

## History of Black Culture Center

The Black Culture Center, Indiana University, is located at 109 N. Jordan Avenue. The center is housed in a restored four story building strategically located between the academic and dormitory areas of the campus. This building has been occupied since January, 1973.

A Black House has existed at Indiana University, since 1968 as a physical symbol of the University's commitment to Black students. In the beginning this small, dilapidated building, understaffed and operating on little but the hope of easing the alienation which the Black student often feels in a predominantly white university Community, helped to fill the void. However, it never fulfilled the great potential of such a center.

Today, the Black Culture Center provides, as its name implies, a focus of racial pride to which Black students, faculty, staff and community can identify. The atmosphere of the center lends itself to many activities such as a quiet corner for studying, a formal lounge for meeting campus visitors and friends, informal lectures and special receptions. A multi-purpose room located in the basement of the center is used as practice room or studio for performing groups and as a classroom setting. Additionally this room can be used for showing films, presenting dramatic readings, banquets, dances and children's programs. One will also find located in the basement, a recreation room that offers a pool table, chess, checkers and card games.

The Black Culture Center offers free tutoring to any student through the Afro-American Tutorial Program. The tutorial program is a supportive service designed to provide individual or small-group assistance and guidance to graduate and undergraduate students who have difficulty in their academic subjects. This service is provided free of cost to the students seeking help.

The Learning Resources Center's main function within the Black Culture Center is to provide library and media services to Indiana University and the Bloomington community. The emphasis of the library is on the various aspects of the Black Cultural experience.

1. Services available are: Reference services, biographical file, informational file.
2. Materials and equipment are: Programmed instruction, carrels, magazines and journals, newspapers and slide projectors.
3. Programs are the Media Club, book autographing parties and the Black Film series.

The Afro-American Arts Institute was established by grants from Eli Lilly Endowment, Inc., and Indiana University. The Institute has as its purpose, the promotion of research and performance in various aspects of the Black Cultural tradition. The current projects include: 1) the students performing ensembles such as I.U. Soul Revue, Afro-American Choral Ensemble, Solo Artists, performing readers and the Afro-American Dance Company. 2) Research projects such as: Studies in Black Folklore, Black Music Center, monographs and bibliographies and Blacks in American Journalism series.

### Recruitment

The Black Culture Center is not actively involved in the recruitment of students.



### Number of Persons Being Served

There is a large number of students who come through the center on a daily basis for dance classes, choral ensemble and I.U. Soul Revue rehearsals, the learning resources center, and the tutorial program. There are two hundred and twenty-seven students enrolled in the tutorial program from August, 1974 to date. But we can only estimate the number of students using the center on an average of 75 to 125 on a daily basis.

### Major and Most Consistent Problems

The number one problem is funding. We need more funds to maintain quality programs and bring in new cultural activities for the Black students.

### Projected Programs

1. Expanding the tutorial services
2. Developing a Black theatre group.
3. Maintaining quality program already in existence.
4. Purchasing more books and magazines for the library.
5. Expanding the student newsletter.

### Funding Line

Each of the on-going programs is funded through the office of Afro-American Affairs, which is funded by Indiana University. Funds for special activities come from outside grants.