

1975 Black Arts Cultural Festival

Pan-Africanism—two views

Struggle for Africa...Struggle at home

Emma E. Pullen
Associate Editor

"A correct interpretation of history is crucial to the struggle of Africans today," Pan-Africanist Stokely Carmichael told an audience of the Black Arts Cultural Festival. "If you know what your people have done, then you know that there is nothing that you can not do."

Carmichael, who is a member of the All African People's Revolutionary Party, continued, "Black men are enslaved all over the world. Our primary goal in the Pan-Africanist movement is the total liberation and unification of Africa under scientific socialism."

He stressed that the only way Blacks will ever be free is through the total annihilation of world capitalism.

"History is the tool that we must use," he said. "Black people must realize that our history does not begin in 1619 when the first slave was brought to America.

"We are all Africans," he said. "Africa is our home." Therefore he says that Blacks in America, the Caribbeans, South America and all over the world should channel their efforts toward the total liberation of Africa, to build its natural resources, to make it the richest and strongest continent in the world.

Carmichael sees racism and capitalism as the basic elements that have to be destroyed. But, he said that the struggle as far as Blacks are concerned can not be a multi-racial class struggle, but must be a nationalist movement.

"The fight against racism is paramount," he emphasized, "because of the realities of life in America today." Therefore, he said, Black people must fight to overthrow the racist image of themselves that is prevalent in American history books.

"Our history is written as if we are a passive people," he began. "As if we were sitting in Africa until some good white people came over and saved us, and we passively followed them."

"But Black people are strugglers. We struggled in Africa, we struggled during slavery and we are still struggling today." Carmichael took this time to say that the Black Power movement is definitely not dead, it has merely taken on a new form.

"If you know what your people have done, then you know that there is nothing that you can not do," he reiterated. "When one's history is correctly interpreted, it can be very inspiring."



Stokely Carmichael

"Students have the responsibility of tracing the correct interpretation of history to properly understand it and give integrity back to our people."



Owusu Sadaukai

Listen children

listen children
keep this in the place
you have for keeping
always
keep it all ways

we have never hated black
listen we have been ashamed
hopeless tired mad
but always
all ways
we loved us
we have always loved each other
children all ways

pass it on

Lucille Clifton

Emma E. Pullen
Associate Editor

Owusu Sadaukai differs from Stokely Carmichael in his interpretation of the role of Black Americans in the Pan-African movement and the struggle against racism, capitalism and world imperialism.

Sadaukai, founder of the now defunct Malcolm X Liberation University, spent time in the field with the Filimo, the freedom fighters of Mozambique. In his conversations with the freedom fighters and other Pan-Africanists on the Continent, Sadaukai was told they do not advocate that Blacks in America concentrate their efforts into freeing Africa for them.

They, in effect, urge that Black Americans strike at the capitalist system where they are, thereby weakening it. This would in turn create conditions favorable to the overthrow of monopoly capitalism in Africa.

"We are not Africans in the indigenous sense," Sadaukai told an Afro-American Studies seminar. "Africa is our homeland in the sense of where we originated. But, in reality we are Afro-Americans. The focal point of our struggle has to be here."

"Imperialism is worldwide," he

continued, "but it manifests itself differently in different places,— America, the Caribbean and even among the different countries of Africa."

"The struggle in America is not to free Africa, but to bring about socialism in the United States, breaking down capitalism here, so that it can be destroyed internationally."

Because the goal is world socialism, Sadaukai says, the movement has to be a multiracial class struggle which would create a multiracial socialist nation. He says that he understands that racism will be one of the contradictions within the struggle that Blacks must deal with but he does not see the fight against racism as being paramount.

Since the capitalistic system created racism, Sadaukai says that "the struggle is to destroy the system. You can not destroy racism without first destroying the system that feeds off it."

