

Group's new leader says deeds are what matter

By KATHERINE GORELL
STATE NEWS STAFF WRITER

Rukeia Draw is a woman of action.

As the recently elected chairperson of the Black Student Alliance, the social relations junior decided to become involved in the group for a variety of reasons, but mainly to give back to the Black community.

"I was involved in (Black) Caucus before; it was a natural progression," Draw said.

Draw describes the organization as a dynamic group of students who care about unifying various organizations on campus.

"We're a communication line between organizations on campus," she said.

"We work with all the other Black organizations on campus; there are over 50. We also do a lot of work with the administration.

She said that being the official Black voice on campus, the alliance works with the Office of Minority Student Affairs, ASMSU and others.

A self-described "people person," Draw is planning to be a professor of sociology.

She also has dreams of working with nonprofit organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Detroit Urban League.

As far as working for change, Draw is more focused on deeds than words.

"I don't care whether people know what I look like," she said. "I just want them to see my

organization as a dynamic group of students who care about unifying various organizations on campus.

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State News/MIKE ZUIDERWEG
Social relations junior Rukeia Draw stands behind the Union Sunday afternoon. Draw is the new chairperson of the Black Student Alliance.

work."

Draw hopes to use her organizational skills to do research on urban life and is very concerned with environmental racism.

"A lot of research on Black people is really incomplete. There's a lack of sensitivity," she said.

Draw gives a lot of credit to Jesus. She also cites Malcolm X as a major influence, along with her mother and grandmother, whom she calls her foundation.

"Without my family, I would not be where I am today," Draw said.

About her plans for the alliance next year, she said that supporting

other organizations' events is a high priority.

"We're going to do more co-sponsorship with other programs ... on a larger scale," she said.

The group's plans include working with the Black Alumni Association for a bigger homecoming.

The alliance is considering adding a celebratory Black graduation program for next year, in addition to its jazz dinner theater, student leadership reception and Black power rally.

"We're planning on redefining our role in MSU's Black community next year," Draw said. "We have a very young, energetic board. We should be able to get a lot done next year."

Mod's
FREE CANDY



BSA elects new chairperson

By HEATHER JOHNSON
STATE NEWS STAFF WRITER

The way Sydney Plant sees it, MSU could do more to make minority students like herself feel at ease on campus.

"I'm glad I came here," the social relations junior said. "But I don't think a lot of students of color are happy to be here. I think you can find problems at any campus, but with the big university, I think a lot of minority students feel alienated."

As the newly-elected chairperson of MSU's Black Student Alliance, Plant, 20, plans to help make minority students — specifically Black students — feel more comfortable. BSA, a 27-year-old group which represents at least 54 Black campus organizations, has always strived for this, she said.

As BSA's financial director this year and as an active member the year before, Plant said she had many worthwhile experiences interacting with other Black students, faculty and staff members and visiting speakers.

Becoming the next BSA chairperson seemed the right thing for her, she said.

"After this year on the executive board having a lot of positive experiences, I really wanted it," she said. "It's just a part of me. It seemed the natural step."

Because BSA had such a successful year under the leadership of outgoing President Monica Lee, Plant said she doesn't anticipate making many changes. Events like the Black Power Rally in March, the Welcoming Reception in August and programs throughout the year that bring together various minority groups are highlights, she said.

"I think we can enhance what we've done this year," she said.

However, her goals include expanding on current community service projects, like working with children and the elderly throughout the Lansing area.

Although BSA events draw

mostly college students or people in their 30s, much can be gained from targeting other age groups, Plant said.

"We can learn a lot from older people and from watching our children," she said.

It's also important to continue getting the word out to the MSU community about what BSA is all about, she said. Every Black student is a BSA member.

"It's not something you have to join," she said. "We're very accessible to students. You don't have to

conform to belong. ... We definitely try to target freshmen. All college students have problems, but specifically more so in the Black community."

Along with encouraging minority students to unite with one another, it's also good to get white students to attend events so they can learn about different cultures, she said.

Unfortunately, reaching these students can be a challenge, Plant said.

"I think a lot of people don't want to bother with it," she said. "There are some things we can do together. ... I can't put my finger on why there's division on this campus. We're trying to help from the inside out."

When Plant isn't involved with BSA activities, she enjoys reading African American literature and hanging out with her friends. However, she said this is a rarity because she dedicates countless hours to the organization.

In three weeks, Plant and Lee will study abroad in South Africa.

"That'll bring back some insight and I'm excited about that," Plant said.

But one aspect of attending MSU that Plant doesn't particularly like is the lack of social outlets for the Black community, she said. Many Black students don't seem to enjoy bar-hopping, perhaps because there isn't a place in the area where they feel comfortable, she said.



MSU social relations junior Sydney Plant is the newly selected chairperson of the Black Student Alliance. BSA is a 27-year-old group that represents at least 54 Black campus organizations.

