



It's About Time...



Volume 5 Number 3

Summer 2001

OUR SAN FRANCISCO KID PASSES ON Black Panther Captain Warren Wells Remembered as the People's Defender

By Ida McCray and Kiilu Nyasha

Warren William Wells was born in San Francisco's Alice Griffith projects (Double Rock) on Nov. 13, 1947. His first struggle in a predominantly Black community was to overcome the stigma attached to his green eyes and light skin. Nicknamed "Dub", Warren got his first taste of prison in 1963, when at the tender age of 16, he was sentenced as an adult to Soledad State Prison. It was there that he met brothers like George Jackson, Eldridge Cleaver, Alprentice Bunchy Carter, Hugo Yogi Pinell, Fleeta Drumgo, James McClain, and others.



Photo: Jeffrey Blankfort
Ph. & Fax: 415-255-9182

Like so many of our young Black men (and more recently our young sisters), Warren got caught up in the revolving-door prison syndrome. As Soledad Brother George L. Jackson noted, "Black men born in the U.S. and fortunate enough to live past the age of 18, are conditioned to accept the inevitability of prison. For most of us, it simply looms as the next phase in a sequence of humili-

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The Murder of Donald Venerable Unarmed Black Man Killed by Police

The City of Sacramento has once again let the murdering police off the hook for the killing of a Black man on Feb. 9, 2001. Donald Venerable was shot to death by two rookie officers responding to a domestic dispute. They said they thought he had a gun, but it was a cell phone. One officer shot him with a Taser, but the other shot him dead.



According to witnesses, police "were shouting conflicting commands which might have confused Donald". Reportedly, one officer yelled "put your hands up" and the other was yelling to "get on the ground". The African community is outraged at yet another blatant act of racism, whitewashed by the Sacramento Police Department. Local NAACP leader, Ida Sydnor, expressed dissatisfaction with the investigation.

Don Casimere, the director of Police Accountability for the City Manager's office, said that the shooting could have been prevented. Casimere suggested better police training, including a modification in

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News Briefs

Houston - Shaka Sankofa's son, Gary Lee Hawkins, convicted of murder - gets life. He was accused of robbing and killing a friend, but maintains his innocence.

York, PA - A new autopsy has been performed on the exhumed body of a white police officer shot to death during the city's 1969 riots. The body of Henry C. Schaad was exhumed Tuesday morning, looking for metallic remnants and a few were found. Prosecutors are reinvestigating the killings of Schaad and Lillie Belle Allen, an African American woman, both shot during 10 days of riots in July 1969. Nine white men, including York Mayor Charlie Robertson, were recently charged with homicide in the Allen shooting.

Oklahoma City - Police took blood from 200 men and compared their DNA to the semen left behind in a murdered woman's car in a "sweep" for DNA. There were no matches. Police plan to test 200 more men who either lived near the victim and have a criminal record or resemble the police sketch. There is a growing debate about whether innocent people should have to hand over their blood. Besides concern over unreasonable searches, even supporters of DNA testing say such large-scale genetic dragnets raise the possibility of police coercion. The ACLU said that requiring people to give DNA samples without other evidence linking them to the crime would be an unconstitutional search and seizure.

Los Angeles - A wrongful-death lawsuit against the city and Police Dept. claims police engaged in a cover-up after an officer's fatal shooting of a Halloween partygoer who was holding a fake gun. Tina Lee-Vogt claimed that the shooting of her brother, Anthony Dwain Lee, was unjustified and excessive. "My brother was not a fleeing felon. He was not a parolee at large. He was not a suspect with an outstanding warrant," she said. Police said that Officer Tarriel Hopper shot the 39-year-old Lee after he saw Lee point the phony gun at him. Lee-Vogt's lawyer disputed that account, "The physical evidence puts the lie to that," attorney Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. said. "He was shot in the back." The lawsuit accuses the police officers involved of altering evidence at the scene, making false statements about the circumstances and withholding evidence. Lee was an actor who had appeared on several TV show, including ER and NYPD Blue. Friends said he brought the fake gun to the party as part of his costume.

