

UW Blacks Seek White Protest Allies

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

In planning the current protest at the University of Wisconsin, black students knew they would never get to first base without substantial support from whites.

They knew they could rely for initial backing on those radical whites who form the membership of such groups as the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), the Wisconsin Draft Resistance Union (WDRU), and the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA).

HOWEVER, EVEN with this support, the sheer numbers were lacking to accomplish the avowed goal of halting normal University functions.

Several blacks have predicted that the real measure of their

success will be the number of students they can attract from the "business as usual" majority—that core of students who as a rule prefer notebooks to leaflets or a night at the movies to a strategy session.

AS OF TUESDAY, it was difficult to say how far the blacks and their sympathizers had gone in achieving such additional support. However, it is apparent what methods are being used to reach into this majority and find more allies.

First, the blacks are pounding away at the theme of non-violence. Tuesday's sporadic departure from this approach led many blacks to lament that they were losing support and would suffer seriously in the event of a flagrant confrontation with police.

Some of these blacks also were openly contemptuous of efforts of white radicals to make overt disruption the rule rather than the exception.

"WE CAN'T afford any type of violent confrontation — the issues must be our (black) demands and violence will only sidetrack us," a black spokesman told a noon crowd Tuesday. This warning followed an earlier appearance of buses carrying riot-equipped police, summoned from the edge of the campus when protesters blocked the entrance to the Social Science Building.

The blacks' non-violent approach can be translated into a frequently heard admonition: "When the pigs (police) come, move away quick and don't bait them." Baiting apparently does

not include verbal abuse, which was heaped on from all angles in front of Bascom Hall Tuesday.

What is expressly discouraged is snowball throwing and getting too close to police lines, both of which blacks feel may spark trouble. Several times Tuesday students were urged to keep back from the police.

"KEEP BACK, we don't want to provoke the pigs," a black blared through a bullhorn atop the statue of Abraham Lincoln. On other occasions students rushed anyone heaving snowballs.

"What are you trying to do?" a black angrily asked, adding, "If you can't keep your head, go home."

In addition to preaching non-provocation, blacks established

Tuesday, for the second night, discussion sessions in dorms and private residences all over campus.

AT THESE sessions they explain their demands and attempted to answer questions. Here, too, they stress "peaceful" methods. The feeling among blacks is that many students are seriously considering joining the "movement," but are adverse to overtly disruptive tactics.

Again, the stated purpose of the discussions is to prod at the sentiments of what blacks feel are a large number of students who are wavering with their support.

The blacks know that as of Tuesday they had at best 1,500 active supporters among about 34,000 students. But, many black leaders stress, they are confi-

dent that hundreds of potential backers are waiting in the faceless mass.

THE QUESTION raises itself as to what these other 32,500 students have been doing this week.

Most are crowding through the picket lines and attending class. However, it was clear Tuesday that the normal crowds on Bascom Hill were missing at peak class hours.

On the fringe areas, where the schools of agriculture and engineering are located, a student often could go through his daily activities without noticing anything different. Blacks would like to picket there, but numbers prevent this.

THERE ARE also students who use the strike as an excuse to stay away from class. They

either stay home and study or relax, or wander around Bascom Hill, curious to see if anything is happening.

Some of this group is always evident in knots of 10 to 20 people, discussing the demands and tactics of the strike either among themselves or actual participants.

Another portion of the student body is busy urging the faculties of various departments to endorse the strike. For example, sociology students are sitting-in in the administrative offices of their department.

Anthropology students are contemplating similar action, and students in the English, Philosophy, Psychology, and History Departments are in various stages of presenting demands to faculty members for support.