Students take over administration building

Late Tuesday over 90 student from the University of Maryland Baltimore County campus (UMBC) occupied the administration building over alleged non-responsiveness to students' charges of racism.

Charles Taylor, 22, a senior, told the AFRO the students confronted Chancellor Calvin B. T. Lee after a second student's car had been vandalized on the campus.

Mr. Taylor's car was vandalized early Monday morning, apparently by white students acting in retaliation for Taylor's appearance on an area TV show in which he criticized the UMBC administration for failing to respond to black students' complaints of racism.

* * *

Taylor stated that Chancellor Lee looked at the students gathered before him and said "I'm not going to stand and listen to this," then walked off, a charge Dr. Lee denied.

He states the students walked off first.

It was then, claimed Taylor, that the students decided to take over the building.

The black students had been trying for some time to get the administration to comply with a list of demands which included letting dormitory residents pay their bill in installments rather than at one time.

Other demands asked that security guards on campus be made accountable to black students, and also that they respond quicker to black students' calls for help.

"We'd gone through the normal grievance channels several times without getting any significant results," explained Taylor, "but the takeover was a spontaneous and not planned things."

Elenor Smith, 19, and a sophomore, stated the takeover occurred at 3:30 p.m., as students occupied the ninth and tenth floors of the building as well as the elevators.

The chancellor, vice chancellor and director of student life were all in the building at the time, but students denied they were being held.

"They just can't get down the elevators," stated Miss Smith.

Security officers were reportedly standing by, just watching the elevator doors, while Baltimore County Policemen had been called to the scene, stated Taylor.

Dr. Lee denied this also.

Taylor told the AFRO: "If necessary, we're prepared to be arrested."

This, however, proved unnecessary, as students voluntarily left the building about 6:30 p.m.

Dr., Lee claimed, "It was not a hostile thing or rough in any way.

"One proposal that was made by the students concerned putting student marshalls on the parking lots to better guard against vandalism of cars," said Dr. Lee, "and we're looking into that."

Early Childhood Learning Week

The Eighth Annual Community Breakfast Seminar Series of the National Conference of Christians and Jews ended Wednesday morning with breakfast at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

Herbert Bennett, president of the Portland Roscoe Pound-American Trial Lawyers Foundation, was the guest speaker at the affair chaired by Supreme Bench Judge Robert B. Watts, and attended by Mrs. Enolia McMillian, president of the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP.

Mr. Bennett called for "human-centered" penal reform that involves rehabilitative programs, broad expansion of probation, revision of parole regulations, reduction of parole caseloads, expansion of halfway houses, work release programs, job replacement centers and psychological help and counseling.

The Maine lawyer urged a federal legislation that would prohibit public and private employers from asking about arrest records on job applications, and law enforcement agencies from suoplying such information unless there is a conviction.

He stressed importance of constitutional rights for prisoners and ex-offenders and stated that "communities must persist in fighting for these rights unless we want our prisoners to continue to be more than revolving doors for recidivism."

Fla. NAACP plans first fund dinner

LAKELAND, Fla. — The Florida Branch of the NAACP will hold its first "Freedom Fund Banquet" in Jacksonville, on June 22, 8 p.m., according to Otis P. Williams, the chapter's new president.

Ossie Davis, actor and playwright, will address the 500 members expected to attend the $50-a-plate affair.

Williams stated that the group will be pushing hard to raise $50,000 through the banquet, donations and a souvenir program.

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Medical students victors in U. of Md. quota issue

"The Board of Regents of the University of Maryland, under pressure from the black medical students and the black professional health community, has publicly acknowledged and rescinded a quota on the enrollment of black students in the medical school."

The announcement of the black medical students' victory came from Howard P. Rawlings, spokesman for the Black Coalition of the University of Maryland, a group representing black faculty, staff and students at the institution's three campuses: College Park, Baltimore County and the professional schools on Lombard St. in Baltimore.

The board's action came May 11 at its regularly-scheduled meeting and came as result of months of meetings and demonstrations by members of the Student National Medical Association, led by its president, Julius Zant, 22.

Rawlings described Zant as the prime mover behind the board's decision, stating "His unusual determination helped provide this significant victory."

Prior to 1969, Rawlings explained, the University admitted only two-three black students each year to the medical school.

"The effects of the quota or the special admissions category policy was to restrict black enrollment at the school of medicine in addition to stigmatizing each black student as disadvantaged."

Under the "disadvantaged" nametag, about eight more black students per year, thus bringing the annual total of black freshman to 10.

According to Rawlings, "Under tremendous community pressure in 1971, involving organizations as diverse as the NAACP and the Black Panther Party, the board agreed that by 1974 incoming freshman classes would represent blacks in a percentage not less than that of the state's black population."

Despite the 1971 mandate, however, Rawlings told the AFRO, the school of medicine still only admitted 11 black freshmen last September and wasn't making progress toward the 1974 guidelines.

"We expect no more than 15 to be admitted this September, but they'll have to have at least 32 in September, 1974 to live up to the board's agreement."

If this figure isn't reached next year, Rawlings warned, "We're going to ask Cong. Parren J. Mitchell (D., 7th) to peck into the millions of dollars in research grants that the University gets from HEW.

"Those monies are subject to HEW guidelines about non-discrimination, and we could have them cut off."

Turning to another aspect of the students' victory in the board's decision, Rawlings told the AFRO:

"The stigma of disadvantaged and being a special admittee placed many black students under unnecessary psychological burdens.