Washington DC - Bush will nominate 11 candidates for judgeships on federal appeals courts across the country, choosing some of the nation's leading conservative lawyers. The nominees include Jeffrey Sutton, a former law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia who has argued in defense of school vouchers, and Michael McConnell, a leading legal scholar who has argued for an expanded role for religion in American life.

New York - In another embarrassing blow, the United States lost its seat on an international drug monitoring body on the same day it was voted off the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The 13-member International Narcotics Control Board monitors compliance with U.N. drug conventions on substance abuse and illegal trafficking. Seven countries - Iran, Brazil, India, Peru, France, Netherlands and Austria were elected to the board; joining China, Russia, Nigeria, Turkey, Mexico and Chile who are completing their current terms.

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Cincinnati Fires

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

"The government is only as lasting as your understanding of administration. The Army is nothing without people, the Air Force is grounded without your endorsement, the ships of the Navy could never have sailed if your leaders didn't have you sail 'em, and the brutal depravity of police would be non-existent if you didn't wear the uniform." - John Africa, "On the Move" (1975)



Black youthful rage explodes in Cincinnati, Ohio, and several nights of fire, rebellion and pain reminds us that the much-maligned and heralded "60's were really not so very long ago. For like the riots that rocked the nation in the 1960's, the precipitating event was an act of brutality and violence by police against black folks. Police violence against blacks has sparked rampages of rebellion from coast to coast, costing hundreds of millions of dollars in destroyed property, and hundreds of lost lives.

Over 30 years have passed, and in the intervening years we have seen the emergence of the black political class and the entrenchment of the black poor in inner cities, projects, and ghettos more desolate, more isolated and more hopeless than the 1960's. We have seen the explosion of the Prison Industrial Complex, at rates that would've been unthinkable in the 1970's, with upwards of 2,000,000 men, women, and juveniles in American jails. The U.S., with only 5 percent of the world's population, has 25 percent of the world's prison population!

And for black young men and women, the horror of prison has become a perverse rite of passage, marking one's transition from youth to adulthood.

So, while things have gotten better for some African-Americans since the 1960's, things have gotten demonstrably worse for millions of other, poorer blacks. Public schools, never quite outstanding in the first place, have gone into decline. City services have declined. Industries have fled cities for the South and the suburbs, leaving cities with less employment, and with remaining jobs paying far less money, while costs have gone up.

Cincinnati, sparked by the police shooting of a black man, could have happened anywhere in America. The social ingredients are all there, in every major city in America. In every major city is economic and social despair, mixed with a militaristic police force that targets black life and liberty. In every such city are black politicians who function in the role of keeping the restless natives in check; keep them suffering in silence.

Cincinnati represented the eruption of youth who see their position in grim, hopeless situations. Cincinnati is a harbinger of things to come. Cincinnati is the fire next time.

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ations. Being born a slave in a captive society and never experiencing any objective basis for expectation had the effect of preparing me for the progressively traumatic misfortunes that lead so many black men to the prison gate. I was prepared for prison."

While out of prison in 1967, Eldridge brought Warren into the Black Panther Party, whereupon he became the Sergeant at Arms, or Captain Wells. He was also dubbed "The San Francisco Kid." Dedicated and fearless, Warren was a powerful functionary of the Party on both sides of the Bay. In 1968, he was shot and wounded, along with Eldridge, during the firefight between the Panthers and police that martyred Lil Bobby Hutton, murdered in cold blood by Oakland, police.

Warren loved his people, his fellow prisoners. He hated injustice, racism, and this rotten system and knew exactly where to direct his rage. Needless to say, this level of rebellious consciousness made him a threat and a target.

Back in prison, San Quentin, at the age of 22, Warren planted the seeds of struggle and all he had learned from the Party among his fellow

BLACK PANTHER PARTY HISTORY - WRITING CONTEST

You can be a part of history...

