



It's About Time...



Volume 5 Number 2

Spring 2001

ROBERT KING WILKERSON IS FREE!

Robert King Wilkerson, flanked by loved ones, waves to supporters as he walks out of the Louisiana State Penitentiary a free man after spending 29 years in solitary confinement for a murder he did not commit. Wilkerson was released on Feb. 8, 2001.

Photos by Noelle Theard.

ROBERT KING WILKERSON, NOW FREE, DEDICATES HIMSELF TO WINNING FREEDOM FOR ALBERT WOODFOX AND HERMAN WALLACE:

"I MAY BE FREE OF ANGOLA, BUT ANGOLA WILL NEVER BE FREE OF ME."

Robert King Wilkerson, one of the prisoners known as "the Angola 3," was released from the Louisiana State Penitentiary on Feb. 8, 2001, after spending 29 years in solitary confinement for a murder he did not commit.



See WILKERSON on Page 2

COMRADES WELCOME LINDA HOME!

Members of It's About Time attended a reception honoring Linda Evans, recently released after 16 years in prison for her political activities.

There was a joyous gathering of several hundred Bay Area activists and friends in Oakland, CA. Linda is continuing her progressive activities by speaking about political prisoners in the U.S. and continuing her education. It's About Time Welcomes Linda home!



News Briefs

The Secrets of Media, PA - Cointelpro - On May 8, 1971, there was a break-in in Media, Pennsylvania, 10 miles southwest of Philadelphia. Sometime during the night, a group calling itself the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI entered the county building in Media. The group made off with some 1000 pages of FBI files. The documents gave a snapshot into the ugliness that was COINTELPRO operating in Philadelphia and beyond.

The documents outlined FBI practices like "investigations" of college professors and college students, the use of informants and surveillance against the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party.

New York - Columbia University and the daughters of Malcolm X announced a project to archive the slain Black activist's personal papers and create an electronic version of his autobiography. The project, to be completed over the next decade, will also include interviews with 200 of Malcolm X's relatives and contemporaries, a new biography and a collection of his speeches, essays and letters.

Manning Marable, director of Columbia's Institute for Research in African-American Studies, plans to use the new material to produce a biography of Malcolm X. For more info: www.columbia.edu/cu/iraas/index

San Francisco - Prison Radio has produced "Revolutionary Ecology", a groundbreaking radio documentary narrated by Ruby Dee on FBI repression and grassroots resistance. On May 24, 1990, Earth First! Activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were victims of a car bomb assassination attempt. No legitimate investigation of this near-deadly attack was ever conducted. The real bombers were never apprehended and remain at large. In a COINTELPRO-style operation, the FBI attempted to frame these two nonviolent activists for transporting the very bomb that was meant to kill them. This radio documentary tells the story behind the landmark civil rights lawsuit "Bari vs. USA" filed against the FBI and Oakland Police Department and slated to come to trial in Oct. 2001. To order "Revolutionary Ecology", send \$15, includes shipping and handling, to Prison Radio, PO Box 411074, San Francisco, CA 94141 www.prisonradio.org

California - Despite spending \$420 million over three years to boost minority enrollment in the post-affirmative action era, there has been a significant drop in minority enrollment at the most prestigious campuses. At UCLA, enrollment of African Americans, Chicanos, Latinos and American Indians is down 45 percent from 1995 levels. At UC Berkeley, it is down 42 percent. State lawmakers issued a bottom line to UC: Come up with a recruitment plan that gets results or the money will be reallocated to programs that work. There have also been recent student protests on various campuses and at the regents' meeting to reinstate affirmative action.

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For More Information: P.O. Box 221100 • Sacramento, CA 95822 • Ph: 916-455-0908 • Website: itsabouttimebpp.com

MUMIA FIRES HIS ATTORNEYS

Statement issued by the Executive Committee of Refuse and Resist



Mar. 8, 2001

Mumia Abu-Jamal, the internationally known political prisoner on Pennsylvania's death row, has filed a motion to dismiss his legal team. According to Pam Africa of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the background for this is that defense attorney Dan Williams wrote a book that is soon to be published about

Mumia's case that "breached attorney-client privilege" and that "Mumia has never seen." In our view, Mumia's right to counsel of this choice must be upheld and recognized by the courts. Further, we think it was a serious mistake for Dan Williams to publish such a book, even if written with the best of intentions, without consulting Mumia. In a radio interview, Leonard Weinglass, Mumia's lead attorney for many years, said in response to Mumia's decision that "the important thing is that Mumia must be free...I remain available to do whatever I can."

At a time of transition, it is important to keep focused on the essential issues. Mumia was tried before a notorious pro-police judge who had sentenced more people to death row than any other, in a city - Philadelphia - infamous for its persecution of Black political dissidents.

They denied Mumia the right to defend himself. They not only saddled Mumia with an utterly unprepared attorney whom he did not want, they drew this attorney into their plot to railroad Mumia. They worked to strike Black people from the jury. They intimidated and/or bribed witnesses and they had cops and a security guard cook up a story of a phony confession. They brought up Mumia's political statements in the sentencing phase of his trial to argue for the death penalty.

For 19 years Mumia has sat on death row as a result of this travesty. During that time, against great odds and under unimaginable pressure, he has transformed his 6 x 8 prison cell into a platform from which he has exposed the many injustices that are brought down on people and upheld the people's right to resist injustice. For these reasons Mumia occupies a special place in our hearts, and we join tens of thousands of people in saying that Mumia MUST NOT be executed. Moreover, we pledge to

SACRAMENTO MAN SHOT AND KILLED BY ROOKIE COPS

Donald "D.J." Venerable of south Sacramento was shot and killed Feb. 9, 2001. Officers were called to his home after a domestic dispute. He was shot with a cell phone in his hand, which officers claim to have believed was a gun.

The family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Federal Court and they are represented by Johnny Cochran's law firm. The suit seeks unspecified monetary damages and states that officers acted in a reckless manner and with callous disregard for the constitutional rights of Donald E. Venerable Jr. The suit also states that the officers were deliberately indifferent to Donald Venerable's medical needs by delaying his movement to a hospital for 45 minutes.

The investigation into this murder is still ongoing by the Sacramento Police Dept., the FBI, The DA's office, and the office of Police Accountability. The local NAACP is critical of the investigation process, stating that it has been taking too long. The shooting of an unarmed black man is all too common locally and nationally.



continue our work, together with many, many other people and organizations, to grow those tens of thousands into hundreds of thousands and even millions, and to force the authorities to not only drop their plans to execute Mumia, but to free him once and for all. For ultimately the most decisive thing in this battle will be the united resistance, in many different forms, of the people themselves.

Refuse & Resist! has stated that the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal has become a battleground in society precisely because it concentrates so many elements of the reactionary agenda riding high in the U.S. These include the criminalization of Black men, the suppression of dissent, the expanded death penalty, the gutting of defendants' rights, and a whole political atmosphere based on blame and punishment of the most oppressed. The battle to win justice for Mumia is one of the defining battles of this generation. Like all great battles, it must constantly face new challenges and summon up new strength to meet those challenges. We call on all to stay focused on our goals, to make this story of towering injustice and heroic resistance even more broadly known, to unite even more diverse organizations and social streams in this struggle, and to step up our determination.

