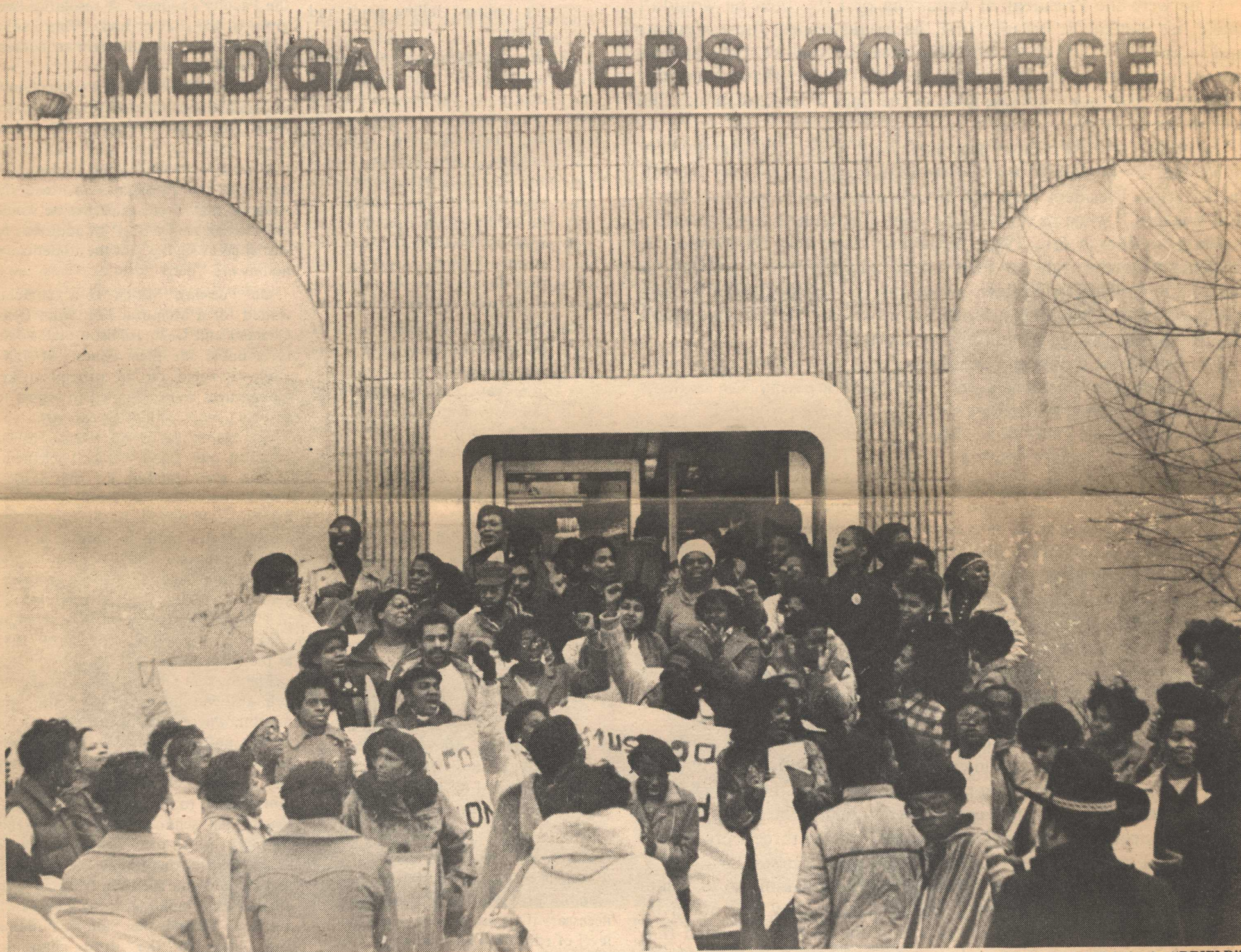


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STRIKE



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President of Medgar Evers College refuses to meet with Student Body to end strike

By Shirley Bouie,
Lecia A. Foster,
and Eric L. DeJarnette

The Student Body Spring Semester meeting was held at 10:30 on Thursday, March 11th. Dean Johnson opened the meeting by addressing the entire student body. He informed the students that President Trent could not attend the meeting and that Dean Clement would address the students' questions.

Students demanded to know why Andre McLaughlin, Dean of the Administration, was reassigned to a different position. Why was there no day care center? Why was there too much heat in some classrooms and not enough heat in other classrooms? Why did they pay an

extra five dollars for Student Activity fee, when they did not see any progress with the increase?

