Impressions Count

Of the circumstances surrounding the events of last December 17 and 18 we can be at least surmised that the sit-in by approximately 70 black students in the Dean of Students' office for a duration of 19 hours and that the sit-in was sparked by an All-University Student Judiciary vote to suspend a black student for an alleged dormitory misconduct.

It is estimated that during the last 45 minutes of the sit-in by approximately 70 black students in the Dean of Students' office for a duration of 19 hours and that the sit-in was sparked by an All-University Student Judiciary vote to suspend a black student for an alleged dormitory misconduct.

That at the conclusion of the sit-in offices were found to be in a general mess with $265 in damages and with $382 worth of materials missing.

Yet, while we can state positively and categorically that these things did occur on the days of December 17 and 18, and that these things did significantly disrupt the normal functioning of the University, and that those responsible should be held accountable for their actions, the week still remains an uncertainty as to who is guilty of what.

If one is to believe the testimony of NMMU history professor Dr. Robert McElman and the collaborative testimony of Dr. David Menkhef (of the Speech Department), Dr. John Watanen (of the English Department) and that of black student Vernon Small, President Jamrich has clearly given the impression that the black student could remain in the Dean of Students' office until the Student-Faculty Judiciary had made a decision on the Charles Griggs case. To further support his contention, Dr. McClellan claimed that President Jamrich, in a late evening visit to the Dean of Students' office, did no request to leave. Consequently, Dr. McClellan said, the black students were under the impression that they could remain in the office.

If, on the other hand, one is to believe the statement by President Jamrich made in the form of a letter to the Student-Faculty Judiciary and presented in evidence by Dr. Lowell Kafer, then "at no time" did the President or anyone else give permission to the black students to remain in the Dean's Office.

Actually, the "middle-of-the-road" route through the above "maze" seems to be most convincing. Either "at no time" given the black students permission to stay in the office while, at the same time, through failure to give forceful expression to his intentions, literally inviting them to remain in the office.

It's easy for Dr. Jamrich to say (as he did in Dr. Kafer's letter), that he did not want the black students to remain in the office. But, unfortunately for the administration, it's the impression given at the time of the "fact" that is important in a court of law or anywhere else legal questions are resolved.

The administration is to be the order of the day within the legal structures of Northern Michigan University, the administration had better learn to deal with such sophistication. In the University tribunal, as in the court of law, one would do well to remember that the burden of proof is on the accuser, not the accused.

Press Not Informers

Responding in his commentary to the recent actions of the federal government in subpoenaing unused television news film, ABC News commentator Frank Reynolds and Howard K. Smith, "the press of this country cannot discharge its obligation to inform the people of the country.... That's the only obligation we have. The purpose of the press is to serve the public."

The Constitution imposes a clear wall between the government-local, state and federal—and the press.

"From time to time, the government tries to breach the wall, and such an attempt is underway right now."

"It must be turned back, for the press is not an arm of a prosecutor or a grand jury. It is not an agency whose purpose is to help the government. It is much more an agency whose purpose is to watch the government and inform the people about its actions. The press is not, repeat not, obliged to inform any area of the government about its actions. It is not a part of the government, but that is precisely what some federal attorneys are now trying to force the press to do.

"This is not in any way a question of preserving secrecy; it is a question of preserving the separation of powers. The sources of information are afraid to talk to the press, the press is not the government, and it will suffer. It is the public who will be denied information.

We have many faults. We're aware of them and are trying to correct them. But the press of this country cannot discharge its obligation to inform the people of the country. And that's the only obligation we have... if our reporters are to become government informers."

BSA

To The News:

When will you become men again. For those of you who are not aware you have been given inexcusable excuses to just about everyone. You misbehave, publish, mead, and misconstrue, and robbed of your human dignity. Will you turn into a disease that can poison the community and yes you will walk on the street, you will do things you don't want to do, your direct traffic with pictures of your plainer over slatterned newspapers, sidewalk letters, cars, and the like. You will wonder what happened to America.

Black Student Association

Williams

To The News:

In the past there has been a lot of talk about what black students are doing to get their points across. I say to you this information has been kept from you not by the black students but by the administration. We have made endless attempts to get the information to you, the students, the black students, the white students, the administration, the board, the president, the governor, the congress, the news media, the United Press, the Associated Press, etc. All that we have done has been to ask for the information, to ask for the information, and the administration has denied the request.

Now we are through with the secret meetings with the administration, because of double crosses and lies. It's time the students know what is going on around here. Yes, it is time we had a symposium or debate with all the university once in the fallhouse with Jamrich and the administration and students, where the community can dig out what the real deal really is and what is going on around here. We can answer what is going on in the United States, what is the problem.

Students, I grant you that the university will not let you have the meeting on your campus. They have no power to do a thing, but they cannot stop the speech and expression, they won't let it happen to us. They must be aware. What's going on around here? How can we be, personally will bring my Sherry and front the Mackinac Bridge.

It would be like the execution of the future if we don't get going every night in the University. They are asking for these, here's what will happen. The Administration will go in a hole with the Student Government officials and a new law that cannot be cancelled. It will be a threat to the students. They feel like the one on open trial. (Check it out) The student government which could not be proven asked for open trials along with 2500 students and some faculty on a petition by...