Update: A federal judge approved a request by Mumia to fire his legal team. In a brief opinion, U.S. District Judge William H. Yohn Jr., wrote that because Abu-Jamal had hired his own lawyers, "he may change counsel at any time for any reason subject to court approval. Yohn postponed for 60 days any further action in Abu-Jamal's federal appeal of his death sentence in the 1981 murder of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner to give him time to hire new lawyers.

REBELLION IN CINCINNATI

Rioting broke out in Cincinnati in protest over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black youth, Timothy Thomas, 19, by a white officer, 26 year old Steve Roach. There were more than 76 arrests and 70 injuries during the first two nights. There is now a curfew in effect.

The FBI opened a preliminary civil rights investigation into Thomas' case after talking with the chief of police. There have been 15 officer involved shootings of blacks in Cincinnati over the last few years.

Alert! New Bureau of Prisons Policy

A new policy in the federal Bureau of Prisons went into effect on April 2, 2001. Prisoners are now limited to 300 minutes of calls per month. This will have a dramatic and negative impact on women prisoners who are mothers, prisoners who try to maintain strong family ties and prisoners with ongoing legal work. It is outrageous that the federal government is interfering again in the right of prisoners to maintain communication with their loved ones, friends, supporters and attorneys.

Although initially 300 minutes a month sounds like a lot of time on the phone, it is not when you are trying to help your child with his or her homework or hear about what is happening at school. 300 minutes a month is ten minutes a day. How can a child continue a relationship with a mother or father when they only talk for ten minutes a day?

WILKERSON from Page 1

Wilkerson, 58, was convicted of the 1973 murder of a fellow Angola prisoner despite the fact that another man confessed and was convicted of the murder. After two prisoners who testified against Wilkerson, the only evidence ever presented against him, retracted their testimony and revealed that it had been coerced by prison officials, the United States Court of Appeals in December issued a ruling that almost certainly would have led to his release.

In response, in what his supporters characterized as a face-saving move, the state offered Wilkerson a plea bargain, which he accepted. Six hours later, to the cheers of a throng of family and supporters, Wilkerson walked out of Angola a free man.

See ANGOLA 3 on Page 3

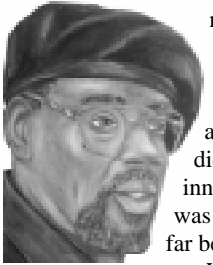


ANGOLA 3 UPDATE

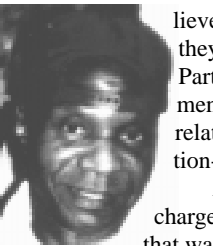
from page 2

He has pledged to dedicate his life to winning freedom for Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace, the other two members of the Angola 3, and for all of the other innocent men with whom he was incarcerated for the past three decades.

"I may be free of Angola, but Angola will never be free of me," Wilkerson said.



Woodfox and Wallace have also been held in solitary confinement for 29 years. They were convicted of the 1972 murder of an Angola prison guard a murder that they have unwaveringly claimed they did not commit. In recent years, new evidence of their innocence has surfaced. Even though the new evidence was suppressed at the time of their trials, they have thus far been unable to win justice from the courts.



Wilkerson, Woodfox, and Wallace have always believed that they were framed by prison officials because they organized the Angola chapter of the Black Panther Party. Prior to being placed in solitary confinement, the men led campaigns to end prisoner rape, improve race relations, and ameliorate conditions at the slave plantation-turned-prison.

All three men entered prison on unrelated robbery charges and quickly joined the prisoners' rights movement that was sweeping the country in the late 1960s. In the ensuing years, the men continued their activism from within solitary confinement by organizing hunger strikes, educating other prisoners, and by becoming highly-skilled jailhouse lawyers.

The American Civil Liberties Union is currently pursuing a federal lawsuit alleging that the men's 29-year stay in solitary confinement amounts to unconstitutional cruel and unusual punishment.

Now that he is free, Wilkerson plans to travel and speak out against the imprisonment of Woodfox and Wallace and the continuing growth of the American prison-industrial complex.

Herman Wallace Update

Herman Wallace, one of the Angola 3, locked in solitary confinement for 29 years since being framed for the murder of a prison guard, will be back in court soon. Mr. Wallace will have a procedural hearing on a petition he filed since new evidence was uncovered which points to irregularities in his trial. The new evidence surfaced during the retrial of his comrade, Albert Woodfox, whose appeal is still pending.

There is a possibility that his conviction could be overturned based on the new evidence. For updated information: www.prisonactivist.org/angolatwo or www.itsabouttimebpp.com

ROBERT KING WILKERSON, recently released political prisoner to speak in Sacramento, CA.

Mr. Wilkerson, one of the Angola 3, spent 29 years in solitary confinement in Angola State Prison, Louisiana. He will speak about his experience, the ACLU lawsuit pending in Federal Court alleging cruel and unusual punishment and other issues regarding criminal justice in America.

Sunday, April 22, 2001
Carol's Books, 2:00 pm
5964 South Land Park Dr.
Sacramento, CA

"The Farm", a video documentary about Angola State Penitentiary will also be shown.

For more info: 916-455-0908
e-mail: itsabouttime3@juno.com

NEWS BRIEFS from Page 1

Iowa - The estate tax myth has grown. Supporters of Bush's attempt to repeal the estate tax have promoted the myth that we need to repeal the tax to save the family farm. In fact, the American Farm Bureau Federation could not find a single case of a farm lost because of estate taxes. While 17 percent of Americans in a recent poll think they will owe estate taxes, only the richest 2 percent of Americans do. That amounted to 49,870 people in 1999. Half of the estate tax is paid by people who leave taxable estates of more than \$5 million. Farmers can pass \$4.1 million untaxed, so long as their heirs continue farming. In general, Americans are not taxed on the first \$1.35 million of net worth. The repeal of the estate tax is clearly a gift to the richest Americans at the expense of working class taxpayers.

California - Three years after a federal probe began into allegations that the state mismanaged a program for poor immigrants, Dept. of Education officials have not been able to account for more than \$11 million in public money given to community groups to provide English and citizenship classes. Federal officials may demand reimbursement from the state for mismanaging the program. The investigation stems from a "whistle blower" who claimed his bosses ignored warnings that officials of some nonprofit organizations were pocketing money intended to help immigrants become citizens.

New York - On Sunday, January 21, 2001, CBS "60 Minutes" focused on Zimbabweans and their President Robert Mugabe. The biased reporting on the land redistribution efforts under way in Zimbabwe were blatantly racist and ahistorical in content. The efforts of the Zimbabwean people to free their land from Rhodesian/UK domination carried over from its colonial past was portrayed as though the settlers were the victims instead of the people of Zimbabwe who have been economically exploited by these settlers in their own country for hundreds of years.

Less than 1,000 white settlers own over 60% of the arable land in Zimbabwe and President Robert Mugabe and the people of Zimbabwe have had enough. The redistribution of the land is a matter of life and death for the millions of people in Zimbabwe. Zimbabweans have been forced into shanty ghettos living on top of each other under horrendous conditions, while the white settler class lives like kings on farms as large as Manhattan and in luxurious mansions. The courageous people of Zimbabwe are taking their land back and establishing control of their destiny!

