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Clarence Ramey, a B.A. and former UMO janitor, was fired because he 'tried to initiate change'

Fred Rogers  
*University of Maine*

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by Fred Rogers

Clarence Ramey is black, college educated and a former janitor. During his time on the job, Ramey saw changes in a system where change may be impossible.

Ramey lives on an 80-acre farm in Troy, Maine, with his wife and four children. Ramey and his family came to Maine two years ago in search of cheap farm land and a new way of life.

He came to the UMO campus looking for information on growing crops, and while he was here he was offered a construction worker's job. However, Ramey wanted to be a janitor despite his lack of experience.

Ramey was placed on the 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. shift as a janitor, a job not assigned to him before.

After working for a time on work that Ramey recognized several areas where he believed changes should be made. In an interview about these changes, he arrived at the Mauer Community Center for the first time, some children yelled, "There come the nigger!"

The principal said that his attitude would be suppressed. Ramey said, "The children weren't encouraged to improve them. I felt this was the same attitude to be found in every school, in every job I took the girl to school they had to recognize my presence as that of a janitor's wife.

Ramey's final complaint dealt with the pay. "According to Ramey, his' final complaint dealt with the pay. "According to Ramey, his final complaint dealt with the pay."

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