Activating the Commitment to Change: A History of Campus Activism

Kacie Lucchini Butcher, Director of the UW-Madison Public History Project
Michael Thornton, Emeritus Professor, Department of Afro American Studies
John Roach, Journalist, Historian, Author, Producer and Columnist
Protest at UW-Madison

"Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great State University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found." (Taken from a report of the Board of Regents in 1894.)

Memorial, Class of 1910.
The Dow Protests

October 1967; Dow Chemical Protest also know as the Second Dow Riot. Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
The Dow Protests

October 1967; Dow Chemical Protest also known as the Second Dow Riot. Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
The 1969 Black Student Strike

February 1969; The Black Student Strike. Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
The 1969 Black Student Strike

“If we’re setting up a program to teach all whites to feel sorry for blacks, most students would pass a qualifying exam for placement with flying colors.”
– Warren Lehman, Law Professor

The report is a “momentary response to political pressure,” an admission to the “militant minority.”
– Bernard Cohen & E. David Cronon, Professors and Authors of the Minority Report
The 1969 Black Student Strike

Spring 1974; Students protest the closure of the Afro-American and Race Relations Center.
Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
International Concerns

Spring 1988; Students protest outside ZBT House. Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
Reproductive Rights

Spring 1989; Reproductive Rights protest. Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
ROTC Discrimination Protest (1990)

Spring 1990; ROTC Discrimination Protests. Photos Courtesy of the UW Archives.
Climate Change Protest

April 1970; First Earth Day March. Photo Courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society.
TAA/ Union Protests

Left: May 1980; Stop Union Busting Graffiti on Humanities Building. Right: April 1972; Memorial Union Labor Organizing Strike. Photo Courtesy of the UW Archives.
Admissions Brochure Scandal

INGREDIENTS: WHITE MEN, ARTIFICIAL FLAVORINGS, PRESERVATIVES.

* CONTAINS LESS THAN THE MINIMUM DAILY REQUIREMENT OF OTHER NATURAL COLORS AND FLAVORS THAT COMPOSE THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD.
We, the undersigned, support and agree that doctoring the undergraduate admission photo was a symptom of a larger problem facing the University of Wisconsin. This problem stems from a lack of understanding of diversity, a lack of support for the administration, and actively promote a student body and actively promote a safer campus climate for underrepresented students. We as the students of University of Wisconsin-Madison need to keep this issue forefront of our minds. We question the University's definition of diversity, placement of one black man amongst a group of all white faces.

Name | street address
--- | ---
1. Justin Marti 13514
2. Kiyomi Lanzon 135
3. John Johnson 14
4. Kevin Kellie 19
5. Kelly King 18
6. Rebecca Rose 19
7. Elizabeth Byrd 19
8. Daniel Hinkel 19
9. Christine Lee 19
10. Skyler Holmisa
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.

Name | street address
--- | ---
1. Daan Vandenberg 14
2. Claire Dwyer 14
3. Betty Wade 14
4. Peter Smith 14
5. Mike T. 14
6. Missy Webber 18
7. Luther Ruff 19
8. Kevon Porter 19
9. Jonathan Murray 19
10. Maria Perez 19
11. Phil Ekert 19
12. Brenda W. Delia 19
13. Jane Bruce 19
14. Martin Renner 19
15. Ann Burns 19

Name | street address | student/faculty/ob
--- | --- | ---
1. Rebecca Stretem 218 N Pinney St | Student
2. Elizabeth Stow 414 College St | Student
3. Mark Newton 152 Landen St | Student
4. Angel Kim 112 W Johnson St | Student
5. Meredith Clark 251 Elm St 21A | Student
6. Jesse Riley - student | Student
7. Nick Saab 105 S Hamilton St | Student
8. Luis J. Rivera 444 W Main St | Student
9. Kelly Norton 993 10 W Wash St | Student
10. Gary M. Gavrin 619 W Madison 823 Bernt | Student
11. Amanda M. Urb 970 University St | Student
12. Lauren Bein 110 W Boscott St | Student
13. Katie Caigill 110 W Boscott St | Student
14. Madrid Parrish 120 Langston St | Student
15. Mark Sadawiski 716 W Anyton | Student
The Protest Continues…

2016-Current Black Lives Matter Protests. Photos Courtesy of The Badger Herald and WKOW.
The Protest Continues…


In a Homecoming Video Meant to Unite Campus, Almost Everyone Was White

The Protest Continues…

Question & Answer
Call To Action

Want to get involved?
Want to stay updated on our work?
Have questions?
Something you think we should look into?

Contact us! publichistoryproject@wisc.edu
Visit our website at publichistoryproject.wisc.edu
Follow us on Instagram (@uwpublichistoryproject)