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Gil Nobel Addresses AFS Students



Gil Nobel

By C. J. Mitchell

In a stimulating speech before more than 200 students, NBC's Gil Nobel spoke about the image of blacks in the media, the new breed of student, and the values of a changing society. Nobel, WNBC-TV talk-show host for "Like It Is," and weekend anchor of the evening news, was first of a possible line-up of guest speakers to appear in AFS 210: The Civil Rights Movement.

Gil Nobel began his journalism career reporting for radio station WLIB. In those days WLIB was a small white owned, but black oriented station in Harlem. WLIB was eventually sold to a group of

black investors that renamed the station WBLS-FM; a station rated this year by the broadcast industry as the top general market station in the New York area, a title that is given to stations with the highest audience "participation."

Nobel began his career in "the big time," at WNBC-TV 11 years ago during the Civil Rights Movement, when blacks were rioting and protesting against American policy.

In Nobel's view, blacks like himself were suddenly given jobs, not because they were liked, but because there were blacks willing to sit-in, riot, protest and even die so that others could be hired. For

these reasons, Nobel says he feels a "responsibility" to remain active in the Civil Rights Movement, a movement that Nobel says "began with students."

Students in the Movement

According to Nobel, it was students that wanted to change the attitudes in America. It began with civil rights for blacks, but as more people joined the struggle it moved into other areas, the Women's Movement, The Chicano Movement, the Hispanic Movement, U.S. foreign policy, and of course the Vietnamese War. Nobel went on to explain how college students have changed, "Today students have joined the 'me' generation," a situation he blames on the media's portrayal of super-heroes and super-jocks. He says that students are sleepers and have no true political perspective any more. "It was the students in the 1960's that worked for civil rights, that worked for a better penal system and worked for equality in educational benefits."

The Influence of the Media

Nobel also talked about the influence of the media on society. According to Nobel, there needs to be a healthier balance between people who control the media, and the people who watch the media, "...so that all opinion and perspective can be expressed freely

and openly. There is a cultural bias that exists in the media today... it perverts and clouds the view of the black experience so people cannot see well what is happening." In essence Nobel says that even the news is bias, and though you may see black anchors and reporters these people are not choosing what goes on in the news, "They are merely playing roles that have been pre-determined by producers and managers that know little about the black experience. Nobel's criticisms of the media come at a time when many other ethnic and racial groups have begun to question the validity of television's portrayal of life in America.

*"Students today
have joined the
'me' generation".*

Gil Nobel says his enemy is racism and invites everyone to join him in his battle to combat it, for in the world according to Gil Nobel, "you must be strong... if you don't complain, it merely corroborates what is being done; the world will only judge you by how you judge yourself."

Developments in AFS

A new library

More than 1,000 books were recently donated to the Africana Studies Program Library by Dr. and Mrs. Burghardt Turner. The library, soon to open on the second floor of the Social and Behavioral Sciences building, will be used as a type of "learning center" for black students.

Dr. Turner, a retired professor from Stony Brook's history department, says he felt there existed "... a need for 'Afro' students to have a sense of belonging, and to have a place where black faculty, graduate students and undergraduates could meet, relax, and feel comfortable." Dr. Turner also said that he hopes the books will give the AFS department a "Sense of recognition... it deserves."

Most of the books donated by the Turners, were once part of the Richard B. Moore collection, considered to be one of the largest and most impressive collections of black volumes in this country.

Richard B. Moore (1893-1978) was a "social reformer" in Harlem for more than 60 years, and was known throughout the country and

A new location

Following a week of protest by students and faculty the Office of Budgets has finally announced to the Africana Studies Program (AFS), that the AFS budget is near completion, and will soon be released. The AFS Program had previously been without an operating budget.

The AFS Program is also moving to a new location where there will be more space for faculty offices, TA offices, classrooms, and a new AFS Library.

Both of these new developments involving the AFS program, came after last week's rally when students, faculty and administrators demanded that the Africana Studies Program be given an adequate budget, space for classrooms and offices, along with a computer that had been promised to the program by a previous administration.

The rally was sponsored by BFSAs, SAINTS, AIM, BSU, LASO, and several other minority oriented organizations and clubs. A spokesman for one of the groups said the University's refusal to supply AFS with the proper tools, could reduce AFS to a "phony program."



ON THE INSIDE...

- The Africana Studies program will soon open a new library, that will serve as a "Learning Center." See story on page 3.
- Sociology faculty member, Paget Henry, writes about the aftermath of the coup in Grenada. Story on page 6.
- The President of BSU, Carlton Sprvill, talks about the past, and the future. See interview on page 2.
- Blackworld Sports, page 8.
- Voices is finally here, page 7.
- Amiri Baraka, activist poet and playwright, joins faculty of the Africana Studies Program. Story on page 3.

Life After Death

I watch them watching me
I hear their unspoken words
I laugh at them
I haven't lost my sense of reasoning,
stupid people...
I killed it.

Momma fusses over my dress, trying to make up
for my lack of interest
---- there's something different about the way she walks,
the way she talks and smiles, since they came
for papa.

I'm afraid to look into her face, I'm afraid it won't
be there
I'm glad she's here I need her
now that I killed it.

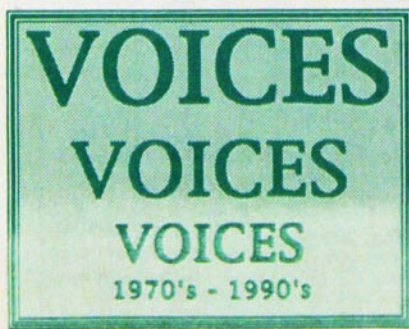
It's ghost haunts me
It threatens to come back
Sometimes it seems almost alive;
like today...
People are singing, screaming and crying
around me.
it wants to strangle me
I'm choking
I am not afraid
I know it cannot hurt me, it cannot come
back
unless I look at the man's face in the coffin.

(1991)

Julian

*I would like to take this
time
out to congratulate
BLACKWORLD
NEWSPAPER
on 20 years of
voicing the hopes, dreams and
concerns of people of color.*

*Susan Arauz
Creative Arts Editor
1992-1994*



Just - Us !

by
c b

He slumped
Lazily
In the corner
As the blue eyes of
Justice look on
Masturbating
Their external penises
Unmercifully sadistically
Upon his young virgin body
Until smoke filled orgasms
Are reached
Interjecting their Lead-filled sperm
Into his young soft body
Causing him to crumble into
An internal/external rapetory position

(1978)

Bones

My.. My.. My....
how fitting is it
that
NEW YORK
-- "the greatest city in
the world"
Was built on top
of African bones
Was the weight of
the work too
much?
Ya dig
Were there so much
lying
around that
their lies caused our
story ta die?
Ya dig!
I bet you do, but
if
they
did
they'd find
tons of bones
in New York alone
mixed with blood
-- an indigenous flood
twenty-four dollars
worth of beads
mis-planted seeds
Dig! Dig! Dig! Dig!
Underneath the sky-
scrapers
cement bright lights big
city
you'll find it
all
if u dig

Musa '93
(fka
Howdy)