the solution.

Among the demonstrators inside the building was Seth Williams, a senior from Philadelphia who is president of the student government.

"I'm happy. I hope it's the start of something," said Williams.

Ms. Cartwright said the meeting between the demonstrators and administration officials was scheduled for Friday at 2 p.m.

"I think that's a critical first step," said Travis Parchman, a senior from Wilmington, Del., who was one of the students taking part in the protest as a show of solidarity.

Shahid Tabourn, a junior from Philadelphia, said the protest Tuesday was staged on the spur of the moment.

"It just got started because we're fed up with the university," said Tabourn, who added that he was with the protestors but left to go to class.



# The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Thursday, April 7, 1988

## Students, their sit-in over, to meet Penn State chief

By Phil McDade  
*Centre Daily Times*

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — A group of Pennsylvania State University students will press for a better campus environment for blacks during a meeting with university President Bryce Jordan tomorrow, a student leader said yesterday.

Penn State officials set the meeting with Jordan after students staged an 11-hour sit-in Tuesday at Jordan's office in Old Main, the university's chief administrative building.

Nine black students, along with the Rev. Cecil Gray of the United Black Fellowship Community Church in State College, occupied the hallway outside Jordan's office from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

They were joined during the sit-in by three more students, including Seth Williams, the recently elected president of the Undergraduate Student Government.

Williams, who will attend tomorrow's meeting with Jordan, said students plan to tell Jordan that Penn State needs to improve the climate for blacks.

"The main emphasis will be on the environment for African-American students on campus," said Williams, a black junior from Philadelphia.

The students will present many of the same demands made last month by the Coalition for Human Equality,

a group of 11 campus and community organizations, Williams said.

Among the demands made by the coalition were: the appointment of a vice president for minority affairs, the requiring of all students to take courses in black and women's studies, the elevation of Penn State's black studies program to a full academic department, an increase in the number of scholarships for black students, and expansion of the black-studies room at the university's Pattee Library.

University officials did not release the names of the students involved in the Tuesday sit-in.

Williams said he was not sure who will attend the meeting, which is being organized by the nine students who occupied Jordan's office.

"It's their show to run; I'll just help in any way I can," he said. Jordan and "some top administrators" will meet with the student group, said university spokesman Bill Mahon. No other details of the meeting have been worked out by the university, he said.

Penn State officials have said they are trying to improve the climate for minorities on campus, and point to the formation earlier this year of a "campus environment team" they say is designed to combat acts of discrimination.

# PSU blacks resist order

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — More than 150 Penn State University students, most of them black, vowed to resist a court order to vacate a building where they staged a sit-in Friday over a cancelled meeting to discuss minority issues.

"Right now we will be in this place until whatever happens," said Darryl King, a senior from Philadelphia and past president of the Black Caucus, a student organization.

Students said they would occupy the telecommunications building until they're arrested or their demand is met for a meeting with Penn State President Bryce Jordan and about a dozen other university officials.

Jordan had agreed Tuesday to convene the cancelled meeting to end an earlier sit-in outside his office by nine black students and a local pastor.

Carol A. Cartwright, chairman of the Equal Opportunity Planning Committee, said the university had offered to set up a meeting Friday night outside the building to plan an open forum for next week on minority issues. The offer was rejected.

"We need to make it clear we have made very serious offers," Cartwright said. "We are willing to have a dialogue, but we're not willing to let students occupy buildings and get this accomplished this way."

Student leaders said they didn't trust the university to keep its word once they left the building.

"They always promise and no action," said Robert Blair, director of political services for the Black Caucus.

Students marched Friday from the planned meeting site at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center when Jordan skipped the meeting and sent only two senior administrators instead.



# 150 students protest at Penn State

By Phil McDade  
and Lisa Hawkins  
*Centre Daily Times*

4830A

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — More than 150 Pennsylvania State University students took over a campus building yesterday to protest the treatment of blacks on campus.

The students, most of them black, entered the university's Telecommunications Building in the center of campus at 2:30 p.m. University administrators met in the building with students throughout the afternoon.

"Until all of us are satisfied with what they say, we're here," said Robert Blair, director of political services for the Black Caucus, a student organization.

The takeover occurred three days after 12 students conducted an 11-hour sit-in at the office of University President Bryce Jordan.

A crowd of about 50 students, most of whom were black, gathered outside the building after the takeover, shouting, "We've had enough" and "We want Bryce."

The building houses the university's telephone-switching equipment.

Shortly after 8 last night, university safety director David Stormer told the students that the building was closed and asked them to leave. Twenty minutes later, university police served injunctions on two student protest leaders, Blair and Darryl King, ordering all occupants to leave the building and prohibiting them from occupying any other university building.

The takeover apparently was prompted by the cancellation of a planned meeting between Jordan and the original 12 student protesters to discuss minority issues on campus.

Jordan had agreed to the meeting with the 12 students after Tuesday's sit-in at his office. University officials called it off.



## Police break up sit-in, arrest black students at Penn State

*The Associated Press*

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Police ended a 15-hour sit-in at Penn State University by arresting students who said the use of force typified the school's insensitivity toward blacks.

"We were dragged out and we got pulled out by the state troopers. ... People were manhandled by the state troopers," said Darryl King, a senior from Philadelphia and a student leader of the almost entirely black group occupying the school's telecommunications building.

More than 150 students began the protest Friday afternoon after student leaders and school administrators failed to agree on ground rules for a discussion of minority issues with university President Bryce Jordan and top administration officials.

## 91 students arrested at Penn State after sit-in over minority concerns

### PROTEST / from 1A

police cordon around the building. Stormer said about 130 people were in the building just before the arrests, but many left rather than face criminal charges.

The students, most of them black, began the protest Friday after a meeting between student leaders and school administrators failed to agree on ground rules for another session to discuss minority issues.

The university canceled a similar meeting Friday after officials said they couldn't reach student leaders who had demanded the meeting to end an earlier sit-in outside the office of Penn State President Bryce Jordan.

This fall, Penn State failed to reach a 5 percent black enrollment, which the university agreed to under court order. Penn State has a 3.6 percent black enrollment,

which equals 2,424 black students.

Late Friday night, Craig Millar, assistant vice president for student services, told the protesters that they would be violating Penn State's code of conduct if they remained and could be subject to dismissal from the university.

He also said they could face criminal charges of disorderly conduct, harassment and trespassing. "Your point has been made and we are please asking you to leave," Millar said.

Outside the building half a dozen students slept in sleeping bags, while others huddled under blankets in the 37-degree chill.

King said they would occupy the building until they're arrested or their demand is met for a meeting with Jordan and other university officials. "Right now we will be in this place until whatever happens," he said.

Jordan had agreed Tuesday to

convene the canceled meeting to end an earlier sit-in outside his office by nine black students and a local pastor.



# Penn State Blacks Still Seeking Talks with University Officials

4830A  
STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Black students who face criminal charges and the possibility of expulsion for staging a 15-hour sit-in say they still want to discuss minority concerns with Penn State University's top officials.

"The eventual goal is to force a meeting, again, with President (Bryce) Jordan and senior administration officials. All we've asked for is the opportunity to meet," said Brian Armstead, who was involved in two sit-ins last week.

University President Bryce Jordan, in a statement issued Sat-

urday night, said he is willing to try to arrange a meeting with the students.

Student leaders have accused Penn State of failing to live up to promises to adequately increase black enrollment and faculty members and to give blacks equal opportunity.

Last fall, Penn State failed to reach a court-mandated goal of 5 percent black enrollment. Penn State has 2,424 blacks, or 3.6 percent of its student body of about 67,000.

An 11-hour sit-in outside Jor-

dan's office Tuesday by Armstead, eight other black students and a local pastor ended with the president agreeing to convene a meeting Friday with senior administrators and the protesters.

Jordan failed to attend the meeting because his administration could not agree in advance with protesters on the ground rules, prompting more than 150 students to occupy the university's telecommunications building.

Police ended the sit-in Saturday morning by arresting 91 students, who must enter a plea on trespassing or disorderly conduct charges by April 19.

Students also face university sanctions, including the possibility of expulsion, under Penn State's code of conduct, according to administration officials.

About 100 protesters and their supporters met Sunday before a service at the United Black Fellowship Community Church, a half-mile from the campus, but said they were unsure of their next step.

At least two alumni met the students Sunday morning to show support, while a Penn State graduate, attorney Robert Simmons of Pittsburgh, has offered to provide legal counsel to the protesters.

Simmons said he thought the arrests would sully Penn State's reputation among black alumni and said he would tell a prospective black student not to attend the university.

"The only reason the administration puts up with the minorities is to receive the federal money. If the federal money wasn't at stake, they wouldn't even bother," he said.



NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1988

## Arrested During Sit-In

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (UPI) — Penn State students protesting the university's handling of minority issues ended a sit-in at a building Saturday after police arrested and charged 91 of the students with trespassing.

At least 150 mostly Black students began the sit-in about 2:30 p.m. Friday at the Telecommunications Building to protest cancellation of a meeting with Penn State President Bryce Jordon, faculty and other administrators.

The students had sought the meeting to discuss minority issues, school spokesman Bill Mahon said.

Some of the students left the building early Saturday after police warned they would receive a summary citation if they did not leave the premises, Mahon said.

The 91 that remained were cited and escorted from the building, ending the occupation about 6:45 a.m., he said.

The students were upset that Penn

State did not reach a court-mandated goal of 5 percent Black enrollment, said Robert Blair, director of political services for Penn State's Black Caucus. Blair was at the sit-in.

Penn State has about 3.6 percent Black enrollment.

