

**Remembering John Seale**  
**Wednesday December 28, 2005**

The morning started slow, dark and rainy. Today is the memorial service for John Seale, Panther, Comrade and brother to Bobby Seale. Clark Bailey called and said he would be by to pick me up in 20 minutes. We live in Sacramento which is 70 miles away from Oakland. The drive was pretty bad, and at times we couldn't see 50 feet in front of us. We arrived in time and at the same time as my old friend Artie Seale, Bobby's first wife.

Pastor of Allen Temple Church was the host; he set the tone with his introduction of Bobby Seale. Dr. J. Alfred Smith pointed out that some of the property that the church is on was property owned by the Black Panther Party and was sold to the church at a marked down price. He also pointed out that Allen Temple used to host the Panther Bussing to Prison Program and the families used to meet in the fellowship room. He discussed how the church and the Party worked together to Register people to vote during the Bobby Seale for Mayor of Oakland campaign. The church let the Party teach voter reigion classes there. Dr. Smith also said that the Party was one of the main reasons Lionel Wilson became the first Black mayor of Oakland.

A number of people spoke about John, as did his sister Betty and Bobby. Bobby told a few personal stories about John as kid brother and John as a Panther, which made everybody, smile. As a Panther, John was a layout person for the Black Panther Party Newspaper, Bobby's Bodyguard, Treasurer of the BPP and when Bobby was in jail in Chicago and New Haven he would personally carry out messages for Bobby. Many talked about John's great love for his family. Also, they pointed out John's love of clothes. I think John Seale was one of the best dressers in the Party and a soft spoken person with great love for the community.

After the service, I had a chance to talk to many Panthers I haven't seen in a while. George Murray was there and is a minister now in a church in East Oakland. He was the Party's first Minister of Education. I had him laughing and he gave me a big hug and "Like I said before it was fun talking to Artie and Malik (Artie and Bobby's son)Seale, Malik is 39 now, I used to baby sit him. Sister Lorraine Banks was there as well as a number of other Party members. The sun came out and everyone left with the thoughts of Brother John Seale.