

BU Establishes Black Culture House, Sets Afro Degree Plan

By **BERNADINE MARTIN**
Staff Writer

Bradley University has established a Black Culture House and will establish a program in Afro-American studies leading to a degree, Bradley President Dr. Talman W. Van Arsdale Jr. announced today.

Dr. Van Arsdale made the disclosures in a "Statement of Principles", which also contained guidelines and programs in the areas of civil and academic rights, housing, the Academic Review Board, orientation for entering students, counseling, and black faculty members.

The "Statement of Principles" was issued at a hastily-called meeting of the faculty Senate, held this noon in the Student Center, and was to be read to students later in the afternoon at a meeting of the student Senate.

VAN ARSDALE issued it as a kind of white backlash swept at least part of the campus—a reaction to the administration's meetings with Negro students and agreeing to many of their demands.

A group of students calling itself the United Student Effort passed out leaflets on the campus today demanding to know whether the administration was now giving preferential treatment to Negroes.

The Black Student Alliance at Bradley on Jan. 13 presented a series of "demands" dealing with many of the topics in the "Statement of Principles," and at a meeting on Jan. 15, University officials said that they already were — or soon would be — doing something about the grievances.

The Black Culture House is a university-owned two-story frame residence at 902 N. Elmwood Ave., the former Bradley security headquarters. It will be used for meetings, social gatherings, and cultural programs, and will be open to all Bradley students, black students said at the Jan. 15 meeting. No students will live there.

THREE RELIGIOUS organizations on campus — the Newman Foundation, Chi Rho, and Hillel — also have centers for students.

The University, "in recogni-

tion of the importance of Black Culture in American life," has established the Black Culture House "for the enrichment of the total Bradley University community," Dr. Van Arsdale said.

The Afro-American studies program is being planned "in recognition of the importance of and great interest in Afro-American studies," he said. "The various co-operating departments and schools will begin implementation by September, 1970."

Van Arsdale said in his "Statement of Principles":

... Black students, in particular, because of exclusivism and discrimination, are in need of special programs and help if they are to realize their full academic potential." (Bradley has about 200 Negro students out of a total enrollment of about 5,000.)

Dr. Van Arsdale read the entire statement to the faculty Senate, then adjourned the meeting without giving opportunity for questions.

THESE, HE said later, will be answered at another press conference and meeting scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at the fieldhouse.

Dr. Van Arsdale, after today's meeting, admitted to a reporter that in part the reason for calling it was the "reaction" of some of the white students to the university financing of some programs demanded by the Negro students.

Also, he said, he felt it was time to get down on paper the principles embraced by the university in the field of Negro relations.

The first of the principles enunciated today, he said, was aimed directly at such incidents as the blocking of doors on the campus such as occurred Tuesday morning. Groups of Negro students barred entrance to the administration building for a little more than a half-hour while Dr. Van Arsdale was

meeting with officers of the Black Student Alliance over a question of money to be allotted by the university for the financing of a Black Culture Week. A white student leader said they did this to keep out the press; Negroes didn't say.

A story in today's issue of the Bradley Scout said that the university had originally promised a specific amount of money for a Black Culture Week observance next month, but later cut the figure to about one-fifth.

(THE AMOUNTS weren't mentioned, but a letter to the editor in the same issue of the student newspaper said the promise was originally between \$9,000 to \$11,000 and then cut to one-fifth.)

The Scout story said that at Tuesday's meeting the university again agreed to "provide the amount which the

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black students had previously anticipated."

Dr. Van Arsdale said today that the financing question has been resolved, but declined to say how much money was agreed upon.

He said he would go into this Tuesday, but couldn't today since some of the money would now come from outside sources, and he isn't certain at this time how much will come from the university.

Following is the text of the "Statement of Principles":

"The University is a concerned community committed to the task of aiding man in his search for meaning in ways that will be creatively relevant to the structures of his society through free inquiry and dialogue. However, not all students can take full advantage of the academic opportunities available, and in some respects the programs available no longer fit the legitimate needs of all our students. Moreover, Black students, in particular, because of exclusivism and discrimination, are in need of special programs and help if they are to realize their full academic potential.

