

BSU Seals Off Shields, Backs Ogontz Demands



—Collegian Photos by Pierre Bellcini

Closed Session

IN ACTIONS related to the recent demonstrations by black students at the University's Ogontz Campus, 70 black University students occupied the lobby of Shields Building yesterday. The local demonstrators warned of additional actions if demands by Ogontz students are not met.

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Collegian Staff Writers

About 70 University black students sealed off the lobby of Shields yesterday and said they would take more action today if the demands of the Black Student League at the Ogontz Campus are not met.

The students entered the building, which houses the Bursar's Office and Records Office, around 2:30 p.m. and blocked the entrance to the building.

T. Sherman Stanford, director of academic services, read a statement shortly before 5 p.m. asking the students to leave the area since "your activities have interfered with the University's services to its students."

Demonstrators Didn't Leave

The demonstrators made no immediate move to leave.

Vince Benson, Black Student Union political activities coordinator, spoke to the blacks assembled in the Shields lobby, and then released the following statement:

"As members of the black community at the Pennsylvania State University, the Black Student Union at University Park will be engaged in a number of acts today. These acts will impress upon the Penn State University the need to implement and administer the demands placed upon it at Ogontz campus by members of the Black Student League at Ogontz and Delaware Campuses, the Black Economic Development Conference, the Afro-American Alliance and the black community at large.

"The Black Student Union at the Penn State University unites in a bond of solidarity and unity with the black community of Philadelphia. To support the black community at Philadelphia is to support ourselves. The central administration will be granted amnesty from the black community only if it implements and administers the demands of the black

community. 'A strike to one is a blow to ALL.' The attempt to ignore, water down and castrate the demands of the Black Student Union, the black community at University Park, has been received as a blow to ALL black communities. We now join together as one — BSL at Ogontz and Delaware BEDC, Afro-American Alliance, BSU at University Park, (the 2nd Region of the National Association of Black Students (N.Y., N.J., Pa.) will fight the racism of Penn State until victory. These organizations are the black community and they will not be ignored.

Aware of BSL Efforts

"The 2nd Region of the National Association of Black Students, headquarters at the University Park Campus, is aware of the efforts of the Black Student League at the Ogontz Campus, with the assistance of the Philadelphia Black Economic Development Conference of the Afro-American Alliance and the black community of the area.

"The second Region of the National Association of Black Students supports fully the actions made by the brothers and sisters at Ogontz Campus, and the black community will be assisting the Black Student Union at University Park Campus in our moves of solidarity with our black community.

"Furthermore, there will be a tri-state convention of the second region of NABS (Pa., N.Y. and N.J.) to develop a viable black student front that will solidify the black people in the tri-state area, so that we will more effectively deal with racist institutions like the Penn State University specifically and the nation in general (the head of the octopus that must be destroyed).

"Reparations are due to the black people and we will collect."

No Specific Actions

Benson refused to say specifically what actions the BSU would take if the demands were not met, but did not rule out the possibility of a march on Old

Main. Regarding a possible black boycott of classes, Benson replied that "as far as the blacks were concerned, the University is closed."

Benson said the reason why Shields was chosen as the place for the demonstration, was because, "The brains of the University are at Old Main. The heart of the University—the money—is here at Shields. Without the heart, the brains can't work."

A secretary in Shields said some of the blacks entered her office, looked around and then left.

Another Shields employe stated that she was instructed by her supervisor that she should not try to deliver the mail.

Reporter 'Removed'

One Daily Collegian reporter was bodily removed by two black students from the building after being asked by the blacks, "Don't you know that this building is closed?"

Vice president for Student Affairs Charles L. Lewis commented on the situation, "We had difficulty at Shields Building." Asked what action the Administration plans to take, he said, "We're still trying to assess the situation at this point."

Among those present at the demonstration were Undergraduate Student Government President Ted Thompson and J. Raleigh Demby, regional director of HABS.

Officials Present

Stanford and Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Scott were present at the time of the disturbance.

A telephone barage to Old Main earlier in the afternoon was reportedly coordinated by black students. Blacks also were seen running through various residence halls taking telephones off the hooks.

A spokesman in Shields said students whose drop-add processes were interrupted by the demonstration would "have their cases taken into consideration," leaving the door open for a slightly extended drop-add period.