

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

2-27-1969

Black symposium Communist speaks out

Bob Haskell

University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Haskell, Bob, "Black symposium Communist speaks out" (1969). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 147.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/147

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Black Symposium Communist speaks

by Bob Haskell

Black Symposium speaker Charlene Mitchell compared the treatment of Negroes in this country with the extermination of Jews under Hitler in Germany.

In her evening speech Feb. 18, Miss Mitchell offered no definite plan to alleviate the problem of segregation in this country.

She proposed many idealistic complaints about the present system, although she could advocate no direct action other than adherence to the Communist doctrine.

Pottery course at SCampus

Work on the potter's wheel and creative clay work by both beginner and advanced students will form the basis for a new short course in pottery to be offered this spring on the University of Maine's South Campus in Bangor.

The six-week course, offered for the first time in the State by the U of M's Continuing Education Division, will be held two evenings each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning Mar. 4.

Edward W. Hackett Jr., CED center director, announced that tuition for the course is \$30 and includes the costs of clay, glazing and firing.

Class instructor is Ivan Booker of Holden, manufacturer and seller of potter's wheels and clay creations.

Booker, who studied under nationally-known potter Edmund Schier at the University of New Hampshire, indicated that each student in the class will be given individual attention and will have ample use of the potter's wheels.

Further information and registration materials may be obtained from the U of M's Continuing Education Division, 14 Merrill Hall, Orono, or by calling 866-7339.

Miss Mitchell, who was 1968 Communist Party presidential candidate, emphasized the black man's plight in this country by saying: "Nobody is content to be oppressed." adding, "I hope it isn't too late for you to learn this lesson."

She opined that most people in this country believe in segregation, and that the racists who control big business are able to control police and thereby subdue attempts by blacks to get ahead.

She explained the Communist position as "going about the business of overthrowing systems which allow the discrimination of minority groups." She emphasized that communists believe in supporting the equal rights of all people.

If other people want to change the system, they will have to work for the black people because the causes are the same, she added.

Miss Mitchell explained that Communists believe black people are oppressed in this country in three different ways.

(1) They are oppressed as a people. Black doctors and black businessmen have difficulty getting into hospitals or getting started in business, she explained.

(2) Black people are oppressed because of their race. No other people in this country are oppressed as are the black people. Even the Indians' suffering at the hands of the white man, she stated, does not compare to the black people's suffering.

(3) Black people are oppressed because the overwhelming majority hold only the most menial jobs and positions like janitors and garbage collectors.

Miss Mitchell also indicated that black men are the first to be laid off from a job and stated that 37 per cent of the black men in Watts were unemployed in 1965 previous to the large scale rioting.

"The political and economic degree of freedom for black people will be determined by black people," Miss Mitchell said.

She emphasized her plea for economic equality by noting that if the poor people in this country could work to build decent housing for themselves, and if the rich people would pay taxes on their property to support this building program, then the poverty situation would soon be diminished.

She said in a socialist system the people of this country would be honor bound to honor the black people after oppressing them for so long. She then said that if the black people decided they could not live comfortably in an equal socialist society, everything should be given to the black people so they could set up their own autonomous system.

"If anybody thinks the people who control the monopoly system are going to yield to a free enterprise system and let the black people in, they've got another thing coming," Miss Mitchell said.

Coinciding with the black people's problem in this country, Miss Mitchell added, is the lack of knowledge of their history within this country. "It is impossible to study the history of this country without understanding the part played by the black people," she said.

Miss Mitchell called for black study programs to be organized at colleges throughout the country. She stated that it is not only the right of the black students to demand these study programs, it is absolutely necessary that they have the chance to learn of their culture because it is so intimately related to the culture of this country.



Charlene Mitchell

JADE EAST
if she doesn't give it to you, get it yourself!

Jade East After Shave from \$3.00, Cologne from \$3.50, and a complete collection of masculine grooming essences. All at alternate fragrances. by Jade East Coral and Jade East Golden Line. SHANN, INC. - Sole Distributor

THIBODEAU'S VIP BARBER SHOP
Specializing in:
HAIR COLORING
HAIRPIECES
STYLING
RAZOR CUTTING
RETOUCHING

Come down to
35 North Main St.
OLD TOWN
or call 827-5531

House Party coming up?
Decorating for a Formal?

Want to add Color to your dull dormitory room?

SEE US FIRST FOR ALL YOUR DECORATING NEEDS

PICTURE AND GIFT SHOP

Main Street
BANGOR

GUILFORD MILL STORE
PAT'S SEW AND KNIT
47 CENTER ST. OLD TOWN
Hours: Mon-Sat. 9:30-5:00; Thurs. Eve. till 9

Spring Fabrics Now Arriving

HANSON'S
authentically different

Head and Hart Skis
Boots - Bindings - Accessories
Parkas - Stretch Pants - Hats
Mitts - Boutique Items

HANSON'S
Ski and Saddle Shop

395 SO. MAIN ST. BREWER
TEL. 942-3279

The elimination of air pollution is the most important function in our forward moving, rapidly growing company. Individuals are needed who are willing to work with new ideas suited to the changing technology of the modern world. Your degree in Chemical, Civil, Electrical or Mechanical Engineering will enable you to achieve significant advances in your field and provide you with a highly rewarding, permanent career.

After careful evaluation of the sources contributing to air pollution, the UOP Air Correction Division develops, sells, and services a complete line of air pollution control devices.

We need a person with your background and talents to help us in our fight against air pollution.

For further information about the opportunities available to you, call or write Pat O'Reilly.

(203) 655-8711

DOWN with pollution.

AIR CORRECTION DIVISION
Tokeneke Road
Darren, Conn.
An Equal Opportunity Employer

7, 1969

as e'

e in the

ational I by stu-

mmunity

tr. James

ment and

will pre-

entertain-

mentives

will play

rife sings

asic. The

sent by

flans and

students

iversity,

ernational

L Turkey

it that al-

nally an

members

direction

organiza-

attracted

l life and

ty."

asked if

show be

estival is

uld like to

thing that

opte in a

It

e 9

Omega;

of 1971.

g. Alpha

Hogan,

Tom En-

Sue Roy,

Douglas

bi; Betty

i, pinned

Strange,

to Don

Academy;

letcher

i to Rick

tho.

ma Dou-

gaged to

ilitary

r, Alpha

Pettingil,

Army);

Delta Pi,

Cheryl

ngaged to

Jones en-

S. Army;

mega, en-

necticut;

engaged

ork; Trina

Beaulieu;

engaged

Gamma

457/

VER

KIT

9.50

n on

ULBS

LD -

TOWN