"The University as an academic community has, therefore, begun to initiate some special programs which will meet these needs. The University in doing so believes that the entire academic community will be enriched by the added cultural dimension and by the full and successful participation of Black students in the affairs and programs of the University.

"The University further believes that these programs should not foster separatism leading to a dual university, but rather should encourage the contributions that unique cultural groups can make to the traditions of our pluralistic society.

"The University will not embark on any program which violates its academic integrity. It does this in an attempt to put into practice academic ideals of excellence which we in academe cherish. We seek to extend them to all students capable and willing to commit themselves.

"In order to realize the full academic potential of Bradley University and all its constituent groups, we encourage the participation of students with faculty, administration, and trustees in making creative proposals and in their effectuation.

However since Bradley Uni-

resources. Therefore, the basic criterion in the allocation of its resources is the contribution of each program toward the achievement of the most urgent academic needs.

"Affirming the above ideas and goals, the University, with reference to immediate needs, has developed the following guidelines and programs. Some of the points which follow are, of course, mere reaffirmations of agreements previously reached.

CIVIL AND ACADEMIC RIGHTS

"If the University is to function effectively, the academic and civil rights of all its constituents must be preserved for any type of coercion is an anathema to the spirit of the academic community. The University will take all appropriate action necessary to protect the exercise of these rights by all students, faculty, administration, and staff, from infringement by any groups whether on or off the campus.

HOUSING

"It is the responsibility of Bradley University to assure that all students have adequate housing which meet standards of health and comfort conducive to good study habits and academic success. Black students and others are and have been subject to discriminatory practices. Bradley University takes the position that racially-segregated housing is wrong and is inconsistent with the goals of a university and will undertake all steps, including legal action, to ensure equality of treatment.

THE ACADEMIC REVIEW BOARD

"A review, with the objectives of a reformulation of the basis of representation and philosophy under which the A. R. B. must function, will be undertaken at once.

(Editor's Note: Negroes have attacked the board because all its members are white.)

ORIENTATION

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"In order to realize the full academic potential of Bradley University and all its constituent groups, we encourage the participation of students with faculty, administration, and trustees in making creative proposals and in their effectuation.

"However, since Bradley University is a private institution with a minimum endowment and limited funds it must balance its goals against its

Man's Snooze In Street Could Have Been Last

A 47-year-old man picked the middle of the southbound traffic lane of the 800 block Southwest Washington street last night to take a nap.

Police interrupted the snooze of Emery J. Joyner, who gave his address as 316 W. 2nd Ave., and he was lodged in the city jail charged with disorderly conduct.

Motorists had called the police station to report that a man was sleeping in the middle of the street.

\$60,000 Church Building Drive Announced

CASTLETON — The congregation of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church has voted to raise \$60,000 to finance the building of a church on a two-acre plot at the southeast corner of Rts. 88-17, overlooking the Camp Grove valley area.

The congregation includes residents of the Castleton, Wyoming, Toulon, Bradford, Sheffield, Buda, Camp Grove and Henry areas.

The church was founded in 1878. The Rev. Floyd Ohman is its pastor.

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"Bradley University reaffirms its commitment to provide Black and other student counseling and financial aid assistance, and has undertaken steps towards fulfillment of this obligation.

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES-DEGREE

"In recognition of the importance of and great interest in Afro-American studies, Bradley University commits itself to the establishment of an interdisciplinary Afro-American studies-degree program. The various cooperating departments and schools will begin implementation by September, 1970. Consonant with all other academic programs of the University the Afro-American studies-degree program will be open to all interested students.

BLACK FACULTY

"In recognition of the unique contribution of Black faculty members to the academic life and culture of the University, Bradley has added several Black scholars to its staff. Consistent with Bradley University's pluralistic approach to the academic community, it will continue to seek out faculty members who have particular and unique qualifications in all disciplines.

"The University, in fulfilling its functions, must preserve and transmit what is the best of the past but must also attempt to identify the needs and challenges of the present and future. These principles are conceived in this spirit.