Blair said the minority students also wanted more say in programs that affect them.

The arrests proceeded smoothly, Mahon said.

"I watched it. I did not see any (scuffles). The head of campus police said it went very smoothly," he said.

"The officers processed the students one at a time and then escorted them off the premises. I think I saw handcuffs once or twice out of the whole," Mahon said.

Larry Lyons, a campus security officer, said the protesters cited could face a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail or a \$300 fine.

# PSU President Sets Amnesty For Protesters

4830A  
STATE COLLEGE (AP) —  
Penn State University President  
Bryce Jordan today agreed to  
drop all criminal and university  
charges against 89 protesters who  
staged a sit-in over minority is-  
sues at a campus building.

Jordan agreed to full amnesty  
for the activists, most of them  
black students, at an open meet-  
ing this morning with student  
leaders and his top administra-  
tors.

"Legal force does not help us  
to solve our problems," Jordan  
said at the meeting, attended by  
about 200 people at the Paul Robe-  
son Cultural Center.

Sekou Garrett, one of the stu-  
dent activists, asked that total  
amnesty be granted to protesters  
before discussions began on mi-  
nority issues that prompted the  
sit-ins.

Police arrested 89 protesters  
April 9, ending a 15-hour sit-in at  
the university's telecommunica-  
tions building.

Students staged the sit-in  
when Jordan canceled another  
meeting because ground rules  
could not be agreed upon in ad-  
vance.

Students expected an open  
meeting, while Jordan sent two  
senior administrators to the Robe-  
son Center April 8 for a closed-  
door meeting.



# No punishment in Penn State sit-in

By David S. Martin  
Associated Press

48 30A

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The president of Pennsylvania State University agreed yesterday to drop charges against students arrested during a sit-in protesting racial policy, but he declined to commit new funds for recruiting black students and faculty.

"Most of the students who occupied the building were motivated by a genuine belief that immediate action was required to address the concerns of Penn State's black community," university President Bryce Jordan said in granting amnesty to the protesters.

School admissions officials had expressed worry that the arrests would discourage prospective black students.

At an open meeting with his senior

administrators and black student leaders, Jordan defended his decision to end a 15-hour sit-in at the university's telecommunications building April 9 by arresting 89 protesters, most of them black students.

"It was and still is my judgment it was in the best interest of the university to take the action necessary to safely remove the students from the building," he said.

More than 150 students occupied the building April 8 after Jordan canceled a meeting with student activists because ground rules could not be agreed upon in advance. Jordan had sent two administrators to meet with student leaders behind closed doors, but the students demanded an open meeting.

Students still in the building at dawn the next day were charged with trespassing and faced university sanctions, including possible dismissal.

Jordan, who agreed to yesterday's public forum three days after the arrests, said he would not pursue any charges or sanctions against the students.

Ten black student leaders presented demands to Jordan and four

senior administrators yesterday, including the creation of a vice president for minority affairs, recruitment of more black students and faculty, and an increase in financial support for minority students.

Jordan agreed to the creation of a vice president for cultural affairs for black students and to work toward increasing the number of black students and faculty to 8 percent. Last fall, Penn State failed to reach a court-mandated goal of 5 percent black enrollment.

Of Penn State's 67,000 students, 2,424 or 3.6 percent are black. Penn State has 57 black faculty members, 1.4 percent of the university's 4,100-member faculty.

Kevin Parker, a student from New York City, said more funding was needed because current recruitment efforts were inadequate.

Jordan refused to make any specific commitment to increasing money for black scholarships and grants.

About 200 people crowded into the Paul Robeson Cultural Center campus to watch the five-houring; 75 others watched on circuit television in an auditorium across the street.

# Black Students Cite Racism at Penn State

## Stickers on Campus Ugly Reminders

By VALERIA M. RUSS  
Daily News Staff Writer

4830A

For black students at Penn State University, where the recent arrests of 89 protesting students dramatized the racial tensions on campus, the story of the racist stickers that popped up last fall illustrates their complaint.

Not only did the stickers, with messages such as "Death to race mixers," make them feel they were in a hostile environment, but the university's response also left them uneasy, they said.

University president Bryce Jordan did not publicly condemn the stickers — which bore the name of a hate group called New Order — until weeks after they appeared last October.

"It took 3½ weeks before the university issued a statement that the stickers had been placed on campus," said Seth Williams, president of the Undergraduate Student Govern-

ment. Williams is black.

"That showed insensitivity to the students," added Williams, a 21-year-old junior and a graduate of Philadelphia's Central High.

While university police officials haven't determined if the persons who put up the stickers were students or outsiders, Jordan said last night that he waited until a meeting of the university Board of Trustees in order to "have the maximum amount of press coverage" to condemn the stickers.

"One could argue whether that was the best way to get the most attention," he said, but he noted that the university investigation of the stickers began the day after they appeared.

