

Brief Tour Report-Derrick Morrison

The black student organizations have become the pre-dominant organization for students in the nationalist movement. Black student organizations exist everywhere, North, South, East, and West. The organizations have not only sprung up in the colleges and universities, but are beginning to spread to the high schools and junior high schools.

Most of these groups oscillate around cultural awareness activities. At one point or another in the history of these groups, a black arts festival is held, involving ~~#####~~ cultural and political discussions. Concurrent with this stage is the initiation of struggles against the university and college administrations over ~~###~~ the racist education handed out. One of the primary demands of the students has been the inclusion of Afro-American and African history in the curricula and making the university relevant to the black community. One of the high points of the struggle this spring came when the Afro-American Student Union forced Northwestern University into signing a statement declaring the U. a racist institution, and into agreeing that ~~#####~~ separate dorm facilities would be provided for black students.

A recent ~~#####~~ feature of these struggles have been the protest actions that have been staged by black athletes, particularly on the West Coast.

Because of the large ~~#~~ black student populations on the West Coast and the geographical concentration~~#~~ of black student unions in that area, the organizations have tended to be more political and better organized than their counterparts in the Midwest and in the East. At several universities on the ~~###~~ West Coast the Black Student Unions operate their own black studies program on the campus. In addition ~~###~~ to this, the unions operate Liberation schools off campus. In Los Angeles, some of the black student unions make direct contact with us to get literature on Malcolm X.

While most black students tend to be ~~#####~~ cultural nationalists, there is a thin layer emerging of revolutionary nationalists. I found them in most of the black student ~~#####~~ organizations I came into contact with. A lot of times this thin layer was in the leadership of the student organizations. It is these nationalists who are ~~###~~ the most dedicated, have in most cases gotten over the ultraleftist phase, and in ~~#####~~ some cases have contact with us.

The ~~#####~~ reception to NBAWADU by ~~#~~ those who had never heard of it was very good. Black students I talked to were interested in NBAWADU's activities and the Hell No newsletter~~#~~. Of course, whether this is organized or not depends uppn NBAWADU people in New York. So far, not too much has been done by people in the national center of the organization.

On a national scale SNCC~~#~~ is very weak organizationally. Apart from the South, SNCC only has a ~~#~~ real base in communities such as Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and in Seattle. That is to say, in those cities you have a SNCC organization with headquarters in the community with a group of youth around it.

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The most organized branch of SNCC is in Los Angeles. It has a real base among the high school students and the community at large. It is composed for the most part of revolutionary nationalists indigenous to L.A. L.A. SNCC is the conscious revolutionary wing of the ~~##~~Black Congress, a coalition of organizations. While everyone in the Black Congress is hung up on rhetoric and poverty money, SNCC is talking about program and organization of the community.

The Black Panther Party on the West Coast is a very significant development. It is the organization in the Bay Area. Smaller Panther Parties have been built in Los Angeles and in Seattle.

It is the only ~~##~~ organization on the scene that comes close to our conception of a black party. It possesses the tendency of becoming a para-military group~~#~~, and the tendency of becoming a political party. The tendency to become a political party seems to be on the upswing. When I attended a meeting in Oakland where Bobby Seale spoke, he gave a well-reasoned political speech, with no sign of ultra-leftism. On the whole, the Panthers seem to be more defensive about their formulations since ~~#~~the Newton incident last October. The constant police harassment have necessitated defensive formulations. Still, upon reading the Panther newspaper, there is a lot of ultra-leftism or verbal revolutionism expressed. Right now, the pressing need is to defend the Panther Party over the Newton and ~~#~~ Cleaver case.

The Panthers are primarily using their relationship with Peace and Freedom to gain funds for defense, and to use the ballot status of Peace and Freedom for their candidates. On all of the election campaign literature put out, it is Black Panther and Peace Freedom, not just Peace and Freedom. Even though it is being run through the Peace and Freedom Party, BPP militants see the Newton and Seale campaigns ~~##~~ as Black Panther campaigns. These election campaigns provide a focus for stressing the political character of the Party. In fact, the Self-Defense in the name of the Party was dropped by Newton to get across the idea that the Black Panther Party was a political party.