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense (BPP) was born thirty-five years ago in Oakland, CA. This October, former members of the BPP and their supporters will meet in Washington DC. Our reunion is not just a sentimental journey, but a conference to plan strategies to free our political prisoners and to address the social ills which afflict our communities to this day.



We will publish a program, which will be a limited edition, historical document. Your work will appear in this program if you are a winner of the It's About Time Writing Contest. The theme of this contest is: "What is/was the significance of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in the Black Liberation Struggle?"

There are two categories - poetry and essay. The winning piece in each category will be published in the 35th Anniversary Program. Runners up will be published in the "It's About Time" newsletter. Winners will also receive two copies of the program and a year of the "It's About Time" newsletter.

Poems are not to exceed thirty (30) lines. Essays should be approximately 1500 words in length. Prisoners are encouraged to apply. There is a reading fee of \$10 per entry; up to three poems may be entered at one time. The fee is waived for prisoners. The proceeds of the contest will be used to publish the program and to defray costs of the reunion.

Entries will be screened by Sister Sheba Haven, former literary editor of the Black Panther Newspaper, Black Community News Service. Five finalists in each category, and the winner in each, will be chosen by a panel of judges. Entries will be judged on the basis of ideological understanding, historical accuracy, originality and style.

Deadline for contest entries is August 21, 2001. Address all entries and make check or money order payable to:

It's About Time
P.O. Box 221100
Sacramento, CA 95822
Attn. Sister Sheba

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police policy on weapon's and use of force, Taser training and audio-video recording devices.

The police department said that race played no role in the incident, but the community does not believe that. Ninety percent of black people in Sacramento believe the Sacramento Police Department and the Sheriff's Dept. include KKK type racist officers and that racial profiling is the norm here.

As of Feb. 22, Norma Venerable, the victim's mother filed a lawsuit against the Police Department for violating Donald's civil rights.

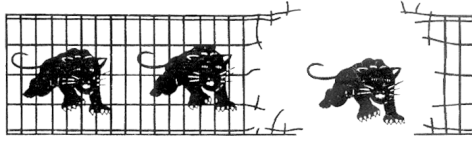
prisoners, raising political awareness and organizing prisoner solidarity. One of his best friends was James McClain, who was martyred in the Marin Courthouse Slave Rebellion of Aug. 7, 1970. It was McClain, William Christmas, Jonathan Jackson and Warren who planned that guerrilla move to free the Soledad Brothers - George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo, and John Clutchette. Their original plan was to use the hostages taken to make it to a radio station and expose the murderous and brutal prison conditions behind the walls of California prisons at that time.

Kumasi, one of the soldiers who spent time with Warren behind the walls, made the following statement on learning of Warren's death: "Warren Wells was a complicated and often misunderstood comrade whose history of defiance toward authority and revolutionary activity reaches back to the early '60s. He was a key member of the prison movement, a Captain in the BPP, and was at the center of the storm that raged through

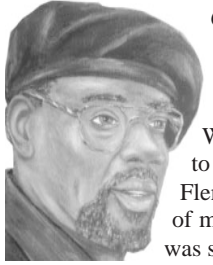
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ANGOLA 3 UPDATE

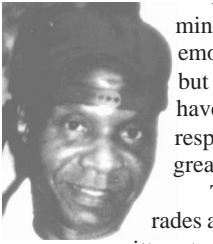


A. Shaka Cinque, AKA Albert Woodfox, has been denied justice once again. His direct appeal before the Louisiana State Supreme Court was denied June 15. Here is his statement.



Simply Denied

On June 24, 2001, I was informed by Herman Wallace, my friend and comrade, that he had spoken to one of our attorneys, Mr. Scott P. Fleming. Mr. Fleming informed him that he had received the results of my appeal to the Louisiana State Supreme Court. It was signed, denied and marked June 15, 2001.



As I write this statement, so many things cross my mind. I know that this latest setback will have a severe emotional impact on my family, friends and comrades; but also on the many supporters across this nation who have heard our cry for justice and freedom and have responded in both time and donations to help fight this great injustice that has consumed most of my life.