"It's been a real effort for Black students," she said. "It's not just MSU, it's the community we live in."

Fellow BSA members Lee and Thyronne Henderson, the student advisor, have no doubt Plant will take the organization "to a higher level."

"She's a very positive sister," Henderson said.

"We couldn't leave it in better hands."

Lee, who is graduating, said she feels good "passing on the Black power torch" to Plant.

"She's very articulate and creative, and that's good for motivation," Lee said.

BSA representatives also selected the following new officers:

• Rosee Cobb, vice chairperson

and editor in chief.

• Nicole Shapley, programming board director.

• Aba Johnson, office manager/financial director.

• Tony Leak, public affairs director.

• Tynesha Williams, community affairs director.

• Janelle Simmons, ASMSU Student Assembly representative.

"I'm glad I came here. But I don't think a lot of students of color are happy to be here. I think you can find problems at any campus, but with the big university, I think a lot of minority students feel alienated."

SYDNEY PLANT
Incoming BSA chairperson

State News/ELIZABETH CONLEY

Black student leader outlines goals

By KELLEY L. CARTER

STATE NEWS STAFF WRITER

After a summer trip to South Africa, Sydney Plant — chairperson of MSU's Black Student Alliance — plans to focus the group's energy on student retention.

"I think that we're going to focus more on academics and the pursuit of excellence," Plant said. "I saw people there with difficult or no choices in academics there, here we have some."

She also would like to see BSA incorporate faculty, staff and the Lansing community in the group's reconstruction. The 27-year-old activist group also plans to better utilize campus and national resources.

To do that, members will be inviting professors and local resi-

dents to conduct presentations that will inform students of what's going on in the off-campus community.

The group will be more interactive, focusing on trends with higher education for Black students, Plant said.

While in South Africa, Plant and about 15 others had the opportunity to visit university campuses and local high schools.

"Surprisingly, (South Africa) was very similar to the United States," she said.

"We went to campuses that were just being integrated with Black students at predominately white schools. They were just letting Blacks in."

Plant said the racism and segregation she saw there is reminiscent to the U.S. civil rights movement, and that got her thinking.

"What you hear about that happened here in the 60s and 70s is going on there now," she said. "People have a lot of respect for what we went through here."

Because of the experience there, she said BSA will be putting a lot of practical programs into operation.

"Our programs will be reflecting more academic achievement," she said.

Upcoming events for BSA include:

- A power rally Sept. 27, when Sister Souljah, an activist, rapper and author will address political climate to MSU students.

- A commemoration on the one-year anniversary of the Million Man March, which was held Oct. 16 last year.

BSA's first meeting is at 6 p.m. today in the Union Purdue Room.

JOINT STATEMENT BY BSA -- MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY ACTING-PRESIDENT ADAMS

(Read and supported by Dr. Walter Adams on Wednesday, April 30, 1969)

1. The Committee recommends that a position be established for a Black person in the central personnel office with the general function of recruiting Black personnel and of getting them placed in the University structure. If necessary to give on-the-job training in some instances, this person should see that it is provided.

The Director of Equal Opportunity Programs and the Director of the Center of Urban Affairs should work with the Director of Personnel in determining the structure and the functions this person should perform. The selection of this person shall be made with the advice of the BSA and the approval of the Director of Equal Opportunity Programs and the Director of the Center of Urban Affairs.

2. The Committee recommends that immediate steps be taken to upgrade Blacks in residence hall employment, with on-the-job training if necessary. In the case of Mrs. Triplett, she shall be offered a supervisory position or other promotion.
3. The Committee recommends that there be an immediate search for and subsequent hiring of Black college graduate to be trained for one of the management positions in Wilson Hall, with the advice of the BSA. This is not a quota-filling device, but residence hall management will continue to search out qualified Blacks to fill supervisory positions leading to managers' positions, as openings occur.
4. The Committee recommends that the University administration release a statement of somewhat the following nature: Michigan State University cannot condone the kinds of practices which led to the situation in Wilson Hall. We recognize these as discriminatory in nature and (whether they be by choice or by design) they cannot be tolerated on this campus. The University is taking immediate active steps to eradicate this type of behavior and improve both working and learning experiences.
5. The Committee recommends that Miss Mishler be transferred out of Wilson Hall and out of any supervisory position.
6. The Committee recommends that Mr. Trantham be transferred out of Wilson Hall and placed in a permanent non-supervisory position in food service.
7. The Committee recommends that the President request some knowledgeable faculty member, such as Dr. Killingsworth, to formulate in conjunction with all interested parties some plan for an arbitration system to adjudicate the sort of controversy involved in Wilson Hall. This could not, of course, supplant the union contract provisions concerning covered employees.
8. The Committee recommends that the President request the faculty not to penalize the students involved in the Wilson Hall action in behalf of Black employees during the past three days.
9. The Committee recommends that a progress report be forwarded to the entire University community including specifically the BSA and the Black faculty on the above items on June 1 and October 1, 1969.

