Middle Tennessee State University

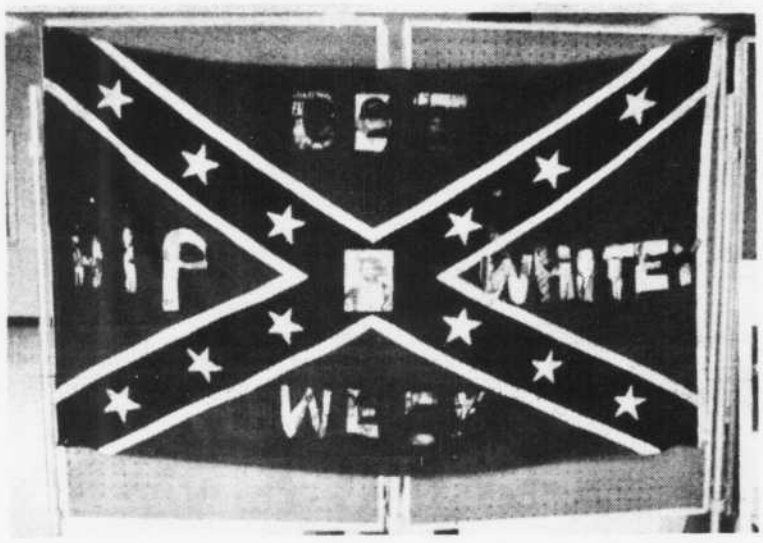
SIDELINES

No. 27 Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130 Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1970



Posters in the Black Student Association display of "Get Hip Whitey Week" depict two prominent black leaders of the past decade, Huey Newton of the Black Panthers and the late Martin Luther King.

Black leaders



"Get Hip Whitey Week" composed of letters depicting black personalities on a background of the Confederate flag serves as an emblem of the week's activities.

"Get Hip!"

Black history courses

McCash notes re-evaluation of past

By Gary Matthews

Bart McCash, the first professor to teach a course in black history at MTSU, believes he is riding the crest of a major trend.

"The single most important thing about the study of black history," says McCash, a 39-year-old white Southerner, "is that it has caused us to re-appraise and completely reinterpret American history as a whole."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This week has been set aside by the Black Students' Association for "Get Hip Whitey Week." Organized to promote interracial understanding, appreciation of black culture, and understanding of black problems, meetings, discussions, displays and a speech by Dick Gregory tonight have been planned. The following feature discusses efforts on the part of the university begun last year to offer black history studies.

McCash's course in Afro-American History was first offered in the fall and spring of last year, and will be repeated next semester. Since its inception in 1969, it has been joined by a second black history course, entitled "Sub-Sahara Africa," taught by Roscoe Strickland.

McCash debunks the popular notion that "the black man only became important with Martin Luther King." The ultimate aim of his course, he asserts, is to demonstrate that black Americans have played a significant part in the development of American culture from the founding of the country to the present.

The professor ascribes the dangerous and widespread ignorance concerning black history to the fact that "the black American is simply not being treated in the usual textbooks."

McCash admits that when he volunteered to teach the course, he found it necessary to bone up on the subject. "I knew practically nothing about it before," he says.

He adds that teaching such a class gave him both the opportunity and the motivation to read widely about a subject outside his special field, which is 19th-century American history.

His survey course in Afro-American history is, according to McCash, primarily a discussion course with a couple of key lectures.

Although a textbook is used to give students an overview, the major course materials consist of paperbacks such as "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," Carmichael and Hamilton's "Black Power" and others.

At least five films will also be used, he predicts.

McCash says the course has evolved a great deal since he first ventured to teach it.

"The first time," he says, "I probably tuned out a lot of the black students by dwelling too heavily on slavery and abolition, when they wanted to learn about contemporary topics such as Black Nationalism."

The second time the course was offered, McCash recalls, more emphasis was placed on recent history, but featured too many student reports and insufficient background information.

Next semester he hopes to strike a balance between both extremes, while focusing on the 20th century in order to make the course more relevant.