Palestine - On January 21, Su'ad Ghazal, a 17-year-old Palestinian girl from Sebastia village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank was sentenced by an Israeli court of six and a half years in prison allegedly for attempting to stab an Israeli settler. The extreme injustice of this sentence is underscored by the fact that on the very same day another Israeli court allowed Nahum Korman, the settler who pistol-whipped and kicked to death 11 year old Hilmi Shusheh in 1996, to walk free with only a fine and six months of community service. An unrepentant Korman told the media "I take no responsibility for the boy's death...I admit to nothing, and I continue to regard myself as innocent." These two sentences, along with countless other grave violations of Palestinian children's rights once again highlight the urgent need for international intervention and protection for Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation.

Menard, IL - Many more prisoners are murdered by absent and inadequate health care than were ever sentenced to death by the courts. Menard and Dixon in Illinois are covered by one contract with a firm named Health Professionals Ltd. (HPL). This firm gets paid over \$525/inmate/year for health care that would not be tolerated in a third world nation. Since the gatekeepers for all inmate access to health care are personally making a profit by withholding it, and inmates have no option for any medical care except HPL, a conflict of interest exists that is literally life threatening. The grievance procedure is so ineffective as to be non-existent. The time has come for the taxpayers to know.

Davis, CA - Over 500 students protested after a series of incidents of racial violence against Asian Americans. In October, about a dozen white students, some from Kappa Sigma Fraternity, invaded an off-campus apartment where they stomped, hit and scratched 5 Asian Americans who lived there. Other incidents have occurred on campus. Among the students' demands are mandatory diversity training for student organizations, including fraternities. Students also criticized the university for

SURVIVAL PROGRAMS OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY Serving the People!

In 1971, community service projects were formally defined as survival programs. These projects grew out of the needs of the communities they serviced. The BPP survival programs rested upon the idea of self-determination. Panthers established a network of community service projects designed to improve the life chances of African American people.



Institutional racism relegated a disproportionate number of African Americans to deplorable housing, poor health care services, an unresponsive criminal justice system, inadequate diets, and substandard education. The Party's survival programs aimed to help black people overcome the devastating effects of racism and capitalism.

We called them survival programs pending revolution... They were designed to help the people survive until their consciousness was raised. Survival programs, which are emergency services, do not change social conditions, but they are life-saving vehicles until conditions change.



Survival programs included:

1. Intercommunal News Service (The Black Panther)
2. Free Breakfast for School Children
3. Petition Referendum for Community Control of Police
4. Liberation School/Intercommunal Youth Institute
5. People's Free Medical Research Health Clinic
6. Free Clothing Program
7. Free Busing to Prisons Program
8. Sickle Cell Anemia Research Foundation
9. Free Housing Cooperative Program
10. Free Shoe Program
11. Free Pest Control Program
12. Free Plumbing and Maintenance Program
13. Free Food Program
14. Child Development Center
15. Free Ambulance Program
16. Seniors Against a Fearful Environment (SAFE)

It's About Time...

Publishing Committee

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JoNina Abron	Contributions
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The 4rd Annual

Lil' Bobby Hutton Day

We're celebrating the life of a young souljah that was 'bout his people!

Saturday, April 28, 2001

West Oakland Library

Speakers • Entertainment • Music • Spoken Word

18th & Adeline • West Oakland • 12 noon - 5pm

When Lil' Bobby Hutton was 15 years old, he was one of the first people to join the Black Panther Party (B.P.P.), that was founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale on October 15, 1966. One of his first duties in the B.P.P. was to learn the Ten Point Platform that the B.P.P. was based on.

As a Panther Lil' Bobby participated in a campaign that patrolled Oakland's police to try and hinder some of the police brutality and murder that was going on. He also

helped the residents of North Oakland organize to get a stop light on the corner, where people were getting hit by cars frequently.

Two days after the murder of M.L.K., on April 6, 1968, the police murdered Lil' Bobby in West Oakland. His case was similar to the cases of Amadou Diallo and Tyisha Miller. The struggle continues.

One person can make a difference.

Sponsored by
It's About Time
P.O. Box 221100
Sacramento, CA 95822

For More Info:
itsabouttime@juno.com



LIL BOBBY HUTTON in the Year 2001

By Warren Wells

When I met Lil Bobby in late 1967, he was 17 and I was 20. He had never been to prison. I had just been released from Soledad. I thought I would teach Lil Bobby about being a Soldier! But he taught me - you see, I was a Panther because of my rage, my hate, and my desire to get even with the oppressors. I really didn't even see my people. Lil Bobby was a Panther for only one reason. His love for his people and his need to serve them. Lil Bobby was what the Party was intended to be, not what we turned out to be.

On the night of April 6, 1968, trapped under a burning bullet riddled house on 28th and Union streets, laying next to Eldridge, his clips empty, it was love, not hate that caused Lil Bobby to step through the burning basement door into a barrage of police bullets!

Eldridge had told him to strip naked so they couldn't say he was going for a gun. Lil Bobby said, man! Now how I'm gonna look to my people naked.

So, if we are going to shout his name without loving his people, we have disrespected his memory...The memory of Lil Bobby is about loving each other. Loving each other so much that we would die in the blink of an eye, serving each other...Lil Bobby would say, no 12 or 13 year old girls on our corners, Lil Bobby would say: Hands off Assata, Free Mumia and he would say remember George Jackson, Jonathan Jackson, Twyman Myers, William Christmas, James McClain, Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter, John Huggins, and so many more it would fill a newspaper.

Long Live the Spirit of the first Panther - Lil Bobby Hutton.

Warren Wells #B23864
PO Box 409000, A4-238 • Ione, Ca 95640

CUBA WELCOMES U.S. MEDICAL STUDENTS

A U.S. flag was flown and "The Star-Spangled Banner" played yesterday as Cuba welcomed eight U.S. citizens here to study medicine courtesy of the communist government. The six women and two men from minority families arrived in Havana late Tuesday. They are the first Americans to attend a free six-year program originally designed for impoverished students in Latin America.

Cuban President Fidel Castro offered to extend the free medical training to up to 500 Americans when he met last May with a delegation from the Congressional Black Caucus. The U.S. State Department said it would not oppose the program, saying it had been Washington's policy to encourage contact between ordinary Cubans and their counterparts in the United States.

The event marked the beginning of a new era at the school and a major public-relations coup for Castro, whose island remains isolated by the United States under a trade embargo put in place four decades ago. "This is an opportunity for me to study medicine and become a great doctor while learning about the Cuban medical system," Said Karima Mosi, 22, of San Diego. "I understand that the medical school in Cuba is among the best in Latin America and the world, so I have no reservations about my education."

The eight join more than 4000 other students from 24 nations in Latin America and Africa. Students receive 6 years of training and then return to their respective countries to practice.

Cuba also proposed sending its own doctors to poor, underserved areas of the United States, but the State Department said the idea was rejected. Cuba has a surplus of doctors and dispatches thousands abroad each year to work in other developing countries.

JURY SELECTION

By William M. Kunstler, 1985

They come and go, these ciphers from the list,

Computerized into the courtroom sphere,
To pause, then vanish back into the mist
Of where rejected jurors disappear.

