

BSA Will Ask Union To Cancel Debate

By DANNY BARKIN

The Black Student Alliance (BSA) plans to ask the University Union to cancel a February-scheduled debate between William Shockley and Roy Innes, according to BSA Black Culture Week Chairman Sheila Crider.

Mr. Shockley is a Nobel Prize winning physicist who promotes his theory of black genetic inferiority. Mr. Innes is National director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

According to Miss Crider, who also serves as University Union Minority Culture Committee Co-Chairman, the BSA leadership Monday night voted to urge the Union to cancel the debate.

"Shockley is an insult to our intelligence," Miss Crider said yesterday, "And as a representative of the black community, I expressed my

opinion that we didn't want to see Shockley here."

"We also didn't feel that Innes was a qualified debator," she added.

The BSA action marks the end of a month of negotiation between University Union Tri-Chairman Bert Ellis and the BSA. Miss Crider said the BSA resolution would be delivered in a written statement to Mr. Ellis.

Miss Crider said she had not been informed until "the latter part of July" of the Shockley-Innes debate, and had not been consulted about the scheduling of the debate in next February's Black Culture Week.

However, Mr. Ellis said Sunday "I talked to Sheila and she will deny this but she was in favor of the debate last spring."

"She was asked," Mr. Ellis added, "as minority Culture Committee Co-Chairman to find out the black attitude

towards the debate, and she reported that blacks would be in favor of them, book them."

Mr. Ellis noted that "nobody came to us and gave us any negative comments until the beginning of this semester."

He added that he is opposed to cancelling the debate, but would move it out of Black Culture Week.

"We're definitely going to move the debate out of Black Culture Week," said Mr. Ellis, "unless we can find a black speaker the black students approve of."

"Business-wise you can't sign contracts for a debate and three months later cancel. The agencies won't stand for it."

He said that a contract with the Massachusetts-based American Program Bureau signed July 12 called for the debators to receive \$1,000 apiece.

Mr. Ellis also said the Union Speakers Committee had attempted to replace Mr. Innes, in an effort to gain BSA approval of the debate, but has so far been unsuccessful.

"Most of the black intellectuals don't want to debate the man (Shockley). They send their research to Innes," Mr. Ellis said.

Third-yearman Donald "Doc" Spell, co-chairman of the Minority Culture Committee with Miss Crider, said recently he saw "no cultural value," in the Shockley-Innes debate, "especially during Black Culture Week."

"As far as I know," Mr. Spell added, "The debate should have been cancelled."

Mr. Spell said he had agreed to the debate last

spring, with the stipulation included that someone other than Mr. Innes debate Mr. Shockley.

He said he changed his mind about the debate in the face of "totally negative feedback" from black students directed at Mr. Shockley's position.

Black student objection to the Shockley-Innes debate was discussed at last Wednesday's meeting of the presidential University Union Committee, consisting of faculty, administrators, and students, which oversees Union activities.

According to Mr. Ellis, the membership of the committee was divided on whether or not to cancel the debate.

Dean of Students Robert T. Canevari pointed out yesterday he questions the Union inviting Mr. Shockley not because of Mr. Shockley's controversial racial beliefs, but because of the Union sponsorship.

Mr. Canevari explained that since the Union disperses funds collected by the University, "It is in that regard that I would raise the question: Is this the way the students want their funds spent?"

Mr. Canevari added that controversial speakers as such were not objected to by the University administration citing past speakers at the University such as American Communist Party Chairman Gus Hall, Chicago Seven defendant Jerry Rubin, Attorney William Kuntzler and former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst.