



— AP Wirephoto

Huey P. Newton

Newton Ends 10-Year Silence With Talk At TU

Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther party, made his first public speech in 10 years last night at the University of Toledo and told his audience they "already have a structure to start to build a national organization of freedom."

Mr. Newton, 43, the former minister of defense for the Panthers, a militant black political organization, said that structure is the Black Student Unions.

"I thought BSUs had gone the way of my organization or SNCC [Southern Christian Leadership Conference]," he told an audience of about 50.

Very few of those attending appeared to be old enough to recall when the Panthers were in their prime in the mid and late 1960s and in the forefront of the Black Power movement in America.

Book On Human Behavior

Mr. Newton, who was accompanied by his wife, Fredericka, lives in Oakland, Calif., and is writing a book on human behavior.

He said he decided to make the speaking engagement because he sees "there's a general political interest arising again."

He added that students, particularly black ones, are becoming more interested in community affairs. "I'd say much of that stems from the political interest in South Africa."

Mr. Newton, who now uses the title "doctor" to go along with his philosophy degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, said the collapse of the Black Panther party in the mid-1970s largely was a result of infiltration by paid government informers.

'So Many Political Trials'

He charged that other contributing factors included wiretappings, bombings, and attempted murders by federal law enforcement agencies. "We were also involved in so many political trials it was impossible for us to go on," he said.

The Panthers advocated self-defense, and Mr. Newton said the media portrayed the organization as being concerned only with police brutality. He said "the police revolver was the last of our concerns about violence."

"We were concerned with decent medical care. We were concerned with obtaining a decent education and full employment. If you don't have these, then it's violence against you," he said.