

# NMU Students, City Officials Speak Out On Campus Situation

Approximately 150 people — about 80 per cent of them Northern Michigan University students — Monday night attended a community-university meeting sponsored by the NMU Committee for Action to improve relations and communications between the campus and community.

Ten speakers were heard in the 75-minute program in the Marquette Community Center.

Charles Lindquist, Marquette student, master of ceremonies, in his introductory remarks, observed that there were many empty seats and that he had hoped more people, especially townspeople, would attend.

Rev. Don Zanon, assistant chaplain of NMU's Newman Center, presented a short opening speech on the problems of communication. He said these problems can be overcome only when both the sender and receiver are honest and when they both get down to the basic issues.

Mayor Lloyd Price was the first of four speakers representing the city. Observing that city-college relationships have been generally good, Price said that the community recognizes NMU as the major area industry and that businessmen welcome the patronage of students and that none of them discriminate against students. However, Price stated, lately he has been harassed by Northern groups for limiting parade routes. He said they do not understand that the State Highway Department must give permission two to three weeks in advance. Price also said that he was being harassed by townspeople about the activities of NMU radical groups.

Price said that, although Northern is a "boom" to the city the people cannot stand around and let students destroy their town. It is time, Price concluded, for the "silent majority" to assert itself.

City Commissioner Fred Rydholm stressed the proper channeling of protest. He cited the example of students demanding that the city council do something about Vietnam when they should take their complaints to their representatives in Congress. He declared that a man should not be dragged out of his bed in the middle of the night by students demanding immediate action on their grievances. Rydholm continued by stating that many people regarded these students as being like little children trying to see how far they can go before being slapped down.

### 'Must Talk As Individuals'

Blaming rumor-mongers, Rydholm said that for the first time in his memory Marquette people are outraged at students

Rydholm advocated the creation of a NMU committee to take students' complaints, clarify them and direct them through the proper channels of redress.

Rydholm was followed by Commissioner Edward Downey, who said that people must forget city and university positions and talk as individuals. According to Downey, there must be a community group — not two polarized college and town groups. Neither group is entirely right but a consensus of the whole community group is right.

Downey said the only legitimate and lasting change can be made through the established democratic system. Students should try to strengthen and improve rather than destroy the system.

### Rights And Responsibilities

Commissioner Paul LaFreniere spoke on the necessary relationship between rights and their corresponding responsibilities.

Vernon Smalls, Marquette student, and Patrick Williams, Northern Black Student Association president from Saginaw, took the platform together. Smalls observed that not many Marquette people were at the meeting and said that that was the problem — how to set up a relationship with people who will not come and try to understand.

He listed some problems he says confront black students in the city. Admitting that some white students cannot get housing, Smalls said blacks are discriminated against in trying to obtain off-campus housing in Marquette. He said that during the five years he has been in Marquette, black students have been continually harassed by police and complained that the local news media, particularly The Mining Journal were unfair and biased towards black students. He described The Mining Journal's handling of the recent trial of six black students as "totally ludicrous."

### Points To Letter Of Apology

Smalls next accused local businesses of discriminating against blacks, saying that while the entire staff of the store was watching, a black, whites could come in and steal everything on the other side of the shop without being noticed. Addressing the mayor and three commissioners, Smalls stated, "I've never seen the mayor and councilmen in my five years in Marquette. They should have been here years ago."

Williams said the black-white problem was also a student problem and that if all the students got together they could improve the black situation. He said that students must make sure that the university and mass media are telling the truth. He charged both The

Mining Journal and the administration of NMU with hiding the truth concerning the sit-in in Dean Allen Niemi's office. He said that not many people knew of the BSA's offer to pay for damages done to the office or of their letter of apology to Niemi.

Williams said next year blacks will not stand for what they put up with this year at NMU and advocated picketing and boycotting stores that discriminated. He concluded with a warning that the greatest danger is that people will let meetings be the end of their action.

### Clenched Fist Salute

Fred Perry, NMU student from East Lansing, commented that NMU was experiencing a civil war of rights. Students are fighting for their constitutional rights, especially those of speech and assembly with non-violent means, he said.

Perry then gave the clenched fist "Power to the People" salute and explained that this did not mean revolution but rather called for the return of democracy to the people. He said that elected representatives in Lansing and Washington are not really responsible to the people except during elections and that the people here only distorted facts through the mass media concerning the activities of these representatives.

Perry said that people could solve Marquette's unemployment problem (cited at double the national average by Perry), discrimination and future pollution of the air and Lake Superior by working together.

### 'Vigilante' Committee

He said that there was a "vigilante" committee in Marquette against blacks and long-haired students and that this must be stopped. He blamed much of the charged atmosphere to the blowing-up of stories about Northern by the local mass media and used the example of the stories concerning molotov cocktails tossed into Kaye Hall as contributing to these tensions.

Calling for peaceful change, Perry stressed the work of the Committee for Action in talking to the people of the city about the war and their setting up of a 24-hour "rumor-control center."

Kevin O'Donnell, Tampa, Fla., president of the Associated Students of NMU, talked briefly about the need for students to organize before dealing with the community, saying that this way students can more efficiently work with the community to improve communications. O'Donnell also urged students to make sure they are getting the best

# Circuit Judge Six On Probation Sends One To Prison

Judge Bernard H. Davidson, Marquette, presiding in Marquette County Circuit Court Monday placed six defendants in criminal cases on probation and sent one to prison.

Ralph C. Webb, 22, Carlisle, found guilty May 14 in a trial before the court on a charge of larceny from a building, was sentenced to a one-to-four-year prison term, effective Jan. 23, 1970, the date of his arrest. He had been in jail since.

He was convicted of the theft of a quantity of copper from the C&W Corp., which owns the former Royal Oak Charcoal Co. plant site in Marquette.

Webb appeared in court Monday with his attorney, Thomas P. Casselman, Marquette, and was told by the judge that he had "not done very well while on probation." On Webb's record, Davidson pointed out, were

possible education — that their instructors are really good teachers and not just concerned with the war in Indo-China.

### McClellan's Remarks

The final speaker was Dr. Robert McClellan, assistant professor of history at NMU. He said he was very impressed that people with such diverging viewpoints as Price and Williams and Smalls could be brought together to speak. People must listen to each other and everyone is entitled to express his point of view. McClellan stressed, adding that each person must accept the humanity of the individuals sitting at the meeting as a starting point.

Following the speaker portion of the meeting, Bill Wilson of Marquette addressed the audience from his seat, saying that he and a number of other concerned residents would be willing to take any student into their homes if that student is afraid to remain on campus during these tense times. He said that in this way, members of the city and the campus could really communicate on a personal level, in addition to providing protection for those who feel they are in danger living on campus until the end of the semester.

After the program several small groups were set up to discuss the building of communications between the town and college.

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