

Dick Gregory delivers caustic lecture

Sugar addicts will stalk the streets for a fix

By DOUG TINDAL

Plainclothed police officers made up a healthy percentage of the near-capacity crowd last week, when Dick Gregory spoke in the Bethune dining hall as part of the college's black perspectives programme.

Police were called in after phone calls were received by Bethune master Ioan Davies and York security chief George Dunn.

"We're going to get those black bastards," said one caller.

Gregory, a 43-year old social activist and popular nightclub comedian of the 60s, used his biting humour liberally throughout his two and a half hour talk, to underscore his social commentary.

CRIME OFF STREETS

"Nixon didn't lie to us, you know. He said if he got to be president, the first thing he'd do was to take crime off the streets. Watergate is all our fault for not asking, 'Where you gonna put it, prez?'"

"But he got even with us; he left us Gerry Ford."

"I thought Ford was putting us on; I didn't think anybody could be born that dumb. Then I saw a picture of him skiing in Colorado. He was trying to put his socks on over his skis."

"But Nixon isn't all bad. I've paid for more napalm than he has. In 1972, Nixon paid \$700 in taxes. I paid \$35,000 — and I was *against* the war!"

Gregory said the young people in the States were "the only moral force that exists in America today".

"And they've done a lot with that moral force. They didn't use one gun to run LJB back to the ranch."

"The grandest day in the history of America was November 21, 1974, when 500,000 young people fasted for 24 hours, and gave the money they would have spent on food to the poor."

FOOD SHORTAGES

Gregory painted an ominous picture of imminent food shortages in America.

"On June 1, 1974, the States had a 27-day food supply stored away. On January 1, 1975, they had a three day food supply."

"Because of the cost of living, millions of Americans have changed their eating habits. They're not eating meat anymore; they're eating more beans and rice."

"For the first time in America, the poor are facing a raid on their food supply. In the last 18 months, the price of beans went up from 60 to 80 cents a pound. If that continues, 40 to 60 million people are going to be priced out of the supermarket."

"And when that happens, that country gonna be razed to the ground in three weeks."

He cited newspaper reports in January about special squads being trained by the Los Angeles police department to deal with food riots.

"We're so stupid in America, we're spending money fixing to kill people who want food, instead of spending money to feed them."

"If sugar prices in the States keep going up, in 18 months all the dope

pushers will stop pushing dope and start pushing sugar. There'll be sugar addicts standing on street corners with coffee cups, waiting for a fix."

"We say we can't afford to feed those third world developing nations. Well we should be able to. The only reason they're so poor is 'cause we raped them of their natural resources and didn't even have the integrity to give them a sound agriculture or a good education."

JFK THEORY

Gregory made recent headlines for his testimony before the Rockefeller committee investigating the CIA. At that time, he showed the commission the "Zapruder film" of JFK's assassination, taken by an amateur photographer on the scene.

The film shows that Kennedy's head was knocked forward by the first bullet, but backward by the second, indicating that more than one sniper was involved. (The Warren report maintained that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone assassin).

"We did a time and motion study of the film," said Gregory, and found that Kennedy's head was driven back at a speed of 104 miles per hour.

"How could Oswald (who was stationed in the Texas schoolbook depository, several hundred yards behind Kennedy) have managed that?"

"Three tramps got arrested in Dallas after JFK was shot. They were booked as John Does. They weren't even fingerprinted."

"But there were pictures of them, and one of them was E. Howard Hunt, convicted of conspiracy in the Watergate burglary, and another was Sturges, a member of the White House plumbers unit."

"Howard Hunt called a press conference after we released those pictures, and said he didn't even know



Dick Gregory, American social critic and humorist, at Bethune last week.

Sturges in 1963, and that he wasn't anywhere near Dallas that morning.

"I know Hunt didn't know Sturges in '63, 'cause in '63 Sturges's name was Finareno, and he and Hunt were running guns to Cuba as early 1959."

"Since all this happened, you wouldn't believe the number of people who have come up to me and said, 'You know, they're going to kill you!' And remember, we're all supposed to be living in a free country."

"Were you all watching on TV when (Nelson) Rockefeller was sworn in as vice-president? I swear he almost raised his left hand."

Gregory's speech was co-sponsored by the Black People's Movement and the office of the Bethune master.

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