

Blacks want piece of pie

by JAN PARKS
Nebraskan Staff Writer

"America — Get up off your whiteness.

"We're not going back to Africa. If we don't get a piece of the nation's pie, there isn't going to be any pie," said Olive Taylor, black history professor from Howard University, at the Centennial College Thursday.

About 100 students laughed with Miss Taylor as she noted insinuations about her black history class at Howard University. "I've been accused of inciting revolution," she said. "They say everybody who closes down Howard University came out of my class... which is true. But, I didn't do it, I'm only trying to get them to think critically."

Exposure and interaction between blacks and whites is the answer to racism, she said. "Blacks and whites have to verbally battle out their ideas if we're going to come to an understanding."

She said that bussing students to achieve an integrated educational system is one way to achieve exposure. "But bussing is like putting a bandaid over a wound. We first

need to remove all housing restrictions."

"Let whites keep moving out — they'll get tired of moving, there's only so much space, and eventually they'll be living next to a soul brother."

Miss Taylor is visiting the University as a guest lecturer for the "Negro in American Society" class. She noted that historically racism has manifested itself in white attempts to justify the attitude that blacks are inferior beings.

"We're much too sophisticated today to say blacks are mentally inferior," Miss Taylor contended. Instead, the idea is expressed through subtle innuendos.

She pointed out the Poor People's March on Washington as an example of whites' inability to identify with blacks. "There are more poor whites than poor blacks in this country," she said. "But who came to the Poor People's March? Blacks. Why? Because poor whites would be embarrassed to associate with poor blacks — even for a cause that could benefit them."

American scholarship has proselytized white racism, she said, citing such historians as William Dunning who justified white superiority by attempting to prove the "innate inferiority and peculiar anatomy of blacks."



Olive Taylor, Howard University

Because historians of the past believed blacks to be naturally rhythmic, inherently humorous, childlike and possessing a strange odor, they portrayed blacks as almost inhuman, she said.

This inhumanity, presented without evidence, was their sole justification for slavery, she explained. "Slavery was seen as a moral, positive thing, a means of controlling the pro-

miscuity and rampant multiplication of the black race."

The greatest fear in post-Civil War America was that there would be an "Africanization of America." In this respect, slavery was said to be doing the nation a service by keeping the numbers of blacks in control.

Basic in this fear of Africanization was the

obsession of white men "to protect white womanhood," she said. "Their real fear of slave freedom was that a black man would be free to marry a white woman," Miss Taylor continued.

"Actually the women of the South were not really being protected from anything," Miss Taylor quipped, "their lack of rights only made them a part of the slavery system."

IRS organizes

A new student group, Individualists for a Rational Society (IRS), recently organized on campus.

The new group is not called Individualists for a Radical Society, as reported Wednesday in the Daily Nebraskan.

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