

As Result Of Sit-In;

NMU Preparing Charges Against Students, BSA

Northern Michigan University is preparing charges for disciplinary action against at least 24 black students and the Black Students Association (BSA) for offenses committed and damages incurred during a sit-in in the office of the dean of students on Dec. 17.

The individuals charged will be tried before the Faculty - Student Judiciary Committee at Northern, while the Student Judiciary Committee will hear the charges brought against the BSA, as a registered organization in the university.

It was learned that hearings against the individuals are set to begin sometime next week. The university is holding up action until local civil authorities have completed their investigation into the situation to determine if civil action is warranted.

The black students will officially be charged in the next two days but officials refused to reveal the nature of the charges. It was indicated, however, that some of the students may be charged with as many as six infractions of regulations.

Probe In Process

Det. Marvin Gauthier of the Marquette City Police is handling the investigation for the civil authorities. His preliminary investigation is still in progress.

Gauthier has interviewed 25 black students and 10 white stu-

dents and newsmen who were at the sit-in. The investigation is expected to be completed by Friday.

Gauthier refused to disclose if charges would be brought in civil court, but a university official indicated that at least seven students would be charged on civil counts at a later date.

Damages during the sit-in totaled \$268, according to the university's engineering and maintenance department. In addition, items totaling \$383 in value were reported missing from the office after the sit-in ended. Of the latter amount, \$300 covered the cost of film missing from the office.

In checking with the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. it was confirmed that unauthorized long distance calls were made from the office during the sit-in. They totaled \$12.95.

Protest By 85

The sit-in by an estimated 85 members of the BSA was in protest over the recommendation by the Student Judiciary Committee to suspend a black student for allegedly having a girl in his dormitory room after hours. This finding was later overruled by the Faculty-Student Judiciary Committee, which is given the power to hear appeals by students in the university's judicial process.

The sit-in began at 9 a.m. lasted until 3:30 the following morning. The students

involved remained peaceful throughout most of the time that they occupied the office, allowing business to be conducted as usual, university officials said.

But, at approximately 2:30 a.m., Dec. 18, the sound of glass being broken was heard in the office, and Dr. Allan Niemi, vice president for student affairs, was called to investigate.

He entered the office, but was refused permission to leave, officials said. The student finally released Niemi after hearing that the Student Judiciary Committee's ruling against the black student had been overruled.

Rites Slated For Accident Victim, 13

Funeral services for 13-year-old Melanie F. Dhondt of Rumely, who died Wednesday in St. Luke's Hospital of injuries sustained when she was hit by a truck, will be held Saturday morning at 10 in St. Rita's Catholic Church, Trenary. Burial will be in the Trenary Cemetery.

The girl, an eighth grader in the Eben School, was walking along M-94 east of Rumely when the accident occurred Tuesday night.

Born June 8, 1956, in Marquette, she was a lifelong resident of Rumely and a member of St. Rita's Church.

Surviving besides her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dhondt, are two sisters, Mrs. Eusebio (Sharon) Martinez, Rosemead, Calif., and Miss Patricia Freberg, Pasadena, Calif.; five brothers, Andrew Freberg, Harvey; and Alex Freberg, Henry; Joseph and Aloysius Dhondt, all at home; and several aunts and uncles.

The body is in Tonella's Fu-