

Union to show film series concerning black themes

By FRANK BRUNI
Assistant Arts Editor

At its best, art mirrors life. Occasionally art distorts the image of the society it depicts and exploits society's stereotypes. Four films will exemplify this kind of art when the Carolina Union Film Committee presents the Classic Black Musical Festival. The series begins tonight at 8 in the Union Auditorium and continues for three consecutive Thursday evenings.

The Black Musical Festival represents Hollywood's first attempts to use all black casts and to address black themes. These films served as vehicles for talented black actors during the 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s. Unfortunately, the roles for black actors in these productions were one-dimensional and stereotypical.

The films chosen to support the festival's theme are *Hallelujah*, a 1929 film by director King Vidor about a black family of cotton-pickers in the South, *Cabin in the Sky*, Vincente Minnelli's 1943 musical fantasy, *Stormy Weather*, the 1943 semi-autobiographical tale of dancer Bill Robinson, directed by Andrew Stone, and *Carmen Jones*, Otto Preminger's 1954 film adaptation of the opera *Carmen*.

Dan Streible, one of the Film Committee's 13 members, said, "The portrayal of blacks in these films reflects the poorer quality of race relations at the times of the films' productions." For this reason, Streible said he believed the festival offers a unique educational experience. "The stereotypes of these black roles gave many people wrong impressions of black culture and firmly rooted prejudice," he said.

Streible said the four representative films were chosen because they are works of substantial achievement by some of the best directors of the 20th century. Streible added, "These films also boast strong cast performances by actors people are still familiar with today, like Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, and Pearl Bailey," he said. These talented actors succumbed to playing roles which exploited black stereotypes only because it was the only film work available to them, he said.

The films will be presented in the chronological order of their respective releases, paralleling the evolution of more progressive race relations and increased involvement of blacks in cinema.

Streible emphasized the entertainment value of the films. "They're educational and their social significance is largely responsible for their choice, but they're also very entertaining films," Streible said.

Jazz Ambassadors to perform

The Jazz Ambassadors, the official touring ensemble of the United States Army, will perform tonight at 7 in Memorial Hall.

The Jazz Ambassadors, under the direction of Paul Chiaravalle, will present a show titled "Jazz: A Great American Heritage."

Selections will range from Big Band and Swing pieces, such as those of Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey and Glen Miller, to contemporary sounds including pop, rock, and modern jazz. Some original compositions and arrangements will also be featured.

Vocalists Don Ryer and John Montgomery will sing selections by popular artists such as Lou Rawls, Billy Joel, Kenny Rogers, Al Jarreau and Frank Sinatra, as well as some individual arrangements of today's popular music.

The Jazz Ambassadors travel 40,000 miles and give 500 performances annually. Alumni from the Ambassadors have performed with such well-known band leaders as Stan Kenton, Buddy Rich and Woody Herman. Others are currently performing with Maynard Ferguson and the Tonight Show Orchestra.

There is no admission charge for the concert.

— JIM CLARDY

Items left in ticket line picked up

If any UNC students left personal belongings behind in the excitement of camping out for tickets to the UNC-N.C. State game on Saturday, they can be claimed by calling the Physical Plant at 962-2069 and asking for Larry Trammel.

Trammel said Physical Plant workers

picked up trash in the Carmichael Auditorium-Woolen Gym area Wednesday morning, and found some belongings left by the students waiting in line. Among the items were a textbook, notes, a pillow, a raincoat and a grill. Trammel said the belongings would be held at the Physical Plant until claimed.

Off-campus group to meet in Union today

There will be a meeting of the Off-Campus Student Association at 4 p.m. today in the Carolina Union. Ratification of the constitution and election of officers

will be discussed. All off-campus students are encouraged to attend. If you are interested but cannot stay, please drop by and leave your name.

