

Interview reveals Davis' opinions



20-second announcement on the protest followed by a five-minute feature on string bikinis. The contradiction there made me so mad that I wrote a nasty letter to them. It seems like a pretty typical example of the sort of thing that goes on.

The first chapter of *Justice in the Round* (a book on Davis' trial) was saying that to a certain extent the problem is caused by the fact that in a political trial the press just takes for granted that what is to be covered is the specific charges, and leaves out the whole context, such as why there is a trial in the first place and things such as that.

Actually what I'm asking is: do

you think a lot of the distortion, even by "liberal" newspapers is intentional, or is it just how the press is used to operating?

DAVIS: I know for a fact that many times reporters who understood the dynamics of that trial—understood that it was a political trial, reporters who wrote relatively good stories about the trial as a whole and the specific details, found themselves in a situation where the substantive material in their articles would be cut out.

EMERALD: By their editors?

DAVIS: Precisely, precisely. So that means in my opinion that often the press is serving a very

special function in relationship to the status quo in this country and anything which disturbs that they don't like to cover.

Philosophical views

EMERALD: Let me turn to another subject. This may seem like an absurd question—tell me if you think it is.

Who is Angela Davis?

Nadelson's biography of you states that on the first day of the existentialism class you taught at UCLA, you said that man surges into the world and defines himself. Do you see what you are doing in those terms?

DAVIS: I'm sorry, but I don't even recall that. I'm positive that Regina Nadelson wasn't present at the first meeting of my course on existentialism.

The class had to do with an analysis of certain texts. That quote as I recall was from a text by Sartre. We were discussing that within the context of trying to understand Sartre's thought and then analyze it with respect to the way—well, I'm not an existentialist, so I have criticisms of that particular version of philosophy.

EMERALD: I didn't know if you were or weren't, uh...?(laughter.)

DAVIS: I'm a Marxist-Leninist which means I subscribe to historical and dialectical materialism as the philosophical understanding of the world.

EMERALD: Maybe you can explain that a little bit. Is there a way to define that fairly concisely that doesn't kill the whole idea? (More laughter.)

DAVIS: All it means is that we understand that history is (Continued on Page 14)

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I think that we are in a position where we must emphasize the role that the black media plays, the role that the media which is not beholden to monopoly corporations in this country plays. Therefore, I think that our attempts to communicate with people are going to have to come about on that level.

Press coverage of demonstration

Let me give you an example of what I mean. We had a massive demonstration recently on July 4 in North Carolina. The black press and such radio stations as Black Mutual Network and Black Media News did a really good job of reporting what went on, but there was virtually nothing in the established media.

EMERALD: I remember I saw ABC News that night. They had a

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Trash can pay off if you like to canoe on the Millrace.

When you're out canoeing, collect the trash that you see floating in the water or along the sides and if you get enough, you'll get a discount on the price of the canoe rental.

This way of cleaning up the race was just an idea earlier in the year. It was put into actual practice about six weeks ago.

Mal Fiese, Erb Memorial Union recreation center manager, said that the idea is to reduce the rental fee on a canoe if the canoeist brings in a reasonable amount of trash that is obviously picked up on the millrace. A reasonable amount, he figures, is about a shopping bag full. That amount allows 25 cents reduction an hour on the regular hourly rate of \$1.

The collected trash is left by the Canoe House for pick-up by University trucks, Fiese said.

The response of the money-saving, environment-improving device has been limited said Fiese. But he expects that it will be more successful as returning students start using the Millrace.

The canoeing season will close around Nov. 1. Fiese explained. During the season, the Canoe House operates, in good weather, from about noon until dark.

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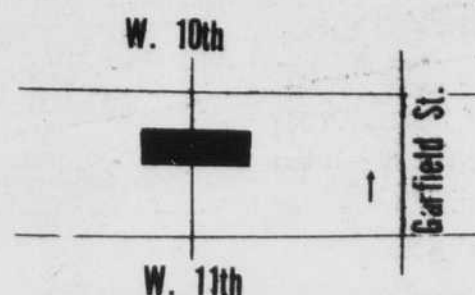
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