'Only we can liberate ourselves'

Blacks rally for unified front

4-17-75

By Susan Waltenbaugh

University black students gathered at the Ohio Union Tuesday to discuss black unity on campus and to generate interest in forming a united black front.

Black unity is needed 'so that black folks can get together and say they want something like a black cultural center or a minority affairs office,' said the Rev. Robert W. Lay, minister at the United Christian Center. 'We shouldn't have to ask. We should have this given to us. They are putting all of this money into the football machine instead,' Lay said.

THE ALL AFRICAN Student Faculty Union (AASFU), a union of most of the black organizations on campus, sponsored the rally to express problems blacks have at the University and to find solutions to them, said Kujenga Ashe, a senior from Columbus and chairman of AASFU.

'We want to form a united political black front because a coalition is the best way to react with the policies of a power structure,' Gerald Foeman, a graduate student from Philadelphia and a marshal in AASFU said.

Foeman pointed out that the Jewish people in America have gotten recognition because they have had a coalition.

'Many blacks feel that Ohio State is a racist institution,' he said. 'Our opposition is to a power structure. We're not against the white people.'

FOEMAN SAID the blacks 'are not asking for big things' and after all 'Ohio State's got a lot of money.

'They (University officials) know that they don't have to consider us because we're not recognized.

'It doesn't have to be a hate or a racist thing,' Foeman said. 'Just be-
Blacks cite OSU racism

By JoAnna Williamson

Black students are continuing to mobilize support behind their efforts to fight what has been stated in their demands as "premeditated and blatant racist policies and practices" on the part of the University.

At a recent rally, Kujenga Ashe, a senior from Columbus and chairman of the All African Student-Faculty Union (AASFU), outlined the list of five demands that will be presented to the Board of Trustees this month. They include improvement of the Office of Minority Affairs, increased black student funding, recruitment of black students and faculty members and the creation of a Black Cultural Center.

"We're not asking for a lot," Ashe said, "just enough for our survival."

HE ALSO answered charges that his organization is requesting blacks to "sit back on their courage" by not taking more reactionary and violent steps.

"We're not saying 'do nothing'," he said, and added "Other measures" would be taken if the demands are not met. But, he continued, "reactionaryism will only get you killed."

"YOU'LL JUST have National Guardsmen grenading your guts out," he said.

Ashe emphasized the movement will continue over the summer and not simply die out when the quarter ends. He encouraged the students to "take the struggle back to your hometowns to publicize our needs."

AASFU IS NOW planning to hold a press conference with black Ohio legislators.

City Councilman John Rosemond also came on campus recently to talk to the students.

"Very little happens without pressure," he said. "Somebody has to be out there pointing out the wrongs."

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Afro-Am rally explains action on black demands

By Lynn Engelhardt

About 80 students rallied on the Oval Friday afternoon to hear representatives of the All African Student Faculty Union (AASFU) announce what the administration “has and has not done” in response to demands presented Spring Quarter.

The original demands, issued May 22 at a massive rally on the steps of the Administration Building, called for increased funding for the Office of Minority Affairs, a new cultural center, more funding and recruitment of black students and further promotion and recruitment of black administrators and faculty.

AASFU spokesmen refused to identify themselves at the rally, claiming fear of police harassment. They were also afraid the organization’s name would be associated with a single person.

The rally was sponsored by Afro-Am, an political arm of black students funded by the University.

SPEAKING TO a predominantly black group, an AASFU spokesman said the University “has made an honest effort to comply.” He said student pressure had brought this about, but “vigorous pressure was still needed.”

The rally’s message dealt with the increased budget proposal for the Office of Minority Affairs, the appointment of three blacks to key posts, a new cultural center, the transfer of black education to the Urban Education Center and the establishment of the University’s Commission on Women and Minorities.

In a point by point breakdown, an AASFU spokesman told the group William J. Holloway, vice provost for minority affairs, is drawing up a proposal to increase the budget of his office by $500,000 to aid in future recruitment. Holloway could not be reached for comment.

An AASFU spokesman also announced that three blacks were appointed to key positions during Summer Quarter. These appointments were Robert J. Stoll, acting chairman of the Division of Art; Mac A. Stewart, associate dean of University College, and Madison H. Scott, vice president for personnel services.

However, Eric R. Gilbertson, special assistant to President Enarson, conceded that the men were promoted because "to somebody else's pressure." Gilbertson said the University promoted them because they deserved it. "It is lamentable to think otherwise," he said.

IN ADDITION, AASFU leaders pressed for a new cultural center and for black education to be removed from the College of Education.

"Vigorous pressure" is needed to get the administration to yield to demands for a new cultural center, an AASFU spokesman said.