"It also influenced the level of academic expectation for black students by many of the medical school's faculty members.

"One of the startling revelations that became known during the negotiating sessions was that the school of medicine has never had a clear and concise definition of what is a qualified student.

"A positive indication that the University of Maryland may indeed begin to make the adjustments in practice to honor the 1971 Board of Regents mandate is the probable future appointments of Dr. Oakley Saunders, chairman of the Community Health Council of Maryland and Dr. Simon Carter to ad hoc committee on admissions policy.

"The committee's major responsibility will be to enhance the enrollment and academic performances of black medical students in order that they can become physicians to serve the health needs of the community."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

BY IDA M. PETERS

Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee

IN TOWN

Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee are in town today, appearing this morning (Friday) before 1,100 students of Harlem Park Junior High.

Yesterday, as part of Baltimore City's Public School Cultural Program under Mrs. Margaret Armstrong, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee appeared at Lake Clifton High School before 2,000 students in the morning and Steuart Hill Elementary Staff members in the afternoon.

The idea is to present artists who have made it as an example to motivate youngsters. They will give readings from the works of Langston Hughes. Also, excerpts from Ruby Dee's "Glow Child" and Davis' "Purlie Victorious".

* * *

ARENA PLAYERS

This is the 20th Season for the Arena Players. Their last production this season "Five On The Black Hand Side" written by Charles L. Russell will be presented this week-end thru Sunday.

This production is being produced by Sam Wilson Camilla Sherrard, Chairman of the Board tells us the Arena Playhouse will be closed for renovation. Their aim is to raise $50 000.

The Arena Players will hold their 8th Annual Awards presentation on June 1 at Blue Crest with Bobby Felder and his Band.

* * *

"SAVE THE CHILDREN"

Ruteena Blake's "Save The Children" at the Lyric last Friday got a standing ovation from the more than 600 persons who turned out.

Frankie and the Spindles a group of disciplined young men under Paul Sollers provided the music. They include Donald Johnson, Dennis Holman. Smokey Reuben, Jim Fuzz, Joel Harris, Charles Hawkins, Leon Ferguson, Charles Stan Graves, Ray Shields, Roscoe Evans and Ronnie Green.

Margaret Lindsay, Acting Director of Music for Enon Baptist Church and music teacher and choral director at Southern High School was Musical Director.

Travis Winkey, who received his training at Boston Conservatory and Peabody and director of the Baltimore Dance Ensemble was choreographer.

Members of the cast included Rockin' Robin, Belois Craven, Janice Johnson, Denise Smith, Darryl Bowles, Kurt Blake, Tony Yarborough, Queen Ester Hill, Verna Day, Travis Winkey, Janice Johnson, Mary James, Mansie Gibbs, Herman Winkey, Princeton McLure, Raymond Epps, Donald Johnson.

Dancers included Rae Ross, Pam Garnett, Travis Winkey, Bonnie Ward, Beverly Scriber, Andrea Street, Herman Winkey, Pam Garrett, Vanessa Thornton and Rhonda McDonald.

Congratulations to Ruteena Blake whose inspiration for the play came from listening to Marvin Gaye's "Save The Children". Hopefully, we'll be hearing more from company and a more extended run and repeats in D.C.

* * *

LETTER FROM NO. 150

Dear AFRO:

Bill Eliott, who is a native Baltimorean, educated in the Baltimore public schools, delighted his audience when he visited Bentalou School No. 150 of which Mrs. Nettie H. Page is principal and Mrs. Ruth K. Lansey is assistant principal last Friday.

Mr. Elliot is a fine husband, father, movie star, drummer and most certainly a God-fearing man.

The children and adults simply loved him. Why? . . . because he really had something to say! Mr. Elliot constantly impressed upon the children the necessity and importance of going to school; taking advantage of the many, many invaluable opportunities and by all means learning to Read!

To us, it was an infinite experience! The family of Bentalou Elementary School No. 150 is very grateful to Mr. Elliot and will always remember how fortunate we were to have had this honorable pleasure.

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"OVERS"

Baltimore's hottest group, The Fuzzy Kane Trio are holding at Lenny Moore's Sportmen's Lounge. (see ad this issue for details.)

The African Cultural and Art Council will hold a dance and fashion show in honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity. Saturday, June 2 at the Civic Center.

Feature will be Joe Mensah and his African High Life Band and the Contact African Dancers from D.C.

Annual Commencement exercises for the Maryland Institute, College of Art, will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 30, in front of the Institute's Mount Royal Station. At that time, the college will award 183 Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees, 48 Master of Fine Arts degrees, and 4 honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees.

* * *

"PROFILE."

Baltimore surgeon Dr. Emerson C. Walden joins TV 11's Paul Berman for a discussion of the myths and realities of acupuncture on WBAL-TV's "Profile," Tuesday, May 29, at 9:30-10 p.m.

Dr. Walden witnessed the surgical use of acupuncture as one of the ten members of the National Medical Association invited to visit China in Octobtr, 1972.

He believes strongly the use of acupuncute as a anesthetic to be the first major breakthrougat in contemporary surgery and has been frustrated at the lack of reception for acupuncture on the part of American physicians.

* * *

BLACK JOURNAL

Roy Innis, executive director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), proposes that Black Americans offer their skills to developing black nations in return for dual citizenship.

Innis issues this statement on the "Black Journal" program "Report From Uganda" that will be presented nationally on Tuesday, May 29 at 9:30 p.m. (EST) over the Public Broadcasting Service.

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