

# Same Old Line

The relative peace and complacency of Northern's campus was disturbed somewhat this week by the visit of one Willy Calvin, captain of defense for the Chicago chapter of the Black Panthers. If nothing else, it can at least be said that Calvin was responsible for the first standing-room-only Humanities lecture witnessed on this campus in recent years.

If the crowds were surprising, though, Calvin's talk certainly was not. Neither was it interesting or stimulating, for that matter. The old "kill the pigs" line is getting a bit worn, even to us backward folks up north; after all, we DO get Walter Cronkite every night, even on the fringes of civilization.

Perhaps the only rhetoric more boring than Calvin's was that of the "if-you-don't-like-it-here-then-why-don't-you-leave" gang in the audience. What could have been a reasonably valuable meeting of the minds turned into little more than a meeting of the mouths.

In at least one of his lectures, Calvin made a point of mentioning the current trial of six NMU Black students for their alleged involvement in a sit-in last December which resulted in damage to the University Dean's office. As might have been expected, Calvin compared the trial of the "Marquette Six" (as he called them) to that of the now-famous "Chicago Seven." Needless to say, the comparison involved a little straining of the facts.

For example, the members of the "Chicago Seven" were charged with the vague crime of conspiracy — a felony and a "crime" the commission of which is difficult to prove. The Marquette Blacks, on the other hand, are being charged with a simple misdemeanor for allegedly creating a disturbance by disrupting the "normal" activity of the University. A slight difference does exist.

It might also be noted that the "Marquette Six" have chosen thus far to make full use of the established legal process for their defense. Courtroom decorum has been preserved and the legal process has, for the most part, been moving along smoothly. While the competence of Judge Julius Hoffman has very legitimately been questioned as a result of the turmoil at the Chicago proceedings, it seems abundantly clear that the seven defendants in the case did little themselves to preserve courtroom decorum; nor did their attorneys, for that matter.

Plainly and simply, the "Marquette Six" are not in any sense of the word "political prisoners" as Calvin alleged in his talk here on campus. While such an allegation obviously has considerable rhetorical value, it simply does not stand up under the pressure of logical analysis.

All in all, though, the visit of Captian Willy Calvin of the Black Panthers was good for Northern. If no eyes were opened, at least a few complacent hides were moved.