

Reviewing Africa

Afro-American Seminars Elicit Varied Responses

By George Obiozor

I have been asked by the editor of the TRAIL to give information about the reactions of the students concerning the Afro-American Culture Course (Humanities 111). The following are certain comments from several students who enrolled in the course. In addition I asked Dr. N'geno's opinion since his experience and position would serve to ensure a certain amount of objective and sincere observation.

Tom Berg: It is quite fascinating to observe characters adjusting to a new environment. A majority of UPS students have never had the opportunity to know the plight of the black student and the black nation. The Afro-American culture class has provided that environment in which the black student can voice his opinions of existing black-white problems, while the background for his attitudes are provided by anthropologists, historians, playwright and poets. We are all finding our prejudices which is a step in the right direction. Now, we are to find the solution, which I believe will come only when we understand ourselves as individuals.



George Obiozor discusses Afro American Seminar with Al Kiest of the Trail Staff.

Charlie Baker: There is still a chance that the Afro-American seminar may be a success. I feel that there is too much structure along with dominating professors. Blacks should have more to say and their opinions should be varied more than they are.

Penny Matthews: I feel that the Afro-American culture class is one of the few classes where real learning takes place. I haven't been especially impressed by the lectures, but the discussion sections get down to the gut level where real learning takes place and affects one's life. I think it would be valuable to have marathon encounter sessions, since in our discussion sections things seem to get cut-off at critical points.

Mary Mestad: An excellent idea. More of this sort of thing—Study of current issues facing us, than backgrounds, are needed. UPS is a very conservative place; we need to get in touch with what's happening. There should be more general discussion especially of current trends such as black power, and so on.

Dr. N. J. Ng'eno: I think that the course in Afro-American culture could serve a very useful two-fold purpose: that of understanding the black man and that of eliminating myths surrounding the black man which contribute to the alienation and ostracism of the blacks in the society. It has usually been stated that the discrimination and fear of the black people have the basis on lack of understanding of the black man. This course could



bring about this understanding. Furthermore, the course could help in the process of dehythologizing the various stereotyped views about the black man held by the white people in this country.

To accomplish these goals, however, the course needs a more thorough organization and should be conducted by a qualified individual as any other course. A black professor, although this is not necessary, should be appointed to conduct the class. It seems to me the course is just there merely to satisfy the demands of black students primarily. I could be wrong in this assumption, but if I am correct, the course could never materialize into anything useful because the reasons for its existence are not the same as those for the existence and the teaching of other courses.

To the best of my knowledge the Afro-American course is in good hands. So far it has been an exciting experience and has many chances for future improvements along the line of course structure and adequate timing.

ROTC Hosts Football Game

By Kim Kaiser

This year the ROTC detachment at UPS is reviving an old tradition which has not been seen since 1963. This is the Upper classmen-Lower classmen football game.

This Saturday, at 3 o'clock the cadet officers and airmen of detachment 900 will meet on the girls' athletic field for what promises to be a very entertaining, if not outstandingly played football game. Members of the Angel Flight will be on hand to witness the show and revive tired players with refreshments.

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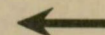
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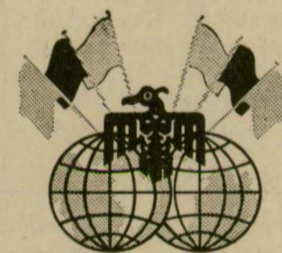
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