Black Students will not sit idly by any more and watch Black workers at MSU de-humanized. If those who rule or govern the operations of this University cannot control their racist employees who are in positions of management, Black Students will do their job for them.

On April 27, 1969, Carolyn Hatcher, a Black Woman, walked off her job because she was being harassed by Joe Frantham, food service manager of Wilson Hall and also by his assistant Jennie Miller. Two other blacks have resigned from Wilson, John Williams and Jolene Shane.

The Black Students at Michigan State University, considers the harassment of Black employees a direct insult. Undoubtedly this University is only trying to buy Black Students off. The "U" gives us 1.5 million which shows their commitment. However, this does not tell Black Students anything as long as Blacks are still being de-humanized.

BSA statement 1
Wilson cafeteria strike

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE BLACK STUDENTS'

ALLIANCE ON BEHALF OF BLACK EMPLOYEES

Michigan State University is again being asked to undertake a critical self-examination in determining how far its rhetoric has outstripped its actual practices. Such an examination is essential not only for the mere maintenance of what this University is; but, more importantly, what many segments of this University have articulated that it should strive to become.

The area of equal treatment of University employees is now being added to the growing list of practices where there yet remains much, much more than a mere vestige of racialist discrimination and injustice.

It is abundantly evident to us that several black employees in the Food Service division of Wilson Hall have been constantly abused by administrators in the division. That these acts were purposeful is obvious. That these acts were, in great measure, rooted in motivations of racist nature is just as obvious.

Black students, faculty, and staff of Michigan State University have already made known its intent to leave no stone unturned as we work to make this University responsive to the needs of society and force from inequality of treatment stemming from consideration of racial origins.

Although we do not shirk the responsibility of being the vanguard in the movement towards this end, the Black Students' Alliance view these efforts as surprisingly in keeping with the expressed goals and intents of this University.

The University has expressed these intents practically on any occasion that presents itself. The Committee of Sixteen voiced such sentiments even a year ago. Preliminary consultation with a cross-section of the University community has yielded a commitment to similar ideals being incorporated into the structure of the Center for Urban Affairs.

More recently, The MSU Board of Trustees, at its last meeting, passed a motion that companies and unions under contract with MSU should file statements affirming fair employment practices. The Federal government, in the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex or national origins by employers with 25 or more employees, and by federal contractors. Michigan State was therefore ordered to make equal opportunity the law by its inclusion in both categories.

The upshot of this listing should be rather clear: Michigan State University is bound both by its stated commitments and by Federal law to prohibit discrimination in all of its operations.

It is our opinion, one well grounded in fact, that through the actions of the administrators involved, Michigan State University has been allowed to slip in its responsibility in this area. We desire to see such insulting and illegal practices cease.

Summary of Facts

Involved Administrators:

Mr. Joseph Trantham, Food Manager
Wilson Hall

Miss Blaine Hishler, Manager
Wilson Hall

Complaining Employees:

Jaleen Shane
Carolyn Hatcher
Loxie Triplett

CASE HISTORY:

Mrs. Carolyn Hatcher, after having been seen for undue emotional stress by a local therapist, and at the suggestion of the therapist, contacted Doctor Robert Green, Dept. of Counseling and Educational Psychology. (A statement in support of this is included for perusal by the committee.)

In following up on the request from Dr. Green, Don Coleman, RHFO Director, submitted a report containing rather extensive documentation of most of the allegations against the administrators. (This report is also included.)

This case, to say the very least, is a massive entanglement of situations with one common thread--that of socialist overtones. A series of meetings have occurred during the history of the case involving several people. The following is intended as a summary of the major allegations.

1. Mr. Trantham is alleged by Miss Hatcher to have rated her work excellent two weeks before her three month rating and changed her rating to below standard on the three month rating. Miss Hatcher refused to sign the below-standard rating because she did not feel her work was so and that sufficient and specific reasons had not been given. "Personality conflict" was later advanced as the reason.

2. As a result of treatment of black employees, particularly Mrs. Hatcher, Emily Smith, line supervisor, wrote a letter in support of Mrs. Hatcher and asking that the issues be resolved. Both Mr. Trantham and Miss Hishler have denied any knowledge of the statement which was seen in Mr. Trantham's possession by Mrs. Hatcher and Mrs. Wilma Phelps, and attested to by Miss Smith.

3. Nana Stinson, a white bake shop employee swore at Mrs. Jaleen Shane. Although the incident was reported to Mr. Trantham, nothing was ever done or said about the matter. When asked by

Mrs. Shane what he would do if a black employee had cursed a white employee, Mr. Tranthum has to this day refused to answer.