The feelings of racial isolation and alienation that black students describe at the State College campus has been the source of widespread attention since the students were arrested after a 15-hour sit-in at a uni-





Associated Press

James Stewart, Penn State director of black studies, and PSU President Bryce Jordan meet Monday

versity building April 9.

They were protesting the cancellation of a meeting Jordan had scheduled with them to talk about race relations on campus.

On Monday, Jordan did meet with black student leaders in a public, five-hour meeting at which he announced the university would drop all charges against the students.

He agreed to a number of student demands, including the possibility of creating a position of a vice president who would have responsibility for ensuring that the university increase its recruitment of black and other minority students and faculty members.

Of the 67,000 students enrolled in the Penn State system, 3.6 percent are black. Of the school's 4,100 faculty, 1.6 percent are black.

Jordan also promised support for more courses in black studies and women's studies.

At the trustees meeting last November, Jordan called the hate stickers "ugly public evidence of racism" and acknowledged other incidents.

James Stewart, director of Penn State's black studies program, said students have come to him "frustrated and angry" after encountering white faculty members who seem to assume that every black student is disadvantaged or educationally deprived, "or who maybe unconsciously doesn't give as much credence to what a black student says in class as a white student."

After Stewart helped produce a university booklet on the need for more sensitivity to minority students, he said a white instructor came up to him and said, "The best thing that black students could do is learn to be white."

Said Stewart, "You're dealing with that level of sensitivity all the time."

Ann Marie Eckler, a white student who is co-director of the undergraduate student government race relations board — and who was one of those arrested — said some white students do not understand black students' complaints about racism.

She said some white students have wanted to know what they can do to become more aware of racism, while others deny it exists.

Eckler, a senior journalism major from Harrisburg, said many white students want to believe that outsiders put up the stickers.

"I think there's a lot of denial that people belong to these things [hate

groups] or hold those views," she said.

Black students also say they have had racial slurs yelled at them on campus and in the town of State College, which is some three hours northwest of Philadelphia in Centre County.

Darryl King, a 22-year-old senior from Philadelphia, said white youths have yelled at him from cars, "Nigger, go home."

Two weeks ago, said Leola Ross of Philadelphia, she and another black student were told to get out of a convenience store by a manager who said, "You people always come in here, always changing your minds."

State Rep. Gordon Linton, a Democrat representing the 200th District, who took part in the talks at the university this week, said he has heard from many black Penn State alumni who say the same things were happening when they were students there 10 and 20 years ago.



# Penn State and Black Leaders Advance on Minority Issues

4830A  
STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Penn State University administrators and black student leaders made progress during negotiations on minority issues, but arrests following a sit-in in April still affect their relations, the moderator of the talks said.

"There's still an air of mistrust," said James Stewart, an associate professor of labor and industrial relations.

"It makes discussion in particular issues longer and possibly more disharmonious than I would hope," added Stewart, head of the Black Studies program at Penn State.

Administration officials and student leaders met Friday for six hours of sometimes-heated discussions behind closed doors.

Nicole Batts, a junior from Philadelphia, said the meeting was a step in the right direction.

"I'm not totally satisfied but we're still working," she said.

Yet several black students said they would have to see results based on longstanding demands before they would be convinced of the sincerity of Penn State's administration.

"We are asking for concrete action from the university, not

merely rhetoric," said Gloria Hampton, a junior from West Germany.

Among the students' demands:

- Increase minority enrollment and the number of black faculty at Penn State.

- Create a vice presidency for minority affairs.

- Make black studies an academic major.

During the meeting, the university's administration reiterated its commitment to increasing the number of black students at Penn State, but resisted setting specific timetables, according to Carol Cartwright, vice provost.

Penn State hoped to begin a search this fall for a vice president for minority affairs, Stewart said.

Stewart said he planned to submit material to the Faculty Senate this fall in hopes of making black studies a major by the fall of 1989.

Mrs. Cartwright said another meeting was planned between administrators and students later this summer, possibly as soon as the end of the month.

More than 150 students occupied the university's telecommu-

nications building April 8 when Jordan failed to attend a meeting without agreed-upon ground rules.

Jordan wanted a closed meeting, and the students wanted the meeting open to the public.

Jordan agreed to Friday's meeting at an open forum with black student leaders nine days after the arrests.

Among the demands by students at the April meeting was for the university to set a goal of an 8 percent black student body to reflect the racial makeup of the state.

Blacks comprise 3.6 percent of Penn State's 67,000-member student body, and 1.6 percent of the 3,500 faculty members.

Last fall, Penn State failed for the fifth year in a row to meet court-mandated minority enrollment goals. The university wanted to enroll 617 in-state black freshmen, but enrolled 352.

At the meeting in April, Jordan also dropped criminal and university disciplinary charges against the students stemming from the sit-in, but defended his decision to arrest them.



