

Black Students Organize, Hold Teach-In

The formation of the new Rochester Black Students union was made public this weekend on the wake of the slaying of black leader Martin Luther King in addition to quite a few activities on campus



Charles Dickerson Collins, looks on.

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Leave UR; Initiate Action

ably the average lifetime of a college professor, and the opportunities present all over the United States for excellent teachers were cited. The expansion of universities and the resulting competition has created a tremendous demand.

It was pointed out that after one has spent 10 years or so in one place, an alluring offer from outside will naturally seem enticing. As Hayden White put it, "you tend to get domesticated, institutional-

concerning civil rights.

Some of the goals and plans of the union were officially announced at a teach-in on racism Sunday evening in the FDB.

The union has not yet determined an organizational structure; it is still developing a constitution, part of the process in receiving a charter from the SA. The group is also seeking funds from the SA Finance board. According to one member, individual members of the union have varying ideas on what the organization should be and what goals it should have.

At the teach-in, Karl Baker, a UR senior and member of the union, outlined a few possibilities for the group. The organization should first insist that the university admit more black students. To encourage blacks to come to the UR, a scholarship fund directed at aiding the underprivileged might also be established.

TEACH NEGRO HISTORY

Baker suggested that the university teach Negro history as a special course, and that a professor be chosen by the Black Students union to teach it. He urged that the campus news media cover news throughout the country that "racist" newspapers in every city in the country refuse to cover.

Finally, Baker pointed to instances in which the university has been a direct participant in fostering unjust conditions. For instance, Strong Memorial hospital has repeatedly prevented the formation of a union of workers, according to Baker. Moreover, he said that the university owns slum dwellings in the city and that it serves as a slum land lord.

Charles Dickerson, a graduate student and union member, pointed to, among other things, the opportunity the university has missed in attracting to the UR blacks from the City of Rochester. He suggested that the university institute a large-scale, long range plan to interest black students in learning at a early age and to raise up to the standards of the university as they approach graduation from high school.

Among the other speakers were Bernard Gifford, a representative of the Rochester civil rights group FIGHT, Dan Walkowitz, a history graduate student, Mr. Bragan Thomas, a biochemist at Strong Memorial hospital, and Professor Loren Baritz of the history department.

Professor Baritz addressed the audience of around 150 people last, before a discussion of the Negro problem began. Baritz noted, in what observers felt to be a brooding bitterness, that he was amazed at the agility of the American language to produce those euphemisms for telling the truth which he had heard from the earlier speakers.

The problem, he pointed out, is not racism, but rather the American system of capitalism.

Racism is built into the fabric of American capitalism, because American capitalism depends on a proletariat that is victimized, Baritz declared. "Investment for private profit" is "the name of the game." Consequently, investments must be protected at any cost. The slum is the foundation of the suburb, he believes.

PRIVATE RESPONSE

The whole basis of the American economy encourages private responses to problems. Such responses are exemplified by segregation, prejudice, and looting, because the segregationists, the prejudiced, and the looters have only private interests in mind.

What is needed is a conversion of the private response to the public response. To effect such a conversion, one must affect to the very nature of capitalism. The federal government must be for both the changing of the capitalist system and the consequent change from private to public concern. Baritz pointed out, however, that the federal government is unswervingly committed to capitalism.

The hope, Baritz said, is in the Negro, for no sector of the population is more committed to change and no sector of the population has as little to lose. The Negro has already succeeded at seriously shaking the confidence of the American people