4. Miss Shane then approached Miss Mishler about the incident. When her response was one of unconcern, Miss Shane accused her of being prejudiced against blacks. And she acknowledged it: Miss Mishler again acknowledged her prejudices against blacks at a meeting yesterday, involving Don Coleman, the complaints and the administrators involved.

5. General complaint about the work load resulting from several factors were voiced by Mary Danner, Noreen Reeser and Jaleen Shane. A promise was made to have students do the extra work. When it wasn't done, Mr. Tranthum was approached again. His response was "sorry if you don't like it, get out." When Mrs. Mishler was informed of the incident she responded with a promise of more help. Mr. Tranthum called Mary Danner in and offered his apology. An apology was offered to Miss Shane about six (6) months later when confronted in a meeting with City Councilman Joel Ferguson, called in at the request of Miss Hatcher, because of his position with the on-the-job-Training Program.

6. There are several other situations of relevance to the allegations Miss Hatcher charges that she has not been given a regular day off, thus being unable to plan her schedule on a regular basis. White employees were given their choice of two days off and Miss Hatcher offered the left-overs.

7. It is virtually impossible to relay the many other more subtle factors that add to the weight of complaints and allegations. Several members of the Wilson Hall staff, have been quite overt in displaying racism toward the black members of the staff. Insults ranging from a threat to "kick a black person in the ass" to the more sophisticated gossip and telling of contrived lies in an effort to pit black ~~staff~~ members against each other have been tolerated.

Such is the nature of the allegations.

BLACKLASH

(A Black Students' Alliance Publication)

Do you feel that you have been "misused" in anyway whatsoever because you are Black? If so, do not hesitate to bring complaints to BSA -- we will act to rectify the situation- P.S. Skeptics try us! Contact your dorm leader and/or your complex chairman -- the complex officials are:

DISTRICT 1 - SOUTH COMPLEX

Chairman Sam Riddle 56775
Vice Chmn. Rudy Benjamin
34002
Sec'y Evelyn Woods 32361

DISTRICT 2 - BRODY COMPLEX

Chairman Kirk Rhodes 52541
Vice Chmn. Bill Melville
52709
Sec'y Jacqueline Williams
54246

DISTRICT 3 - WEST CIRCLE

Chmn. Bernard Carver 56288
Sec'y Shirley Echois 54903

DISTRICT 4 - EAST COMPLEX

Chmn. Marcia Wilson 33308
Vice Chmn. Robert Collier
32066
Sec'y Dorothy Spruell
33309

Correction: Dorothy Spruell is East Complex Chairman, and Mickey Murphy is the new complex sec'y.

Brother Carver is forming a M.S.U. dance team designed to perform contemporary dances with the Marching Band. This is an excellent opportunity for Blacks who have dancing abilities to express themselves. If you are interested in this, attend the clinics. They are as follows:

- Thursday April 24, 1969
- Thursday May 1, 1969
- Thursday May 8, 1969
- Thursday May 15, 1969

They will meet in the Fencing room of the Women's. in Bldg. from 6pm to 7pm.

A Black student newspaper is tentatively set to publish on May 12. The paper will be political-ly oriented and dealing with the problems and opinions of black students and the black community. It will also aim to bring explosive issues on campus into relevant discussion, and thereby better communication between all brothers as well as blacks and whites.

Do you want to influence the movement with your part or point-of-view? Contact Mike Tripp: 355-8270 or 351-0596.

There will be a meeting of all who want to participate in an all Black Talent Show. The meetings will be every Thursday in the Women's IM building from 8pm to 10pm in rm. 118. For further information, contact Evelyn Woods in Wonders Hall rm. 264, phone 32361.

The BSA of Brody Complex is giving a dance at the American Legion on May 2, 1969 from 9 til 2. The price is one dollar, and a \$10 prize will be given for the best African outfit.

We want you to help make your organization more effective. If you have any suggestions or gripes, make them known. Simply write it down and put it in the "female-dog" box in the BSA office in the basement of the Student Services Bldg., or voice your opinions to your complex officials who will certainly be glad to respond to your needs.

BSA Gospel Chorus meets every Sunday from 5pm to 7pm in rm. 34 of the Union. If you have any questions, call 51301. If you plan to attend, please come. We are giving a performance May 15 here on Campus, and another May 18 in Rattle Creek.

The Omoja CommitteeBlack Thought Of The Day

The African Students Association in conjunction with the homeland this summer. The home brothers feel that at this point in time, it is essential for our people to tie the cord of unity between hemispheres in a single international movement. Furthermore, there has to be established mechanisms for obtaining direct information and news about the various political situations without having first finding yourself being "screened" by the C.I.A. at present there is no way of doing this.

The cultural bond must be re-established. Hence, we felt that it is imperative that we send at least two representatives "home". Representatives who will bring back accurate accounts of our people, who will act as personal referents for the movement on our campus and who will be able, hopefully, to discount the C.I.A. sponsored propaganda as we all saw presented on the special TVseries "Of Black America", which sought to refute all the ties between cultures that we Afro-Americans deem now such a part of of our essence.