There were ten demands of which the students informed Dean Clement. They are as follows:

Your degree is more than a piece of sheepskin. It is a declaration that you have received a quality level of education in accordance with the highest academic standards. Is that what is happening at Medgar Evers College?

We, the student body of Medgar Evers College believe that we are being denied a quality level of education as the result of an insensitive and inadequate administration. As specified in the

Medgar Evers College Catalog, we hold the President, Richard D. Trent accountable for, "conserving and enhancing the educational standards of the college under his jurisdiction." In his last address to the student population, President Richard D. Trent stated, "student involvement is vital to the progress of the college." However, when we exercise the rights granted us by the CUNY By-Laws and the Student Bill of Rights, President Trent fails to meet his obligations. We believe that President Trent is obligated to meet with the student body and to answer the issues presented to him on behalf of the student population.

**THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER!
STUDENTS HAVE RIGHTS!**

The Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body, has issued the following list of demands for which President Trent is being held accountable. Satisfactory resolution of these issues include President Trent's immediate attention to these matters and concrete plans within a negotiable time frame for rectification of the issues as stated:

1. We demand that President Trent meet with the student population and present an explanation of his faltering commitment to the student body. We believe that the credibility of the Chief Administrative Of-

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EDITORIAL

It's House cleaning Time

By Eric DeJarnette

On Thursday, March 11, 1982, The Medgar Evers College Student Government Association called a student body meeting in which President Trent was invited to address the student body. However, President Trent didn't show, but in his stead sent Dean Wendell Clement.

The students expressed no desire to speak to Dean Clement, they wanted to speak to Trent and only Trent . . . Trent has created a problem where there might not have been such a big problem at the start. The fact that he has identified the student concerns as "petty," makes a statement about him and how far he wants the students of Medgar Evers College to advance from its "small population," planatation

If he were the President of Columbia or LIU, then he wouldn't make this statement, because first, he would respect those students and second, he would check himself and realize that we, the students, are the ones paying the exorbitant tuition. The fact that we are also paying this exorbitant tuition, gives us the right to make demands that are of benefit to us.

Just think, if the President gets extra veto power; the students' cry at Medgar Evers College would have been totally muffled by the Administration. President Trent has already attempted to use his "Worth and Wisdom," when he revoked the right of a student group to hold a meeting on March 6th, 1982. According to Article IX, Section 2, students have the right to form social and political organizations within the College, regardless of the college administration and including such political and social causes which may be regarded as unpopular by the college community as a whole.

I agree that the President should meet with the students in the middle. According to President Trent, "we have some very nice students here and I am going to see that those students are protected."

According to the *Daily News*, March 22, 1982, it cited Frank Simpkins as *Adafi's* faculty advisor, however, Frank Simpkins is not *Adafi's* faculty advisor, but was merely a faculty advisor to the paper under the past editor. Consequently, on numerous occasions, Mr. Simpkins has been utilized as a consultant to *Adafi*.

The President acts like a spirit, and the students want to see him in the flesh to assure themselves that he does exist, because as it stands he does not exist, and if so then only as a spirit.

There are a lot of questions that have to be answered, in addition to the list of ten demands. First, the students have not been given a reason as to why Dr. Chandan was fired after only three months as Chair of the Business Department. It is also good to keep in mind that even he doesn't know why he was fired.

According to a Nursing student, last semester, President Trent gave permission to three white women (students) in the Nursing Department to take a special class on the weekend because they felt that the regular class hours were not conducive to them. The faculty didn't want to instruct this weekend class for only these three women; but were forced to teach the course by Trent, says a Nursing student.

Some instructors were voted from assistant professors to associate professors, but due to President Trent's discretion they were not given the promotions; this despite the fact that the committee voted that they be promoted, says one student.

President Trent should meet with the student body so that the laundry can be cleaned.

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ficer of this institution has diminished and therefore, the credibility of the college is in jeopardy.

2. We demand an explanation of President Trent's statement that he, "... does not believe in Black Studies," (as printed in the *Village Voice*) in view of the fact that the majority of students in the college have expressed a desire to pursue this line of studies. In addition, we are seeking an explanation of the administration's failure to update the academic curriculum.

3. We demand immediate rectification of the deteriorating status of the Business Division, including the appointment of a qualified and stable Division Chairperson.

4. We demand the allocation of funds for the implementation of an academic excellence recognition and incentive program, in addition to the Community Council Scholarships (i.e. honor society, tuition waivers, book scholarships, certificates of merit, etc.)

5. We demand faculty course loads be kept at a minimum and

that faculty members not be required to teach in areas outside their field of expertise. In addition, students should be advised, prior to registration, of instructors course assignments thereby enabling students to select courses accordingly and be exposed to various teaching techniques.

