

Protest March Peaceful



Students crowd around the ice rink during Wednesday's protest march.

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Last Wednesday at noon, some 150-200 YSU students staged a peaceful protest march to air their feelings toward the administrative decision not to renew Mr. Ron Daniels' contract.

The students began their march on the sidewalk in front of the administrative offices. Led by senior art and philosophy major Aaron Howard, the group of black and white students marched around the campus peacefully and ended up in the courtyard of the Kilcawley Student Center.

Howard explained that there were no groups sponsoring the march; that it was simply a group of students who really had the desire to see Ron Daniels remain on the faculty, because of his experience in the community and at the university and his vital position as a link between the campus and the community.

When the group ended the first part of the march and settled on the grounds in front of Kilcawley, Carol Gregory led the half dozen or so speakers.

Howard followed her by pointing out that the greatest challenge the black students face is that of educating themselves. He described Daniels as a great teacher who under-

stood black and white problems dealing with the community.

Howard further stated that the university and Youngstown will lose; and the black and white students will lose.

He asked the administration to please reconsider their decision regarding Daniels, and that they would respect the decision if their demands were met.

Howard summed up by explaining that those participating in the march were not there for any non-violent reasons, simply to show their support for Mr. Daniels and their sensitive desire to retain him.

At this point in the activity, a group of students displayed their contempt for the protesters by booing and jeering.

Gerald Burke, a junior accounting major, then addressed himself to the black male students only. He explained to them that they have been reduced to the level of breeding animals ever since their ancestors were brought to this country.

He called for these black males to build and be proud of what they have. "We must build up the black ghettos. It is up to the black males to establish the communities we have.

It is not up to white liberals who feel sorry for us, it is up to us now.

"We must stand on our own two feet for once in our lives and do something." These were the words of Gerald Burke, addressing himself only to the black males in the group.

Among the 500 demonstrators and spectators were many uniformed and plain-clothes policemen there in case of trouble. Several black civic leaders were on hand to observe.

Mr. Nathaniel Lee, Director of the Youngstown Chapter of the NAACP, told the JAMBAR that the Ron Daniels case had not yet been brought before the executive council of the organization, so the NAACP had no plans to take action on the issue.

Aaron Howard explained at the outset of the demonstration that there could be no assessment of the day's activities until some answer had been decreed by the administration. When asked about his reaction to the size of the turnout, he simply said, "terrific."

The precautionary measures had been taken to insure that there would be no trouble, but fortunately the YSU students showed that they were capable of policing themselves with no outside help.