As each new candidate pops up in line,

The lawyers search for some revealing clue—

A smile, a frown, a glance, or other sign—

That might divulge a pertinent point of view.
Then come the endless questions, fast or slow,

From total strangers dressed in somber tones,
Designed to liberate the hidden flow

Of random thoughts that lie beneath the bones.

At last the box is filled with Caesar's heirs

Who flex their thumbs and sink into their chairs.



IAT would like to thank Fred Hull, Kalamu ya Salaam, Ebo Okokan and Strait Out Scribes for performing at the April 3, 2001 benefit for the It's About Time newsletter.

OPEN LETTER TO NELSON MANDELA February 21, 2000

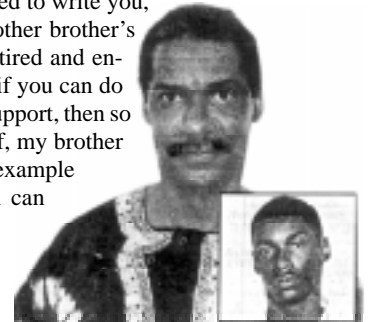
I am writing this letter because I am now serving my 31st year as a Black Panther Party Political Prisoner in the United States of America. Since I cannot speak officially for the over two hundred Political Prisoners in the United States, this letter will have to be in the form of a personal request. I am requesting your support on behalf of the over two hundred political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States of America in general and Mumia Abu-Jamal in particular. We need your support to help save this brother from death at the hands of an oppressive and racist criminal justice system. I am sure you are aware of our plight here and understand the importance of speaking out on our behalf. I believe it is equally important for us to personally request the type of support we require.



We need several things from you and/or our comrades in the ANC. First and foremost we need a public showing of support for Brother Mumia in the form of a letter or a public statement. Second, we need support for clemency for the remaining Political Prisoners and prisoners of war in America. Finally, we need the official organizational support of the ANC. Any of the above requests will assist us.

On a more personal note I would like to take this opportunity to express my comradely love and respect for your commitment and dedication to the liberation of South Africa and southern Africa. I believe South Africa and southern Africa will play a key role in the future liberation of oppressed people in the world. While it is clear that millions of people inside and outside of South Africa played a role in the liberation of south Africa, it is equally clear that you are and have been the spirit of the nation, the movement and the world wide effort that resisted and defeated apartheid. History will remember you as one of the great men of the twentieth century and I am honored to write you, even if it is a request to save another brother's life. At 81 I know you are both tired and entitled to a much-needed rest. So if you can do no more than give Mumia some support, then so be it. Please take care of yourself, my brother and remain strong. You are the example of humanity, from which we all can learn.

In Struggle,
Marshall Eddie Conway



Shut Down the Street Crimes Unit —New York City

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, the Center for Constitutional Rights, New York City Police Watch, and the Medgar Evers College Women's Center are organizing a grassroots community mobilization effort to close down the Street Crimes Unit in New York City.

MXG will be announcing its CopWatch project. CCR will be looking for people to testify against the Street Crimes Unit. Community testimonies of their experiences with the police will be a primary focus of the working meeting.

For more info: Malcolm X Grassroots Movement/New York
1195 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11216
(718) 622-8292 fax (718) 622-8293

UNITED AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

The United African American Community Center (UAACC) was founded in 1991 by Pete O'Neal, formerly Chairman of the Kansas City Chapter of the Black Panther Party, and his wife, Charlotte Hill O'Neal, also formerly of the KC Chapter. They have been in exile since 1970, fleeing after a conviction on gun charges which were politically motivated (Cointelpro). Pete and Charlotte were hard working, dedicated Party members teaching political education and serving the people.

In 1972 Pete and Charlotte O'Neal came to Tanzania. They became African American pioneers in their ancestral homeland, learning about windmills, farming, raising livestock, and appropriate technology as they began to develop their homestead on the slopes of Mt. Meru in Imbaseni, a rural village in the heart of the traditional homeland of the WaMeru tribe. The O'Neals have been building ever since, raising chickens and manufacturing sausage, mustard, relish and Kansas City style barbecue sauce. Pete has become a respected elder of the local WaMeru tribe. They have a compound with a café with a mural of Malcolm X over the entrance. They have a theater in which they show documentaries and films or videos about the civil rights movement.

The United African Community Center was founded for the expressed purpose of sharing and disseminating knowledge in areas relevant to the



Pete and Charlotte, then (above) and now (below)!



Pete and Charlotte at home in front of dining hall, Imbaseni Village, 2000.

promotion of creative, productive and wholesome lifestyles.

UAACC puts much of its emphasis on serving youth, the leaders of tomorrow, and they have originated many programs designed to inspire and give a sense of empowerment to the youth in both village and urban settings.

UAACC organizes year round workshops dealing with health and nutrition, conservation, AIDS education, essay contests, art appreciation, crafts, history and computer literacy.

UAACC facilitates many improvements to village schools through organizing programs for volunteers who visit the area.

"What we do now is really a continuation of the work that we were doing nearly three decades ago as members of the Black Panther Party," Pete O'Neal says when recalling some of the Panther programs in Kansas City, which included free breakfast for schoolchildren, clothing programs for the needy and counseling for people addicted to drugs and alcohol.

HEAL THE COMMUNITY PROJECT!

The internationally acclaimed UAACC Heal the Community Project established by Pete O'Neal in 1994, promotes cultural and educational linkages between African people on the Continent and African people of the Diaspora.

The ongoing Heal the Community Project has programs throughout the year involving youth from all across America who come to Arusha to participate in extensive cultural immersion programs and exchanges designed to facilitate the strengthening of positive global community ties among all people of diverse cultures, nationalities and races.

The DeLaSalle Education Center, an internationally recognized school located in Kansas City, was one of the first organizations to become involved in the Heal the Community project. Since 1995, they have been sending groups of students and teachers to Arusha to participate in cultural immersion programs organized by UAACC.

Charlotte is also a self-taught artist of many years experience, specializing in papier-mache sculptures, multi-medium compositions, acrylic painting and needlework. She has exhibited in the United States and Africa many times and her work remains in public and private collections around the world.

Pete and Charlotte recently celebrated their 32nd Anniversary with a renewal of their marriage vows. Congratulations from all your comrades back home.

To contact the O'Neals and for information on the exchange programs:
 UAACC, PO Box 1237, Arusha, Tanzania
 e-mail: uaacc@habari.co.tz, Phone: 255 027 255 36 74
 mobile phones: 255 811 650 300 and 255 811 653 210,
 FAX 255 027 255 3793



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Sacramento, CA**

\$15

Attention Comrades!

Eddie Griffin, former Black Panther and BLA soldier is hospitalized due to complications of kidney disease. He is recovering from the amputation of one leg due to venous insufficiency. He underwent surgery in an attempt to save his remaining leg, but, unfortunately, this attempt was unsuccessful. Eddie faces the loss of his second leg with the courage of a realist and the bravery of one who strives to overcome all obstacles. He has been fitted for a prosthetic leg following the first amputation. He is both recovering and undergoing rehabilitation of Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro. You may send cards and letters of encouragement to Eddie Griffin, c/o Fairmont Hospital, Bldg. H, 15400 Foothill Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94578. He says the hospital staff encourages the patients to move around, so it you wish to contact him by phone, understand that you are dialing a pay phone and be patient. The best time to call is between 6:30pm and 8:00pm PDT, (510) 351-970



Alert! Kamau Sadiki Arrested

Former Political Prisoner and BLA soldier Kamau Sadiki (Fred Hilton) was arrested on Friday, February 2nd by the NYPD. Kamau is being held on a gun charge and a domestic charge. Because of his history with BLA and as a co-defendant of Assata Shakur, the Federal Govt. (ATF) has taken over the case on the gun charge.

