

what do the Panthers stand for

The primary Panther goal is "institutions which serve the needs of the people" To this aim they have established basic programs nationwide which address themselves to this problem.

1. **Education**—The B.P.P. has formed classes which teach black youth what they do not learn in school about the history of their country and its institutions. They have remedial programs which try to make up for the inferior, racist schools in the black community. Point No. 5 of the B.P.P. platform.
2. **Health**—Free clinics have been started by the Party to supplement the poor health facilities of the black communities. These clinics also attempt to combat such problems as rats and lead poisoning.
3. **Free Breakfasts**—The Black Panther Party developed its nationwide breakfast program for children so that they don't have to go to school too hungry to learn. As Eldridge Cleaver stated: "Breakfast for children pulls people out of the system and organizes them into an alternative. Black children who go to school hungry each morning have been organized into their poverty, and the Panther program liberates them, frees them from that aspect of their poverty. This is liberation in practice."
4. **Full employment for every man**—Point No. 2 of the B.P.P. platform states that "the federal government is responsible and obligated to give *every man* employment or a guaranteed income."
5. **Decent housing for all people**—Point No. 4 of the Party platform: We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.
6. **Armed Self defense**—Point No. 7 of the platform declares: "We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality."
- Organizing within the community**—In 1967 the Black Panther Party ran candidates for state and national offices on the principle that in order to serve the people you must know them. This is the basic organizing tenet of the Party which has, after three years, chapters in cities from coast to coast.
- Rapport with other organizations fighting the same battle**—The B.P.P. has established ties with the Mexican-Americans, Chinese-American, Puerto Rican, white working class and white student movements wherever possible all over the country. They have declared their understanding of the need for a united front against the real enemy—a racist, oppressive system. "As a first step we want a truce signed between black, white and brown working people, in the community and on the job, as we recognize that fighting among ourselves only serves the rich." (*Black Panther Party newspaper*)

The Black Panther Party regards itself as a socialist organization and believes that the means of production should be in the hands of the people. They declare that



sted, to blow up department stores, etc., would destroy hundreds of people from the party represents.

The bails set for ten of the Panther 21 remain at \$100,000 each, even though most of them have no previous criminal record. To fully comprehend the absurdity both of the charges and the bails, one should become familiar with the backgrounds of the Panther 21.

Who Are The Panther 21?

AFENI SHAKUR (Alice Williams), 22, was in the Manpower Training Program until August '68. During 1968 she worked as a teaching assistant in the public schools. As a youth she received an award from Mayor Robert Wagner in a city-wide journalism contest for her outstanding research in a paper on juvenile delinquency. She is a poet, and has a poem printed in the "Anthology of High School Poetry." No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.

JOAN BIRD, 20, was a nursing student at Bronx Community College at the time of her arrest. She was also working as a teaching assistant at P.S. 175. She is a graduate of Cathedral High School where she had an outstanding record for four years. No criminal convictions. Bail: \$100,000.

CURTIS POWELL, 33, was employed as a research biochemist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, engaged in cancer research at the time of his arrest. Dr. Powell holds a Ph.D in biochemistry, and was earning a salary of \$14,000 a year. Dr. Powell's wife Lena, 24, was six months' pregnant when he was arrested and subsequently gave birth to a premature infant, who died shortly after birth. Dr. Powell was denied the opportunity to speak to or visit his wife in the hospital despite her great need for comfort and help at that time. At every hearing the prosecutor has refused to address Dr. Powell as "Doctor", challenging the existence of his degree, although counsel has presented documents from Dr. Powell's employer and from his professor in Sweden where he earned his degree. No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.

ROBERT COLLIER, 32, was employed as a staff director of the Tompkins Square Community Center until funds were halted in January '69. A respected leader of the Lower East Side community, he was recommended by Percy Sutton to be on the Lower East Side Planning Board No. 3. At the time of his arrest the Urban Coalition was in the process of refunding the community center with Mr. Collier as director. Bail: \$100,000.

LEE BERRY, 25, is not even mentioned in the indictment. It is neither alleged that he agreed with anyone to do anything nor that he committed any overt acts. He is 70% permanently disabled due to Service-connected epilepsy and receives a veteran's disability pension of \$400 a month. At the time of his arrest he was in the VA hospital after suffering a severe seizure and was arraigned without any opportunity to obtain counsel. In jail he suffered several severe epileptic seizures, losing consciousness each time. He received only part of the medication he must take daily. Mr. Berry was recently transferred to Bellevue Prison Hospital where he still is, in critical condition. Bail: \$100,000.

RICHARD MOORE, 24, is a self-employed painter. In an effort to justify the bail the prosecutor insisted Mr. Moore was unmarried, although counsel produced a valid marriage certificate. Bail: \$100,000.

ALEX MCKIEVER, 19, is a student at Benjamin Franklin High School where he was president of the Afro-American History Club, and was due to be graduated last year. No previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.

3. EDDIE JOSEPHS, 17, was a junior at Evander Childs High School where he maintained good grades. No previous criminal record. Bail: \$25,000.
9. LUMUMBA ABDUL SHAKUR, 26, was employed by the Harlem Community Housing Council until the time of his arrest. His wife and three children have been left totally without resources. Bail: \$100,000.
10. JOHN J. CASSON (Ali Bey Hassan), 31, worked for the Black Panther Party while attempting to educate the community and organize around community control issues. No previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.
11. WALTER JOHNSON, 24, has no previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.
12. LONNIE EPPS, 17, is a student at Long Island City High School and has no prior criminal record. Mr. Epps, who voluntarily surrendered himself after seeing his name in the newspaper, is free on \$10,000 bail.
13. MICHAEL TABOR, 22, is an artist for the Black Panther Party. Bail: \$50,000.
14. CLARK SQUIRES, 32, was employed as a computer operator for Data Processing International. Bail: \$50,000.

What Kind of Treatment Are They Receiving?

To call the treatment of the Panthers in jail cruel and inhuman is an understatement. For ten months they were maintained in different jails throughout the city, making it nearly impossible for their attorneys to meet with them to properly prepare a defense. They were kept in solitary confinement with the lights on for 24 hours a day, without mattresses. The two women were allowed four small sheets of toilet tissue a day. All of them were denied reading matter and recreational facilities. Their relatives were denied full visiting privileges, and their lawyers were harassed by officials in the jails. It was only a little over a week ago, after much pressure, that the men were placed in one prison under more normal conditions.

What Has Happened to the Panthers Nationally?

Among the chief incidents involving police and Panthers are:

1967

October 28 -- Police officer John Frey killed in a shoot-out after halting Panthers in car. Huey Newton, B.P.P. leader subsequently convicted of voluntary manslaughter; case being appealed.

1968

January 16 -- San Francisco: Police raid home of Eldridge Cleaver, without warrant.

February 25 -- Berkeley: Bobbie and Artie Seale arrested in home, entered "guilty plea to commit murder" against Seale later

just 5 -- Los Angeles: Three Panthers killed when stopped by cruising squad; "shoot-out" leaves no police injured.

September 12, 13 -- Denver: 40 persons, including seven Panthers, arrested in wake of shoot-out. One dead. Police arrest seven juveniles, three adults on contributing charges; adults freed.

September 19 -- San Francisco: Eight Panthers arrested, charged with shooting three policemen; charges dismissed against seven.

September 28 -- Jersey City: Panthers arrested, charged with carrying concealed weapons; bail set at \$10,000.

October 1 -- Jersey City: Panther headquarters firebombed; Panthers report seeing "two white men in police-style uniforms."

1969

March 25 -- San Francisco: Police visit deserted "Black Panther Party pad" after Party moves out, claim to have found instructions for molotov cocktails.

