

Haverford Official Named Interim Black Counselor

By Al Rubin



BRUCE ROBINSON

Bruce Robinson, Assistant to the President at Haverford, has been appointed interim black counselor for the remainder of the year. In addition to counseling and advising (especially) black students, Mr. Robinson will be a member of the ad hoc Black Admissions Committee, and will be available to the University as a resource man for consultation in the areas of black studies and career counseling.

At Haverford, Mr. Robinson's tasks range from administration to counseling to teaching. He is a member of the Academic Council, which handles faculty appointments and promotions, the Educational Policy Committee, and is coordinating the Haverford exchange program with Bryn Mawr, Smith, and Sarah Lawrence.

Since it is a Haverford tradition for administrators to teach, President Coleman teaches a course in education. Mr. Robinson teaches an introductory course in education. Recently, he has shifted from administrative duties to the compelling issues involving black students and their relationships to their world. He feels that his role at Haverford more "closely parallels the evolution of his interests at Haverford."

GRIPPING DILEMMA

Mr. Robinson has observed that the black students have been going more and more with the gripping dilemma of being black students on a white campus than blacks do at Haverford. "They see themselves as individuals who need to be evaluated on the basis of their own personal dignity. Now, the independent stance which black students have taken actually encourages white students to investigate their own ability."

He notes that (especially) black students are not afraid of accepting the black perspective. Haverford, however, will not have a higher percentage of black students than Swarthmore. All the students there have, until this year, had similar academic and social backgrounds. "Because the black students come from the same backgrounds as the white ones, they are not quite ready to make a fundamental assertion of black perspective — next year they may be."

According to Robinson both schools face the task of educating the faculty, administration and students to the differences between racial students. "In the past, both schools have emphasized the commonness of purposes, and they must address themselves to the different backgrounds and needs of students."

In speaking to the task of the

back students, it may be necessary to change certain aspects of the colleges which were originally intended to be suited to the institution's activities. Disagreements between students and administrators over faculty appointments, tenure, classes, housing, classroom hours, political content of classes and admissions are real and of immediate concern.

"The issues are not questions of good-bad, or right-wrong," but will eventually determine "whether or not a given college can incorporate these changes into its structure." This battle will be fought in two arenas. Not only do the students have to tell the administration on the need for structural change, but they also have to convince the supporters of the institution that they should continue supporting it -- not as it was, but as it is."