MULTICULTURALISM

The College has determined to make multiculturalism a priority for its development over the next few years, and so it seems worthwhile to ask just what multiculturalism is. There are several possible conceptions, and if we're not careful we're going to fall into adopting a program that promotes the wrong kinds.

Multiculturalism as an intellectual search for a broad range of viewpoints.

Multiculturalism as political/economic amelioration: Let us teach the disadvantaged young about their cultures, so they will be proud, and let us give them extra help to rise educationally and economically. But this is not multiculturalism; it is affirmative action. Affirmative action is a totally different matter, and while it is a noble program for the College to pursue, let's not confuse it with a program that is supposed to inform our curriculum. The aid we give to some of our students is--and must remain--quite distinct from the overall structure of the curriculum designed for all of our students.

Multiculturalism as My-culturalism. One of the most obvious faces of multiculturalism is its political dimension: "Now it's time for everyone to study <u>my</u> culture." The motivation is obvious: "My culture has been ignored and denigrated by a white, male, upper-class establishment for generations. Now it's <u>our</u> turn."

SOME MISTAKEN DOGMAS ABOUT MULTICULTURALISM

There are some unstated ideas about multiculturalism that need to be voiced. One of the great problems, I think, is that too many people are going around implicitly believing these thilngs, and they need to be examined.

1) There is a uniform European culture. From the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean, from the Irish Sea to the Caucasus, there is only a single set of beliefs, attitudes, arts, and mores.

2) The European culture has been exported en masse to North America and continued there, so one can reasonably talk about a Euro-American culture.

3) Young people already know the important thilngs about this culture, or at least they learn about it in college, so there is nothing about it worth teachling in the name of multiculturalism.

4) The cultures we need to learn about are the cultures of people who have been politically and economically disadvantaged in the United States in recent years: Native Americans, African-Americans, Chicanos, and maybe Asians.

5) Every aspect of the College's curriculum is going to be changed by multiculturalism, and those who cannot conform will have to re-educated or removed.

Matilda,

Sorry it took me so long to do this. I hope you can still use these pictures. I had them developed at the quick developing place in Capital Mall; they told me that they do make slides from this kind of film, but they have a huge set-up fee before they can make even a single slide. However, they said that other places around town could send these out and have slides made at a reasonable price, with a wait of a week or so. But I thought it made more sense to just send all this to you, for a couple of reasons. First, you can decide which, if any, are useful to you. Second, you can have your company pay for them directly. Third, you might be able to have the slides made with better resolution; there is a neon sign inside the store that says "Shoe Repair." You can see this in the negatives, but it doesn't show up well in the prints. I should think someone could make that clearer.

Remember: Hang by your thumbs, and write if you find work.

Herman

Facilities:

Let me suggest that you have someone use your street-sweeper on the sidewalk (running along the side of the parking lot) between the driveway into Lab I Receiving and the sidewalk leading to the path to the Organic Farm. It's covered with fine gravel. When I run on it, I sometimes feel slipping, and someone might hurt themselves there.

Burt Guttman