

UCSC - History 1965-69

Farm Workers Give Cool Reception To 'Death' Struggle For Black College

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Some support for a "black" college on the UCSC campus was promised by farm workers and liberal groups in Watsonville last night, but the group was hardly warm to a call for a "struggle to the death" over the college as asked by Bill Moore of Santa Cruz.

Moore was seeking support for his Black Liberation Movement in Santa Cruz and its demands for a Malcolm X college at UCSC which would offer a degree in Afro-American studies.

Moore claimed his group has gotten no answer to demands for the college from university officials, and said he would "call on our brothers in Latin America, Asia and Africa to respond to our request."

Later, however, Moore said university officials told him that Merrill College will study the problems of race, poverty and culture. Moore said this is not acceptable, since it is a "white" school and not a "black" school.

"Within the (Malcolm X) school will be blacks, Latins and Asians. Your brothers, your leaders will be represented," Moore told members of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, the Independent Farm Workers Against Discrimination In Hiring and the Peace and Freedom Party, as well as persons from his own movement.

Moore said the white community must give in and support the school or be exposed as racists. "Together we are three-quarters of the world population. The white minority is only one-quarter. This will be a struggle to the death," he declared.

This seeming call to violence did not seem to stir Moore's audience. "Are we preaching segregation?" a member of the farm workers' union asked. "There shall be no violence, according to the rules and laws of the union."

Hisauro Garza, a young man who said he will be a student at Merrill College, indicated he would support Moore's request. Garza, however, said Moore makes the Malcolm X college appear to be a college for all races, but then contradicts himself by saying the college will be "designed by blacks, built by blacks and the instructors will be black."

Said Garza, "I'm not interested in an Afro-American degree. I want to learn about Mexican-Americans." Garza accused Moore of trying to "use" the farm workers for his own ends.

Other persons in the audience interjected that the groups might support Moore "for what he wants" and perhaps the Black Liberation group would support the grape boycott as part of the Delano grape strike (see story on Page 15). "But our first problem right now is the boycott," Margarita Martinez said.

Moore replied to Garza that nobody is going to get free "unless we all get free." He said the groups must support each other because "you are either part of the solution or you are part of the problems."

Moore said the Black Liberation group has "offered the

world for the first time ever, a school for the black color. That means you, too."

He said the white establishment and university officials think "this will blow over. Well, it won't blow over. We're going to blow this county wide open."

Moore moves his Black Liberation proposal for a Malcolm X college to Santa Cruz tonight. The college proposal will be presented at a meeting of the Black Liberation Movement at 8 p.m. in the Economic Opportunity Commission area service center at 823 Pacific Avenue.

Supervisors Ask Spokesman To Explain Malcolm X College

County supervisors said yesterday they will invite a spokesman from the Black Liberation Movement of Santa Cruz to explain its demands for a Malcolm X "black" college on the USC campus.

But supervisors warned at the same time they have no power to have the university create such a college. They also had a few observations to make on the idea.

"I do not support segregation in any form, from blacks or white," Chairman Russ McCallie warned.

A letter signed by Bill Moore of the Black Liberation group was sent to supervisors, as it was sent to many community organizations, outlining demands and pro-

posals for an Afro-American college, to be named after assassinated black leader Malcolm X.

Supervisor Henry Mello proposed that the board hear a spokesman in any case. He said the college "would not be segregated," and that all races would go to it.

"I suggest we have a Brendan Behan college for all those Irish derelicts," Supervisor Tom Black countered.

Supervisor Robert Burton said American Indians are being slighted. "We should have some teepees up there."

Supervisor Vincent Locatelli said "bring 'em down. I'll tell them what I think of them."

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