

# HBS AFRO ON STRIKE

by FRED BROCK

The Black students of the Harvard Business School are on strike and will remain on strike indefinitely.

Beginning at 8:00 A.M. Monday, members of the HBS AFRO American Student Union set up picket lines around Aldrich and Baker Library to demonstrate their outrage over a variety of issues relating to them both as students and as Black Americans. The issues, enumerated in the leaflet distributed by the pickets, encompassed both national issues and grievances more directly concerned with the B-school and its Administration.

At 3:30 P.M. Monday afternoon, white supporters of the position of the strike held an open meeting with leaders of AFRO in Kresge Hall to determine how the rest of the HBS community might best support the action of the striking Black students. At that meeting, Grover Walker, co-chairman of the AFRO American Student Association made it clear that "Black students at HBS are on indefinite strike."

Walker asked that white students mobilize themselves, expressing hope that mobilization would consist of something

other than "the farce of last week." His suggestion included striking as individuals in support of the AFRO strike and fund raising for the SCLC organized march through Georgia.

Afro spokesmen emphasized that the strike was not called to present specific demands, but rather to "inform and sensitize the faculty and students of the racism on this campus." Said Walker, "You must admit there is a problem before you can begin to solve it." Thus far, he claimed, the Administration of the Harvard Business School refuses to admit that a problem exists.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE AFRO STRIKE LEAFLET IS REPRINTED BELOW:

"Whereas the national climate of repression has once again manifested itself in the brutal murders of Phillip Gibbs, 21, and James Earl Green, 18, at & Jackson State College (Miss.); and

"Whereas the brutal beating and murder of 16 year old Charles Oatman, allegedly by two cellmates, in the county jail of Augusta was permitted and is tantamount to criminal negligence on

see page 2

# AFRO STRIKE

from page 1

the part of the jail authorities; and

"Whereas six Black men were brutally shot to death in their backs during the protests that followed the death of Charles Oatman in Augusta, Georgia; and "Whereas the persecution and harassment of Black political activists, such as the Black Panthers, takes the form of murders in their beds and unlawful confinement in jail without substantial evidence for prosecution of alleged crimes; and

"Whereas the national conscience, as well as many "enlightened" college students, has been unmindful of the wholesale and criminal carnage of Black people in the United States; and their silence has demonstrated the hypocrisy of concerned activism for felled white students, such as the Kent State 4, yet benign and racist neglect for Black victims or violence; and

"Whereas psychological atrocities of similar magnitude are perpetrated daily against Blacks by the Harvard Business School through application of conscious and subconscious racism in the subjective grading process, in the discriminatory hiring policies of HBS, in the release of confidential information concerning Black students, in the slander and attempted destruction of the image and ability of Black MBA candidates, in the unrealistic policies of HBS regarding placement and housing assistance;; and

"whereas selective repressive measures have also been used against individual Black students at HBS, such as the denial of the opportunity for a Black student to participate meaningfully in the MSS experience and the subsequent severe grade penalty imposed, the straying away from past precedent in this situation, and the arbitrary and meaningless criteria being used to deny readmission to two Black members of the class of 1970, who during their own one year leave of absence made many contributions to the Business school, to Black students at HBS, and to the Black community; therefore

"we, the Black students of the Harvard Business School and members of the Afro American Student Union, in one united voice, speak out in outrage against the blatant hypocrisy and virtual indifference that the nation, the university students, and the Harvard Business School community have exhibited to date toward the physical and psychological murders of Black people in this nation and on this campus. We cannot accept the fact that this indifference is characteristic of express their concern by joining with the Afro American Student Union in a strike on this campus to provide the opportunity for meaningful consideration and dialogue on these issues between students, workers, faculty members, and the administration."