For more info: Malcolm X Grassroots Movement/New York Chapter
1195 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11216
(718) 622-8292

Contributions (checks) can be made to Jericho/FCO and sent to 402 W. 145th Street, New York City, NY 10031. Please mark the memo on the check for Kamau Sadiki.

Marshall Eddie Conway Awareness Week, April 22-28

There is a growing awareness that the case against Marshall Eddie Conway is a travesty of justice. The issues bound up in the case are many, including the punishment of political dissent and racial bias in the United States criminal justice system.

Marshall Eddie Conway has been unjustly incarcerated since April of 1970 for a crime he did not commit. He has been victimized by a covert government operation called COINTELPRO and targeted for his political beliefs while in the Black Panther Party-Baltimore Chapter.

Along with documented lies manufactured by police and paid informants and being denied his constitutional rights to the counsel of his choice, Eddie was railroaded. NO eyewitnesses or physical evidence linked him to any wrongdoing.

The case of Marshall Eddie Conway is still in the Maryland State courts. We want to make this a year of decision. Hence we call for a Marshall Eddie Conway Awareness Week, April 22-28th to promote an end to this unjust punishment of political dissent.

We call on all people and organizations concerned with justice and human rights to make plans to take this issue to their communities and constituencies during the Marshall Eddie Conway Awareness Week.

This week will include a wide variety of local, national and international activities around Eddie's case and that of other political prisoner/prisoners of war, culminating on Saturday, April 28th, in a Town Hall Meeting inquiring into the case of Marshall Eddie Conway. We must make Eddie's name into a household word and make his case into a political dividing line in the United States and around the world.

For more info: Ameerjill Whitlock, (410) 815-2298,
e-mail: ameerjill@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL BLACK PANTHER FILM FESTIVAL

Acclaimed actor, Danny Glover, recently announced that he would serve as the Honorary Chair of the second International Black Panther Film Festival. Kathleen Cleaver is the executive producer of the event which will be held in New York City from May 3 through May 6, 2001. This unique cultural event brings to the screen the dynamic spirit of liberation youthful Black Panthers and Young Lords expressed. This year, as well as returning to the historic Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, festival events will take place at Columbia University's Miller theatre. On Thursday, May 3 and Sunday, May 6, the festival will be at the Schomburg - 515 Malcolm X Blvd. at 135th St. On Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, it will be at Miller Theatre - 116th Street and Broadway.



The festival will screen recent films like "Public Enemy", "Voice of the Voiceless", "Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind", and "Eyes of the Rainbow", as well as those made during the sixties and seventies. The works of directors from Cuba, France and Germany, as well as the U.S. will be shown, including films about international resistance movements. The festival will hold question and answer sessions with filmmakers, Hip-Hop artists and members of the original Black Panther Party. Exciting panel discussions will be presented, including one on the international impact of the Black Panther movement and another on "Artists and Revolution."

For more information: 212-926-2550 or www.pantherfilmfest.com

CHAIRMAN BOBBY VISITS SACRAMENTO

Bobby Seale was in Sacramento to speak at a symposium on the 60's, part of which was a production of the play: The Chicago Conspiracy Trial. The play is showing at Consumnes River College until April 22.

Bobby was able to spend some time visiting comrades and friends. We reminisced about the past and discussed plans for the upcoming reunion which he will participate



in. He continues to travel and speak about his experiences in the Party. He enjoys reading the It's About Time newsletter and says that he promotes it when speaking throughout the country.

Supreme Court Narrows Defendants Rights

A divided Supreme Court ruled Monday that a criminal suspect's constitutional right to have an attorney present does not extend to police interrogation on a related offense. The high court by a 5-4 vote refused to broaden the requirement that police notify counsel before questioning a suspect, unless the defendant waives that right, to offenses factually related to those that have actually been charged.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist said for the court's conservative majority that the Sixth Amendment right to counsel was "offense specific." It represented a victory for Texas prosecutors, who were supported by the U.S. Justice Department and police groups. They argued that extended protections would impose unjustified costs on society and make it harder for crimes to be solved.

See Court on Page 10

DR. MUTULU SHAKUR— A True People's Warrior A FOOT SOLDIER IN HIS YOUTH

Since the mid 1960's, the Black Liberation Movement has confronted the establishment on many levels and with varying degrees of intensity. Shakur was one among thousands of young Black people who stepped forward to confront the system. As a student at Shimer Junior High School in Jamaica, Queens, New York, Shakur worked with Sekou Odinga (aka Nathaniel Burns, former Black Panther and now a Prisoner of War) to form a student organization and demand that Black history be included in the curriculum.



At the age of 15, he met the Black revolutionary educator, Herman Ferguson - a Junior High School principal - who was to have a major influence on New York City Black youth. As a teenager, Mutulu had already concluded that the number one priority for Black people in America was the struggle for self-determination - total control over every aspect of our lives. He believed we were owed land and reparations for 250 years of slavery and another 100 years under a white supremacist social and political system. He joined the Republic of New Africa and later worked with the New African People's Organization to pursue the goals of establishing an independent Black nation in the southern United States.

EARLY ADVOCATE OF ALTERNATIVE HEALTH TREATMENTS

In 1970, Shakur was asked to teach political education to clients of the Lincoln Hospital Detoxification Program. This program was founded by Black and Latino revolutionary youth in the South Bronx, NY. Shortly after starting there, two of his children were badly injured in an auto accident. Looking for alternative treatment, he approached activists of the I Wor Kuen, a revolutionary Chinese organization that ran a health service for the older Chinese community. An Asian woman who was an acupuncturist cured his children using traditional Chinese medicine.

Discussions with the Chinese and sessions with addicts at Lincoln Detox showed Shakur the similarities between the struggles of China against opium addiction which had been brought there by British colonizers and the struggles in the Black community against the genocidal drug traffic recently revealed to have been orchestrated by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Shakur attended the Quebec Acupuncture Association where he obtained a Doctorate in Acupuncture. He used his skills to treat narcotics addiction and eventually became Director of the Lincoln Detox Acupuncture Research Unit.

After losing a legal battle with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation over control of the Lincoln Hospital Detox Program, Dr. Shakur and several other acupuncturists were transferred out of the program. As is true with many programs and ideas developed by young revolutionaries, the treatment of addiction with acupuncture continues at several public hospital sites in New York City but the names of the pioneers are not mentioned in the official history.

Shakur and several comrades later founded the Harlem Institute of Acupuncture where community residents received holistic health care and students were trained in acupuncture and other healing arts and sciences.

A MULTI-FACETED REVOLUTIONARY

Dr. Shakur's contributions were not limited to health care. In the spirit of a true community activist, he supported tenant organizations in their struggles for decent housing, fought along-side parent organizations for control of their children's educational destiny and participated in every significant struggle in the Black community.