6. We demand that the administration investigate and correct the deteriorating physical conditions of the college which inhibit motivation, participation and the general health and well-being of the faculty, staff and student populations (i.e. ventilation, broken windows, cold/overheated classrooms, leaking ceilings, falling paint and plaster).
7. We demand improved security measures in order for the student body, faculty and staff to move freely and safely within and between the college's buildings. (On Friday, March 12, 1982, a female student was attacked by a male student in the lobby of the Prep Building while the Security Guards looked on. We were informed that they do not have the authority to interfere in student disputes.)
8. We demand the improvement of the coordination of services and communication between the administrative offices (i.e. Financial Aid, Registrar, Bursar) in order that the day and evening students can be serviced more efficiently.
9. In view of the female student population percentage, we demand that arrangements for child care during day and evening class attendance be made a priority on the administration's agenda for the college's services.
10. We demand the improvement of plans and strategies for student recruitment. (i.e. greater community interaction, wider distribution of printed material, improved utilization of media sources, utilization of on-campus student organizations as recruitment sources.)

We the students of Medgar Evers College believe that the implementation of certain programs and services are necessary if we are to acquire the quality level of education guaranteed by CUNY By-Laws and Medgar Evers College recruitment literature.

Dean Clement did not answer their questions directly.

Students became intimidated and insisted on seeing President Trent. Rayon Wright, Pres. of SGA, proceeded by reading the school budget.

Dean Johnson informed the students that President Trent would meet with them at 4:15. Students waited until 6:00 before they were informed that President Trent was advised by his accountants and lawyers not to appear before the student body. Moreover, it was said by President Trent that his office misinterpreted the message.

The administration always asked the students to get involved in school issues. One student had asked the question that since they had gotten involved, why had the administration not supported them? Legal counsel suggested that President Trent meet with 12 students on March

12th to discuss the problems at hand. Rayon Wright asked the students not to strike until another meeting could be held next week. Vice Pres. of SGA, Lourdes Estrella, asked the students to unite with SGA in seeking these demands.

Students suggested that at 8:30 am they would have a sit in. The student body selected several students to meet with President Trent: Rayon Wright; Barbara Morton; Trever Belmosa; Andre Warren; and Flavia Alston. About 50 students quietly sat outside President Trent's office, while he informed the students of his reasons for not meeting the entire student body.

The Faculty Organization supporting the issues asked that President Trent meet with the student body. He denied the Faculty's request. A resolution was given to the student body. This resolution gave students the right to address their issues.

On March 13-15, there was much misunderstanding and confusion on the students' part, as to why the President would refer to them and community leaders as a "mob." One student that met with the President, informed the students that Trent said that he would not "speak to a mob." In addition, he was cited as saying that the students demands are "petty."

On Tuesday, March 16th, students waited for a Memorandum from Dean Clement and Dean Johnson that would be suitable for their issues. At 5:30, students voted on an official strike. Committees were designed to adjust to students needs within the campus.

On March 18, 1982, Dean Robert Johnson and Dean Wendell Clement, sent a memorandum to the Student Government Association in reference to a cooling off period. In this memo, the Deans asked that the students go back to classes and that the President would meet with a small delegations from the student body. Pending the resolutions of these meetings, the Deans would hold a student body meeting on March 29, 1982 at their demand.

The Student Government Association held a student body meeting in the gymnasium, where the students took a vote not to go along with the cooling off period. In this meeting students were also given the telephone numbers of certain officials to let know what's happening in the school. Shortly after this meeting in which over 150 students were in attendance, they exited the school in masses and marched in front of and around the building; yes, they even marched around the Santini building and back to the Prep chanting, "Students united, will never be defeated," and "What do we want? A quality education."

On March 19, 1982, the Steering Committee met with the Student Government Association to try and resolve the problems. In this meeting, Mr. Wright was asked how far will this go and he replied, it will last as long as Trent makes it last; even if it means asking for his resignation. Furthermore, the Steering Committee was scheduled to meet with the President immediately following the meeting with SGA.

On March 20-21, 1982, there were still signs of frustration because a lot of students didn't attend their weekend class, thus, still showing support.

By March 22nd, students had received a letter from President Trent requesting that they attend their classes. Many students disregarded the letter and con-

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Strike...

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tinued with their demands. At 11:00 am the Student Government Association held a meeting in the gymnasium. This meeting was attended by 250-300 students.

