

*Black Student Union*

March 19, 1971

Mr. R. A. Hughes  
514 South Polk Street, Apt. 4  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Reference is made to your note on the Black Student Union.

In the first place the Black Student Union is not supported by funds appropriated from the University. The Union is an association of students duly organized under provisions of the Student Bill of Rights. This Union made a request to the University for space in which to develop an educational and cultural center, and it is the space thus provided that has erroneously been referred to as the Black Student Union. The provision of space is on a contractual basis and the Black Student Union is paying a rental for it, which while admittedly modest, is nonetheless in keeping with longstanding University policy in providing land for the construction of fraternity and sorority houses, or of providing such houses on a temporary basis, at minimum rental fee. Some monies from University endowment and restricted funds, all nonappropriated, have been made available to the Black Student Union to assist in the furnishing of the cultural center. It is to this grant that the caption under the picture you sent no doubt applies.

Assistance to minorities in the development of cultural centers was authorized a year ago by the faculty through approval of a special program for Native Americans for which we are now seeking funding in hopes that the program can get into orbit next fall. One of the provisions in this was that a Native American cultural center would also be provided as part of the program. It is our assumption that as general concern with ethnic studies grows and emerges on campus there probably will be several cultural centers representing not only American minorities but groups of foreign students as well. Experience on other campuses has demonstrated time and again the educational value of such centers.



Mr. R. A. Hughes

March 19, 1971

Page 2

I trust this puts the matter in proper perspective for you and reassures you on the fact that the University is not providing continuing support for the organization called the Black Student Union.

Sincerely yours,

ERNEST W. HARTUNG  
President

EWH:gce