McCash has encountered more than enough problems in teaching a black history course.

"What do you do," he asks, "when you have a black student like Sylvester Brooks, who knows as much as or more than you do about the subject, in the same class with a white student who never heard of Booker T. Washington, or doesn't even know the name of the school he founded?"

Another problem, says McCash, is that "I had expected more blacks to take the course."

He notes that it is all but impossible for the average white American to avoid offending blacks through subtle attitudes and remarks of which he himself may be unconscious, but which nonetheless reflect the biases of the society in which he lives.

"For example, the remark I just made about wishing more blacks would take the course probably sounds patronizing to them," he says, catching himself.

McCash also admits that he has at times offended white students taking the course, who frequently exasperate him with their naivete, and who insist on using such terms as "colored" or "niggra," and tend to over-simplify the black man's problems.

(Continued on Pg. 2)

Marxist to speak on Mideast at Free University session

Peter Buch, a Marxist authority on the Middle East situation, will speak at the Free University in the University Center, Room 324, Thursday at 7 p.m., according to Donnie Spann, student member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The Young Socialist Alliance is arranging the speech which is sponsored by the ASB.

Spann indicated that since 1967, Buch had appeared at college campuses, speaking in favor of Palestinian self-determination and is now on an extensive speaking tour of North America

Buch was born in Germany, Spann explained, but his family was forced to flee from the Nazi regime there. The Young Socialist Alliance member also stated that Buch lived and worked in Israel while a member of Hashomen Hatzair, a leftist Zionist group, but had become disenchanted with Zionism and had become a Marxist.

Spann noted that Buch had been one of the founders of the Young Socialist Alliance and also a member of the National Mobilization Committee Against the War, helping to organize and lead demonstrations in New York and Washington, D.C.

ASB proposal

Restructure bill faces congress

Both houses of the ASB congress are expected to act on a proposal Thursday night at their respective meetings dealing with the restructure of the MTSU student government.

The proposal, prepared by a joint ASB house committee, is not scheduled to be released before Thursday. It is being made as the result of action taken by both houses to strengthen the ASB, according to Dennis Phillips, sophomore senator and member of the committee.

Phillips added that the committee was formed because the ASB congress realized that the student government could be more effective under a different type of structure.

Although the committee's proposal has not been released, it is expected to suggest that the ASB congress be changed to a unicameral legislature.

Three different proposals to restructure the student government during the past two years have gone before the student government houses. However, each of these has failed to get through the ASB congress.

The committee, headed by Erskine Smith, senior senator, included members of both houses as well as several students that are not in either house.

The students on the committee who are not in the ASB were named to give "diverse outside ideas" for the restructure, according to Suzanne Smartt, speaker of the senate.

Federal representative

Government official to address students

As a result of continuous efforts by the Associated Student Body government, a representative of the U.S. Department of State will be on campus this week, according to information released by ASB President Bart Gordon.

Edward Blakeley, special assistant to Michael Collins, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, is in charge of the state department's youth participation program. His purpose "is to develop new avenues of communication between the Department of State and young people throughout the United States," Gordon said.

Blakeley will be in the mid-state area Dec. 9, 10 and 11 for a series of dialogues and discussions with the students of Fisk, Vanderbilt and MTSU. The visitor's exact itinerary has not been disclosed, but he is expected to take part in an open forum with students and visit some selected classes for further discussions.

Blakeley joined the State Department in May of 1970. Prior to affiliating himself with the federal government, he was director of the largest United States anti-poverty training center in San Francisco. He was also associated with the administration of the University of California, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, and did extensive work with U.S. foreign student groups in Europe and Latin America.

The young civil servant received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of California at Riverside, earned two master of arts degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Pasadena College, and is getting his doctorate in education at UCLA. During the interim between his educational and professional careers, Blakeley did a four year tour of duty as an intelligence officer with the U.S. Air Force.

