The recent actions and demands of black students and their white supporters at 619 Clark and at the office of Dean Hinz have been reported and rumored, filmed and falsified, praised and criticized. By now, those of you who were not there must have had your fill of this media-massage: and so, this is just the time to get back into contact with your university and listen to the people who were there tell you their reasons for being there:

All existing forms and channels of meaningful dialogue had been exhausted over the last twelve months' time. This sit-in was the only logical step to re-establish dialogue between administrators and students. The black students acted first, for their needs are the most pressing, and when they asked for assistance, we were the ones who came there to back them up. Not all of us agreed precisely with the substance and phrasing of every single demand made by the black students, but each one of us believed their cause to be just, and as such, a benefit to all. It was such a personal decision that what developed at 619 Clark and at Scott Hall was not a faceless, slimy clique of radicals with a syrupy commitment to self-stroking sympathy; but rather a group of individuals, some old and some new, each committed to doing whatever was necessary to help the blacks to achieve their ultimate victory.

Results were forthcoming. The University listened to the black students and discussed their demands in good faith. What came of this was an agreement and a statement by the University which is nothing less than a commitment to justice. We ask that you read it and see what we mean. Respond to it.

The Whites Who Were There