To all of you, and to my friends, family and comrades and to all supporters involved in other support committees to free the political prisoners of the past, present and sadly, the future, I say: "Onward with the fight!"

Like any warrior, combatant or soldier, one must never expect to escape the battle without setbacks or injury. The mark of a great soldier is not in their ability to fight, but in their ability to maintain their dignity, pride and self-respect, and most of all, their humanity, in their darkest hour.

I am more committed now than ever in my dedication and determination to fight the corrupt, inhuman and brutal capitalist system that uses all of us as a means to achieve great wealth. I will never stop fighting a system that seeks to control humanity for profit and profit alone.

To my friends, family, comrades and supporters of the National Coalition to Free the Angola 3, I salute you for a job well done! I embrace all of you in my heart, soul and spirit. And I take great comfort in knowing that in the battle ahead for myself and Herman Wallace, we will not be alone.

Dare to Struggle!
Cinque

The outlook is more positive after the recent hearing in the District Court in Baton Rouge for Herman Wallace. An overflow crowd attended the hearing at which the State was objecting to Herman's motion for a new hearing based on recently discovered evidence which could exonerate him. The State was trying to block this move, claiming that too much time had past and he exhausted his appeals, but Herman's attorneys persuasively argued that some of the evidence was only recently discovered while working on Albert's trial and appeal. A decision will be made soon, but the outlook was generally positive from all the people in the courtroom and the press coverage.



National Coalition to
Free the Angola Three
P.O. Box 221100
Sacramento, CA 95822
(510) 595-8264
marina@napanet.net
www.prisonactivst.org/angola

San Francisco - A federal appeals panel ruled that jailed inmates cannot be shocked with stun belts in courtroom proceedings for disruptive behavior, but it allowed use of the belts in some instances. Sheriff's may activate belts that temporarily incapacitate defendants only if they are a flight risk or a danger to others in the courtroom. The case stems from 1998, when Superior Court Judge Joan Comparet-Casani ordered a Long Beach bailiff to shock a defendant who was acting as his own attorney, after he refused her demands to be quiet while he was arguing his case.

Peru - The downing by Peru of a missionary aircraft from the United States has dealt a severe blow to the two countries' efforts to halt drug shipments. Peru's policy since the early 1990's of forcing down suspected trafficking planes has been praised by Washington. Over 30 planes have been shot down by Peruvian pilots and scores more have been forced to land. Recently, a Peruvian air force fighter jet attacked a missionary's plane killing an American and her infant daughter. This aggressive and dangerous policy allows pilots to be judge, jury and executioner.

Peru - Alejandro Toledo rose from a poor childhood as a shoeshine boy to become Peru's first freely elected president of native Indian descent, defeating controversial ex-President Alan Garcia. The election came seven months after Peruvians drove authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori from office in a corruption scandal. Toledo may well be the first president in Latin America to win after making Indian rights a top campaign issue. More than 80 percent of Peru's 26 million people are poor native Indians or of mixed race.

San Diego - San Diego police officers continue to stop Latinos and blacks at higher rates than whites and Asians, according to a report by the Police Department. This is a follow-up to the earlier report covering Jan. to June 2000 which said Latinos and blacks constituted about 30 percent of San Diego's population, but accounted for 40 percent of traffic stops and 70 percent of police searches during traffic stops.

California - Placer County sheriff's officers have a new non-lethal weapon, the PepperBall system, which fires a powdered form of pepper spray stinging the eyes and causing breathing difficulties. In Sacramento County, the Sheriff's Department prefers the sage gun which fires plastic or hard rubber projectiles as a non-lethal weapon.

