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Seale claims 'cheap' history

Black Panther Party co-founder shatters false notions

By Alicia B. Williams
Managing Editor

Bobby Seale made manifest the faultiness of "cheap" history in a standing-room only lecture on the Black Panther Party in the B.N. Duke Auditorium, Wednesday, January 23, 1996.

The salt and pepper haired Seale, clad in a grey sports jacket and blue shirt, looked deep into the audience and proclaimed that he had come to explain "the positive action of what really went down."

He began his journey through the retrospective by pointing out that the majority of what was portrayed in the movie, *Panther*, directed by Mario and Melvin Van Peebles, was untrue.

"You let people write little pieces of cheap history and believe it to be true," Seale said. "Ninety percent of what has been portrayed on the screen never happened, never occurred in the Black Panther Party in the United States of America."

Seale said that the media perception that he and Black Panther Party co-founder, Huey P. Newton, were thugs, was unfounded.

"We were not hoodlums and thugs, brothers and sisters. The Black Panther Party grew out of young, black intelligentia out of Merritt College," he said.

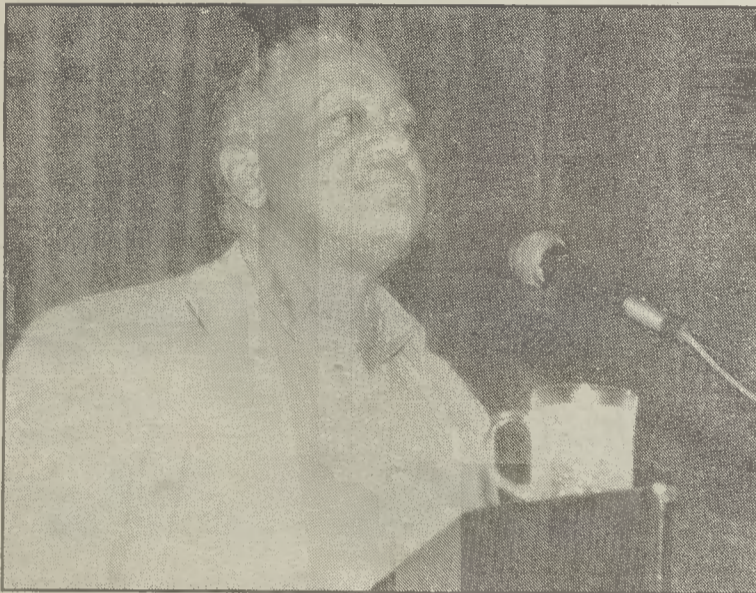
He said that "Van Peebles dumb Panther movie," never explored the fact that he was a jazz drummer, stand-up comedian, carpenter, four year Air Force member and engineering design major at Merritt College.

"But I'm a thug," he said, sheepishly.

Seale told the packed crowd of the Party's true beginning, and coalition-based work with any other organization geared toward bringing about change.

He drew this parallel of the need for holistic humanity to the Nation of Islam.

Seale affirmed that the demise



Bobby Seale came to NCCU to set the record straight

of the Black Panther Party grew from the fear of the FBI, headed by J. Edgar Hoover, that the cooperational humanism displayed by the Black Panthers and other left wing organizations would really bring about revolutionary change in America.

Referring to the Nation, Seale said, "You waste so much time hating... We don't hate white people, we hate oppression."

Seale also addressed the Black Panther Party's intent for carrying guns.

He said that civil rights organizations had constantly been brutalized for peace, so the guns kept the police at bay, while stirring the imagination of the people.

He also said that they researched every California gun law before going on one police patrol.

"Our objective was to capture the imagination of the people to organize, to vote, and to elect more minority officials to office," he said. "They didn't tell you that!"

But Seale admitted that the election of Black officials and the changing of written-law is only a half victory.

"Half of those black politicians ain't worth doodly-squat!" he said.

Looking towards the future, Seale advised the crowd that the best consciousness-raiser in the world is active involvement.

He said that too many times people are sincere in the struggle, but get caught in the traps.

"I know where I come from, but I don't dwell on that," Seale said.

"Move beyond the myth. Racism is based on insidious fears."

He also told students to familiarize themselves with the information highway and to reach out to attain the highly advanced technological levels of understanding that science allows, which have nothing to do with race.

"Cooperational humanism, brothers and sister, all liberation is related," he said.

Seale, now the community liason for the African-American Studies Program at Temple University, is best known for being the legendary co-founder of the Black Panther Party of Self-Defense, who was bound and gagged in the Chicago seven trial for conspiracy to disrupt the 1968 Democratic Convention.

Environmental Affairs

Poor communities face serious health hazards

Victor Blue
News Editor

Environmental hazards pose a serious threat to life in many black and poor communities in North Carolina.

