

Black History Class

Student Group Turns Activist

There are going to be about ten more black kids than the administration first expected coming here next fall, thanks to RISD's class in black history. The students in the class turned activist a few weeks ago when they tried to find out from the administration how many minority group students would be admitted next fall on scholarships.

The class was particularly interested in this following the visit of 30 black high school seniors to RISD in April. They came to take entrance exams and learn about the school, under the sponsorship of the black students at RISD and under the name, "Operation Pilgrimage"

These students went to special classes during their stay and visited regular classes, one of which was liberal arts instructor Stanley Yarian's black history class. The two groups of students talked for two hours in class.

Afterwards the black history group tried to find out from the administration how many of the Operation

Pilgrimage students were accepted by the admissions committee to come to RISD next fall. There were supposed to be 20 places in the new freshman class saved for poor minority group students on scholarships provided by the school.

The RISD group found out only that it is a job for Superman, to communicate with the administration through the proper channels. The students wrote letters to Charles Dunn, Director of Admissions, President Lay and others; their inquiries got no response. Finally they found out that 15 students were accepted, not the original 20 promised, plus five on

the waiting list.

The class, disturbed at the administration's apparent turnabout, distributed the "letter of bad faith," on Friday, April 25.

The letter announced that the class would make three demands to President Lay the following Monday. The demands were:

a) Admit the five students on the waiting list.

b) Accept five additional students to allow for the usual withdrawal rate of applicants.

c) Agree to the changes by 1:00 p.m.

Monday, April 28.

The class presented the demands to President Lay in his office Friday, April 25. On the following Monday, the Admissions Committee met and agreed to the group's terms.

The students are now raising money for five more scholarships.

The new scholarships will be used for poor students eligible for entrance after completing the special program being conducted this summer at RISD.

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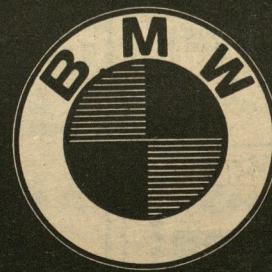
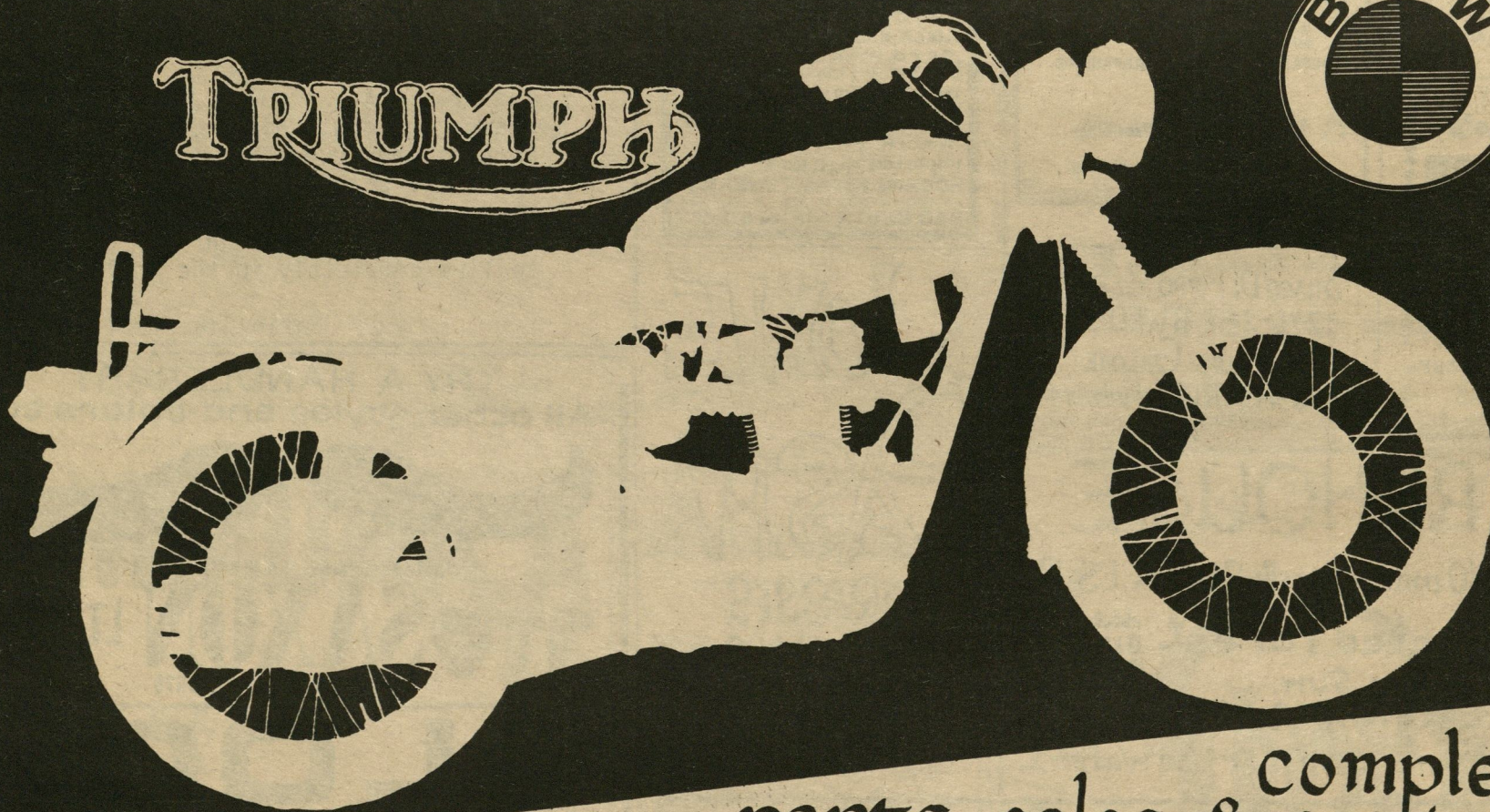


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