

UW Blacks Told to Acquire Skills

By GAY LESLIE
(Of The State Journal Staff)

Black students at the University of Wisconsin were told Monday that unless they acquire skills at the University and use them to help the black community their existence here is invalid.

"If you don't come out with skills to raise the level of your community then what you are doing is somehow invalid," said LeRoi Jones, black author-playwright.

"If you do not come out of this University with information and skills that will benefit the black community, then you are unfit to live with black people," he said, adding: "We don't need any more degeneracy."

SPEAKING IN the Wisconsin Union Theater, where the center section front was reserved for black students, Jones emphasized the need for black studies to bring out the blacks' own cultural awareness.

"Unless you know who you are, you will not know what to do. Unless you know where you came from, you will not know where you are going.

"This is why nationalists emphasize black culture," he said.

Most young blacks seeking change, he said, have been influenced by liberal white youths with a Lenin-Trotsky-Marx definition of life, instead of understanding that they must have their own black ideology of life.

Supporting the demand for black control of black studies programs, he said: "Black studies must be controlled by black people, man, otherwise it's just another exotic course in social hippyry."

place, the social organization of the place — control the institutions of the place, the cops, the schools, the hospitals, the things that directly affect your life."

JONES TOLD the black students that they must find a new, black morality. Speaking of the white man's Biblical morality, he said: "The reason his culture is foreign is because he no longer makes reference to it in the real world. He uses it as a fake-off instrument of morality.

"You must find yourself a morality that will teach you how to survive this American epoch," he said, and later added: "Any organization you create must be based on a concrete moral system that will take you out of this degenerate American morality.

"You are black by race and by culture because you have a common history, common life style, and by consciousness — if you dig it. You can be manipulated if you don't have the last,

even when you have the first two," he said. "The Negro is manipulated by white people because he is less conscious of who he is."

COMMENTING ON the recent campus strike, Jones said the campus rebellion and black rebellion exist for the same reasons, seek the same kind of resolution, and are caused by the same restrictions and resistance to progress.

He said the National Guard was called out here, as in Newark and Detroit, because it was blacks who were rebelling. "The only reason that you black students were not killed is that these white students were standing around you," he said.

Jones concluded his appearance by reading some of his poetry "so they can't say I just came here to rabble-rouse."

Jones' appearance was sponsored by the Wisconsin Student Assn. as part of its annual symposium on current social problems.

"THEY CALL US separatists," Jones added. "We were separate before we got to this country . . . We've been separate since we got to this country — in Watts, in Harlem, and South Philly and South Chicago. "We've always been separate in this country. We want the power to control where we are."

To charges that black militants have been violent, he said: "We are not violent any more than non-violent. We are men. And men always respond to the stimulus that is presented to us.

"The United States of America existed first as a figment of a white man's imagination," Jones said. "It can change."

Black studies must be taught by black people because "a person who describes dancers can never know what it is to be a dancer," he said.

"BLACK CULTURE should be about how a black person looks at the world," he said. "A culture can be how you cook something or how you kill someone.

"There's nobody asking you to hate anybody. It's first of all asking you to love yourself," he told the students.

Noting that black power is nothing new, Jones said the point is what can be done with it. "How can we control our resources? How can we control our communities? How can we control our own minds?"

By controlling black communities, Jones said he meant "the politics, the economics of the