

**Stokely Carmichael at Stedman**

**Black revolutionary addresses wild meeting**

By MICHAEL HOLLETT

In one of the wildest meetings York University has ever seen, Black revolutionary, Stokely Carmichael spoke Tuesday to an audience of about 200 people on the topic of pan-Africanism at Stedman Lecture Hall D.

After the meeting Carmichael smilingly said he didn't like to lecture, leave and let people forget about his speech, but wanted rather to create a situation where his topic would be discussed for a long time after. He did just that.

The meeting was delayed 90 minutes as Carmichael was stopped by police for half an hour while rushing to York from another talk at Centennial College. Almost no one in the audience left, perhaps with a foreboding of things to come.

Carmichael is a former member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as well as past honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party. He is now a member of the All African People's Revolutionary Party.

**NO MICROPHONE**

Carmichael began the meeting by shunning the microphone. He said, "Can you hear me at the back"? Someone said no and Carmichael laughed, "if you can't

hear me, how can you say no?"

He then announced that the meeting would not be a lecture but a seminar. He swept into the audience like an evangelist and demanded of one person, "Is York University organized?" He said no. Carmichael asked another, "How do we organize?" and the seminar was on.

Carmichael spent the first part of his talk discussing how to organize the revolutionary socialist movement. He quoted former president of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, and said, "Thought without action is empty. The pre-requisite of revolution is organization".

**NEVER PEACE**

Carmichael said political education of "the people" was essential for organizing a revolutionary movement. He said the development of good leaders was also necessary as well as a solid ideology.

He continually dealt directly with the audience, running up and down the aisles of the lecture hall to address a critic or a supporter.

Carmichael said that "under capitalism there will always be inequality, there will never be peace.

Capitalism is based on the

possessors of capital making as much profit as possible by any means possible".

Carmichael refused to accept some audience members' belief that society would never be equal. He said "There is nothing that man and woman cannot do". He felt socialism was an historic inevitability.

Carmichael said universities in capitalist countries are set up to make students maintain capitalism. But, he said, they can learn to fight capitalism in university. "When I read a book", he said, "I'm reading it to get a clearer understanding of capitalism so I can destroy it". He added that students should work to organize themselves and the people. After the meeting he said students can be the spark of the revolution.

The meeting boiled throughout but it exploded when Carmichael began discussing the concept of pan-Africanism. Carmichael believes Blacks, Africans should go back to Africa to struggle for socialism. "The intent of the capitalist system is to keep the African ashamed of Africa and therefore ashamed of himself," he said.

"Africa is home for the Black. Home is where your history, culture and origin are. We are going back to build our continent, the richest on the face of the earth".

**AFRICAN LIBERATION**

Carmichael believes a socialist Africa will have the greatest possible impact on the world and thus make the liberation of other countries, including smaller, Caribbean nations easier. He believes it is better for a Black to devote his or her energies towards an African revolution than for one, in a smaller, less important nation.

For the rest of the meeting



Bryon Johnson photo

Former honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party, Stokely Carmichael makes a point at an impassioned meeting Tuesday.

pan-demonium reigned as Carmichael's pan-Africanism was defended and attacked. He rushed around the lecture hall defending his policy. People stood on chairs and screamed at each other trying to be heard above the din. At one point, as Carmichael rushed across the hall he picked up a baby, kissed her and then continued to make his point.

A speaker rose from the audience and demanded from Carmichael what Africa had to do with Trinidad, his country. He said Black people had died under capitalism to build Trinidad and didn't understand why they should leave it.

Carmichael challenged him saying, "Trinidad is a nation created against your interests, in

someone else's interests yet you are clinging to it.

The meeting ran for three hours before the chairperson pronounced it closed. But the crowd did not disperse.

The lecture hall was a sea of excited clusters of people discussing the issues raised at the meeting. Carmichael himself was mobbed by those still wishing to talk.

Finally the crowd was led from Stedman to the Central Square bearpit where Carmichael and about 50 people continued the debate for another hour. He slowly pulled out of the group to meet another commitment off-campus, but as Carmichael and his entourage left Central Square, the discussion was still raging.

**No to illiteracy test**

TORONTO (CUP) — The student council at Scarborough college plans to fight a decision by the college council to institute compulsory English proficiency tests next year.

Those failing the test will have to take a half course in remedial English as part of the degree requirement.

"The whole attitude of the administration was that they weren't willing to consider any alternative," said student president Gary Sands.

"Their attitude was that they wanted this proposal and that was all there was to it."

He criticized the proposal for being "a move toward a punitive sort of system." Student council has proposed voluntary tests, the results of which would not go on record.

Sands also expressed concern over the program's \$35,000 price tag. "They keep telling us what dire financial straits we're in, but it doesn't seem to slow them down," he said. Furthermore the decision was based on insufficient evidence, Sands charged.

"I've been asking to see some statistics on this alleged illiteracy, but no one has shown me any evidence."

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Thursday, October 28  
8:30 p.m., York Quay

- Journey One, by Jeff Hemmings;
- Pop Show, by Fred Mogubgub;
- Treefall, by David Rimmer;
- Fair Exchange, by John Gaug;
- Being First, by Ruth Hope;
- Fine If You Can Get It, by Peter Waldmann

**OPENING SING**  
Thursday, October 28  
8:30 p.m., York Quay

Amateur blues and folk musicians are invited to perform every Thursday. For details call Dave Stavert, 868-1056/366-2527. Guests: Sam Larkin and Tom Lash.

**SQUARE DANCE**

Friday, October 29  
7:30 p.m., York Quay

Angus McKinnon and his Scots Canadians is the guest band this Friday. Instruction is provided for beginners.

**ARMENIAN FESTIVAL**  
Saturday, October 30 11 a.m. - midnight; Sunday, October 31, noon - 6 p.m. York Quay.

- Crafts
- Armenian food
- Photo exhibit including portraits by Cavouk
- Disco dance, Saturday, at 8:30 p.m.

**POETRY EVENING**

Tuesday, November 2  
8:30 p.m., York Quay

Guests: Wayne Clifford, author of *Eighteen*, and *Glass/Passages*; and Stuart MacKinnon, author of *Sky-deck*, and *The Lost Survivor*.

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