

14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 10014
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To Organizers and National Committee Members

Dear Comrades,

The following report is for your information.

Comradely,

Doug Jenness
Doug Jenness
SWP National Office

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Report on Young Workers Liberation League Forum in Baltimore

by Ollie Bivens

On Friday, January 16, 1976, the Baltimore Young Workers Liberation League opened their "New Era Cultural Center." Below this "cultural center" is the YWLL-CP bookstore. The featured speaker for the opening was James Steele, YWLL National Chairman.

Two things characterized the meeting: (1) its size and composition and (2) its sloppy organization. There were more than fifty people at the event, twenty of whom were Black. Many of the Blacks appeared to be in their teens. About fifteen of the people present were over forty. Most of the Blacks appeared to be either members or contacts of the League.

Steele's speech dealt with Angola, the economic crisis, and the social functions of the YWLL. Steele pictured the YWLL as the group to join if you like to party and do a little political work on the side. It appeared that most of the Black youth came in contact with the League through its social functions. The Cultural Center was referred to as just that, not the headquarters of the YWLL or CP. Also it was announced that there were present a number of YWLLers from Washington, D.O., how many we don't know.

The organization of the forum was the epitome of sloppiness. No one seemed to quite know what they were doing. The event was chaired by a fifty to sixty year old Black man. Various YWLLers and CPers were called upon to get up and give (very) impromptu remarks about the YWLL, the Baltimore Coalition to End Unemployment and Inflation, the S-1 Coalition, read poetry and present greetings from D.C. YWLL.

Everybody knew everyone else. It was like a family gathering. Absolutely no contact work was done by the YWLL. I had to ask around to talk to someone from the YWLL so I could be placed on their mailing list.

We had five comrades present. Our intervention was very low key. The Baltimore YSA organizer informed the League Chairwoman of our desire to have a joint forum with them on Angola. She hemmed and hawed and said that she will bring it up before the next League business meeting.

Nine YSs were sold, primarily to Black youth. One Militant subscription was also sold. The only other visible opponent present was a person selling Spark newspaper.

From what we can tell the League definitely does have a base in Baltimore. How extensive it is we cannot now determine.