# Protesters rip PSU as insincere on aiding blacks

**By Carolyn Sorisio**

For The Patriot-News

**UNIVERSITY PARK** — A group of protesters arrested in April after taking over a Pennsylvania State University building to win a meeting with university officials says Penn State officials are insincere in their efforts to improve the climate for blacks on campus.

The students, who call themselves Concerned African-Americans at Penn State, and the administrators have met three times since the April occupation of the Telecommunications Building for about 15 hours, including one meeting with about 200 spectators which was covered by the national media.

The students also have met with individual administrators to discuss details of the protesters' requests.

"The administration felt compelled to talk to us because the nation's eyes were on Penn State, but maybe in the back of their minds they were thinking all they would do is talk," said Yvette Dudley, one of the protesters and president of

the Penn State chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Another protester, Darryl King, who also is a former president of the Black Caucus, said the talks reflect racism among the top administration officials.

"The biggest problem starts with race," he said. "They want to tell everyone else in the university to be sensitive but they need the biggest level of cultural understanding," he said.

When student representatives announced a halt to the discussions last week, they also issued a "call to action" for blacks at Penn State but wouldn't say what steps they were planning to take.

One said further acts of civil disobedience, such as the sit-in, might occur. University officials have not ruled out the possibility of more arrests depending on what the students do.

Dr. Bryce Jordan, university president, has attended the meetings along with other top administrators and said the university is willing to work with

## PENN STATE



the students and consider their demands. Some, such as the establishment of a vice president for Pan-African affairs, may be too limited, he said.

Instead of a vice president for Pan-African affairs, the university is considering the creation of the post of vice provost for equal opportunity who would address the concerns of all minorities at Penn State, he said.

Students say that although the provost post is a good idea, they still want a vice president for Pan-African affairs and the rest of their demands. After 88 students were arrested in April, the ad-

ministration agreed to meet and hear the demands, which the students said are aimed at improving the university environment for blacks.

Demands include increasing financial aid to blacks, establishing a department of African-American studies, making more African-American and women's studies courses part of the undergraduate degree requirement, allotting more office space for black organizations and lounges, increased input from African-American students on programs for blacks and recruitment of blacks.

Groups in the past have demanded similar action from the administration, dating back to the late 1960s. One group, the Forum for Black Affairs, which consists mostly of faculty members and graduate students, made many of the same demands in a report to Jordan last fall.

James Stewart, director of the black studies program, said many of the demands will be reviewed and eventually implemented, but the students will not have as much direct input because of

their decision to break off talks with the administration.

Although he said he doesn't believe ending talks with the administration is a good idea, Stewart said it will not discredit the demands. The sit-in was a success because the administration is now willing to seek input from a variety of sources, he said.

Stewart said the students, during the third meeting, requested that the university increase aid for the Black Achievement and Black Incentive Awards in proportion to cost-of-living increases. If the university is sincere, it will implement that change regardless of additional state funding, he said.

Penn State has been trying to increase its black population, but has repeatedly fallen short of its 5 percent enrollment goal.

Jordan said the university probably will lose some black student applicants because of the publicity generated by the protests, but added he does not expect faculty and staff recruitment to be affected.



☐ Abington   ☐ Bryn Athyn   ☐ Conshohocken   ☐ Horsham   ☐ Jenkintown   ☐ Lower Moreland   ☐ Rockledge   ☐ Upper Dublin   ☐ Upper Southampton   ☐ Warrington   ☐ Whitpain  
☐ Ambler   ☐ Cheltenham   ☐ Hatboro   ☐ Ivyland   ☐ Lower Gwynedd   ☐ Plymouth   ☐ Springfield   ☐ Upper Moreland   ☐ Warminster   ☐ Whitemarsh

# NEIGHBORS

## At Penn State, a push for minorities



Associated Press

A PENN STATE STUDENT is led away after an April sit-in at the University Park campus when black and white students were seeking a meet-

ing with the university president to discuss issues affecting minority students. With a student enrollment more than 90 percent white on

its 23 campuses around the Commonwealth, Penn State has made the recruitment of minority students "a top priority." Story on Page 4.

RELIGION / Page 3

A 'real hero'  
is remembered

POLITICS / Page 6

Local GOP says  
Quayle all right

PEOPLE / Page 6

Some last words  
for U. Dublin



## COVER STORY



Special to The Inquirer / BILL CAIN

Students wait to register for classes at Penn State Ogontz, which has the 22-campus system's highest enrollment of black students — 7.5 percent of 3,245 students.

# Penn State courting minorities

By Maura C. Ciccarelli  
Special to The Inquirer

Forty-two black students graduated from Wissahickon High School in June. Seventeen enrolled in four-year colleges, but not one chose Penn State. "It never really crossed my mind to go there," said Amy Wilson, one of the graduates.