If any Black student wishes to join the "Liberation School" please contact Dorothy Sprwell 33309.

Brother Malcolm knew, and perhaps more importantly, "dealt" with his enemy. Do you know who the ENEMY is?

Brother Eldridge Cleaver Speaks. ...Political power grows out of the lips of a pussy. A lot of men in America don't know what it means to be a man any more. They have to fill their role with the role of women. Some of them even think that they are women.. A lot of women think that they are men..The people don't know what they are anymore. But I think that sanity still lies with the women, I think that they've still got more together than the men. So I will say to the women that you turn all of the punks away from your door. When they come to you talking about, well, " I can't relate to that--that's too radical, that's too revolutionary, or we're not ready for that," say "get out of here mother-fucker, don't call me up, don't write me no love letters because I'm going to use them for toilet paper. I'm going to hang up that phone in your face. Don't speak to me on the street until you're able to say, I've got mine together" and I may perform my function." It's still valid for men to be the protectors of the village, that they're the ones who have to protect the tribe, and until they begin to perform that function don't give them no sugar. Cut them off if they fuck with you, or call me personally in California, call me and I'll come out and kill the motherfucker cause he's out of order. Or maybe we're gonna have some people right here in the local area that you can call ...I would say, women, if you don't do that then you are counter-revolutionaries, you're giving aid and comfort to those who are giving aid and comfort to the enemy...

PURPOSE FOR FORMING A BLACK CHEERLEADING TEAM

We the Black Students of Michigan State University have formed a Black cheer team to support our Brothers who are actively engaged in M.S.U.'s sports. We have also formed this cheer team for the following reasons:

- I. Black students feel that Miss Hess's attitude towards Blacks trying out for the present cheer team is unfavorable to Blacks. Therefore, we do not want to force anyone to put Blacks on the cheer team unless we are sure that Black students will be given an equal opportunity in the tryouts.
- II. Black athletes can not relate to white cheerleaders.
- III. Black students can not relate to white cheerleaders.
- IV. Michigan State's style of cheering is traditional, because it only relates to the middle class whites and the white greeks.

GUIDELINES:

The Black cheering team will work in conjunction with the M.S.U. team.

PROGRAM

Football Season

The Black cheer team will come on the field with the football and M.S.U. cheer team, but separate and do our own style of cheering.

Basketball Season

Seeing that the opponents cheer team never travels, there is equal time for the two teams to present their cheers; instead of the opponents' team time, the Black team will utilize it.

Black Caucus celebrates heritage with initiation ceremony

Event authenticated with emphasis on African ritual

By SALLY STAPLETON
STATE NEWS STAFF WRITER

In the spirit of ceremony and celebration, the new officers of MSU's 18 Black Caucuses formally were charged with their positions and duties during an initiation held Sunday evening.

The ceremony, "Rites of Passage," was held at 4 p.m. in the Fairchild Auditorium and featured song, dance and poetry celebrating African heritage.

The groups' presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers, Black Student Alliance representatives, government and Caucus liaisons, and sergeant-at-arms were initiated by Tibebe Guice, an Omawalu priest, who marked their foreheads with oil and placed a kinte cloth on their shoulders.

Sigrid Dixon and Martin F. Hill, both doctoral candidates in counseling psychology, organized the event. Hill said the evening was planned as an to instill in the officers their rights and responsibilities.

"This is something serious and a celebration at the same time," Hill said, adding the program is a spiritually and culturally enriching way of honoring those highly respected by the students who elected them.

Various groups, such as Amka Africa and the Sound Tribe, contributed to the ceremony with African music and dancing. The Omawalu Culture Society Dancers performed an energetic welcoming

routine. A libations ceremony, conducted by Guice, commemorated the spirits of ancestors and well-known Black leaders.

Mary Haas, director of Residence Life and one of the event's speakers, said she was moved by

the ceremony.

"I think it gives the officers a sense of history and the importance of these positions," Haas said. "I think this will really be an outstanding year for the Black Caucus because of the leadership going through this year."

Haas compared the ceremony to a graduation, with officers becoming leaders.

"I have a hunch Caucus will be

better this year because of this," Haas said.

The ceremony was sponsored by the vice president for Student Affairs and Services, the Department of Residence Life, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the Residence Halls Association and the Coalition of Racial and Ethnic Students.

A reception followed the event in McDonel Kiva.



Omawalu Priest Tibebe Guice anoints leaders of MSU's Black community at Sunday's Rites of Passage Ceremony.

State News/COREY TAKAHASHI

STATE NEWS 10-14-96 2A

THE STATE NEWS

700 turn out for Black Power rally

Souljah urges students to get involved, vote

By KELLEY L. CARTER
State News Staff Writer

More than 700 people gathered Friday night for the 1996 Black Power Rally, an event aimed at boosting political awareness.

Students, staff and local residents met at the Business College Complex to heed the political message of controversial rapper, activist and author, Sister Souljah. Poetry readings, dance performances and political rapping rounded out the night's activities.

The number of participants at the Black Student Alliance-sponsored event nearly doubled compared to last year.

BSA chairperson Sydney Plant attributed the increase to Souljah and BSA's active outreach.

"We're focusing on appealing to more students, we're listening to students more and learning what their needs are," Plant said.

Minutes before Souljah spoke, the audience listened to John Shapley, a former BSA president and MSU alumnus. He spoke on political issues he said directly affect Black college students.

"We're living in some serious times now," Shapley said. "It's time not to be afraid, but it's a

time to close the ranks, get serious and communicate."

The rally was dedicated to boosting political awareness in the MSU Black student community and encouraging students to vote.

Shapley said students need to take interest in struggles such as affirmative action, welfare and racism.

He also spoke to students about drugs and recent burnings of Black churches in the South.

"It's not like we're celebrating affirmative action, it's not like we're celebrating welfare," Shapley said. "Those aren't the end-all be-all (issues). But we must realize that these are just attacks on our community."

During the rally, participants — many of whom spilled into the aisles and lined the back walls of the lecture room — were treated to poetry from students and various campus organizations. The MSU African dance troupe, Amka Afrika and the Sound Tribe, also performed.

The much-anticipated Souljah, who was educated at Cornell and Rutgers universities, began her presentation speaking on Tupac Shakur, a hip-hop rapper who died of multiple gunshot wounds in Las Vegas about two weeks ago.

Souljah, who worked closely with Shakur, said she appealed to him to try to alter his direction in life.

"For most young people, it's



State News/ERIC KANE

Sister Souljah speaks during the 1996 Black Power Rally last Friday at the Business College Complex.

very difficult (to change) after living a life of confusion, to work on a positive image," she said. "I attempted to show him the God in himself so that he could take control of his life."

Souljah said she hoped her words would change the way students live, and she encouraged

them to vote.

Souljah, also an employee of Bad Boy Entertainment, a hip-hop production company, compared hip-hop music to the beating of African drums. She said the music signals what's going on in the community.

Souljah's politically-laced pre-

sentation also challenged students on issues of African empowerment and self-identity for Black students.

"Being African is negatively portrayed by the media," she said. "The No. 1 problem in Black America is not having any definition."

Dinner to highlight Harlem Renaissance

After a two-year absence on campus, the Black Student Alliance-sponsored Jazz Dinner Theater has been revived.

The third event will feature a Harlem Renaissance theme with food and live entertainment starting at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in the Union Ballroom.

"This year the theme was chosen as the Harlem Renaissance because it was very classy and rich in Black history," said Rosene Cobbs, the alliance's vice

president.

"Blacks were really a part of the social climate back in the '20s and that's the reason why we chose the Harlem Renaissance," he said.

Poetry reading will be performed by J. Archibald Holland, a New York performer who specializes in Langston Hughes' poetry. Hughes is noted as a pioneer of the Harlem Renaissance era.

Tickets are available today from noon to 3 p.m. in the Union

concourse or the the alliance's office, located in the Union, Cobbs said. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$25 for non-students.

"(The Harlem Renaissance) is kind of reminiscent of a time when Blacks didn't really have to worry," Cobbs said.

"But this also is to give a break (for students) and to showcase BSA as a social group, not just cultural."

KELLEY L. CARTER

Minorities gather to discuss hate crimes

Black students react to reported drive-by shooting

By HEATHER JOHNSON
STATE NEWS STAFF WRITER

It's the subtle things people say and do that remind Paulo Gordillo minorities still have a long way to go to achieve equality.

"There have been days when I think things are getting better, and there have been days when I feel hopeless," the labor and industrial relations sophomore said.

"Overall, I think I've seen an increase in racial intolerance," said Gordillo, a member of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan.

MSU officials stress that the University is committed to maintaining a safe and comfortable campus, but minorities say more should be done. About 50 students, mostly members of the Black Student Alliance, met Thursday night to discuss on-campus safety for Black students and other minorities.

BSA members brought up the issue in light of a Nov. 18 alleged shooting that may have been racially motivated.

A 17-year-old Shaw Hall resident, who is Black, told police he was walking by himself on campus when a group of white men in a car yelled racial slurs at him, and one fired a round from a handgun. The shots did not hit him and the vehicle sped away, the student said.

Police are investigating the incident, but so far have no leads, said Detective Alicia Spalding of the MSU Department of Police and Public Safety.

"The case is still open and there are no suspects that have been identified," she said.

Because the incident is under investigation, Spalding said she could not say whether the shots

were fired or if the incident was racially motivated.

