

Malcolm said, we don't fight the system because we're aggressive or violent people

BAKKE DEBATE BILLED AS PRIZEFIGHT, Y.S.A. TAKES A FALL

It was billed as a confrontation. It had the atmosphere of a prize fight. It was a debate on the Bakke Decision between Avie Nelson, spokesman for the night riding South Boston Marshalls, a glib Boston radio personality, who is turning the controversy over Boston busing into a launching pad for his political career, and a spokesman for the National Student Coalition Against Racism, front for the Young Socialist Alliance.

Three hundred students turned out at the University of Massachusetts - Boston campus to see and participate in the confronta-

tion. Many of the anti-Bakke forces on campus were there, a number of white students who had been taught to translate their anger at busing into anger at minorities were there. And overall a great number of other students who had not yet made up their minds about this controversial court case were there. As a prize fight it was a disappointment. Avie Nelson's legs were bound by the racist nature of his arguments and his lackluster punches had the weakness of someone who knows their hypocrisy. But the man in the anti-Bakke corner, the YSA, had no science to his strategy, threw his punches aimlessly without target, and basically threw only the right. The debate ended a draw, with most students leaving confused. Many of the uncommitted students were white and were confused as to whether taking a stand against national oppression required abandoning their own rights.

Avie Nelson ran the usual hackneyed arguments. Quotas are a violation of human rights, he complained never once speaking to the fact that this system by its nature establishes quotas that limit the number of minorities. Quotas if applied universally would kick Blacks off the pro-

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Professional basketball teams he pointed out. Demagogically fashioning himself as a champion against racial oppression as he promoted the time worn myth that Blacks are only good for sports, he argued that to be let in on a quota is to lose self-respect because it wouldn't be based on the individual's merits. He turned his back on the fact that the talents and skills of millions of Blacks and other minorities have never been tapped or encouraged to develop and flourish. Finally, he fell back on the usual pitch made by the opponents of the Bakke decision, that special affirmative action programs are unfair to whites and amount to reverse discrimination. The fact of the matter is that there is no such thing as reverse discrimination in a country where Blacks and other minorities are systematically discriminated against and affirmative action is only a tiny step towards alleviating discrimination. All in all it was an ugly self-exposure.

Unfortunately the main antagonist to Avie Nelson was the YSA. The YSA tries to fashion themselves the champions of Black rights and in so doing turn every issue into a question of racism so that each leaflet is indistinguishable from the past. Their strategy, as well as the arguments, never attack capitalism. Instead, it is a struggle against undefined racism and anonymous racists. All based on a cynical belief that minority students and students in general are incapable of understanding the nature of the capitalist system, are incapable of distinguishing friends from enemies and can only be appealed to on the basis of nationality. As a result, as debaters against Bakke they are ineffectual and as pretended leaders of the anti-Bakke struggle they are downright dangerous. Several examples will help to highlight the point.

At one point a girl stood up from the audience and said that she came from South Boston, was against Bakke, but had problems winning her friends and family over, even though the basis was there since they lived in lousy projects "just like Black people." The YSA's response was not to unite with the fact that this woman saw all nationalities oppressed by capitalist rule and on that basis join with the Black students in a just struggle. No, his response was to say white people don't live at all like Black people and you can't really support the movement until you understand that.

He argued that affirmative action was key to there being more minority doctors. And this was necessary because the lousy health care in the South Bronx was the fault of uncaring white doctors. Will minority doctors be more sympathetic to the problems of ghetto communities? In many cases, yes. But so will an important number of white doctors. In fact many white doctors have joined in the struggle to oppose the Bakke Decision. Regardless, why let capitalism off the hook. Lousy health care in the South Bronx is not primarily because of white doctors. But because one city hospital was shut entirely by the city and the other is working at only half capacity. The lousy medical care in the South Bronx is first and foremost the result of the New York City budget cuts and the fact that capitalism usually concentrates its attacks against minorities.

But the YSAer could hardly be blamed for failing to target the capitalist rulers in this one case. He never mentioned it once as a cause of national oppression. In the classless world of the YSA there are no bosses, no capitalists, no administrators, no government, only Black against white. This was clear when he for the hundredth time described those who run society as white males. When the RSB called out, "What about the capitalists?", this "Marxist" responded, personnel directors are white males, not capitalists. What became clear

Week Of Activities Planned

Over the weekend of April 1-3, over 300 people gathered at Yale University for a conference on the struggle in Southern Africa and the role of the University. At the conference, a proposal was made and adopted, designating the week of April 14-21 a national week of protest against University investments in Southern Africa. The

The struggle around divestments is sweeping students all across the country into motion. It is a way to take a stand on the side of the revolutionary movements in Africa. It is a way to strike a blow against our common enemy-U.S. Imperialism. The RSB will be planning activities in coordination with the national week of protest. Watch for our plans. Join the struggle. VICTORY TO THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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from both Avie Nelson and the YSA is that in this world there is a tug of war between different nationalities, and according to them, the choice for students is to line up behind their "favorite" nationality.

White students are not organized on the basis that the same forces that ruin their lives are the cause of national oppression. And that their interest is in joining a common struggle with students of other nationalities to fight the common enemy - the capitalist system. Instead, they should move over and give minority students "a piece of the action." This may attract some, but will never win the masses of white students to fight national oppression, Bakke or the capitalist system. Black and other minority students are promised a movement just like the sixties that will afford them equality under capitalism.

But most shameful is the fact that the YSA champions itself as a leader of the struggle against national oppression, but in fact only serves to prolong it. It prolongs it by time and again misleading and misdirecting the movement. As socialists, they promise to target the cause of national oppression but never do. Instead, the anger and hatred of minorities is never made conscious and led against the enemy. Rather than unleashing the full fury of the masses of minorities against the rulers, the YSA diffuses it into support for endless "reform politicians," new saviors and unending gimmicks. Nevertheless, when the fury explodes, the YSA can be found standing in the front ranks of the police lines to

"keep things peaceful." The same YSA that was demanding Federal troops out of the mines a few weeks ago, was two years ago demanding Federal troops into Roxbury.

As an overlay to this continuous treachery, the YSA promises a movement just like the sixties. We are hearing the swan song of a faltering organization that saw its better days in the sixties but has gone nowhere since. Those better days weren't much better either. Those were the days the YSA refused to link up the anti-war movement with the raging Black Liberation Movement. Those were the days when the YSA refused to support the leading Black organization at the time, the Black Panther Party. Those were the days the YSA refused to reveal the face of the enemy behind the war, just as they are doing today in the anti-Bakke struggle. As a result we can expect the YSA to mislead the struggle "just like they did in the '60's."

This month as thousands of us head for Washington to protest the Bakke decision, we can expect the YSA/NSCAR to dress up as leaders of this movement. In fact they are some of the most backward forces in it. In the struggle they refuse to target the rulers and mobilize people to fight them. As a result they lead those who follow them disarmed as to the actual terms of the struggle. Allowed to influence our struggle, sectarianism will flourish as they drive thousands of white students who are potential allies out of the movement. If the YSA stays true to form we are confident the movement will pass them by "much like the '60's."