She chose Spelman College, a black women's college in Atlanta. This fall, her black classmates will be attending Temple University, Bloomsburg State University, Hampton University in Virginia, Morehouse College in Atlanta, Morgan State University in Baltimore and LaSalle University.

Some said they wanted to be farther from home. Some said they received the incentive of scholarships. Some said they wanted a small, closely knit college community. Some chose all-black schools.

But, in deciding against Penn State, many said the university's image — as being a huge institution with a remote main campus and few black students — was a factor.

The numbers are on their side: In 1987, there were 2,424 black students out of a total enrollment of 67,278 undergraduate and graduate students who attended the main campus at University Park and its 22 other campuses. Black students made up the largest share of Penn State's 4,378 minority students, which also included American Indians, Hispanics and Asians.

The eastern Montgomery County students also said minority recruitment programs that Penn State has set up never reached them, and they were bothered by the arrests of black students during demonstrations on the main campus in the spring.

"I had no interest after hearing about the incidents up at the school," Wilson said.

Stephanie Whitfield of Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School, said she de-

**Stung by a sit-in last spring, the commonwealth's largest university is struggling to change its image to increase enrollment of minority students.**

cided against applying to Penn State because the small number of minority students bothered her.

"It's a big turnoff," she said. "When you're a black student and you are looking into a college, one of the things you look into is how the school handles issues with minorities," she said. Whitfield has yet to decide where to attend college.

Penn State has long been aware of its image problem, which has hurt its minority enrollment. Its 1987 enrollment of black students — 3.6 percent of the total — failed to meet its own five-year goal of a 5 percent black enrollment by 1987-88. In 1987, of 142,811 high school graduates in the Commonwealth, 11,994 (8.3 percent) were black, and 15,342 (10.7 percent) were minority.

Figures were not available for Penn State's fall enrollment.

Recruiting minorities has become "a top priority" at Penn State, the largest university in the Commonwealth, according to University President Bryce Jordan. In an Aug. 19 letter to staff and faculty, Jordan said, "The issue is building cultural diversity at Penn State."

Roger Williams, chief university spokesman, said this week, "The university's goal is to, first of all... reach the 5 percent goal we had set five years ago."

After that, Penn State officials said they wanted the university to reach a black enrollment of 8 percent. But no timetable has been set.

Nationally, enrollment of black students at colleges and universities has

been level for a decade, but Williams said it has been increasing at Penn State. In 1982, enrollment of black students at Penn State totaled 1,587 students, or 2.5 percent of the student body, he said. Since then, the enrollment has increased each year to 2,424 in 1987.

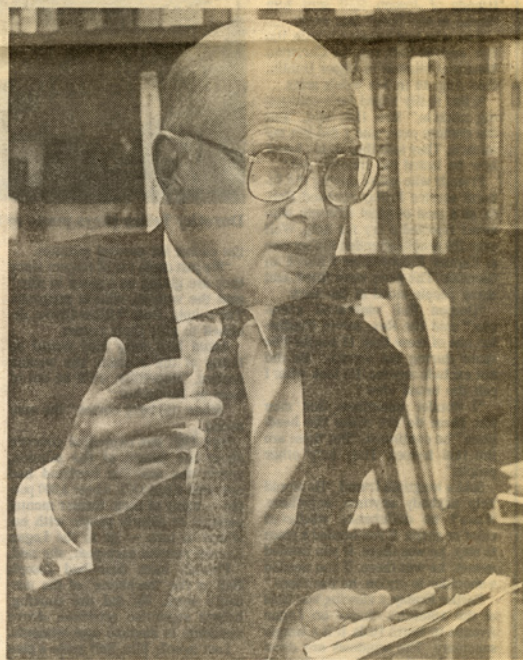
"We're not looking at this as a total failure," Williams said. "We do feel we've been successful. But we've got a long way to go."

The issue heated up April 8 when more than 150 students — black and white — staged a sit-in on the main campus. Eighty-nine students, most of them black, were arrested for trespassing.

The students had called for an open meeting with Jordan to discuss three issues: hiring a vice president for minority affairs; improving recruitment of minority students and faculty, and increasing financial support for minority students.

When the two sides couldn't reach an agreement about ground rules for the meeting, Jordan canceled the session and sent two administrators to meet behind closed doors with the students. The students insisted on an open meeting; when that was rejected, the students responded by staging a sit-in at the university's telecommunications building.

On April 18, Jordan and his top administrators met black student leaders openly. Jordan granted amnesty to the arrested students and agreed to create a vice president for cultural affairs for black students and to work



Ogontz official Moylan Mills: "The university is making a really good-faith effort to overcome this situation."

toward increasing the percentage of both black faculty and students to 8 percent.

The university is trying to achieve its goals:

- Through the Minority Advanced

Placement Program, which gives academically gifted high school students free classes in the summer before their senior year of high school. Successful completion of the MAP program guarantees the students admis-



*"We do feel we've been successful," says a Penn State spokesman. "But we've got a long way to go."*

sion to the university as well as a tuition-free three-credit course. The students can then apply for Minority Research Apprenticeship Program for the summer before their freshman years of college. The program involves the students in a research project of their choice and gives them a \$1,200 stipend and another tuition-free three-credit course.

