

GRAPEVINE

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KWAME TURE, THE FORMER STOKELY CARMICHAEL, SPEAKS AT UR

Kwame Ture, formerly Stokely Carmichael, appeared at the U of R courtesy of the Black Students' Union and the Outside Speakers Committee in Hubbell Auditorium, Tuesday, October 28th at 1:00 p.m. Kwame has spoken four times since 1976 at the U of R, and emphasized the divisive and confusing nature of the capitalist system. He cited what he saw as the destructive factors of capitalism, namely, the elevation of instinct and animalism by the principle of the marketplace. Kwame spoke of the indirect violence done to us (African people) by the capitalist system. He spoke of the miseducation of children as one form of violence. Kwame said those who have been part of the educational system were unknowingly being brainwashed to believe that the capitalist system, which strives to manipulate the minds of the unsuspecting, was working in their behalf.

Revolution, which is necessary to eradicate the capitalist system, the generator of such violence, must be sparked by the African student, Mr. Ture stated. He went on to say that the African student has a responsibility to the community from which he comes (and to the masses in general) to return the knowledge that he obtains to the community for its use. In the past, the American Educational system has deceived the African student, causing him to betray his people. By confusing him into believing that freedom is represented by a big house and a big car, he ignores human values for the sake of personal gain.

These ideas were the premise for Kwame's push for organization and consciousness. By his defining the roles of the African student, we were given the opportunity to picture his view on the continuous violence performed as a result of the capitalist system, especially that done by the educational system within it.

Kwame called for African students everywhere to get involved by becoming part of some black organization (i.e., the NAACP, the Urban League, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, etc.). His reason for endorsing any organization that has discipline was due to his wanting very much for students to experience organization which

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requires their time, and more importantly, sacrifice. He said that only through organization and political education will African people everywhere be free of the manipulation of the capitalist system.

In addition to organization, Kwame called for the African people's conscience to be raised to a more "just" system--socialism. Kwame pointed out that the fact that there is no properly working socialist system extant did not militate against the validity of the theory, which in its simplest form merely requires that the masses own the means of production. This essence of socialism is what truly concerns Kwame--not the particular form that it takes. He feels that this point alone renders the socialist system superior to the capitalist system since it avoids the encouragement of unthinking self-service as opposed to conscious service to the community. It is the lack of human values fostered by capitalism which also contributes to racism by creating attitudes conducive to exploiting others. Thus, the message of organization and consciousness given by Kwame Ture is one which seems necessary for the eradication of discrimination and racism not only in America, but everywhere.

R. Scott Smith & Simone-Marie Lipscomb

GRAPEVINE EDITOR RESPONDS TO KWAME TURE

Before his presentation in Hubbell, Kwame Ture was kind enough to speak to me about his purpose for coming to Rochester and about what he has been doing lately. He informed me that he has organized the All-African People's Revolutionary Party and that the main emphasis of his party is organization--ultimately organization against capitalism. Since there are only two systems in existence, socialism is the most desirable since capitalism is exploitive and racist. Furthermore, he sees socialism as a "reasonable and inevitable goal" and says that the critical mass for an overthrow will exist soon since the level of consciousness has risen substantially over the past few decades.

Most of what he said on Friday made me ask myself that if all of this has been going on around me, where in the world have I been? Blacks fought a long time to be able to enter the workforce and universities. In essence, the ideal would be for us to get out of school and help ourselves to a large slice of the capitalistic pie. Now I'm told that I should be striving toward equal allocation of resources, that I have been taught to love oppression and hate Africa, and that my instincts are running against myself. Somehow I am not convinced. It may sound self-serving to say that I came to school to improve upon

CONTINUED ON BACK

AN APPEAL TO STUDENTS FROM BSU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

On October 23, 1980, about 20 members of the Black Students' Union sat down with four members of the Provost's Committee on the Quality of Student Life as a part of the Union's general meeting. The goal of the committee members was to define problem areas with Black student life at the U of R and to establish possible solutions. The BSU was asked to help the committee in this task. Unfortunately, the vast majority of Black students, whose input they sought, missed this interesting and thought-provoking meeting.

There has been a great deal of soul-searching amongst the Executive Board members as to why this should be so--why out of the 120 Black students on this campus, it appears that only a few give a damn. We opened ourselves up to receive suggestions not only in general meetings, but in our standing committees as well. A number of items were mentioned: change the room--Morey 321 is too much like a classroom; change the format--there should be more than one speaker for the entire meeting; change the manner in which events are planned and produced--there should be more input from the general membership; change the atmosphere--there should be refreshments for members to partake--and so on.

All of these suggestions are good ones. They indicate that there are Black students on this campus concerned about the direction that our BSU is to take in the 1980's. These suggestions have been taken to heart. On Thursday, November 6, 1980 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wildon Commons, room 122, the next BSU meeting will be held. It will be a brainstorming session to generate ideas--your ideas--concerning who you would like to see, what you would like to do, and where you would like to be during the next few months. Many of the changes mentioned above will be in effect, including refreshments.

Ain't Misbehavin' will be at Eastman Theater this semester. Maybe you would like to see the BSU sponsor a bus to take people to the show. There are many needy kids in the city. Maybe you would like to see the BSU provide a Thanksgiving dinner for them. There is a Third World Caucus for students at SUNY-Albany here in New York State. Maybe you would like to be a part of that.

These are just a few of the types of ideas we are looking for to work on. We need these ideas to make the U of R a more enjoyable, educational, and cultural place for Black people. I urge all people of color, foreign as well as American, seniors

KWAME TURE, CONTINUED

what I had, but I have an idealism of sorts that tells me, like the song says, "it's my turn."

Kwame Ture did have some valid points. Blacks in America do not have misty-eyed memories of Africa, and they should relate more to Africans rather than feel superior to them. Corruption in the government has isolated people from politicians, but I'm not sure that Americans want to change the system rather than the politicians.

Finally, socialism is a non-perfect system. There are still people in the system who will do disproportionately well, and somehow I fear that I would not be one of them. In order for Kwame Ture to reach his goal, he (and others) will have to redefine the educational system in a way that makes college students enter universities for reasons that do not include financial prosperity. Certainly, college is no guarantee of wealth, but most people get degrees for a comparative advantage. Proponents of socialism need to change the minds of people like me, show me that my people and I will never prosper in a capitalistic system, prove to me that I am hurting Blacks by obtaining an MBA, and most of all, that I am hurting myself. When that is done, I will be one voice in the critical mass. Until then, I think that I will continue in my optimism.

****By Angela Norris****

BSU, CONTINUED

as well as freshmen, to join us at this important meeting: Thursday, November 6 at 8:00 p.m. in Wilson Commons, room 122. Many people gave their hearts and minds, their sweat and tears to see Black culture expressed on this campus. It would be a shame to waste their mighty effort.

Stephen Bryant
Community Affairs Chairperson, BSU

NOTICES

SALSA presents the New York City dance troupe, Teatro Otra Cosa on Saturday, November 1, 1980 in the Frederick Douglass Building at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50 with a UR I.D.

Professor Yvonne Haddad, from the Hartford Seminary Foundation, will discuss "What Americans need to know about Islam" in the Chapel Commons room on November 3, 1980 from 1-2:30 p.m.

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