In response to the revolutionary practice of Shakur and thousands like him, the US government implemented the Counterintelligence Pro-

gram (COINTELPRO) to destroy the Black Liberation Movement. As a result of this vicious war against the Black Liberation Movement, prominent Black leaders like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. were targeted and then assassinated, and many lesser known activists were slain or imprisoned. Many remain in prison today.

Mutulu Shakur - a freedom fighter who had been targeted by COINTELPRO - was captured by the Joint Terrorist Task Force in February, 1986, and was placed on trial. The charges were that he was part of an armed underground unit that conspired to free Assata Shakur, a comrade, from prison. He was also charged with conspiring to carry out several armored car and bank "robberies" (or revolutionary expropriations) the proceeds of which the government alleged were used to support political activities. He was convicted under questionable circumstances and was sentenced to 60 years in federal prison. His revolutionary nationalist spirit remains strong despite continuing efforts by prison officials to crush him.

You can write to him at: Dr. Mutulu Shakur, #83205-012

USP Atlanta • 600 McDonough Blvd. SE • Atlanta, GA 30315

For More Information: Family and Friends of Dr. Mutulu Shakur

PO Box 3171, Manhattanville Station • Harlem, NY 10027

NEWSBRIEFS from Page 3

downplaying student related crimes and withholding details in many cases.

Recently, Ku Klux Klan material has been distributed on campus.

Dallas, TX - Hundreds of foreigners, including asylum seekers and others convicted of NO crime are trapped indefinitely in U.S. jails. More than 1,000 people from 69 countries have been locked up by Immigration & Naturalization Services for over 3 years. The numbers are nearly 3 times what the INS acknowledges. The INS records show over 360 longest held prisoners are asylum seekers, fleeing for their lives. On any given day, the INS has some 20,000 people in detention. Some spend months behind bars before their cases are reviewed and they are released. The cost of detaining the 851 longest held prisoners acknowledged by INS is about \$23 million of taxpayers money.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule later this year on the constitutionality of indefinitely detaining foreigners. Almost 70 percent of the longest held prisoners are Cuban. Of the 588 Cubans, over 200 have been behind bars for over 10 years, many came to the U.S. in 1980.

Lassen County, CA - Federal officials are planning to go ahead with construction of a 1300 bed prison in this remote area of northern California. A San Jose company was awarded the \$122 million contract. Critics say the project ignores the crucial issues in an environmental study about water availability. Farmers in that area are already facing a water shortage. A lawsuit has been filed to try to prevent the project from proceeding.

Sacramento, CA - Radio Station KYDS is losing its community access. This non-profit community radio station, run by volunteers, provided a broad menu of programming. During the week, the station is run by students, but the weekend community programming will be halted in favor of computerized programming.

This is a great loss because of the lack of community access to the airwaves.

Calif. - Cesar Chavez Day honored the Mexican American labor leader who fought for the rights of farm workers until his death in 1993. He was 66 years of age when he died. Most farm workers in the state were not given the day off.

Washington DC - The Bush administration has proposed dropping testing for salmonella in ground beef used in school lunch programs. They will allow schools to use meat that has been irradiated. More than 26 million children participate in the school lunch program. The USDA purchased 111 million pounds of ground beef for the program since July. Salmonella poisoning effects 1.4 million people in the U.S. each year and at least 600 die. Profits over Health!

Cleveland - A well-dressed man apparently scooped up nearly \$500,000 in cash after it fell out of an armored truck on a busy street. An armored truck employee told the FBI that he noticed the money missing about 8:00 am when he discovered the door ajar. An eyewitness reported seeing a well dressed man grab the 3 bags of money and walk off. Finders Keepers!

See NEWS BRIEFS on Page 9

BLACK PANTHER PARTY HISTORY AT A GLANCE

THE MONTH OF APRIL



- 1 1967: In Richmond, CA, Denzil Dowell is shot and killed by sheriff deputies. Panthers respond to a request from the Dowell family for protection.
1968: BPP office opens in New York City.
1969: BPP Los Angeles office raided.
1969: In Chicago, the Free Breakfast for Schoolchildren began with 83 children, and by the end of the week more than 1,100 children were fed.
1970: Central Committee member Louis (Randy) Williams was arrested along with three other Panthers and charged with an armed assault on police.
1971: FBI begins payment of rent on apartment across the hall from Huey P. Newton's apartment.
1971: FBI claims its infamous COINTELPRO operations ended this month (Later, FBI admits the BPP was targeted in 233 of 295 authorized COINTELPRO actions).
1971: Counterintelligence efforts successfully create open split and initiates fratricide within the BPP.
- 2 1969: 21 people identified by police as Panthers are arrested in New York for conspiracy to blow up the Botanical Gardens, department stores, etc. No overt act is charged. No one had any recent or serious police record. Bail was set at over \$2 million. In 1971, they were all acquitted.
- 3 1968: Shotgun-wielding Oakland police break into BPP meeting at St. Augustine's Church in West Oakland, CA.
- 6 1968: "Lil" Bobby Hutton, 17 years old, the first person to join the BPP and its National Treasurer, is murdered in cold blood by Oakland police following a police-instigated shootout. Seven members are arrested on conspiracy to murder charges.
- 10 1971: BPP initiates nationwide campaign to research and eradicate Sickle Cell Anemia, a deadly hereditary blood disease, primarily effecting Black people, in a front page story in The Intercommunal News Service.
- 12 1970: In New York, the Panther 21 defense office is burned, destroying legal papers.
- 13 1969: In Des Moines, Iowa, the Panther's Free Breakfast Program is attacked by police.
- 16 1971: A major statement by Huey Newton "On the Defection of Eldridge Cleaver from the BPP" announces that the BPP has returned to its original visions.
- 17 1971: BPP member Samuel Napier, distribution and circulation manager of The Intercommunal News Service, murdered in New York distribution office which is burned to the ground.
- 25 1967: The first issue of "The Black Panther, Black Community News Service", the official political organ of the BPP was published. A four-paged mimeographed newspaper, the first issue was headlined "Who Killed Denzil Dowell?" and dealt extensively with exposing the vicious police murder of an innocent unarmed Black youth in Richmond, CA.
- 26 1969: The Des Moines, Iowa BPP office totally destroyed in an anonymous bombing. Police refuse to investigate.
- 28 1969: San Francisco pigs using tear gas raid the Black Panther Party Headquarters and arrest 16 party members. Twelve are released with no charges filed. Four are finally charged with "illegal use of sound equipment."
- 30 1970: Baltimore police raid Panther's Free Breakfast Program.

National Death Penalty Moratorium Act (S. 233)

As the number of innocent people freed from death row continues to grow, public support for a moratorium on the death penalty remains high. Since the reinstatement of the death penalty, 95 people sentenced to death have been freed because they were later proven innocent. A recent study found that two out of every three death penalty cases contain errors so severe that the death sentences and convictions were overturned.

Seeking to make sure that no innocent person is put to death, Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) has introduced the "National Death Penalty Moratorium Act" (S> 233). Sen. Feingold's legislation would impose a moratorium on federal executions while creating a National Commission on the Death Penalty to review fairness in the administration of capital punishment at all levels of government.