- Through the summertime Bridge Program, which helps incoming freshmen who lack the necessary education skills for college. The program is open to all students.

- By hiring more minority faculty members at campuses throughout the state. A chief issue among many black students is having black instructors at the university. Currently, of 4,100 teachers at the university, only 57 — 1.4 percent — are black. The university has established a fund to allow academic departments to make competitive salary offers to prospective minority faculty members.

- By increasing the number of graduate fellowships for minority students. In 1984-85, the university budgeted \$74,000 for the program. In 1987-88, the fund was \$840,000.

- By offering more grants to minority students. Financial aid in 1984-85 for minority students was \$450,000. Last year, it was \$1.8 million.

- By establishing achievement and incentive awards for black students. But are the programs working?

In Montgomery County, many students said they were not aware of Penn State's programs to recruit minority students.

Loretta Stimpson, a Wissahickon graduate who was president of her high school's Black Student Union last year, said she had never heard of Penn State's programs for minorities.

She and her father had sent a letter asking if such programs existed, but never received a response. So she narrowed her search.

Stimpson was accepted at West Chester University, but chose Hampton University in Virginia.

"If I had known about the minority-recruitment programs, it would have changed my decision a little bit," she said.

Stimpson said the university's image of not having many black students would not have bothered her. But she did worry about being "a number" at such a large school.

Joe Reavy, director of counseling at Cheltenham High School, said the university sends minority recruiters to his high school each year to talk about the programs.

"The representatives spell out each program and the kids who are interested apply," Reavy said.

The Cheltenham class of 1988 had 347 students, 75 of whom were blacks or members of other minority groups. Of those, 47 chose to go to four-year colleges, and six enrolled at Penn State.

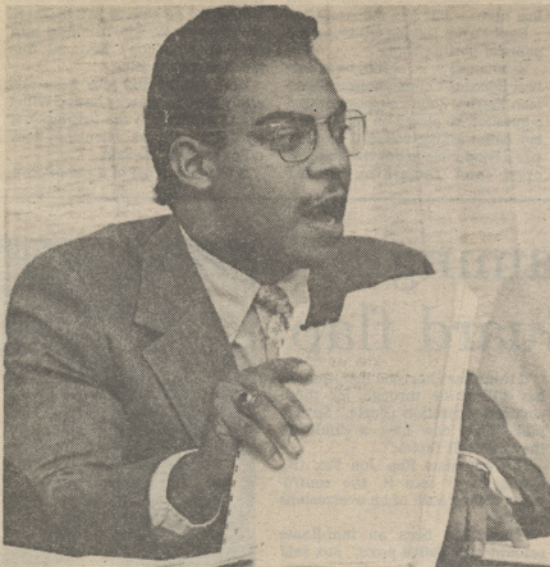
Seth Williams, a black senior at the University Park campus, has been pushing for better recruitment programs. He was president of the Black Student Union at Penn State Ogontz and the Black Caucus at University Park. He is now president of the University Park Undergraduate Student Government.

"A lot of the recruitment programs were just put together without talk-



Special to The Inquirer / ROB CLARK JR.

Wissahickon graduate Stimpson says she never heard from Penn State's programs for minorities.



Special to The Inquirer / IRA D. JOFFE

Student Government President Williams faults recruitment.

ing to" black students, both in high school and college, Williams said. "They don't have the students' input."

But he and others have been pushing for more student involvement in the university in general, urging that programs for minorities not end

with a student's enrollment.

"It would help a lot to ask the students, 'What can we do to ensure that you will continue at the university until you graduate?'" he said.

Of Penn State's 22 Commonwealth campuses, where many students

spend their first two years, Ogontz in Abington Township has the highest black enrollment — 7.5 percent, said Roger Williams, the university's spokesman. Last year, there were 244 black students at the Ogontz campus, out of a 3,245-student enrollment.

Last Thursday, freshmen gathered in the basement of Ogontz's Sutherland Hall to register for classes in the undergraduate studies program — designed for students who haven't decided on a major.

Of about 50 students gathered there, a fifth were blacks or Hispanics.

Tara Pickens, of Marlton, N.J., one of the black students, said she was not aware of the Minority Advanced Placement Program, the Bridge or any other programs. She added that Penn State's image problems did not affect her decision to attend.

"I've been going to a school where I was a minority all my life and so it doesn't really bother me," she said.

"I feel comfortable here," said Wanda Garcia, who will be a freshman at Ogontz this year. "Anywhere we go, we will be a minority."

"I'm always going to be a minority, so I'm not going to stop my education because of what people say."

