

BOURLAND CHARGES

Black Info Lacking

A charge that the campus and Marquette community has been "systematically fed mis-information about the black community" at Northern Michigan University was levied this week by J. Kent Bourland, defense attorney in the recent trial involving the six black students charged with creating a disturbance at the December sit-in in the office of dean of students.

The charge came at "a tell it all" question and answer discussion between Bourland and Marquette County Prosecutor Edward Quinnell hosted by the Academic Senate at its bi-weekly meeting held Tuesday afternoon.

About 500 students and faculty members attended the session during which time both attorneys spoke to the audience for 10 minutes and answered questions from the assemblage for about 90 minutes.

Bourland told the audience that the major problem facing students, faculty, and Marquette citizens in trying to confront the black student problems is that "you people have simply not been getting the information you need to respond with."

Bourland charged that local press media have an "absolute stranglehold on all information being released."

"The community at large systematically over the last two years has been fed misinformation about the black community and more recently the sit-in," Bourland said.

Bourland told the audience that "with the truth in your hand, you will be quite surprised."

In his opening statement, Quinnell made several remarks concerning his views about demonstrations

and violence.

"Violence cannot solve any basic issues," he said. "It seldom has anything to do with persuading anyone. Violence only serves to build resistance."

Quinnell said that a peaceful demonstration can be "valuable, useful and acceptable in promoting a point of view and a legitimate means of protesting social issues."

He also stated that there should be some sort of limitations on demonstrations and that they should always have a purpose.

During the question and answer period Quinnell was asked why he had decided to press charges against the six black students.

"It looked like we had enough evidence at the time to convict the six black students," Quinnell said. "But we just didn't."

Responding further to the question, Quinnell noted that the final decision is always left up to the prosecutor but that the "wishes of the victim" are always considered before deciding whether to prosecute.

Commenting on the question, Bourland said it was his under-

standing that NMU president John X. Jamrich urged the prosecution of the six black students and would not retract the charges until last week.

Quinnell admitted that the administration was "consulted" on whether to drop the charges, but said he made the final decision himself.

"The shots were being called from Dr. Jamrich's office from the very beginning," Bourland told the audience. "I think President Jamrich was behind the prosecution from the beginning."

Quinnell was asked why he thought the University decided not to pursue prosecution of the black students after the trial was declared a mistrial.

"I don't know why the University decided not to push for another trial," Quinnell said. "I suspect that the case has just drawn out too long."

In response to another question, Quinnell stated that he thought the black students had a purpose for their demonstration. He said that until the damage was done there was no need to prosecute.

Milliken Lauds Non-Violence

Michigan Governor William Milliken commended the "sensible majority" of students who are attempting to avoid violence on campuses.

He said: "Our best hope for avoiding violence is the self-policing effort of the students themselves. I commend the sensible majority of students who are helping to defuse potentially violent situations. I appeal to all students to follow those who advocate peaceful dissent, and not the handful who advocate violence. Already this week there have been numerous instances in which students have thwarted attempts by extremists to intimidate and provoke violence."

