



SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE NORTHERN NEWS

Recommendation Criticized

Faculty Senate Charged With 'Racist Attitudes'

The Friends of the Black Student Association at Northern Michigan University, a group of white faculty, students, and members of the community, charged in a letter of protest that the Faculty Senate had "underlying racist attitudes" in its recommendation that the University should not seek a renewal of the Job Corps contract for next year unless the present social problems are solved or the Center is removed from the campus.

The letter of protest, read by members of FOBSA before the Faculty Senate, and also sent to NMU's president, Dr. John X. Jamrich, stated that the Senate's "recommendation is 'due to the cultural background of the Job Corps enrollees' and not to their race or color."

"We feel these factors are inseparable," the FOBSA letter read further. "We, therefore, can only conclude that the recommendation was based on racial stereotypes, and underlying racist attitudes."

The FOBSA, with a membership of about 30 which includes two from the community, eight faculty, and the rest students, countered in their letter of protest several of the claims made by the Faculty Senate.

While the Faculty Senate stated that the Job Corps involvement in the University's academic and social activities is minimal, the FOBSA charged in its letter that any lack of success in integrating the Job Corps Center with the University "is a direct reflection on the University's lack of constructive action."

Although the Faculty Senate

recommendation had called the presence of the Job Corps "not essential to the university level programs," FOBSA countered that the Job Corps does present tremendous opportunities for academic and cultural enrichment which have been ignored by the University.

The FOBSA rejected the Faculty Senate's concept of "cultural gap" stating they felt "any abrasiveness is a result of the University students' ignorance and prejudice . . . the responsibility for education its students belongs to the University."

"Northern Michigan University must not shelter itself from its responsibilities in confronting these problems," the FOBSA letter reads. "The University, located in a geographic, cultural, and economically isolated community, has so few opportunities to deal with cultural and racial differences that the opportunities afforded by the presence of the Job Corps cannot be overlooked without adding to the deprivation already suffered by the 'regular' students."

The FOBSA says further in its letter that while they agree that "this problem has not been successfully solved in the past", we do not feel an effective means of problem solving is to avoid the issue, catering to the thereby very attitudes which cause the problem."

The Faculty Senate indicated that they might consider modifying their position only if presented with new evidence and pressure from a substantial number of faculty.

"We were the first group with any type faculty representation to

(Continued on page 5)

'Blackman' Series Over WNMR-TV

The Blackman in the Americas, a televised historical series, begins this week over WNMR-TV. Northern Michigan University students and the general public are invited to view the program in Room K-207 by tuning in campus channel 13 (channel 3 off-campus).

It is to be aired at 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Persons enrolling for credit should contact James Gooch, regional director of the Michigan State University Continuing Education office in the Don H. Bottum University Center. There is no charge for those wishing to audit the programs.

Drs. James R. Hooker and Leslie B. Rout of the MSU History Department are co-instructors. Programs scheduled for February are entitled West African Origins, Spanish and Portuguese Policy and People of Color, The Black Man in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Revolutionary War and The Blacks, Virginia and Barbados, Haiti and The French Revolution, French Revolution and The World Scene.