

The Tougaloo OCCASIONAL RIPLE

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Next Sunday, April 23, is the Annual Parents Day at Tougaloo College. Parents of all of our students are cordially invited to spend the day on campus. Parents Day begins with a Chapel Service at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch. Then in the afternoon, beginning at 2:00 p.m., group conference will set up with the Business Manager, Financial Aid Director, Deans of Students, Academic Dean, Student Government officers, and the Social Committee Chairman. The dorms, classrooms, etc., will hold open houses from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Each student is being asked to serve as host or hostess for his own parents or guardians.

The Book-Review Program Committee will sponsor a Luncheon-Book Review in observance of National Library Week (April 16-22) on Friday, April 21. It will be held at noon in the Warren Hall Auxiliary Dining Room. The reviewer, Mrs. Lynda Salamon, Director of the Social Science Advancement Institute, will present highlights and lowlights on one work of Malcolm Cowley, The Faulkner-Cowley File. Cowley is an authority on William Faulkner and was a close friend of his. You will find some of Cowley's works now on display in Eastman Library.

Friendship and sharing with someone in trouble is by no means dead at Tougaloo. A few weeks ago Miss Sarah Stennis, a student at Tougaloo for a year and a half was seriously injured in an auto accident and almost completely paralyzed. She has been in University Hospital ever since, and will probably remain there for at least another week.

Realizing that time would hang heavy for Sarah, several of her friends, lead by Miss Alma Summers, collected over \$35.00 to rent a T.V. for her. Tougaloo is fortunate that it has people who are willing to express their concern in actions such as this.

The next meeting of the Tougaloo Women's Fellowship will be Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Huffer. This will be the annual Business Meeting and will also feature a musical program by several Tougaloo students.

There will be a gallery talk this Thursday in the Auxiliary Dining Room at 7:30 p.m. This talk will feature the works of Mr. William Anderson which are now being exhibited in that room.

COMPOSITION HELP SESSIONS

Help sessions in composition-for sophomores and other upperclassmen will be given by Mr. O'Mara on Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:00 p.m., starting today. You can come as often or as seldom as you wish. Classes will be in room 21 Holmes Hall. Bring a writing sample with you when you come.

The Social Science Forum speaker for this week (Wednesday 7:30 in the Social Science Lab as usual) will be Mr. Lew Feldstein. Mr. Feldstein, who was with Tougaloo's Advancement Institute last year, is now a Special Assistant to Mayor Lindsay of New York City. His subject will be "The Metropolis in Crisis-A Realistic View from the Mayor's Office".

Last week Tougaloo had a number of unique and different experiences. First there was the surprise visit of Senator Robert Kennedy. The next night we heard Stokely Carmichael tell us that white society is basically "uncivilized" and that all black people must work together to "get the white man off our backs".

Then two nights later we heard a performance of the Southern Folk Festival (after which a spontaneous sing of our own took place). We also heard Mr. H. A. Thompson of Jackson College speak about his experiences during a three year stay in Africa. And in the middle of all this, we honored our scholars and hosted our Board of Trustees.

The various ideas presented in these events give one pause-- which are most relevant for Tougaloo? Which ones do we accept, reject, interpret or modify? I suspect the week will live beyond its boundaries in time, at least I think it shall for me.

D. Johnson

BRAVO STOKELY CARMICHAEL!!!

By Daniel Offiong

Perhaps if all Negroes in America had had the rich information that Carmichael has about Africa, the African student in America might not have been subjected to the most humiliating and ridiculous questions that they are always subjected to by the Negroes.

Much rubbish had been written about and said about the Africans by supposedly knowledgeable scholars who for reasons only explainable by them approach their inquiries with color corrected lenses and personal prejudices. They write African history with a bias purposely aimed at depicting the African and people of African descent to the rest of the world as a people "incapable of organizing any movement of benefit to humanity". Candidly speaking many scholars have even said that the Africans have not contributed to human civilization. But the fact as clear as the broad daylight is that "the writing on papyrus on the banks of the River Nile, the building of pyramids and structures which have not been surpassed in engineering ingenuity could hardly have been the works of primitive and unprogressive people both as regards to their concept and execution".

Beacon of Present Civilization

Whether the world accepts it or not, it is on record that some 6,000 years ago the beacon from which present civilization of mankind reached its introverted and destructive stage, sparked forth from the banks of the Nile in Egypt.

Between 1510 and 1518 A.D. Leo Africanus, an African who had had education in Rome jotted in his diary that the level of learning in the northern part of Nigeria was very high. He later included this remark in his book called "History and description of Africa." In the south the "Yoruba, Benin and Fulani evolved political systems which were unsurpassed and the exploits of King Jaja of Opobo still stand clear in the annals of History."

Yes, all these happened before the series of military coups by which Europeans seized reins of government and imposed their imperialism upon the Africans.

Up to the time when great discoveries were made by European explorers there were several empires and kingdoms flourishing at all points of the compass. Whether the world accepts it as a fact or not these nations were not inferior to their contemporaries in Europe and Asia. Eventually, there came the invention of gunpowder as a weapon of warfare and an instrument of political control. Consequent upon this, these "kingdoms and empires disintegrated, partly as a result of disunity created by fratricidal struggles for power and partly because of slave trade."

Brother fought against brother and the slave trade depopulated the realms ruled by both. And Africa became a dark continent". What next. It was the partition of Africa at the Berlin Conference of 1884-85. "In this process of acculturation through the centuries", the African continent pillaged under a most brutal and ruthless form of oppression ranging from slavery to colonialism."

I have tried to recall the past glories of Africa in order to illustrate to my Negro brothers and sisters, indeed to all others who look upon the African as a primitive man, that all that has been said to them about Africa is nothing but malicious propaganda; indeed fabrications aimed at discrediting not only the Africans but also people of African descent.

Throughout Africa today there is an enormous restlessness, as if a giant were waking from a long sleep and flexing his muscles. The peoples of Africa, stimulated by the spirit of nationalism, are conscious of their strength of their tremendous man power of their long neglected natural resources, which 20th century science and technology are now developing, and of their significance in the world political picture. Their leaders are demanding a strong voice in the council of nations, and as that voice swells in volume, the giant is being heard."

The Negroes both at Tougaloo College and in Tougaloo village had the opportunity to listen to Carmichael Tuesday night. I sincerely believe that they will learn to approach all information about Africa with critical minds bearing of course in mind that until Africans write their own histories, there must ever continue to be distortions and exaggerations.

Finally, if civilization means slavery apartheid, colonialism, exploitation and the like, Africans has had her own share from the Europeans.

Bravo Carmichael!!!