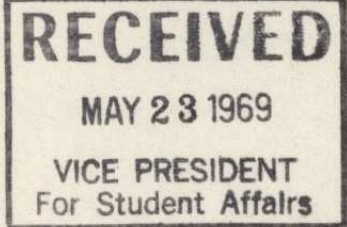


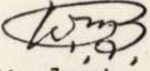
# Interoffice Communication

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
of Science and Technology

DATE May 22, 1969

TO Dr. Eugene Robinson  
Dean of Students



FROM William M. Bell   
Assoc. Dean of Students

Attached is the copy of the report on Black Cultural Week by Pat Alford.

WMB:cb

cc: ✓ Dr. Wilbur Layton      Mrs. Marlene Strathe  
    Dr. Arthur Sandeen      Mr. Bill Appelgate  
    Mr. Tom Goodale        Mr. Larry Salter  
    Mr. Paul McQuilkin     Miss Pat Alford  
    Mr. Lynn Jenison

Black Cultural Week  
Presented by ISU Blacks

The Black Student Organization at Iowa State University presented Black Cultural Affairs Week, April 27-29, 1969. It was the first organized all black event in the history of the university.

The three-day event was aimed at informing the white community of Ames and Iowa State on the black student--who he is and how he fits in the total university. It was given the name "week" in hopes that it would become an annual week-long activity, when BSO becomes financially able to support it independently.

Black students in their attempt to provide a face-to-face confrontation with whites, gave the week the theme, "Unity Through Communication."

The activities began Sunday afternoon, April 27, with a fashion show. Black models, a little black history, African dress, and bright colors made up the program as the audience was taken back to Africa and the styles that black men wore before being brought to America as slaves. The moderator, Dr. Virginia Thomas, the only black professor in the <sup>College</sup> ~~Department~~ of Home Economics, explained how the black man in America had been made ashamed to wear bright colors that emphasized the blackness that most white Americans had learned to despise.

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But black models, parading in naturals, curly hair, straight hair, and varying skin colors, went once again to bright colors that black Americans, no longer ashamed of their blackness and with a new sense of identity with their native land, are now wearing with pride and dignity.

A panel discussion with twelve black students as panelists was Sunday evening's event. The panel members, representing various areas of university life, included Tom Fortson, Vice-President of the Government of the Student Body; Larry Salter, President of BSO and newly elected member to men's honorary, Cardinal Key; Roy Snell, a football player and Vice-President of BSO; Dave Collins, a basketball player; Bill Cain, a basketball player and author of a weekly column in the school's newspaper; Theresa Cheeks, one of the seventeen black students on the Pilot Project; and Fred Carter, a junior in engineering operations.

The students, disappointed at the small number of whites who turned out for the discussion, criticized campus Greeks who had as their theme during Greek Week, "Involvement Through Change." Tom Fortson questioned their involvement and asked if Iowa State's black students had to resort to violence before people would listen to them. Fortson said it seemed the only way to get people to listen.

"If we had gone over to the Union and torn up the Commons and then said we were having a public discussion, I'll bet

everybody would have been here. But instead we ask people to come hear about the problems before anything like that happens so that we can prevent it, and where are they?"

Monday's events began with the play, "In White American," in which black students, playing the parts of both blacks and whites, donned white masks to portray white Southerners.

In the evening, black students presented, "Black America in Review." The program was an historically documented story of the black man's struggle in America told through song and dance acts and written and choreographed by black students. The program traced black music going from spirituals to gospels, and from blues to jazz, and to the present soul music, and told the conditions of the black man in America under which each type of music was born.

Julian Bond, Democratic member of the Georgia House of Representatives, was guest speaker for Tuesday. Mr. Bond had an informal discussion with students in the afternoon and lectured in the evening on, "New Coalition Within the Democratic Party."

Bond stressed the importance of whites becoming involved in the black movement, saying that blacks, after all, came into the movement with clean hands.

He pointed out that whites should voice their support of black students' activities when they agreed with what they

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were doing and should then go into their own communities and help their own white brothers to come to some understanding of blacks.

Mr. Bond's lecture was the final event of Black Cultural Affairs Week.