

# Students address racism

Continued from Page 1

Across campus, away from the cameras, another black student, Clifton Simmons of Southfield, is talking about racism on campus and how hard campus life can be for a black student from the suburbs.

"They (fellow blacks) isolated me. I came in with open arms, but they came off. You're from Southfield, you don't understand where I'm coming from," he said.

"Living in the suburbs doesn't exclude you from what's going on. Sure, I've always had a roof over my head, and clothes on my back, but I'd come up against racism in the suburbs. We've had shared experiences," the 1985 Southfield High graduate says.

Simmons, who found acceptance from fellow blacks and is now president of his black fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, said he supports the sit-in.

THAT SAME day, three University of Michigan students sit in their apartment discussing the proposed, controversial requirements that would have all U-M students take a class designed to combat racism.

"I'm not sure whether there should be one required course," said Jennifer Yorke. "I think it should go down to the middle school or high school level." Most racial views and stereotypes are set long before college agrees Erin Flaharty. "If you reach this stage it's going to take a lot more than a class to change you."

Roommate Lisa Williams disagrees. "Definitely, there should be a class, especially at a campus that's known for its racist attitudes. Education is the key to breaking down all the barriers."



JIM ZAGOR/ELDT/staff photographer

Clifton Simmons of Southfield is sympathetic to the student sit-in at Wayne State University. His suburban background, Simmons said, is no guarantee against racism.

Yorke and Flaharty, both of West Bloomfield, are white. Williams, of Chicago, is black.

Flaharty said her other friends, before they knew Williams' name, would consciously not refer to her as the "black one" like they might refer to Yorke as the "blonde one."

"I am aware that no one will say that. It's another indication that there is racism here, if people will not use a generic term like that without fear of offending her."

BRIAN BARON is comfortably seated in the center of the Michigan State Student Union building.

"If you go someplace around here, 90 percent of the time you'll find whites sitting with whites and blacks sitting with blacks," the white, Rochester Hills student said, his eyes fixed on his questioner.

own feeling, it may not be everyone's."

"I'M AN INTELLIGENT person," she said. "If I were to take the class I might do well, I might not. But to say I wouldn't take it because I'm a member of a minority group is an insult."

Simmons said he hasn't experienced much overt racism at Wayne State, though he hears "racial slurs now and then."

It (racism on campus) is worse than I first perceived it... People here think all blacks here are on a free ride. They think we got things handed to us (but) I've had to work for everything I've earned here."

Simmons transferred to Wayne State because of its Journalism Institute for Minorities, which director Ruth Seymour describes as a "fast-track, honors" program for talented blacks.

Yorke and Flaharty said the University of Michigan is probably no more or no less racist than their hometowns.

It's there, not in the universities where solutions may lie.

"It has to start at home," said Diana Khoury of Beverly Hills and a graduate of Birmingham Groves High School, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee at U-M. "But if people come from small towns in northern Michigan and have never seen a black person and never met a Jew, they come here with these set ideas. And education is the key to everything."

Staff reporters Tom Henderson and Dave Varga contributed to this report. It was written by Wayne Peal.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Brian Baron of Rochester Hills finds black and white students rarely congregate together outside class at Michigan State University.

## Officials report 'quiet' progress at 3 campuses

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

State universities say they are quietly doing a lot of work to recruit black faculty and students that hasn't caught public attention.

University of Michigan president James Duderstadt is on record with repeated speeches on "cherishing diversity" rather than being an ethnic "melting pot."

Although the College of Literature, Science and Arts received much coverage of a faculty vote against specific courses on racism and sexism, Duderstadt's office has produced "Michigan Mandate," a strategic plan for diversity now being circulated to U-M colleges.

U-M hired 19 black faculty last summer compared to a previous high of nine new black hires. The "Mandate" contains 14 specific recommendations for improving numbers of black faculty, students and staff.

In U-M's School of Social Work, every course specifically addresses race and ethnicity. Entire courses in the School of Education address ethnic questions, Duderstadt's office said.

IN ADDITION, the university is using grants to improve the "education pipeline" — the K-12 schools which provide future college students, specifically, computer science study labs in Ann Arbor and Detroit public schools.

U-M boasts its Center for Afro American and African Studies is one of the top such programs in the country. Duderstadt was in Washington, D.C., and unavailable for direct comment.

Wayne State University spokesmen said the \$163,000 budget for the Center for Black Studies understates what the Detroit-based number three school spends to help blacks. Overlooked items, according to the university:

- Fringe benefits, utilities and maintenance, which are separately budgeted in other WSU accounts.

- Extensive library collections on African-American subjects.

- Courses on African-American

## What students are seeking

### WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Student protestors seek more space for the black studies center, its designation as a separate department and heavier recruitment of black students. They want all faculty to teach a course on African and recognize Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and the date of Malcolm X's assassination as holidays.

### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The United Coalition Against Racism at U-M has been demanding a mandatory course on racism and other forms of discrimination. The proposal by a group of faculty members would have required students in the liberal arts college to take a class that would explore issues of race, ethnicity and discrimination. Faculty recently rejected that by a 140-120 vote.

### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Nearly a year ago, the university ruled that all students take a course that emphasized international and multicultural experiences and explore issues such as racism, sexism and ethnic bias. A spokesman for the Black Student Alliance at MSU, said he is encouraged by the university's response.

subjects in other departments.

- A five-year increase of 36 percent in numbers of black faculty — from 73 in 1983 to 99 last fall.

- A faculty that is 7.5 percent black in a nation where only 3.1 percent of the pool of people with appropriate degrees are black. Wayne boasts a higher percentage of black faculty than any Big 10 or any Urban 13 institution.

- More black deans and vice

Please turn to Page 7



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Roommates Erin Flaharty, from left, and Jennifer Yorke, both of West Bloomfield, and Lisa Williams of Chicago discuss racism at the University of Michigan, where they are all sophomores.