

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Director of Admission
Dean of Freshmen
RADCLIFFE HEERMANCE

June 13th, 1939.

Assistant to the Director
MARGARET J. WILLIAMS
Room 300 Nassau Hall

Dear Mr. Wright:

Princeton University does not discriminate against any race, color, or creed. This is clearly set forth in the original charter of the college and the tradition has been maintained throughout the life of the University.

In admission to the University regard is given to character, personality and promise as well as to scholarly attainment. Every applicant, except under a particular type of exemption, referring to the far south and west, must take the examinations prepared and conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board, and inasmuch as the number entering the freshman class is strictly limited and the candidates applying far exceed this number, very careful selection must be exercised, giving consideration to character, personality and promise as well as to school standing and examination success. Satisfactory showing in one of these qualifications alone is not considered sufficient to guarantee admission.

So much for the general policy of the University, which policy it is the privilege of my committee to administer. Now let me give you a purely personal reaction, and I speak as one who has always been particularly interested in the colored race, because I have had very pleasant relations with your race, both in civilian life and in the army. I cannot conscientiously advise a colored student to apply for admission to Princeton simply because I do not think that he would be happy in this environment. There are no colored students in the University and a member of your race might feel very much alone.

Down the pleasant relationships want to go to college.

There are, moreover, a number of southern students enrolled in the college. This has been a tradition of long standing in Princeton, and as you know, there is still a feeling in the south quite different from that existing in New England. My personal experience would enforce my advice to any colored student that he would be happier in an environment of others of his race, and that he would adjust himself far more easily to the life of a New England college or university, or one of the large state universities than he would to a residential college of this particular type.

I write these personal reactions simply because I would wish you the greatest success in your college course both as a student and as a member of a university family.

Very sincerely yours,


Radcliffe Heermance.

Mr. Bruce McD. Wright, Jr.
Bailey Neck Road
East Orleans,
Cape Cod, Massachusetts

RH:P