

Pres Records

Box 107

Black Students

THE BLACK ACTION MOVEMENT

The Black Action Movement is a dedicated alliance of the Black Student Union, Black Social Workers, Black Law Student Alliance, Black Psychologists, and the Black Educational Caucus. The purpose of the coalition was to press for the adoption of the demands which are included in summary form. The demands, carefully researched and prepared for the structure of the University of Michigan have taken on the added benefit of being in several relevant parts applicable to any state university.

The University of Michigan's efforts to enroll Black students, 947 at present, have been impressive only when viewed superficially. The "showcase" scholarship fund for the enrollment of minority group students is the Opportunity Award Program(OAP), founded in 1964. The Program was initiated by the enrollment of 70 scholarship students; the OAP increased substantially over the first three years, however, the projected increase is now only about 5% per year. This we view as an indication of the rise in the Black student population if the Administration is allowed to continue its present trend. Such a trend is unacceptable in the light of this state being composed of a college age population which is 18% Black; to reach this figure by the University's "all deliberate speed" would take at least 120 years.

Using this fact as a basis of action, a group of interested students began to compile information in order to form a list of demands which would solve this problem, justly and quickly.

In sum these demands are:

- 1) Recommendations for increasing the numbers of graduate and undergraduate, professional recruiters.
- 2) A goal of 10% of the total population in Ann Arbor be made up of Black students by 1973-74. This shall increase yearly until the overall population of Blacks shall approach, if not exceed, the proportion of Blacks in the state. More specifically, we demand that in the academic year 1971-72, there shall be an incoming class which includes at least 450 Black freshman and 150 transfer students, as well as 300 new Black graduate students.
- 3) A plan of supportive services was designed to make the increase of risk students feasible.
- 4) All work on the Black Studies Program is halted until a community/University input can be fully developed to ensure the desire of the people.
- 5) The establishment of a community located Black Studies Center is demanded.
- 6) The Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund is to be revitalized. The Parents Confidential Statement is to be revamped. A University-Wide-Appeal Board is to be established for those who contend to be short of finances.
- 7) Finally, we demand that tuition waivers be granted to financially disadvantaged students admitted under special programs. The process of describing a tuition waiver is facilitated by stating what it does: it is economically feasible for students to have their tuition waived, a mechanism which is largely different from that of the scholarship. A summary of the legal precedent is attached. Notably, the arguments forwarded at the U of M can be made at any state university.

When these demands were presented to the Administration, we were greeted with a rather cold or unresponsive attitude. The concept of the tuition waiver was flatly rejected, so we formed a 19 page legal memo; the University took on an amazed, more amenable position. Our case was presented before the Board of Regents on February 19 and 20, and on both occasions we received no positive satisfaction. President Fleming, and the Regents have directed the Executive Officers of the University to search into their resources in order to "find" funds.

Facts:

- 1) The University has requested of the state a \$15 million increase in appropriation; not a penny was requested for increased black and disadvantaged admissions. The U of M argues that it does not have the power- the money- to enact our proposals. However, we deem it to be more a matter of desire in light of the fact that Michigan is building into its budget a general exclusion of funds for black people.
- 2) The University stands behind the guise that it has greatly increased its finances towards black students. The University of Michigan has increased its total student aid by 300% since 1963, from \$5.2 million to \$15.7 million. Reportedly, the amount of aid to black students is \$1.7 million dollars for the 1969-70 school year. The argument of an outrageous proportion of student aid going to black students is mere bigotry.

The BAM has compiled endless statistics and theories to substantiate its demands; inherent in its proposition is that unless substantial energy is generated, this University will not respond with a satisfactory counter-proposal.

The purpose of the "Export the Revolution" Conference is to relate the things that BAM has done to the universities of this country, and to receive a chance to sit down and "rap" together. The design of the conference is for black delegates of organizations to attend in order to carry the information gleaned back to their organizations.

The schedule runs:

March 13, 1970

5:00p.m. Reception
8:00p.m. Speakers
11:00p.m. Cabaret

Saturday, March 14

10:00a.m. Speakers-Rap Sessions
2:00p.m. Speakers
8:00p.m. Theatre Group

A full schedule will be forwarded later.

Our efforts will culminate at the March 19 meeting of the Board of Regents at which time the question of our demands must be considered and acted on favorably.

The Black Action Movement

- The Black Student Union
- The Black Law Student Alliance
- The Black Medical Students
- The Association of Black Social Work Students
- The Black Caucus - Education
- The Black Psychologist Organization