

2/13/70

Breakfast program continues operation

Despite an initial lack of funds and facilities, recent grants to the Children's Breakfast Program of the Black Student Union will allow the service to continue and perhaps expand its operation. The program provides breakfasts for economically underprivileged school children in the Westminster House, 421 Adams St.

The program, which began last October, was initially funded by contributions and by a \$3000 grant from the Student Association. Students defeated a referendum to allocate \$28,000 to the BSU last Dec. 12, however, a second referendum passed allowing the SA to allocate "some" funds to the program. Total support from the SA totalled \$19,000.

Donations of more than \$18,000 were given by the community and outside sources. In addition, the Veterans Club donated \$600 to the program from its treasury surplus.

Some contributions seem to be "token" in nature, however. According to Charles Aughtry, leader of the BSU Breakfast program, A & P Food stores have contributed about \$3 worth of bread, Harvest Best Food stores gave approximately \$5 worth of bread, while Acme Food Markets donated nearly \$10.

Commenting on these donations, Mr. Aughtry said: "They exploit black people every day. They should give us part of the spoils."

Mr. Aughtry observed that the attitude of the community of blacks, Puerto Ricans, Indians and some poor whites toward the program is "favorable and not apathetic." However, he said that University students who voted against the \$28,000 appropriation are "ignorant of the fact that kids have to eat." He also said that he noticed some enmity on the part of the children towards the students when they were told of the referendum results.

Hunger pains

The Breakfast Program, Mr. Aughtry explained, feeds 180 to 206 children per meal at a cost of about \$.70 to \$.80 each. The children's meals are planned by a dietician from Millard Fillmore Hospital with some assistance from the staff of the State University of Buffalo Food Service.

The need for the program was explained by Percy Lambert, president of the BSU. "We found out that kids don't do well in school because their mothers are unable to offer them a decent breakfast in the morning. So when these kids are in school, they are concentrating on the hunger pains in their stomachs instead of the schoolwork on the board," he said.

Along with the free meal, comes a diet of philosophy and political teachings introducing the children to "the philosophy of Black Consciousness," Mr. Aughtry said.