



Political activist Reverend Al Sharpton.

Black activists ask for 'equal justice'

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The Black Community must find immediate solutions to their plight or face extinction. That was the major theme of the evening for speakers Lenora Fulani, Reverend Al Sharpton, and Alton Maddox.

The three activists were the guests of the Black Student Union (BSU) Monday night at Acheson Hall.

Leaders Questioned

"People look at the Rev. Al Sharpton and Alton Maddox and say they aren't like the leaders of the 60's, but Martin Luther King was terribly attacked, viciously maligned, when he spoke out... just as we are now," Fulani said.

The Reverend Al Sharpton spoke about how White America tries to pick the leaders of the Black community.

"If you play sports you wouldn't let the other team choose your quarterback, because you know they will pick someone who can't throw," he added. "That is what White people do, they try to pick our quarterback, knowing he has two broken legs and is in a wheelchair."

Sharpton spoke about Tawana Brawley, and the Central Park jogger trial. According to him, when the Brawley case occurred, a Black person -Brawley- was doubted and questions arose about the validity of her story.

When the jogger trial came out, however, he said "before she regained consciousness," eight Black

youths were arrested, and immediately were questioned.

Equal Justice

Sharpton quickly pointed out he wasn't condoning the attacks, but demanding equal justice.

"When Blacks get killed the issue is Black, when Whites get killed the issue is also Black."

"We need equal justice on both sides," Sharpton said.

During a question and answer period students were allowed to talk to the speakers. One student spoke of feeling alienated by the Reverend, who responded "If you work on your side and I work on my side, maybe we can meet in the future."

"The best thing you can do as a White person," he continued, "is ask your community why is racism allowed to continue, why are Black people treated the way they are."

Solutions

Fulani is the first Black woman and first Black person to be included on the Presidential ballot in all 50 states. She described her New Alliance Party as "Black-led, women of color-led, multiracial, pro-gay, and pro-working class."

Fulani believes Black led independent politics is the future of this country.

"There has never been a fair election held in the United States, and probably never will," Fulani said. She is currently running for Governor of New York on the Independent ticket.

Her New Alliance Party has targeted the homeless and college students in a quest to register voters and a potential voting coalition.