



Afro-American studies major now part of Yale curriculum

New Haven, Conn. — (I.P.) — For the first time, a new curriculum at Yale has been developed not by the faculty alone but jointly with students. The Yale faculty voted recently to establish a new program in Afro-American Studies. Effective next September Yale students will be able to major in this field during their four undergraduate years.

The planning committee consisted of four professors and four students — the latter all members of the Black Student Alliance at Yale.

Although many colleges, including Yale, have been offering individual courses in Afro-American studies, the new Yale program is the first of a major university that makes this subject a field of study leading to the B.A. degree.

The committee anticipated the objections of some scholars that Afro-American courses are being proposed for political and not intellectual reasons. Robert A. Dahl, Sterling professor of political science who was committee chairman, emphasized that the strongly stated desire for the program among some Yale students "should hardly be considered a disadvantage, much less a disqualification."

HOWEVER, HE SAID, "the only valid justification of the proposed program, and the only one advanced by those of us who propose this major, is that it fulfills legitimate educational needs at Yale and meets the standards we expect in all our majors."

The program, he pointed out, is designed to meet the needs of white students as well as black. "It is hard to say which is the most appalling," he said, "the ignorance of whites about black people or the ignorance of Afro-Americans about their own experience."

Charles H. Taylor, provost of Yale, emphasized that "the Black students' recommendation of a major in Afro-American studies has been especially persuasive on two counts:

"First, they have insisted from the beginning that it is educationally

essential for all students in Yale College to be able to enlarge their understanding of the Black experience;

"Second, they have insisted that the major be intellectually rigorous, urging concentration in a discipline, such as history or economics, together with the interdisciplinary scope which the subject requires."

The proposal approved by the faculty was the result of more than nine months of work by the joint committee appointed last winter by President Kingman Brewster, Jr. Members of the black Student Alliance at Yale (BSAY) met with Brewster

and other staff and faculty officers including Taylor to discuss, among other topics, curriculum.

THE BSAY has about 100 members representing about 90 per cent of the black students at Yale. Last May the BSAY scheduled a special conference with the support of the University on the subject of "the intellectual value and relevance of studying and teaching the Black Experience. Featured were a number of leading Negro intellectuals including Harold Cruse, Maulana Ron Karenga, Alvin Poussaint and Boniface Obichere.

Heading the list of white speakers was McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation. Many of the recommendations of the conference were incorporated into the proposal presented by the joint Yale committee to the faculty.

Student health gives informal talk sessions

Informal health education is an important part of the program of the University Health Services, according to Student Health clinician Dr. Richard Hammer.

He explained that the personnel of Student Health act as "resource people" for campus living units. If a presentation on a health topic is requested by a living unit, Student Health finds someone who can present it.

Topics in the past have included mental health, smoking, drugs, venereal disease, contraceptive devices, physical fitness and infectious mononucleosis, Dr. Hammer said.

Programs are scheduled Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings anytime from five to ten p.m. Attendance varies from 10 to 150, he said.

Dr. Hammer said that the Student Health staff will try to work out any topics that might interest a group.

"This year the most popular topic seems to be sex, as usual," he added.

Wanted: A Bullwhip Instructor — Bill Szymanski will do a bullwhip dance as Atahualpa, Inca king and Sun God, in "The Royal Hunt of the Sun," a play to be presented on Howell stage beginning April 30. Szymanski wants anyone who can teach him to use the whip to call the drama department.

NU student lobbying termed frustrating

Student lobbying in the Unicameral has been moderately successful, according to Diane E. Theisen, chairman of the ASUN's Legislative Liaison Committee.

"We're students," Miss Theisen said. "We can't be full time lobbyists. We just can't put in the time."

Lobbying is a full-time job, she continued. Often the task — trying to get acquainted with the senators and to present a point of view — seems overwhelming and frustrating.

The committee would like to express student viewpoints on legislative bills such as open housing, she said. But mostly, lobbying has been concentrated on bills of particular interest to students.

LOBBYING was done on the defeated marijuana bill, the bill lowering the contractual age in Nebraska and several measures relating to higher education.

In past years, student lobbying has been limited to the University budget, but Miss Theisen said that the committee has tried to branch out more this year.

"The question is often asked, 'do we want student lobbyists at all?'" she said. "Personally I think we should."

DESPITE the problems, Miss Theisen feels a great deal has been accomplished.

"Some senators have been very impressed," she said. "Some senators have said they like hearing student views."

The state senators often ask what the student opinion is around the campus. In past years, the student lobbyists had no comprehensive figures, she explained.

The committee, in reality, has much broader duties than just lobbying, Miss Theisen explained. Some of these duties do involve the Legislature.

"Student Public Relations" could be the term for it, she said.

The committee has contacted senators and invited them to come to the campus for a general tour or for speaking engagements. The committee is trying to familiarize senators with the University.

So far, about half of the Unicameral members have replied to invitations, Miss Theisen said. Some senators have already visited the University, but at the request of other organizations. Most of the senators' visits will

have to be concentrated after spring vacation.

IN CONJUNCTION with their public relation's tasks, the committee is planning a series of monthly half hour television programs on station KUON-TV. These programs, Miss Theisen said, would help illustrate student life all over the campus.

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