

Nobel Winner By Blacks On

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Campus

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A dispute over the limits of free speech has polarized a college campus in the California Capital in the wake of black militants' refusal to allow a Nobel Prize winner to speak on his controversial racial theories.

The student and academic communities are split over whether Stanford University physicist William Shockley should have been invited to lecture at the 7,000-student Sacramento State College, and whether free speech should extend to his theories that blacks may be intellectually inferior to whites.

A band of militants took over the podium when Shockley appeared last Nov. 22 and refused to let him talk on his theories, which have been rejected by many geneticists.

Shockley, who admittedly has no training in genetics, bases his theories on statistical studies using IQ test scores from identical twins.

The controversy extends also to Carol Barnes, the associate professor of sociology who invited Shockley to lecture her class.

After the incident, members of the college's administration, faculty and Commission on Racial Discrimination condemned the invitation to Shockley as racist. They urged college President Bernard Hyink to rebuke those associated with the event and to assign Mrs. Barnes to another course.

They also urged that no discipline be meted out to those who disrupted the lecture by Shockley, who shared a Nobel Prize in 1956 for development of the transistor.

Hyink refused to reassign Mrs. Barnes and further angered the militants by sending Shockley an apology.

The controversy at Sacramento State is not the first involving Shockley. He has been the target of demonstrations at schools in various parts of the country during the past few years, including Dartmouth, Wright College in Chicago and Stanford itself, where several of his classes have been disrupted and he has been burned in effigy.

At the University of California Davis campus Shockley told a student audience a week after he was prevented from speaking at Sacramento that the disruption was "a symptom of a serious national illness.

"The disruption was an expression of distrust in one of the most valuable tools invented by humanity—freedom of speech," Shockley said.

The incident split campus liberals into those who favored letting Shockley speak, and those who considered the invitation an affront to the black community.

John Poswall, a Sacramento attorney who looked into the case for the American Civil Liberties Union, says the incident put the campus liberals into a quandary.

"They had to choose between the First Amendment and being called racists," Poswall said.

"They can be very liberal in talking about why Stokely Carmichael should be allowed to speak, but when it comes to why Shockley should be allowed to speak, they completely failed.

"I think there's a move in the academic world toward the suppression of ideas, which is very, very bad," commented Mrs. Barnes, a 36-year-old Missouri native who describes herself as "pretty liberal."

But others on the campus said Shockley's right to speak did not involve any question of academic freedom—that he had no right to speak, at least not on genetics and race.

Among them were the vice president for academic affairs, the dean of the school of arts and sciences, the Pan African Student Union and the Commission on Racial Discrimination.

A number of scientists and educators have argued against Shockley's views, including Stanford Profs. Paul Erlich, a population biologist; Lee Cronbach, an educator, and L.L. Cavalli-Sforza, a geneticist.

On Jan. 3, the American Physical Society meeting in San Francisco tentatively voted to disavow support for Shockley's theories and called them racist. The resolution called on APS to disavow publicly "any professional support for William Shockley in the promulgation of his racist theories." To become official policy, the resolution has to be approved by the society's governing board.

"No freedom of speech for racists, Nobel Prize winners or otherwise," said the Pan African Student Union in a statement issued after nine or 10 PASU members seized the Sacramento State podium from Shockley.