BSA members said they are upset with University officials for not yet addressing the incident. If one Black student is harmed, the rest of the Black community needs to be made aware so it can be cautious, several members said.

In a paid announcement on Page 3 of today's issue of The State News, MSU President M. Peter McPherson states he will not tolerate "acts or threats of violence and destruction of property, including hate-filled graffiti" on campus.

"We need to know who our enemies are more than who our friends are," said BSA Chairperson Monica Lee. "We're dealing with serious times."

This doesn't mean harming anyone, Lee said, but means Blacks must be prepared.

For Black students, it's important to remember past leaders and

their tactics in fighting racism in order to combat problems today, said Marcus Shapley, a history and urban affairs graduate student.

"When we deal with racial conflict, we need to rely on our greatest gift — our history," Shapley said. "Don't be afraid to stand collectively as

Black people. No one should be afraid of their life in broad daylight, especially on a university campus."

MSU Police is committed to finding those who make the campus unsafe for everyone, said University spokesman Terry Denbow.

"There's been some incidents that have occurred that give us great concern," Denbow said. "The commitment we're making is the perpetrators that commit such acts will be brought to justice."

MSU Police Lt. Ken Hall told BSA members he would like to work with the group to educate them on hate crimes and what precautions to take, but said he couldn't release much information about the Nov. 18 incident.

Please see REACT, page 10

REACT

continued from page 1

"This incident can generate no more specific action than us giving you general tips on safety," Hall said.

It's important for McPherson to express his commitment to making the University a safe place, but action must follow, said Rodney Patterson, assistant to the vice president for student affairs and services.

Patterson said he could write a book on the ways the University could make its environment a more comfortable place.

"For many in the population, it's not comfortable. They feel they have to be on guard," said Patterson, who also serves as multicultural development coordinator and acting director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs. "There's a whole lot of concrete solutions."

Gordillo said the University needs to educate in addition to monitoring and preventing crime.

"I highly doubt the University is doing anywhere near what they can," he said. "If they truly were committed to an environment of nonviolence and one of equality, what happened to that poor man (alleged Nov. 18 shooting) wouldn't have happened."

Gordillo suggested seminars be held for both minorities and whites in the MSU community to educate one another on their cultures. A class on fighting stereotypes also could help, he said.

"It wouldn't solve the problems, but it would help," he said. "It would curb attitudes."

"No one should be afraid of their life in broad daylight, especially on a university campus."

MARCUS SHAPLEY

History and urban affairs graduate student

State News 12-8-95 P. 10

The black Students at Michigan State would like to inform white students at Michigan State University that the occupation of Wilson's cafeteria was a necessary move. Black Students did not occupy Wilson with the intention of inconveniencing any white students. However, black Students cannot tolerate racists action any longer. White students shouldn't either. Therefore read the issues involved before you make any value judgements. Then give us your support in what ever manner you deem necessary.

Caution: Do not let any racist individuals lead you to believe that Black Students are attacking white students. Although many white students will have to eat in other halls, black students must remain in Wilson until the University resolves this situation. It is the white ruling class who must be held responsible by both Black and white students.

TO INFORM THE WHITE STUDENT BODY

The Black students at Michigan State University will occupy Wilson Cafeteria until an open session can be structured for 3:00 Thursday, May 1, 1969. The occupation of Wilson cafeteria took place after the Black Students' Alliance was contacted about the harassment of five Black Employees in Wilson's food Service Department by the managers at Wilson.

The Black Workers harassed were:

1. Carolyn Hatcher
2. John Williams
3. Joleen Shane
4. Wilma Phelps
5. Roxie Triplett

The managers are: Joe Tranthan
Blaine Mischler

Statement 2
after midnight

THE CASE AT HAND

Carolyn Hatcher - Salad woman - was hired from O.J.T., Joel Ferguson helped her get the job. On 2 occasions she has been called in by Joe Tranthan, Food manager and has had threats raised about her job. Tranthan stated that she is working below standards. However, she feels she is doing a good job, so much, that she has worked 2 days all by herself when other girls have been off. It is evident that management has shown preferential treatment among certain staff members when they are assigned "days off". No definite day given for Carolyn, who is the sole support of 6 children. She cannot plan a business activity day, because of the uncertainties which exist. Tranthan is recognized as a liar, a two-faced, double-dealing, coniving individual who constantly holds the threat and fear of the job over black employees. He has suggested that Carolyn transfer to the Custodial staff, but white employees whose work performance does not measure up to Carolyn's are over-looked.

Noreen Reesor - white - threw a knife at a supervisor 2 years ago and recently spit on a supervisor and called him a pig, and she still works in the salad department. Carolyn's 6 month probation will soon be up May 12th and Tranthan said he would have the last word. Joe Tranthan is the problem, for he antagonizes and constantly pits staff members against one another. He does not have the trust of staff for "when he pats you on the back - he's got a knife in his hand." I see this clearly as a racist thing and something is going to be done about it.

