METANOIA ON THE TOPIC OF RACIAL RESPECT

Wednesday May 6

Metanoia is a Greek word for meditation and reflection.

The University community is setting aside its usual class activities on May 6 in order to reflect on racial awareness, racial respect and racial sensitivity.

The cancellation of classes has been authorized so that students and faculty may participate in a day-long series of programs designed to make people more aware of their attitudes and actions and may learn what has been happening between people at UConn and what steps can be taken by individuals and groups to improve race relations at the University and beyond the Storrs campus.

The May 6 Metanoia has been organized by the Student-Faculty Metanoia Committee authorized by the University Senate.

The Committee consists of five faculty members, four undergraduates and one graduate student. The faculty members, appointed by the nominating committee of the University Senate are: Floyd Bass, Center for Black Studies; Marvin Cox, History; Rose Verdi, Education; David Ivry, CONNPEP; John Manning, Division of Student Personnel. Undergraduate committee members, selected by the ASG, are Nancy Dowd, Pres-Panhellenic Council, Ron McKnight, Co-Chairman ASG Constitutions Committee, Tim Offutt, North Campus Staff, and Vivian Sykes, ASG-Vice President. Mary Burke was selected by the Graduate Student Council to represent graduate students on the Committee.

Miss Sykes, chairman of the Metanoia committee, said, "We are hoping that the day of Metanoia will be the beginning of a directed attempt of the University of Connecticut to produce ideas and action on racial respect."

One of the main themes of the day will be how we, as our campus community, can deal with our problems. But it is hoped that students will carry the reflections of the day with them when they return from the campus to their home communities.

The Metanoia committee has been helped by students, faculty and staff in planning the event. It is hoped that all members of the community will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in this University-wide dialogue on racial respect.

10. a.m. - 12 noon --Discussion groups will meet in each dormitory. A team of two students, one black and one white, and one staff member will visit each residence unit and will stay with the unit throughout the day to share a running dialogue. They will lead discussions with two major goals. First of all students will be encouraged to explore and honestly express their own attitudes toward race. Whatever those attitudes are, it is felt that recognition of the way people feel is a starting point. The other area of discussion will be educational. It includes information about what is actually happening between blacks and whites on campus and will try to develop answers to the question "What can we do?"
One reason for bringing staff to the residence units is to introduce them to what many think is the real center for learning at the University - the dorm.

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A. An entertainment program at Mirror Lake including bands, drama and speakers to be announced.

B. It is planned that staff will meet in groups according to college, school or department with black and white students. This program will also focus on racial respect, awareness and sensitivity. Practical steps which can be taken by individuals and academic groups will be discussed. Suggestions for academic action will be developed including the introduction of materials relative to the black experience into existing courses and the development of new courses and programs.

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Dinner

6 p.m. - A procession will gather at the football stadium and move across campus picking up groups at each house to reach the Student Union Mall by 7.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m. - Students and staff will hear talks by students, faculty and administrators concerning the day's events and plans for group and individual action and programs for next fall.

9 p.m. - Students and discussion leaders will return to the dorms to reflect on the day, and to plan individual and house actions to perpetuate the University policy of people respecting each other as individuals. Specific practical suggestions for new areas of dorm governance and responsibility in the area of racial respect will be developed.

Further announcements about the program for the May 6 Metanoia will be made as planning develops in detail.

Student-Faculty Metanoia Committee

April 30, 1970