TAKE ACTION! Before one more federal execution is carried out, the federal government has an obligation to ensure that the sentence of death will be imposed with justice, fairness and due process. You can read more about the legislation and send a FREE FAX to your Senators from our action alert at: www.aclu.org/action/dpamoratorium107.html

NEWSBRIEFS from Page 8

Washington DC - Former CIA Director, John Deutch is accused of keeping classified files and information on his home computer. He stored hundreds of highly classified intelligence reports on an unsecured home computer linked to the internet. No charges have been filed. Remember Wen Ho Lee, Taiwanese born scientist, who was jailed for a year for the same allegation while being investigated.

Atlanta, GA - Frank Wills recently died of a brain tumor at age 52. In 1972, at the age of 24, he was working as a security guard in Washington DC at the Watergate Apartments. He noticed some tape on a doorway lock and called police. Five men were arrested for a break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters and were later linked to Nixon's white house. This arrest was the first step in a chain of events that lead to 28 convictions and the resignation of the President.

Selma, AL - The City Council vote 5 to 4 to move a statue of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was a founder of the Ku Klux Klan. The monument had been erected on city property five days after the swearing in of Selma's first Black mayor, the location had been approved by his predecessor.

The statue will be moved from in front of a museum to the city cemetery.

New York - A \$9 million tentative settlement has been reached in a lawsuit brought by Abner Louima, the Haitian immigrant tortured in a police station in 1997. Under the proposal, Louima would receive payment from the city and the Police Benevolent Association. If finalized, the settlement would close one of the ugliest chapters in the department's history. The resulting scandal sparked angry protests and led to convictions of six officers. Louima was arrested in a street brawl outside a nightclub in Aug. 1997. Charges were later dropped.

The prisoner was handcuffed and taken to the precinct. Once there, Officer Justin Volpe - mistakenly believing Louima had punched him - sought revenge by sodomizing Louima with a broken broomstick and threatening to kill him if he reported it.

Baltimore - A Baltimore police officer kicked out of Internal Affairs after a domestic incident was arrested yesterday and charged in the December break-in at the Department's secret anti-corruption office. Police officials said they believe the break-in was the work of a disgruntled worker trying to get even with bosses for transferring him out of the Internal Affairs' Integrity Unit because of domestic troubles. Community sources say it was an attempt to cover up the corruption revealed in the secret files.

Coeur D'Alene, Idaho - A mother and son whose lawsuit bankrupted the Aryan Nations bought the neo-Nazi group's compound Tuesday and said they plan to sell it, perhaps to a human rights organization. "We hope to get the evilness out of there and turn it around to something positive," Jason Keenan said. The Keenan's were awarded \$6.3 million after being shot at and assaulted by Aryan Nations security guards near the compound in 1998.

Letters to the Editor:

Habari Gani Ndugu!

Revolutionary greetings, a clenched fist salute, warm embrace of solidarity and ongoing, progressive, motivating spirit, to you.

My March 13, 14 and 15, 2001 evidentiary merits hearings, or the trial on the evidence presented in support of my legal claims for successive petition for post-conviction relief, went very well. There was a decent sized crowd of people in the courtroom rooting for me. It was a good feeling for me to



see their smiles and bright eyes. i think the hearings went very well. It was actually a mini-trial before the unjust judge.

i was transported back to the prison from the Allen County jail on March 16th. Since i've been back from court i've been writing individual letters to people who attended the hearings in show of support for me, thanking them for being in my corner when i needed them the most.

i am expecting the judge to make a ruling on my petition on or about the 16th of April 2001. i don't have my hopes built up too high about the possible, eventual outcome, i still have a positive, constructive outlook on life nonetheless. The judge has the power to grant me a new trial, or even overturn the death sentence. If that happens, the Indiana State Attorney can appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court. If the judge rules against me, then i can appeal.

The Allen County jailers treated me much differently this time around. They didn't put me in the hole; instead they assigned me to a regular cell-block. i was able to walk around and use the telephone as other prisoners.

There was some halfway balanced media coverage of my case. i was on television everyday of the hearings. Some of the publicity was actually favorable towards me. But there was also some real ugly, racist, malicious slander smeared against me. The policeman's son, Tim Yaros, threatened my life. There is a cover up about the official conspiracy to snuff out my life.

On December 20, 1985, a prison guard (police) named George Patterson was caught trying to enter the death row unit with a four-shot, .32 caliber Derringer, which he smuggled into the prison. He did it twice. He told people that i "had killed his best friend, George Yaros," who had also been a Gary police officer.

Attorney Machell Kraus tried to hurt me, again. She was one of the court appointed attorneys who represented me in 1996 when i was resentenced to the penalty of death. They sold me out at trial and on appeal like a chattel slave on the auction block. A March 10, 2001, Fort Wayne News Sentinel article makes a quoted reference to one or more of my former attorneys who commented about what i said happened to me when i was captured in 1981 as "That's so full of crap."

i've got a real good team of hard working, dedicated attorneys fighting for me now - Michael E. Deutsch and Erica Thompson of The People's Law Office in Chicago, Illinois and Jessie Cook in Terre Haute, Indiana. They've done much to help me and uplift me. i am grateful.

Zolo Agona Azania #4969

NAT TURNER, REVISITED

By Tolbert Small

Listen! Hear the drums throbbing across the wilderness.

Today, we face our tomorrow;

Never to see yesterday, again.

Onward valiant warriors, we shall taste victory or death.

We can only lose our chains.

Death before slavery.

Lynch our spirit.

Scorch our body.

Our bones shall one day rot that vile institution.

SERVE THE PEOPLE

By Tolbert Small

Hurrah! Red flags blazing across the sky,

Cadres, swarming over the mountain slopes,

Only, through toil, shall our barren hills die;

Then shall they bear fertile fruit for our hopes.

Comrades, seek wisdom from our long struggles;

To cure that cruel disease, don't kill the man.

Don't blame speakers, be warned by their fables;

Judge self and friends alike, fighting red van.

In our last hours, backed up against the wall,

Stand strong, with spear and hoe, resist we must.

And if, by chance, moving forward, we fall;

No cruel demons shall dare trample our dust.

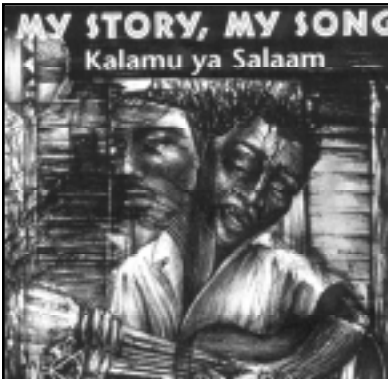
Ever forward, men, red banners waving.

Let cries, "Serve the People" forever ring.

Editor's note: Dr. Tolbert Small traveled to China with the BPP

COURT from Page 7

The justices overturned a ruling that a murder suspect who confessed to two killings in 1993 was entitled to a new trial. They said a Texas appeals court was wrong in overturning Raymond Cobb's murder conviction and death sentence. Maggie Owings and her 16-month-old daughter disappeared from their home in rural Walker County, Texas, two days after Christmas in 1993. There had been a burglary at their house. Cobb was a neighbor. An anonymous tip led police to suspect him in the burglary, and he eventually confessed, but denied any involvement in the disappearances. Cobb was indicted on burglary charges and had a lawyer appointed to represent him. The lawyer twice gave police permission to talk to Cobb about the disappearances.