April 2 -- New York: 21 persons charged with conspiracy to blow up stores and public buildings; held on \$100,000 bail each.

April 11 -- Chicago: Nathaniel Junior, field secretary and one other Panther arrested by federal officers on federal firearms statute.

April 28 -- San Francisco: Using tear gas, police raid B.P.P. headquarters, arrest 16, book 4 for "illegal use of sound equipment."

May 1 -- Los Angeles: Police raid Panther headquarters, seize weapons, arrest 1; all released without charges being brought.

May 22 -- New Haven: Eight Panthers arrested, charged with murder of Alex Rackley, subsequently indicted with four other Panthers for kidnapping, attempted murder. Panthers charge victim was not a police informer but a B.P.P. member in good standing, who was murdered by the police.

June 3 -- Chicago: FBI arrest eight for harboring New Haven fugitive who was not present; charges dropped. Agents confiscate money, membership lists and literature.

June 4 -- Detroit: Police raid B.P.P. headquarters, warrant denied on office order for possession of stolen goods, two others jailed, then freed.

June 5 -- Denver: Using tear gas, police raid B.P.P. headquarters, arrest 10; two held on federal warrants charging flight to avoid prosecution in New Haven case, others released.

June 6 -- Salt Lake City: Panther headquarters raided; another New Haven fugitive arrested.

June 7 -- Indianapolis: During course of a race riot police raid B.P.P. headquarters, arrest thirty.

June 8 -- Chicago: Eleven Panthers arrested on marijuana charge during raid.

July 3 -- Santa Ana: D.A. drops murder charge against Daniel Lyman, B.P.P. lieutenant, held since June 5 on charge of shooting police officer.

July 31 -- Chicago: Police raid B.P.P. headquarters; three members arrested for attempted murder, aggravated assault and resisting arrest after gun battle. Headquarters destroyed, three Panthers, four policemen wounded.

August 21 -- New York: Seven B.P.P. members charged with rioting, assault, held on bails up to \$50,000.

August 27 -- New Haven: Bobby Seale indicted for conspiracy to murder Alex Rackley (see May 22).

August 29 -- Berkeley: Police plans (acknowledged by police) to raid B.P.P. headquarters revealed by David Hilliard.

September 20 -- Los Angeles: B.P.P. member Walter Toure Pope, 21, killed by police officer.

November 13 -- Chicago: One Panther, two policemen killed in "shoot-out"

December 3 -- Oakland: David Hilliard, national chief of staff of B.P.P. arrested for allegedly threatening the life of President Nixon on November 15 at Vietnam Moratorium meeting. Hilliard is only ranking Panther leader still out of jail.

December 4 -- Chicago: Two Panthers, Illinois chairman Fred Hampton, and Peoria leader Mark Clark, killed in police raid on Hampton's apartment. Four Panthers wounded, two policemen slightly injured in what police and newspapers called a "shoot-out". However, New York Times reporter and others found no evidence of bullet holes to support police version of events.

December 5 -- Kansas City: Four Panthers arrested charged with "attempting to force" way into chief of police's press conference.

December 5 -- Chicago: Bobby Rush's apartment raided by police.

December 6 -- Chicago: Bobby Rush arrested for failure to register firearms

December 8 -- Los Angeles: Police raid B.P.P. headquarters; three Panthers, three policemen wounded; 21 arrested at three locations in coordinated raid. \$20,000 bail on two arrestees; other arraignments in progress.

No one can underestimate the gravity of what has been happening to the Black Panther Party. We have seen how America works -- let us remember the Gulf of Tonkin resolution and what followed. If we make our voices heard and fight back now we have a chance. If we wait, it may be too late.

DEFENSE IN THE COURTS MEANS MONEY FROM YOU
DEFENSE BY YOU MEANS ACTIONS AROUND THE 21
MONEY - ACTION

F R E E T H E P A N T H E R 21!