

Inaugural of Cultural Center emphasizes black awareness

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The Black Cultural Center, a coordinating agency for the black community, will offer its first activity this weekend.

At 6:30 p.m. Saturday, the movie, "A Search for the Past," will be shown in the Walnut Building Auditorium. Workshops and speakers about the function of the Black Cultural Center will accompany the movie, according to Warren Coleman, coordinating director of the center.

Coleman stated that the main objective of the Black Cultural Center, approved and funded by the University last spring, will be to provide a place for black students to "socially relate to" when they come to the University.

"Many black and white students do not know of this existence," he explained. "Here is a focal point we can say blacks can turn to. Here is a place where they can feel welcome."

"I think it will play a very important role in reference to all black students and an important role in black-white relations in the University community."

At present, the Center shares the Walnut Building with the Educational Opportunity Program, but Coleman hopes that the plans to renovate all of Walnut Building for the Center soon

will be approved by University President John W. Oswald. Remodeling for a black reference and reading room and a black lounge is now under way, but are only a few of the services Coleman hopes the Center will provide.

Coleman stated that the objectives of the Black Cultural Center are to conceptualize, accentuate and provide for the black community at the University. "We believe that the cultural center can qualify our presence in the University and educate others as to our lifestyles and possibly negate the ignorance which creates a stereo image," he said.

Another objective Coleman outlined for the Center will be to unite black individuals and educate the white community as to the high spiritual aspirations and political and cultural views of blacks in general.

"We feel that the Center

will provide the opportunity for both blacks and whites to interact," he continued.

However, Coleman stated that the Center mainly will function as a cultural reinforcement for blacks so that, in turn, black students will engage themselves in a more praiseworthy end and "Hence, better academic performance," he added.

At present, the center is being directed by a trustee board of directors formed last spring and composed of representatives from all the black organizations on campus. Applications also are being circulated throughout the East for a director and a secretary for the Center, whom Coleman hopes will be approved by the board by the end of Fall Term.

Assisting the director who will take office Winter Term will be three student program directors who will work

closely with him. Coleman emphasized the fact that the Center will be completely student-operated and that the recommendations for its activities will come mainly from students.

He added that the proposal for the Black Cultural Center also called for a liaison committee to act as an official policy advisory link between the Center's advisory board and the administration. "This was to be established," he said, "but it has not been done yet."

Among the programs the center will provide will be speakers, films, workshops and festivals, Coleman stated. He said he also hopes it will coordinate other activities such as strengthening the tutorial services, holding seminars on family planning, black food and health services and discussions between the black and white communities.