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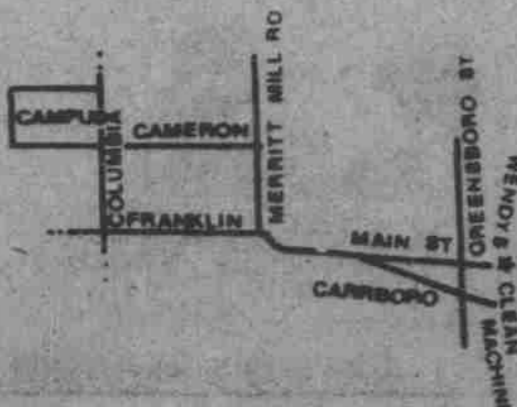
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Democrats

Michaux says new platform must address majorities' needs

By JOSEPH OLINICK
Staff Writer

The Democratic Party's challenge is to chart a new course of action that addresses itself to the needs of the maximum number of people, Mickey Michaux, former Democratic candidate for the 2nd Congressional District, said Tuesday night at a UNC Young Democrats meeting.

"The first thing we need to do is chart a course of action in economic security," he said. "Jobs are the creative alternative to welfare and we will not have reached our goal until every American, willing and able, is provided with a meaningful job doing socially useful work and making a livable wage."

Jobs, which must be provided by the private and public sector, are the most viable alternatives to unemployment, welfare and despair, Michaux said. "We've got to have welfare reform," he said. "We, as Democrats, must seek a system that provides incentives to earn and learn."

"What we need are jobs, job training and job retraining."

"Our right to equal opportunity and access to education must be protected, and enough money provided to give equality education forthcoming."

Also, Michaux said Democrats must commit themselves to developing a comprehensive and coherent urban policy that employs a "Marshall Plan" to rebuild cities.

Democrats must have a commitment to providing decent, safe and sanitary housing in a healthful environment," and expansion of government-assisted housing for low- and moderate-income families is needed and included in the commitment, Michaux said.

"We (the Democrats) have got to lead the way in providing a program that provides a high level of health care for all Americans."

Michaux said he did not advocate excessive government spending; he called for a better-managed economy.

He criticized the military budget for being excessive and frivolous; he said the military should not get a "carte blanche." Quality should be put before quantity, he said.

Michaux asked why the United States needed a nuclear arsenal with the capability to destroy the world 30 times over.

"One of the final recommendations is that we must have a fair and equitable — mind you I said fair and equitable — tax reform. A program that assures businesses and individuals pay their fair share of taxes."

President Reagan's New Federalism is "new means," Michaux said.

"We've got serious problems. Certainly interest rates are going to drop. Certainly inflation is going to go down. No one has any money to buy anything. We got 11 million people out of work."

Michaux said Reaganomics is picking on the 2nd

District because it has every type of lifestyle, industry and agriculture.

He cited the cigarette tax, saying tobacco is the 2nd District's major commodity, and farms in the district are being driven out of business.

"You tell me about these tough times in these economic times. People think about it and know about it. But, when they get to the ballot box they vote on the color-line. I don't care what you do."

Michaux, who is black, said color was the deciding factor in the recent 2nd District Democratic primary. "You are doomed when you get in a primary situation. It comes down to a black versus white situation. That's all it was."

About the runoff for the 2nd District Democratic nomination with Tim Valentine, Michaux cited the comment of a voter in the newspaper: "I voted for Valentine because he was white."

Michaux lost the runoff. "The primary system needs to be done away with or the percentages changed," Michaux said.

Michaux criticized the media coverage he got during his campaign. He said the media focused on the fact that he was seeking to be the first black North Carolina congressman in a century instead of focusing on his stand on the issues.

Michaux said he has given his support to Tim Valentine in the 2nd District Congressional race and did not support a write-in campaign for himself.

He said he would be "blowing in the wind for a while" and his political future was unclear.

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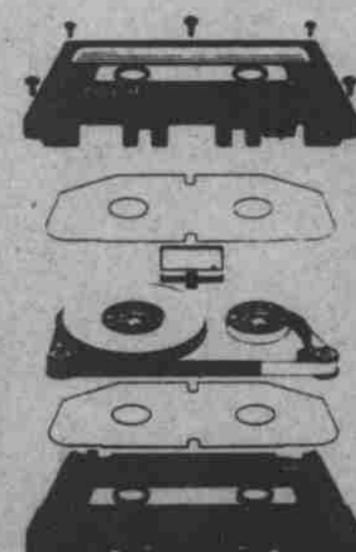
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