In a call to "upgrade the black education program," an AASFU spokesman said that it was "still housed in the Urban Studies Office." Formerly, black education was its own division as opposed to the present broader urban studies curriculum.

Gilbertson said the grades were so inflated in the original black education courses “that almost 80 per cent of the students were receiving A’s.”

Frederick R. Cyphert, dean of the College of Education, absent from the University during the changeover about two years ago, said it took place because problems in urban studies were not exclusive problems of blacks.

“I DON’T believe that problems of blacks in education are much different than those of Chicanos or Appalachians,” Cyphert said.

AASFU spokesmen also acknowledged the Commission on Women and Minorities and indicated it was not a sham to keep us from putting the pressure on. Kujenga Ashe, former chairman of AASFU, will serve on the 14-member University panel which will examine the status of these groups and consider measures to strengthen affirmative action.

Concerning community affairs, Reginald Cook, former WVKO radio disc jockey, urged students to attend a rally at the John E. Scales Building Saturday to organize a picket protesting the firing of Les Brown, program director at WVKO.

Cook said he and other disc jockeys walked off the job after Brown’s firing. Cook claimed the management disliked Brown’s frequent announcements pushing voter registration.

AFRO-AM PRESIDENT, Jeffrey Doggett, a sophomore from Cleveland, urged students to write letters of protest to the WVKO management, the Federal Communications Commission and advertisers.

WFAC, a free-access radio station, has donated air time to former WVKO disc jockeys. Doggett said.
Black students cite apartheid in tennis tournament protests

BY LAWRENCE WADE 1-12-76

Twenty-five black Ohio State students demonstrated against the participation of four white South African tennis players in the World Championship Tennis matches held at St. John Arena this weekend.

The group, including members of the All African Student and Faculty Union (AASFU), shouted such slogans as, “White boy get your hands off the black man’s land,” and “We protest South African racism,” during demonstrations Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Demonstrators attempted to enter the lobby of the arena Friday and Sunday, but were told by campus safety agents such an action would be illegal.

The tennis competition was sponsored by the Dispatch Charities of the Columbus Dispatch.

The tournament was won by black U.S. tennis player Arthur Ashe, who was unavailable for comment on the demonstration.

“We CONDEMN the racism of South Africa and its apartheid social system,” said Shabaka Toure, a graduate student from Columbus and a spokesperson for AASFU. “Even the United Nations has chastised South Africa, but the U.S. still supports its actions and Ohio State is helping by supporting this event.”

Toure’s statements were supported by William E. Nelson, chairman of the Department of Black Studies, who said he felt the demonstration was justified.

“It’s beautiful,” Nelson said. “I can’t understand how Ohio State can allow this political act to go on. Tennis is political.

“The players aren’t representing themselves, they represent their nations,” he continued. That’s what the Davis Cup is about. Anytime you give legitimacy to such a contest, you’re helping to oppress other blacks.”

Nelson’s view was contrasted by Luke Uka Uche, a graduate student from Nigeria attending the competition.

“I BELIEVE in competing with the white man. The players represent themselves, not a nation or political philosophy,” Uche said.

South African players involved in the competition were generally noncommittal about their views on the demonstration.


THE DEMONSTRATION was observed by campus safety agents. The number of guards was not increased because of the demonstration according to Elliot Boxerbaum, supervisory agent for the Department of Public Safety.

His statement was disputed by Kujenga Ashe, a graduate student from Columbus and member of the central committee of AASFU, who said he observed two campus safety agents near the first demonstration when it began Friday.

“They’re lying,” Kujenga Ashe said of Boxerbaum’s statement. “Within four minutes Friday, the place was swarming with police.”

PERSONS ATTENDING the competition expressed varied opinions on the demonstrations and the involvement of South African players.

“I felt a compulsion to attend because Arthur Ashe was in it,” said Sally Brown, a Columbus resident. “I didn’t know South Africans were playing.”

“I’m not interested in tennis or the people of South Africa,” said Larry R. Hopkins, a freshman from Columbus, who said he only wanted to observe the demonstration. He said he was in agreement with the issues being expressed by AASFU.

“At the time I bought my ticket I didn’t think anything about it, but I completely agree with what they’re saying,” said Columbus resident Peter Mosley.

Other persons said they were unaware of the social situation between whites and blacks in South Africa.

The demonstrators met in the Ohio Union Terrace Lounge Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding their afternoon marches across campus to the arena. During the meetings participants constructed signs protesting the tennis competition and distributed information on South Africa and the system of apartheid.

Ed Mason, public service director of Dispatch Charities and J. Edward Weaver, director of athletics, were unavailable for comment.