

It Happened In Toledo

Personal, Academic Aid Given Minority Students By Black Student Union

By ANN WEBER
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According to the date on its constitution, the Black Student Union at the University of Toledo isn't a new organization. But in terms of its 1972 image and function, it could be a newly-formed group.

The campus activism of 1968 that first drew the members together and prompted them to barricade University Hall and occupy the president's office has been rekindled after four years of dormancy. Now, however, the main emphasis has changed from black studies to the black student.

The reasons for the group's new energy are varied: an inner restructuring in the spring, offices on both the main and Community Technical College campuses, and most important, statistics which show that 80 per cent of black freshmen never make it to graduation. Those who do usually take more than four years.

Concern for the black and, to a lesser extent, the minority group student, has led to the formulation of programs offering personal and academic guidance, beginning with a Black Freshman Week program Sept. 18-24, at the same time as the University-sponsored activities for all incoming students.

"We're attempting to help the minority student make the adjustment to a different environment," Darryl Hines, a main campus representative to the BSU steering committee, explained.

John Emery, chairman of the committee, added, "We want to let the black student know we understand what he's going through. We hope to catch him at the beginning of college, monitor his progress, and help him when he's in trouble."

That help will take the form of free tutorial service or participation in a big brother-big sister program, he said. Both are new this year.

Mr. Emery stated that in the past, the BSU had no comprehensive program, with the main activity then being the planning and sponsoring of an annual Black Culture Week.

"We're trying to build an image now," he stated. "Even if other groups on campus don't like us, they'll have to respect us and deal with us."

He contends that the BSU must take over the guidance of blacks because of weakness in the university's supportive services.

"Every student is assigned to a faculty adviser. But that adviser may have 100 students to counsel, and teaching, research,

and publishing on top of that. All he can do is rubber stamp the student's program," he explained.

BSU members plan to take over the responsibility of helping the student plan his four-year program, aiding in the choice of a major, determining his academic strengths and weaknesses, teaching him how to take tests and how to study, making sure he attends classes, and involving parents and professors in the student's problems.

With a budget of \$5,500 for the year, Mr. Emery admits that group, instead of individual, tutoring may be necessary. Wanted are qualified tutors in core courses — sociology, psychology, math, English, and biology. Some black faculty members will donate their time.

In addition, each student will be asked to submit a list of requirements in every course he is taking. Cards will be sent to him as reminders of exam and term paper due dates.

The whole program is being planned with an eye to the future. Mr. Emery, a senior in arts and sciences, stated, "We must help others so that when we graduate, they can carry on with the program."

While the student's welfare is the most important goal, the group still plans to continue pressure for more black faculty, a department for black studies, and the appointment of a vice president for minority affairs.

The members hope that the administration will listen and make it easier for the active, organized group involving every black and minority group student on both campuses to attain its goals.

Planned Sept. 18 in the Black Freshman Week program are a series of speakers at noon in the Student Union Ingman Room on "The Role of Black Students Within a White University," and Sept. 19, all-night films, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Creative Arts Workshop, Dorr Street and Forest Avenue, on the "Black Experience through the Media."

Other activities are a trip into the black community beginning at 3 p.m. Sept. 20, party Sept. 21 at Fleetwood 75 and Mr. Paul's; a mixer Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union, and a picnic Sept. 24 at 3 p.m. outside Parks Tower.