Rhonda McCarthy, a 1987 graduate of Abington High School who will soon begin her second year at the Ogontz campus, said she had never heard of the minority-recruitment programs.

"I chose Penn State Ogontz because I wanted to stay home and it was close," she said.

"I just go there to do my work," said McCarthy, a business administration major. "I don't really care

how many black people are there. I'm not there to socialize."

Most black students who attended the Ogontz campus last year were from Philadelphia, where university recruiters focused their work, according to Moylan Mills, acting campus executive director at Ogontz. He said the university was trying hard to boost its minority enrollment.

"Almost every day we get information and phone calls from the [university's] affirmative-action office indicating how important it is to recruit and maintain the minority student population," he said.

But he added that the number of black and minority students at the university could be difficult to increase because, unlike Ogontz, many of the campuses are in rural areas with few minority students.

"The university is making a really good-faith effort to overcome this situation," Mills said.

Penn State officials acknowledge, however, that there is a problem.

"Every higher-education institution wants to increase black enrollment and there is a reasonably restricted number of black students," Mills said.

To help attract students, Ogontz campus officials invite minority students interested in Penn State to a luncheon in the spring. At those luncheons, Mills said, the students and their parents can learn more about programs for minorities.

In October, the school hosts an open house. Prospective minority students are sent a mailing.

The key to the issue is that Penn State is a land-grant college, established in 1855 for the "sons and daughters of the working class." But rising salary costs and the increased costs of operating the campuses has increased the tuition rate. Since last year, tuition at University Park has risen 9.7 percent, from \$3,292 to \$3,610. At Ogontz, tuition rose 11.8 percent, from \$3,126 to \$3,494, university figures show.

Mills said the fear is that those working-class students — including some minority students — will be priced out of a college education.

But the image problem lingers.

"Unfortunately some of the events at the University Park campus last spring didn't help the image of Penn State," Mills said.

Like the game of "whisper down the lane," many black students said stories about Penn State having a poor relationship with minorities would be hard to dispel.

"My cousins all went to Penn State and they didn't like it," said Ron Johnson, a 1983 graduate of Wissahickon High School. He enrolled part-time in Montgomery County Community College after graduating and has applied to Temple's Ambler campus as a full-time student.

"When you go to college, you want to find someone with the same interests as you," he said.

His cousins failed to make that connection at Penn State.

"When they went there, they didn't find anyone," he said.

But university spokesman Roger Williams said enrolling more black students, and keeping them there, would remain a priority.

"It permeates everything that happens at Penn State," he said.



# Fewer black freshmen enroll at Penn State after demonstrations

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Six months after students demonstrated at Penn State over minority issues including lagging enrollments, university President Bryce Jordan reported fewer black freshmen had entered this fall.

But total minority enrollment and overall enrollment at the university both increased, Jordan said at a news conference. A total of 518 black freshmen entered Penn State this fall, down 5.3 percent from the 547 last year, Jordan said.

Black enrollment increased from

2,424 last year to 2,580, a 6.4 percent increase. Blacks now constitute 3.7 percent of the student body.

In April, 89 protesters, composed mostly of black students, staged a 15-hour sit-in at the school's telecommunications building. It ended when Jordan ordered their arrests for trespassing. He later dropped charges against them.

Seth Williams, student body president and one of those arrested, said the image of state police in riot gear arresting students at the State College campus scared off parents of

both black and white applicants.

Nationally, blacks make up 8.6 percent of all students at two-and four-year colleges, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Overall enrollment at Penn State rose 2.8 percent from last fall to 69,176 students throughout the university system, Jordan said.

Enrollment by all minorities increased 10.6 percent from last year for a total of 4,843.

Enrollment by other minorities at Penn State, compared with last year: Asians and Pacific islanders up 22

percent to 1,386; Hispanics up 13 percent to 760; American Indian up 22 percent to 117.

Jordan attributed the increased black enrollment to a general trend for students to stay in school until they receive their degrees and improved efforts to keep black students in school.

"We still have a long way to go," he added.

In 1986, 75 percent of the previous year's black freshmen returned as sophomores, up from 71 percent in 1983, the university reported.

Courtney Pinkney, president of the Black Caucus, a student group, said she personally hadn't noticed many changes in efforts to keep blacks in the five years she has been at Penn State.

Following the arrests last spring, blacks demanded a new vice president's position be created to oversee black affairs, increases in student aid and a panel to investigate racist incidents on campus and punish offenders.

Jordan said Penn State would advertise nationally this fall for a

new position of vice provost for minority affairs. The university increased academic scholarships for blacks by 9.7 percent, equal to the percentage increase in the tuition.

Last fall, Penn State failed for the fifth consecutive year to meet court-ordered goals for in-state black freshmen. Under the five-year desegregation plan, 5 percent of the university's freshman class was to be made up of blacks from in state.

A total of 352 black freshmen from Pennsylvania enrolled last fall, 265 students short of the goal of 617.