
Cheyney, PA 19319

May 8, 2008

Ms. Risa Grimes
716 Xenia Avenue
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Dear Ms. Grimes:

I wish to commend you and your group for your efforts to save Antioch College.

I am the first African American student to attend Antioch in modern times. I enrolled at Antioch during the summer of 1943 and matriculated there until 1947, when I transferred to Ohio State. My sister Coretta Scott came two years later.

Because Antioch played such a large role in shaping my value system, I consider myself an Antiochian. And for this reason, I have been greatly disturbed over the news of the possibility of the college being closed.

Antioch College has a destiny. Antioch's destiny is tied in with America's destiny. And America's destiny, at the moment, must be involved with the global community.

Horace Mann and Arthur Morgan were visionaries. Horace Mann's statement "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity" and Arthur Morgan's co-op plan made an Antioch education global from the beginning, taking it from the walls of the ivory tower.

When I was a student at Antioch we talked about Antioch's being unique, and indeed it was. It was unique in the sense that, unlike other colleges, it trained its students to think of others, rather than be self-serving. I remember having told many people that it was impossible not to develop a social conscience if one remained at Antioch long enough. Even at that time, the early 1940's, there was talk about social change. Many of us aspired to change the world! And once leaving Antioch, we did make a difference in places where we lived and worked.

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How can we let such an institution die? We can't. Antioch College and its products have already been an integral part of all the progress the human race has made around the world.

It was no accident, it was providential that I, Edythe Scott, would go to Antioch and be followed by my sister Coretta who became the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. Coretta said many times that her experiences at Antioch, more than any others, prepared her for the life she was destined to lead as the partner and helpmate of America's twentieth-century prophet. And it was her efforts in building the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, and in getting the King Holiday Bill through Congress that institutionalized Martin King's legacy. Many Antiochians have made significant contributions to Western civilization. It is our responsibility to save the institution that produced this leadership.

Again, those of us who believe in Antioch College and its mission must fight to the finish to keep it alive. Antioch's innovative spirit is needed now more than ever. The world needs Antioch College.

Yours in the struggle,



Edythe Scott Bagley, '47

P.S. The enclosed letter supplied promising information. What has happened?

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