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► In THIS ISSUE staff writer Renée Gearhart Levy investigates one of the most troubling issues in higher education: Why do so many blacks express dissatisfaction with predominantly white universities?

There is little agreement on the question. Renée discovered differing perceptions, contradicting opinions, murky data. The article bears that out, presenting a range of views that do not always lead to the same conclusions.

As a result, the article portrays few certain answers. The nation's colleges and universities—including Syracuse—are evaluating potential solutions, and we make no effort here to imply resolute policies on their part. It is a difficult issue with which all are grappling.

In lieu of defined solutions, though, we hope Renée's article helps to describe the conditions of apparent black alienation. If it is impossible to agree on an answer, perhaps we can at least agree that the problem is profound and deserving of our attention and understanding.

-Dana L. Cooke







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ON THE COVER. Black student leaders at Syracuse (from left): Quentin Stith, Margo Bailey, and Ernest Smith. Their comments contribute to our study of blacks in academe, beginning page 20. (Photo by Steve Sartori)



Syracuse University Magazine is published quarterly by Syracuse University and is distributed free of charge to alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and parents of current students. Requests for subscriptions, changes of address, advertising inquiries, and other communications should be sent to Syracuse University Magazine, 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040. Our telephone number is (315) 443-4171.

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