

THE STUDENT*FACULTY*COMMUNITY COALITION TO SAVE MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

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PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, April 20, 1982, students of Medgar Evers College occupied the Office of the president of the College demanding his resignation. Following a rally of over 1,000 students, faculty and community representatives, over two hundred students sat in the corridor and the Registrar's Office. Suddenly, an undetermined number of students barricaded themselves inside of the office of the college president, Dr. Richard Trent; refusing to leave unless the following demands are met:

1. Dr. Trent must submit his resignation in writing effective immediately.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees and CUNY officials meet with community members of the Student*Faculty*Community Coalition to resolve this issue.
3. Dr. Trent be reassigned outside of Medgar Evers College.

President Richard Trent has a long history of complaints from students, faculty and community residents for his continual failure to improve conditions at the college and relations with the surrounding community. In March of this year, students at the CUNY affiliated institution staged a two week student strike demanding a Black Studies Program, an Honors Program, daycare as well as improved physical facilities. These demands reflect a reality which many feel Dr. Trent has not addressed -- a 90% Black student body and a 73% female, student population, many of whom are mothers.

Several faculty members have written an open letter to the press which states that "Under Dr. Trent's leadership, the climate of the college has been one of intimidation, harassment, slander, mediocrity, anti-community, and suppression of leadership and social activism of faculty, students and administrators." Others speak of Dr. Trent's denial of academic freedom by arbitrarily cancelling faculty-sponsored programs.

Community organizations, such as the Crown Heights Progress Council, the Black United Front, The Coalition of Concerned Black Women, the Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers and other groups are active supporters of student efforts to remove Dr. Trent from office. Many people in the community have objected to their children being barred from the College's outdoor play field. Demands for a work study program involving students in community businesses and agencies have been ignored by the college administration.

The Student*Faculty*Community Coalition to Save Medgar Evers College, which is calling for Dr. Trent's resignation, consistently charged Dr. Trent with a lack of effective leadership. Ms. Arlene Frances Parker of Brooklyn's Restoration Corporation agrees, "It seems to me that the situation at Medgar Evers College is indicative of the ineffectiveness of leadership. Leadership which by its insensitive posture creates a situation which can only be resolved by new leadership, selected by the community."

The majority of students are not attending classes in support of the student takeover.