

# Haverford Blacks Offer 12 'Suggestions' As Boycott of Most Activities Continues

By Nan Williams

Since February 1 the Black Student League (BSL) has boycotted all college life, including all jobs, all extracurricular groups, classes and jobs, and recently issued 12 "suggestions" for administrative action. According to the BSL, the problem is one of institutional attitude rather than specific grievances, and because of the negative, administrative reaction to the boycott has been slow.

The boycott was triggered by the expulsion of several black students, but, as Doug Kananovich, assistant to the President, explained, that has not been the only real issue, which is a "rift on campus between blacks and whites."

## DIFFERENT CULTURES

A spokesman for the BSL said in a telephone interview that "Haverford is a community, and the blacks are not part of the group." The BSL is asking the community for a genuine commitment to diversity, a recognition of the existence of different cultures on campus, and admission that the "white bourgeois culture" is not, necessarily, the most valid one.

The BSL issued a 12-point list of "suggestions" for the administration.

The deadline for some kind of action on these issues was today, but by last Wednesday, it is a week in the college community. President John E. Coleman had pledged fulfillment of all the suggestions.

Some of the more important points on the list of suggestions are:

1) Formation of a committee of a budget that includes a commit-

ment of institutional diversity, and a statement justifying it.

2) A plan for the normalization of college government in student, with the end of becoming representative of the actual diversity of Haverford College.

3) Formation of search committees charged with finding a fully qualified minority counselor and a minority administrative officer.

4) The initiation of a summer program for increasing minority students and the allocation of funds to allow for participation in that or various other summer school programs.

Although the BSL set a deadline for action on these issues, it considers them to be "symbolic gestures of good intent," and, according to their spokesman, the issues will not end until the college shows a broader commitment to institutional diversity.

## CRITICISM

There has been considerable criticism of the administration, and particularly of President Coleman, for the slow and seeming unwillingness to act on the problems. Kananovich explained this by saying that "a lot of things are unclear."

A staff member of *The News* commented that as one reads issues what to do. However, he said, it "seems" but that is difficult to find out what's going on and what to do about it."

On Monday, February 7, the administration issued to the Student

Council and the House Council a 15-page document, called the Educational Commitment Program. It was not issued to the BSL, or to the faculty. It was recalled before Thursday with an explanation.

According to *The News*, the BSL was not consulted in the preparation of the document and felt that this was a serious mistake on the part of the administration, since the document "professed to find solutions to some of the problems faced by Haverford's black students at least since 1968."

President Coleman's address on Wednesday dealt with specific issues. (Continued on Page 2)



BSL staff

Collier Blues (left) in last of three Monday afternoon performances of Rock Union for Unaccompanied Cells sponsored by the B.K. series.



Visiting New and releases for tonight's "Jazzing" series.

acting as a staff member of The Post, he was "very sympathetic to the HCU's position." He made a definite commitment to secure full consultation with the HCU in the areas of college life, as well as pledging fulfillment of all 11 suggestions. The five areas were:

- 1) Every regular faculty appointment, re-appointment, promotion and tenure decision.
- 2) Administrative appointments at the senior level.
- 3) All budget recommendations.
- 4) Capital programs (i.e. buildings).
- 5) Recommendations policies (i.e. size of the college, makeup of the student body, financial aid, employment conditions, and relations with

government, etc.).

Coleman added that "the question is not whether I'll accept them, simply how. Let's start talking."

According to our sources, Coleman specifically commended the HCU for its commitment to academics, by its extending the boycott to classes, and further, praised their use of "harsh" that Harvard has received: uniform tuition, discipline, tenure, and even classes.

There has not been any reaction yet to the President's speech from the HCU. A HCU spokesman did indicate however, that Coleman's speech might be influential in the decision as to whether or not to continue the boycott.