Few scientists, journalists or residents of these areas are even aware of the dangers associated with environmental problems.

Amal Abu-Shakra, an assistant biology professor at North Carolina Central University, has received a grant from Learn and Serve America to help her and her students increase awareness of environmental hazards in the Durham community. The \$3,060 grant, which will be used this semester, is being offered by the Historically Black College and University Network.

The course is designed to introduce students to the various aspects of environmental science that are involved in studying air pollution, water pollution, occupational hazards, environmental disasters and environmental research.

"When I first came to North Carolina Central University, I was impressed with the connection between the university community and Durham," Abu-Shakra said. Chancellor Julius Chambers has stressed involvement in the school's community service program, she said.

The community service program is an educational strategy which allows NCCU students to learn and participate in thoughtfully organized public service activities. The program also helps faculty members find grant money

to conduct their community-based activities.

Abu-Shakra has conducted post-doctoral research in the area of environmental science at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (1987-1990) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1990-1993), both located in the Research Triangle Park.

Abu-Shakra said she wants to empower students in her course to tackle emerging environmental problems that have direct influence on the community and to provide the students with valuable contacts in the area of environmental health.

Students in the course this semester will focus on Legionnaire's Disease, a condition which stems from contaminated water in closed environments.

Last summer the disease shocked the campus community when the bacteria was found in the Shepard library.

This single case of Legionnaire's Disease did not constitute a major outbreak but was more than sufficient to make students, staff and faculty become more interested in learning about the disease and its prevention.

The students' findings in this project can be copied and used to handle other environmental hazards, Abu-Shakra said.

"There are several sources of health risks in our direct community and the socio-economically disadvantaged are always consistently at higher risk of those environmental hazards," she said.

Jazz ensemble to compete in Switzerland

Campus Echo Staff

The North Carolina Central University Jazz Ensemble has been invited to participate in the Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland.

The NCCU group, directed by Ira Wiggins, will perform in the part of the festival known in English as Montreux Jazz Festival Off, which highlights new talent in the jazz world.

The festival, to be held July 5-20 in the Swiss resort town, also includes many of the world's foremost professional jazz artists.

J. Richard Dunscomb of

Hollywood, Fla., the American Coordinator for the Montreux Jazz Festival, issued the invitation in a letter informing Wiggins that the North Carolina Central University Jazz Ensemble has met the necessary musical standard to perform in Montreux.

Dunscombe told Wiggins, "I really enjoyed your CD, it's high quality, first class jazz! They will love you in Montreux."

The Montreux Jazz Festival is among the oldest and most prestigious jazz festivals in Europe, covered by 500 journalists annually.

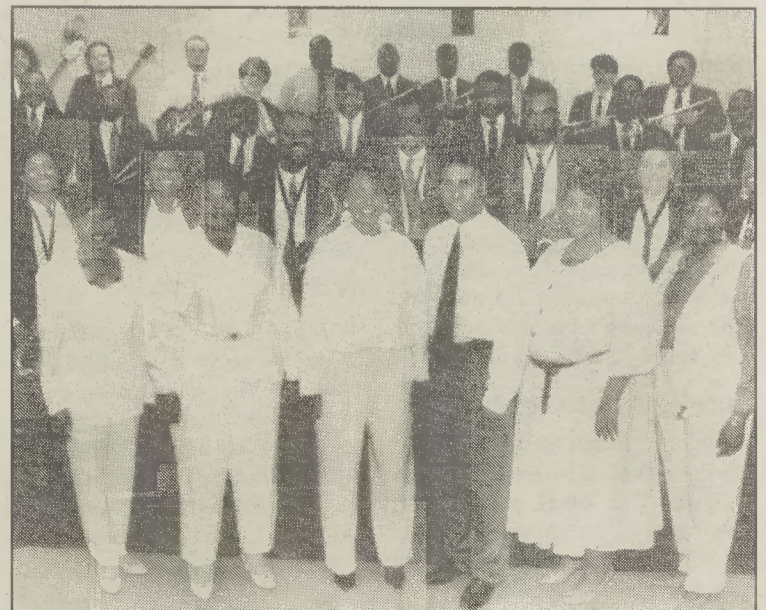
Performers who have appeared

in Montreux Jazz Festival Off and gone on to national and international stardom include Roy Hargrove, Marcus Roberts, and the New York Voices.

Wiggins said the Jazz Ensemble will begin fund-raising efforts to acquire the travel costs for the festival as soon as possible.

"We're going to try very hard to do this," Wiggins said.

Wiggins has directed the NCCU Jazz Studies Program for nine years. The Jazz Ensemble's first compact disc recording, "Central Visions," was officially released in November and has enjoyed notable success in regional sales.



The NCCU Jazz Ensemble