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# Sit-In Over, Issues Stay Alive at UR

By JACK WILLIAMS

The things University of Rochester black students were asking for as they occupied the top two floors of the Frederick Douglass Building for five and a half days contained many ideas which have been under consideration at the UR for some time.

But, in the opinion of some students and teachers, the occupation of the building, which ended yesterday, accelerated the movement towards putting some of the ideas into operation. And it got almost everyone on the campus talking about them.

It's obvious the Black Students Union wanted to make an impact on the university, but not disrupt it. Their occupation meant that those who usually eat in the Faculty Club had to go elsewhere. The placement office and some classes also had to be moved, but otherwise things were normal on the River Campus except for all of the talk about the demands.

The day after the black students took over the top two floors of the building, some of the more radical white students tried to link their ideas about changing the university to the black students demands. But the black students answered that their eight demands were all they were interested in.

The administration quickly passed the word that the police weren't going to be called and that no attempt would be made to kick out the black students.

Frank J. Dowd, associate provost for student affairs, referred to the black students as "intelligent young people." Dowd and University Provost Robert L. Sproull did much of the talking with the black students.

In the university's statement yesterday, Sproull said any disciplinary action concerning the occupancy will proceed through the university's normal student judicial system.

Cases involving student misconduct go to the undergraduate Judicial Council which holds a hearing, and then can recommend various punishments, including probation.

What was accomplished?

No statements were signed by the university, but this doesn't mean the black students' demands are going to go unanswered. A comparison of the demands with information released by the university shows that while the black

## News Analysis

students haven't won exactly what they were asking for, a lot is being done, including some things of which the black students admitted they were unaware.

Briefly, the demands and what was and is being done are:

### Hiring of a coordinator and others to recruit and counsel black students.

Sproull's Friday statement outlined efforts of UR to hire a coordinator and listed various candidates who turned down the job. "The university intends to sustain a maximum effort to attract personnel for these positions," Sproull said.

The statement added that the "maximum effort" also includes hiring a black counselor and "adequate secretar-

ial and clerical staff to support" the coordinator and counselor.

The hiring of 15 black professors by September 1969.

Yesterday Sproull said the university "is trying hard to recruit additional black professors, although the prospects are uncertain because of the scarcity of them and the great demand for their services."

The "digest" of the Arts and Science College committee report lists plans of various departments to look hard for black professors including some changes made in the kinds of vacancies some departments will be filling. It notes that about 15 full-time teaching jobs in the College of Arts and Science are still open.

"We expect a marked in-

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# UR Aides Tell Story of Sit-In

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communications bit, but communications had broken down."

Before he became University School dean in charge of UR's programs for part-time students, Dowd had been vice-president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where only about 20 per cent of the students are white. His seven years' experience at Lincoln helped during the sit-in by "giving me a feel for the situation."

Bu, Dowd was quick to emphasize: "I do not speak for the black man and never can. He must speak for himself."

While he was at Lincoln University, Dowd became acquainted with the late Langston Hughes, one of the nation's leading black writers and an alumnus of Lincoln. During the sit-in, "I read Langston Hughes' poetry with renewed interest," Dowd said.

The poem he read most often was "Dream Deferred," which begins: "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun . . ." and ends: "Or does it explode?"

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THE SIT-IN also started Dowd to thinking "about this business of breaking the law. I can think of a number of occasions in which I broke the law as an undergraduate."

—He said he was talking about the type or pranks some who attended college 20 years ago look back upon with nostalgia — "smashing glasses in bars and stealing signs during fraternity initiations."

But, he noted, there's no comparison between his "law-breaking" and some of today's demonstrations. "We did it without there being any important issue. I wouldn't insult the black students by comparing what they did to a prank."

Pranks were a small part of Dow's life as an undergraduate at UR after he returned from Army service in Europe during World War II where he earned the Bronze Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

When he was graduated from UR in 1948, Dowd received the Terry Prize as the senior "who has by his conduct and example done most for the life and character of the undergraduates."

Before he was graduated, Dowd was one of the organizers of the National Students Association (NSA) and he served on its first national executive board as regional chairman from New York State. Dowd met his wife, Janis through the NSA. She was then a student at Rockford College in Illinois and NSA national secretary.

Even though Dowd and Sproull did a lot of talking with the black students, there were no "negotiations" and no agreement was signed, Dowd said.

Until the BSU actually left the building Dowd wasn't sure what the group's exact plans were. He noted that he became optimistic about the sit-in ending the night before "when they asked a security guard if he could get them a vacuum cleaner."

Parts of the Faculty Club on the fourth floor of the Douglass Building were locked and the BSU made no attempts to break the locks. "They were proud that the parts of the building they had been in were cleaner than the locked parts after they left, Dowd said.

The day after the sit-in ended "everyone wanted to eat lunch at the Faculty Club," Dowd said. "I had someone I wanted to take to lunch but forgot about making reservations until about 11. There was no room left. I didn't get to eat at the Faculty Club that day."