He also cautioned that once capitalism is destroyed that does not mean that racism will automatically vanish. But the destruction of the system will create conditions that are advantageous to destroying racism, as the break down of the system in America will create favorable conditions in Africa that will lead to overthrow of monopoly capitalism on the continent.

Poets woo audience

Vanessa Gallman
Staff Writer

superiority.

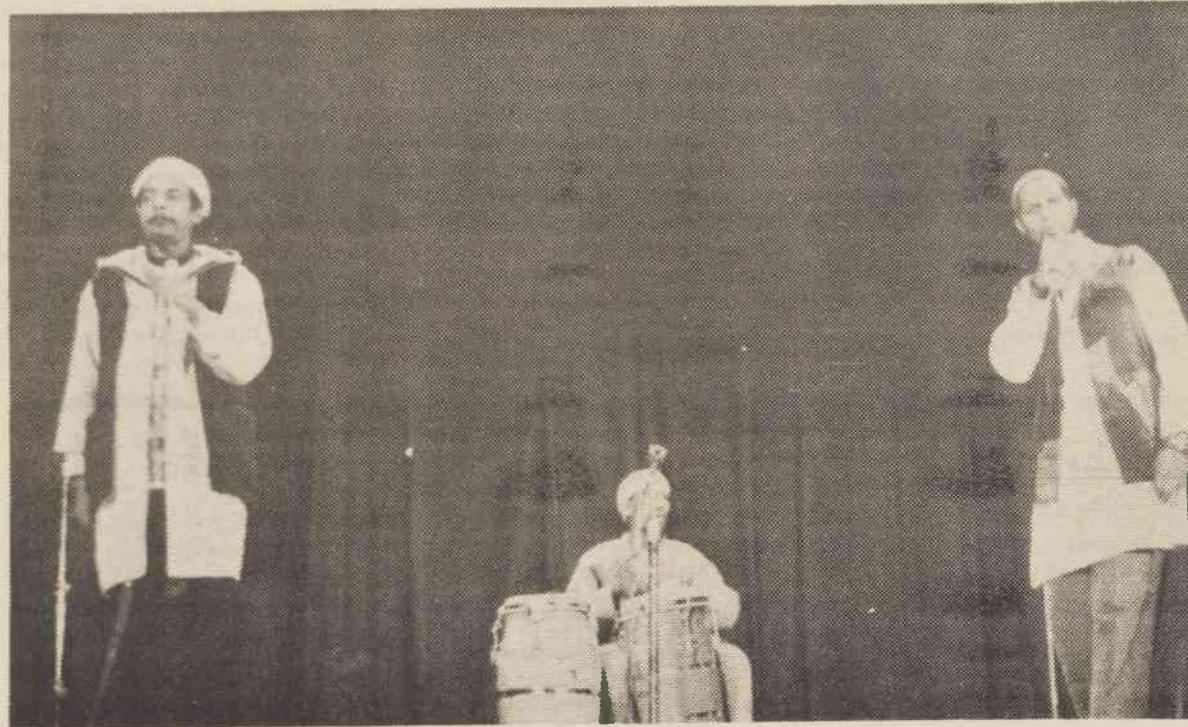
The Poets asked, "They say man descended from the ape, but who has flat butts and hair all over their bodies?"

Making no concession for the whites in the audience, the Poets explained to them: "We came in as prisoners of war. Until now, it has been a harsh existence for us. And the fact that the 'American Dream' has never been realized, not even for white folks; you know that it has only been a nightmare for us."

Warning students not to feel they are free because they are students, the Poets pointed out that there are places on campus, now, that perpetuate racism.

The Last Poets left UNC with their concept heavy on students' minds: "This is the last age of poems and essays. The pen is not mightier than the sword, but they are equal in weight. Therefore, you have your pen in one hand and your sword in the other hand."

Afterwards, giving and receiving the Black power handshake, students mingled around. And from every corner of Memorial Hall echoed, "They were sho' nuff bad!"



The Last Poets perform during the Black Arts Cultural Festival.