"We hope our students will bring some incisive questions to the open forum," Gordon stated. "At 32, he is on top of what is happening among the youth of America and may offer some helpful suggestions from his varied experience," he added.

Selective Service system announces deferment drop

The Selective Service system has announced recently the deadline for filing of reclassification into the Armed Forces.

All MTSU registrants wishing to drop their deferments and be reclassified as I-A must do so by midnight, Dec. 31, 1970. Such a request must be received by local boards by that date or carry a postmark dated Dec. 31 or earlier.

The announcement was made by Dr. Curtis W. Tarr, National Director of Selective Service, who issued the instructions to local board personnel.

In particular, the instruction to local boards will be of interest to those MTSU students who hold high numbers in the 1970 draft lottery.

Should a student hold a number higher than 195, which has been set as the highest number any local board can reach this year, it is to his advantage to voluntarily give up his student deferment for the I-A classification.

Therefore, students with a high draft number will move to a lower draft priority group on Jan. 1, with other members of the 1970 first priority group with unreached numbers.

While recognizing that students holding lottery numbers over their local board "high" could effectively limit their vulnerability to the draft by being classified into the I-A by the year's end, Tarr stated that "The law allows young men to elect whether they will apply for a deferment should be able to drop them and those young men granted deferments should be able to drop them if they desire."

Tarr said the new policy was issued because various boards throughout the country were scheduling their last meetings of the year at different times.

By defining a specific deadline, the new policy allows all registrants an equal amount of time to take advantage of the reclassification offer.

Previous to changing this policy on deferments, students holding deferments were generally unable to voluntarily relinquish them as long as they continued to meet the criteria for deferment, except at the end of the deferment period when they could cancel them simply by not submitting the necessary documents for an extension.

The types of deferments affected by the memorandum are high school and college deferments, occupational deferments, agriculture deferments, paternity and hardship deferments. The I-Y classification, unacceptable for military service except in national emergency, is not affected by this new policy, and students classified I-Y are not able to voluntarily drop this classification.

Tarr pointed out that all deferments are issued for limited periods of time, generally for one year, and that it is the responsibility of the registrant to submit documentation for an extension of this deferment.

Foreign language department making curriculum changes

By Cyndy Johnson

Keeping up with the general growth and development of MTSU is the foreign language department. Several revisions of the present curriculum are now being perfected for final approval before being officially added to the course selections.

According to Dr. T. Coy Porter, department head, the changes have been under consideration for some time, but came to a peak of development only this semester. With the combined efforts of all the foreign language teachers, the proposed courses should be initiated next fall. The changes, Porter explains will hopefully meet the needs for a more meaningful presentation of foreign language literature.

The growing enrollment of students in foreign languages has made it possible for the university to diversify its course offerings, Porter added.

The current system of language class selection is general in presentation, highlighting the main points and providing the student only a brief introduction of a language that might otherwise have been fascinating in a many-faceted method of selection. Under the revision, there will be more specialized fields of study, bringing greater revelancy and attention to today's society, and bearing more emphasis on the cultural aspects of a language. There will be an integration of psychology and foreign studies selections, particularly those dealing with religion and philosophy as they relate to human thought and cultural development.

In this way, the department chairman feels that there promises to be a conspicuous fusion of interpretation and application of foreign studies, creating better understanding and more room for individual creativity.

The proposed new curriculum, although affecting only upper division classes, will include four entirely new language classes, including French Civilization, 17th and 18th Century French Literature, German Culture, and Spanish Civilization. Two current survey courses, 311 and 312, will undergo revisions as to specialization of material and increased classroom supplements such as more films, slides and texts.

Black activist Dick Gregory to discuss social problems

Black humorist/activist Dick Gregory will rap on "Social Problems: Social or Anti-social?" tonight in the gymnasium at eight.

The second guest in the "Ideas and Issues" speaker series, Gregory is also opportunely scheduled for "Get Hip Whitey Week," sponsored by the university Black Students' Association this week.