Carolyn is dedicated to her job, and even when she strained her wrist and back lifting crates of lettuce, she did not go home.

Joleen Shane - Supports 2 children and comes from O.J.P., has worked 3 years for the university! Miss Elaine Mischler - mgr. Wilson Cafeteria refuses to hear staff members out and gives them no opportunity or self expression - very authoritarian. Joleen accused Miss Mischler of being prejudiced against blacks and she acknowledged it.

Nana Stinson - bake shop (white) swore at her and this is not to be taken lightly in the future. Nana is somewhat unstable (mentally).

Wilma Phelps (white) is supportive of black people and is fed up with their treatment at Wilson. She has to support a boy and her job is threatened by Tranthan. She was recently disciplined for refusing to do work in a specified manner. They refuse to give her a hearing and gave her 4 days off without pay. I recommend that this sanction be removed from her record because of the racist attitude that prevails in Wilson.

Roxey Triplett - Cook - Wilson Hall. This Black woman has been the target for much abuse during the 7 years of her employment at M.S.U. She was misused. She went on pregnancy leave, and when she came back she had to start at the lowest pay rate after having 2 years of service. Taylor Groves cook supervisor is constantly gossiping and causing friction among black staff and is always critical of their output. White administrators in Wilson evidently are operating under an old stereotype that Negroes (Black) are lazy, happy-go-lucky people. Taylor Groves "speaks with a forked tongue" and is a man of many faces. He too, pits Blacks against Blacks by gossiping about them - running them down. He seems to me to be somewhat unstable!

Emily Smith (White) Line Supervisor wanted to have a meeting to resolve these issues. She wrote a paper supporting Carolyn-- Where is this paper? What did it entail?

Virginia Miller (White) is an instigator for Joe. She gets things started and is always threatening to pull people's cards. She is too authority oriented to "supervise".

John Williams (Black freight elevator operator) threatened by Jim Strickland who said he would "kick him in his ass". Jim denied this but Joe Thranthan heard him but there is no doubt in my mind he will support Jim. Another example of white attitudes about blacks.

It is evident that the following white supervisory personnel consisting of: Jim Strakley, Elaine Mischler, Joe Thranthan have shown definite tendencies of racism in the above cases. Management needs to look seriously at this problem. No one should have to live in fear of a job. I am recommending that Management make a concerted effort to cease and desist from these practices and further propose that they open positions for Black supervisors in the kitchen and diningroom, and reception areas in our dorms. Also, open job opportunities for black students

Don E. Coleman

211-1-1
Wilson Hall (1)
Pre-noon (2)

A T T E N T I O N !

The allegations against two MSU administrators that sparked the closing down of food services in Wilson Hall by Black students will be heard at an open hearing at 3 PM today in Wilson Hall.

Black students have felt it necessary to occupy the Wilson cafeteria since they learned of the overt and covert acts of racism that have occurred in Wilson.

Several black employees have been harassed to the point that some have voluntarily left their jobs. Several white employees are aware of the treatment of black employees and have, at several times, requested that the complaints of black employees be aired and resolved.

This is an issue that concerns all people at MSU who are committed to equal opportunity and an end to racism at this University and in society.

The Black Students' Alliance urges your attendance.

BLACK STUDENTS' ALLIANCE

STATEMENT OF THE BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE

The Black Student Alliance feels that the administration's primary importance is educating people and not programming them. The University should be responsible to the students and should not be a dictatorship; the University should not decide what is right and wrong for us. The University should not in any manner suppress intellectual freedom, freedom of thought or freedom of speech. When the University co-operates with the FBI, the CIA, and local police they are in effect doing just that. They pervert the primary duty of law enforcement officials because they are no longer servants but instruments of suppression and terror.

The University should support democracy, but this University at present is not a democracy. The reason the University exists is because the students exist, therefore, the University must be responsible to the students.

We (The Black Students Alliance) support the demand that the University not cooperate with outside police authorities. We support the demand that the University police be brought under the control of a faculty-student committee.

It is becoming increasingly evident everyday that the status-quo cannot be tolerated. BSA, being composed of Black students, has merely been exposed to more overt and hostile suppression on the individual level than most white students. It should now be obvious that this is not strictly the Black man versus the White man; it is the old versus the new, the "haves" against the "have-nots", and above all a battle to establish fundamental truths at the expense of the perverted ideals that this system now embraces.

We as a generation are fully aware that the world situation as it stands now is in bad shape. The responsibility for the present situation does not lie on our shoulders, but the responsibility for the future does. If we do not strive together as human beings toward a truly just community of man, then we will not in effect have sold out the entire human race.

BSA is totally committed to revolutionary changes for the benefit of not only Black people, but for all of mankind. Black is not just a description of the color of one's skin, it is primarily the color of one's mind --- and Black is Beautiful.

Members of the Black Student Alliance

BSA