Damaris Y. Warren, Vice Chair for Community Colleges, read the resolution that Rayon Wright presented to the University Student Senate on Sunday, March 21, 1982. In this resolution, Rayon asked that the Board and the USS ask for Trent's resignation. This was agreed upon by the Board and the USS, which means that Medgar Evers College students have the support of not only the Board but other campuses as well.

SGA handed out a survey, which is intended to counteract the "cooling off letter," sent out by the President. At 2:00 pm, a group of students were preparing to go to East 80th Street to express their demands to the USS and the Board.

Meanwhile, people were asked to make their views known. A freshman made a statement in which she begged the student body to join forces with the Student Government Association, and get the strike resolved.

Community members were also asked to share their views. Although they were permitted to speak by the Student Government Association, the Ad-

ministration has labeled Community members and leaders as "outside agitators." An alumni spoke to the fact that since 1974, they have been trying to get rid of Trent. In addition, he stated that at the inception of the college, when the job of president was up for grabs, they did research and located a Black man who was qualified for the position of president, however, Trent was selected by the Board. In conclusion, he stated that at that time he knew that Trent was not for the advancement of Black people.

While these actions were taking place students marched in front and around both buildings. During the demonstration, the students blocked the entrance to the Prep building; not allowing anyone to enter or leave.

Around 2:45 pm the group of students left the school in order to protest in front of the Board of Higher Education on East 80th Street, where assumingly President Trent would be inside attending a meeting. There, at 3:50, the police arrived and set up barricades, informing the students that they were able to chant and march. In addition, they were told by the police that if they wanted to enter the building that they could not stop them. They then entered the building where they received support from Louis Merchant, President of LaGuardia Community College's Student Government Association, his Vice-President, Hofoo Hui, as well as William Rogers,

past President.

The students with their various supporters, entered the office where the meeting was to be conducted; and were seated. Being as there weren't enough seats, students were standing around and sitting on the floors.

In attendance at the meeting, "representing" MEC were Teddy Lachman, Dean Clement and President Trent.

Here are some of the things that other colleges asked for:

Queens College is asking for a Greek Center, whereas MEC students should be able to ask for a Day Care Center, Black Studies, clean facilities, more and better lockers, security, etc., cited by the group.

NYCT College is requesting a technology in Hotel and Restaurant Management, whereas MEC students, should be able to ask for a Day Care Center, Black Studies, clean facilities, more and better lockers, security, etc., cited by the group.

Lehman College is also requesting a MA in teaching music, whereas MEC students should be able to request a Day Care Center, Black Studies, clean facilities, more and better lockers, security, etc., cited by the group. It was also stated that Queens College has 1,500 Greek students, thus, requesting Greek Studies, Medgar Evers College has a "totally Black," student body and are requesting Black Studies...

The Executive Board and the Presi-

dent of Medgar Evers College met to try to resolve the strike. Garth Marchant, chairman of the University Student Senate (USS) requested that the students be allowed to attend the executive session. This request was denied by the Board. Therefore, Garth had to debate for the students with the Board. However, he felt that the students should have been allowed to attend.

Still March 22, 1982: The faculty of Medgar Evers College voted 60 yes, 18 no, 5 abstentions to have Trent's resignation. Jack Lester, lawyer for the USS was also present with Garth Marchant for the students.

During the protest outside the students were given support by Hunter College.

The decision of the Executive Board meeting was a delaying tactic. Trent was told by the Board that he would be given another chance to resolve the problems at the college before they took any measures against him.

On March 23, 1982, a large population of students went to Albany to protest the tuition hikes and financial aid cutbacks. Therefore, the fervor had lessened but one could still feel its presence—with empty classrooms and "hush," sounds. After coming from Albany, the buses stopped at the Hilton Hotel where Ronald Reagan was receiving an "humanitarian of the year award," and the students expressed their disapproval of this award being presented to him by the "Conference of Christians and Jews."

Leaders of the strike said that they intended to continue picketing... To address these issues, the students had to become educated about their rights. Their main issue became the non-appearance of President Trent and the survival of Medgar Evers College.

Students of the 80s

By Trevor Belmosa

Students of Medgar Evers College
Listen to the rhythm
of the drums
Calling you to the attention of
the times
90% African strong
Awaken out of your slumber
And heed the messages
of your ancestors

Students!
The conditions of your
people are worsening
And, you, who are in
the institutions of learning
Are called upon to address
this need
You, who have access to
education today
Because of the struggle
of the people of the 60's
must reflect what you
have learned to the community
in the 80's

Students of the 80's
A historical task is
upon you
The future of the next
generation
May depend on what
you do today
Students of Medgar Evers College
Listen to the rhythm
of the drums
And stand firm in the
Commitment of the call



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