Gregory, who gained his initial fame as a night club comedian, turned his attention early to civil rights activism, and the ghetto culture from which he came. Playing benefits and performances for various black related movements, Gregory decided that superficial involvement as a comedian was not enough.

Jailed numerous times, Gregory continues his participation in group demonstrations, because he feels the cause of black Americans is "right." In 1968, he ran as a protest candidate in the presidential election, as one example of his involvement in the black cause.

Twice vetoed as a speaker at the University of Tennessee, administrators of the state university declared they would not allow "a racist of any color to speak."

The action led to a federal court decision granting a new Open Speaker policy, however, and Gregory spoke to over 3000 students at UT last April 9.

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, first speaker in the series, addressed a capacity crowd in the Dramatics Arts Auditorium. Other speakers will be Reid Buckley, a conservative author, the lecturer and brother of columnist William Buckley, and "Lil' Abner" cartoonist Al Capp.

Weems expects student increase

More than 10,400 students are expected to be enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University by 1974 and more than 11,100 the following year, Dr. John E. Weems, MTSU Dean of Administration, announced yesterday.

The university enrollment for 1970 is 8,093, reflecting a 668 increase over the 1969 total.

The 1974 and 1975 figures were included in a five-year projected enrollment for MTSU, the report said. The total enrollments represent both full-time and part-time students.

The largest single increase between academic years is expected between 1972 and 1973, the report noted, with an increase of 6.5 percent, or 604 students.

Projected enrollment for 1971 is 8,732; 9,296 for 1972 and 900 for 1973.

Out-of-state enrollment--now at 470 students--is expected to rise to 630 by 1974, and to 66 by 1975, the report added.

History department plans Afro-American course

The history department voted last Tuesday to institute a new seminar course in Afro-American history, according to Bart McCash, MTSU history professor.

In order to be accepted, the course must first be approved by the curriculum committee of the School of Arts and Sciences, as well as by the university curriculum committee, said McCash.

The history teacher stated that the seminar, which will be open to graduate students only, is designed to provide prospective history teachers with a background in the role of black people in the development of American history and culture.

"It seemed a crime that anyone could go into the field of teaching American history without knowing black history," McCash explained, noting that a great many teachers do precisely that.

McCash stated that the course might conceivably be offered this summer, but that if it goes through the necessary committees it should definitely be offered next fall.

Play tickets go on sale

Ann Petty, publicity chairman for the Speech and Theatre Department, announces that tickets for "Dinny and the Witches" go on sale today at the ticket booth in the University Center. Due to limited seating capacity, all tickets will be held at the box office for this show.

There are no specific seat reservations, she added. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis. Also because of the limited space, students who make reservations and find that they will not be able to attend are requested to cancel reservations.

Performance dates will be Dec. 11, 12, and 14-17. There will be no Sunday performance as previously announced. Curtain time is at 8 p.m. and tickets will be released at 7:45.

"You Can't Take It With You," a drama club play directed by Keith Bronder, will be presented in the round at 6:30 tonight on the main stage of the Dramatic Arts Theatre. The show will be finished within an hour and allow time for students who wish to attend the Dick Gregory speech to get there in plenty of time, Bronder said.

McCash . . .

(Continued from Pg. 1)

Does anyone resent black history being taught by a white teacher? McCash grins. "Probably--but the closest anyone has come to saying so in class was Cliff Gillespie."

"If I have no right to teach black history," he adds, "then a black teacher such as Mr. Lee Williams has no right to teach about the administration of Thomas Jefferson, because he couldn't possibly know how a white slaveholder felt."

McCash feels that black history, which for so long has been written out of textbooks by white historians, will eventually be an integral part of any American history course. It is ironic, he says, that even black and white history have been "segregated" into separate fields when in reality they are inseparably intertwined.

However, he adds, there will of course always be specialized studies in this as in any other area of history.

He predicts that as black history becomes more generally known and taught in the regular American history courses, Afro-American history as a separate field will be taught primarily on the graduate level.

Classifieds

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