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MERRITT COLLEGE, OAKLAND, CA

The Struggle to Keep it in the Community

By Joe L. Stephens

I was enrolled at San Francisco State College in the spring of 1970. There had been a powerful student uprising there the preceding year. The Merritt College campus in North Oakland was much more community based, however, and had a greater number of students who shared the same hopes and dreams of the lumpen. This is where I decided to be and so, though I lived in San Francisco and continued in school at State, I spent a lot of time functioning with the Black Students' Union (BSU) at Merritt.

There was a small core of about 12 to 15 men and women who were in the BSU and I believe we were the only campus that the Black Panther Party sent a liaison to. Doug Miranda, a Panther Captain, was on campus everyday. The Merritt BSU was an extension of the BPP and only the Party's line was adhered to. We worked in the community for issues such as "community control of the police", freeing all political prisoners, and we continued the "free breakfast for schoolchildren" at 29th and Grove at the Black Church.

We also struggled for "community control of our schools with the Peralta School Board decision to close our campus on Grove St. in North Oakland and move it to the East Oakland hills

The Peralta Board said that the main building on campus was unsafe and would have to be torn down. Thirty years later the main building has been reshaped and is a senior center under the direction of Children's Hospital of Oakland.

The North Oakland community had a long heartfelt relationship with the Grove St. campus and a movement developed to keep it in the flatlands. The community was very proud that the BPP had been born there. Some of the people involved were James Evans as president, Tommy D. Tommy Reed, Andre Russell, Valerie Trehan, Angel, Sis. Betty, Paul Fleming, Napoleon, Cal Reese and myself, Joe L.

Although the battle was lost, and the campus moved up to the hills, inaccessible to community people without transportation, the Student Union is now named in honor of Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. There was a hard fought battle with the Peralta Board to gain approval of the official designation in honor of Huey and Bobby who were students at Merritt and started the BPP during that time.

Panthers United for Political Prisoners East & West Coasts & New Orleans



Recommended Reading

"OURSTORY, Afrikans from Antiquity to the 21st Century" is a new history book by writer and activist Gaidi Faraj. This book covers a wide variety of topics that are typically left out of traditional history books and curriculums. Send \$10 to PO Box 92, Selma, AL 36702. Please include \$2 for shipping and make checks payable to Gaidi Faraj.

"Prison Writings, My Life is My Sun Dance" by Leonard Peltier. Edited by Harvey Arden, St. Martin's Press, New York

"Liberation, Imagination and the Black Panther Party", a new look at the Panthers and their legacy Edited by Kathleen Cleaver, Sarah Lawrence College and George Katsiaficas, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Routledge,

29 West 35th St., New York, NY

"South African Beacon" 1615 Broadway, Suite 705, Oakland, CA 94612. (510) 251-0998, \$20 suggested donation for yearly subscription, make checks out to COSAS

"San Francisco Bay View Newspaper" 4908 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94124 www.sfbayview.com, (415) 671-0449. Mail subscriptions are \$39 a year.

"Natural Alternatives" an Afrikan Centered Guide for Holistic Living PO Box 68152, Baltimore, MD 21215 (410) 728-8750 naturalalternatives@mailcity.com www.naturalalternativesmag.com

Upcoming Events

April 18, Wednesday, Robert King Wilkerson to speak at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 7:30 PM, presented by the Jericho Amnesty Movement (510) 433-0115/ JerichoSFBay@hotmail.com

April 22, Sunday, 2:00 PM, Robert King Wilkerson will speak at Carol's Books, 5964 South Land Park Dr, Sacramento, CA "The Farm", a video documentary about Angola State Penitentiary will also be shown. For more info: (916) 455-0908, itsabouttime3@juno.com

April 28, Saturday, Bobby Hutton Day in Oakland, CA, West Oakland Pubic Library, 1801 Adeline Ave, Oakland
For more info: (510) 893-2101 or itsabouttime3@juno.com

May 3 thru 6, 2001 - The 2nd International Black Panther Film Festival, May 3 and 6 at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture 515 Malcolm X Blvd., New York City
May 4 & 5 at Miller Theatre of Columbia University, 116th and Broadway, New York City
For info: www.pantherfilmfest.com
or (212) 926-2550

May 5, Saturday, Wo'se Community Church, 4th Annual Dreadlock Conference, Sam Pannell Community Center, 24th and Meadowview Rd., Sacramento, CA (916) 954-2454 or wose.net/conference

May 6, Sunday, 2:30pm - Cuban filmmaker Gloria Rolando presents two of her films at the Alice Arts Center, 1428 Alice St., Oakland, CA (at 14th St., near City Center BART). The films include: "Eyes of the Rainbow"-about Black Panther, Black Liberation Army leader Assata Shakur who is living in exile in Cuba and "Raices de Mi Corazon"-a brand new film

about the 1912 massacre of over 6000 members of the Independents of Color party in Cuba. Gloria will lead a discussion of the films. Sponsored by Jericho Amnesty Movement, Caribeling, Global Exchange and Venceremos Brigade.

May 10, Thursday, Manning Marable, speaking on Challenges for the Left, The Marxist School of Sacramento First Anniversary Celebration, Coloma Community Center Auditorium, 4623 T Street, Sacramento, CA, 7:00 PM, for more info: (916) 446-1758, info@marxistschool.org
www.MarxistSchool.org

May 12, Saturday, Western Regional Mass Demonstration THEY WILL NOT KILL MUMIA ABU-JAMAL Assemble: 10:30 am, Dolores Park, 18th and Dolores, San Francisco, CA
Mass Rally, 1:00 pm, Civic Center Plaza, Polk & Grove, San Francisco, CA
(415) 695-7745, alerts@freemumia.org,

May 26 - Sacramento, CA - African Liberation Day
March and Rally, 12:00 noon to 5:00pm
James McClatchy Park, 5th and 33rd, Sacramento
For more info:
916-929-7220 or aaprpc@aol.com

Where are They Now?

Richard Aoki A revolutionary Japanese-American, was one of the first Panthers. Richard knows the ugly face of America, as he and his family were placed in an internment (prison) camp during World War II.

Richard knew Bobby Seale and Huey Newton living in North Oakland and helped them write the 10-Point Program and patrol the police in Oakland. He became a Black Panther Party Field Marshall.

In 1969, he enrolled at U.C. Berkeley. Richard became a leading member of the Asian-American Political Alliance (AAPA), a student based organization whose platform closely resembled that of the BPP. Richard has continued his progressive and revolutionary political activities throughout the years.

He recently retired from teaching in the Peralta College system, where he also served as a counselor. He continues to speak about the importance of solidarity in the struggle. There is an interview with Richard in "Legacy to Liberation, politics and culture of revolutionary asian pacific america" edited by Fred Ho.



A Special Appeal to Our Readers

Many of you have been enjoying the newsletter for free for several years. Our circulation continues to grow and we especially have increasing demands behind prison walls. Please help us support our continued publication and the ability to send information into prisons. We need your help immediately. Please send a donation of \$10 to \$25 for the year.

Make tax-deductible checks out to It's About Time.

Editor's Note: Prisoners, help us help you. Please send stamps in lieu of money.

It's About Time...

P.O. Box 221100

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