

Young Whites To Gregory: 'Right On'

By RICH McCULLEN

lectures had been held, because of the expected large turnout.

As expected, Gregory far out-drew the previous speakers, including consumer crusader Ralph Nader, by literally thousands. Gregory is noted for his ability to draw large and very enthusiastic crowds with a relatively radical format in predominantly white suburban areas. There were only about a dozen black faces in the audience at Schoolcraft Thursday.

In a speech punctuated with ample profanity and rough humor, Gregory told a predominantly young audience that his hope for the future of America lays with youth and their "honest, ethical, and committed" values.

Gregory turns a highly critical eye and a sharp tongue towards the American system, and his young white

audience responded enthusiastically with laughs, shouts, and cries of "right on."

There seemed to be a great deal about the "system" that deserved criticism, and Gregory hit all the popular causes—from racial injustice to government double-dealing and dishonesty, from inflation to Vietnam, from corrupt politicians to the "right wing" press, and even a bow to women's liberation.

"I am a radical," Gregory declared, referring to a reputed congressional list of "radical speakers" among whom he was pleased to be listed. The list was among the many pieces of "inside information" Gregory seemed to have access to, and among the others were some shocking tales of government secrecy and dishonesty.

Gregory never told the audience, however, why he knew so many things they didn't. He may have been able to document his information, but he didn't.

CONGRESS, he said should inform people not about "radical speakers" but about "something that's gonna do you some good." He told of an alleged surgeon general's report linking coffee drinking and stomach cancer which has been covered up for the benefit of the coffee industry. "Radical speakers," he declared, "don't cause no cancer in your belly."

In a sense, however, that was precisely what Gregory did. He "caused a cancer" in the belly of his audience—a cancer of dissatisfaction and anger at "repressive" government. He didn't provide solutions. He declared instead that "every major problem is caused by man," and that the "honesty" of the young could solve them.

He was critical of America, saying "If America is a nation under God, I'd sure as hell like to see one under the devil... This is the only country I know where the people who harvest the crops are dying from malnutrition." Still, he told his audience that "America is worth saving—at the risk of alienating your parents, your grandparents, even your vice president."

This Observer asked Gregory why he confined his lecture tours to college campuses. He said it was because that was the only place he could be "honest and effective." There was no doubt that Gregory was effective at Schoolcraft. He ended his speech to a standing ovation as his audience rushed to the front for a chance to shake his hand and speak to him.



DICK GREGORY chats with Joyce Williams and Harry Megeyer after his speech at Schoolcraft College. (Photo by Keith Sprague)

Earns Medal

Navy Petty Officer Third Class Michael J. Petersman, son of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Petersman of 3020 12 Mile, Farmington, was awarded the meritorious unit commendation ribbon while serving aboard attack aircraft carrier USS Independence at Norfolk, Va.



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Teachers Will Study Tape, Sound

PONTIAC Helping children tell stories with pictures and on sound tape will be the subject for Oakland County teachers Friday, April 2 in an all-day session beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Oakland schools office.

David A. Sohn, author of a number of books and articles on the use of non-print media, will be the instructor. He conducted a standing-room-only workshop for Oakland County teachers on increasing children's ability to learn from pictures three years ago.

Many Groups Aid Indian Mission

A lot of people, companies and groups are aiding a drive

to help the 114 youngsters in the Holy Childhood Indian Mission School at Harbor Spring.

Hank Chruscial, 19445 Brentwood, Livonia, is heading the drive for the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn. and is collecting canned goods, toys and clothing until Thursday. His group will leave Saturday to make the pre-Easter delivery.

Among recent helpers: Montgomery Ward of Wonderland shopping center donated a number of repairable toys. Clarenceville Junior High School student council is sponsoring a canned goods collection until Thursday. St. Timothy Presbyterian Church of Livonia held collected clothing and canned goods. Plymouth's DAR chapter gave clothing and canned goods. The Y Indian Guides gave six 10-pound hams, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson of that group helped sort the 70 boxes of clothing.

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Scout Camps To Draw 1,600

More Oakland and Macomb County boys than ever before are expected to take part in summer camping activities of the Clinton Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Based on advanced registration, at least 1,600 Scouts will spend a week this summer at either Camp Agawam, near Lake Orion, or Lost Lake Scout Reservation, near Clare. Total attendance last year was 1,404.

Willard H. Wells, director of camping for the council, said a total of 62 Scout troops from the Council have already made reservations for a campsite.

"We are particularly excited about the interest in camping at our northern Scout reservation this year," Wells said. "It looks like the existing campsites at Lost Lake Camp will be completely filled this summer for the first time since the camp opened."

The council operates two camps. Camp Agawam, on Tony's Lake, has 115 acres and was purchased in 1918. It is one of the oldest Scout camps in Michigan and is used on a year-around basis. Lost Lake will be in its sixth season of operation.

Put a little LIGHT on the subject

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