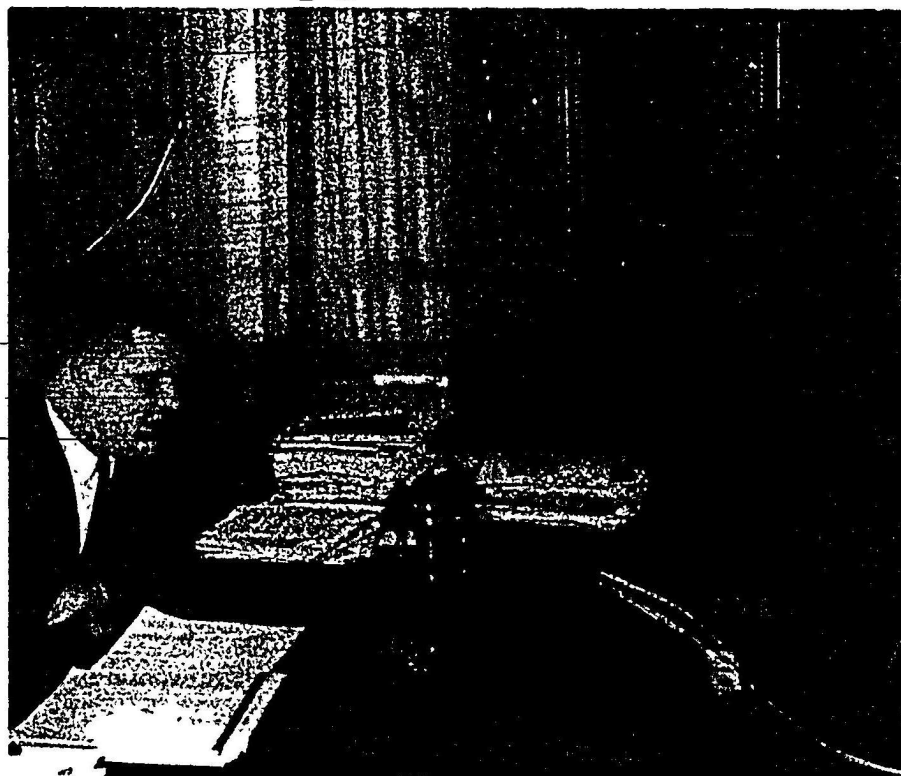


Blacks Occupy President's Office

Editor's Note: On Monday, April 20, the black students of Ottawa University met with President Peter H. Armacost concerning the eight demands they submitted to the University last December. To discover the full scope of the issues involved a CAMPUS reporter spoke with Dr. Neal Berte, Executive Assistant to the President to find out the administration's position, and Lexie Covington, junior, to find out the black students' position.

When asked why the black students met with the president, Berte said "They (the black students) felt that not enough had been done to meet their demands". He said that the meeting about "what specifically concerned them," between himself, Dr. Armacost, and thirty black students lasted about two hours. Berte noted that at this point it "appeared no longer fruitful to continue talking." According to Berte, the President asked the black students to leave, because of his upcoming meeting with the Board of Trustees. "The students initially decided not to leave," Berte said. Berte said that the president responded by giving the black students fifteen minutes to leave or



President Armacost Meets Blacks Concerning Demands

else face suspension. "We then talked about ways to follow up their concern," Berte said. Berte noted attempts to involve the black students in black faculty positions, financial aid to black students, and consultation in black studies.

At this point, according to Berte, the black students left the President's office through decision by group vote, and proceeded to Dr. Berte's office "to engage in some follow-

up activities."

Berte noted that he was "particularly disappointed that the black students did not see a hiring of two black faculty members as significant." He said that Ottawa is progressive in this respect compared to other institutions. He also noted "the significance" of another black faculty contract still being out.

Berte called the meeting "another opportunity to com-

municate with black students." He said, "The hiring of black faculty is going to better the learning experience of all students—white and black."

Lonnie Sherman, senior, said the black students met with President Armacost on Monday "because of inefficiency in meeting our demands." He added that the University "had not taken a definite stand on action as far as housing, a black co-ordinator, and a black consultant on campus to co-ordinate a Black Studies program."

When asked what the meeting accomplished, Sherman specified nothing. He said it was "the wrong time" since the President was too busy with the Board of Trustees. He noted that they were given an opportunity to work through Dr. Berte to work on their demands.

In regard to the president's ultimatum, Sherman said, "I felt that we should have stayed there, because the demands had not been met." He accused Armacost of "beating around the bush." He said, "Even now he hasn't made a definite stand on anything."

As far as the effect of the meeting, Sherman said,

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"It might have some effect, although the situation has worsened." "The President needs time to get himself together, to find out what black folks feel," Sherman said.

When asked about future plans for the black students, Sherman did not signify any set plans.

Sherman said in regard to the student body, "The student body should be unaffected regardless of what happens." He also added, "As far as the demands they should be helping."

Sherman further said, "We asked for a black co-ordinator who could help and advise the president with the legality of our demands." He noted that if such a co-ordinator "worked on the demands with the administration, less meetings of this sort will be needed." "Students don't have the time that a co-ordinator would for doing this," said Sherman.

As far as the dialogue, Sherman said, "He (the president) doesn't listen at all." "Dialogue could be beneficial," Sherman noted, "if the president listened to what we say and realize that we are human beings."