Trenton, NJ - Big Payoff for Racial Profiling - The state agreed to pay \$12.9 million to the four victims of a 1998 police shooting on the New Jersey Turnpike that caused a national furor over racial profiling. The state did not admit any wrongdoing in settling the civil lawsuit, but plaintiffs' attorney Peter Neufeld said: "We think that money speaks volumes about what happened." Attorney General John Farmer said each plaintiff will be paid from \$912,000 to \$5.8 million. The four men - three are black, and the fourth is Hispanic - were pulled over near Trenton as they headed to a North Carolina college to showcase their basketball skills in hopes of a scholarship. Two white troopers, John Hogan and James Kenna, said they stopped the van for speeding. They fired 11 shots at the vehicle as they approached.

Berlin - The German parliament cleared the way for the payment of \$4.4 billion in compensation to more than 1.2 million surviving slave laborers from the Nazi era. "This is the day we were all waiting for," said Jerzy Buzek, prime minister of Poland, where about 500,000 surviving laborers live. "We are aware that this is not full compensation, because that is not possible. The plan calls for two payment categories, up to \$6,600 each for an estimated 200,000 individuals who were enslaved to work under life-threatening conditions in concentration camps and forced to survive on 300 to 500 calories a day. The second category of 1 million laborers who worked under less onerous circumstances will receive up to \$2,200 each.

USA - Amount Americans spent on fast food in 1970: \$6 billion
Amount they spent in 2000: \$110 billion
Estimated annual obesity related U.S. healthcare costs: \$240 billion
(from "Fast Food Nation", Houghton Mifflin, 2001)

INMATES' RIGHT TO DNA TESTING

A district court judge's ruling in a Virginia rape conviction broadens the definition of prisoners' constitutional rights.
(*excerpts from article by Dan K. Thomasson, Sacramento Bee*)

Finally, a federal judge has had the good sense to give those convicted of rape and other violent crimes and who still protest their innocence an opportunity to prove it. His is a landmark ruling that most prosecutors clearly find unwelcome. If allowed to stand, it would greatly expand due process to keep up with the technology of the 21st century.

State and federal prosecutors long have been reluctant to reopen cases or permit inmates access to evidence that might prove they are innocent despite the recognized reliability of DNA testing that so far has exonerated 80 people nationwide.

This was the situation with Fairfax County, Va. commonwealth's attorney Robert Horan, who has stubbornly refused appeals to give a convicted rapist, James Harvey, access to evidence he and his lawyers contend might overturn his 1990 conviction. Horan contends there were three men involved in the incident and that even if the convict's DNA didn't show up, it didn't mean he wasn't a participant in the rape and sodomy. But Harvey's attorneys argue that the test could be decisive if the laboratory identified DNA from two men neither of whom was their client.

In a decision that is believed to be the first of its kind in the country, U.S. District Judge Albert Bryan came down on Harvey's side, ruling that felons have a constitutional right to DNA testing and ordering Horan to permit the test. He said that Horan has violated Harvey's civil rights by denying him access to evidence that might clear him.

"Denying the plaintiff access to potentially powerful exculpatory evidence would result in a miscarriage of justice," Bryan stated in his opinion on April 16 that probably will open the way for an eventual Supreme Court decision on this controversial issue.

Even Bryan acknowledges that his ruling takes due process into another dimension, but he said that "due process is not a technical conception with a fixed concept unrelated to time, place and circumstances. It is flexible and calls for such procedural protections as the particular situation demands." Prosecutors, however, argue not unpredictably that courts will be inundated with frivolous appeals if the ruling is allowed to stand and time and money will be expended needlessly. In about one-half of the cases where there is post-conviction DNA testing, the guilt of the convict is confirmed.

But there are serious questions that require answering here. What about the other half? Should the test be denied if there is a reasonable chance of freeing even one person who is not guilty? Are not the cost and the possible damage to the reputation of a prosecutor a small price to pay for true justice? Prosecutors at all levels have shown themselves not only fallible but also reluctant to concede that fallibility - which they may have made a mistake, that an innocent person just might have been wronged. They almost always oppose reopening a conviction no matter how compelling the evidence.

Freeing wrongly prosecuted convicts, some from death row, almost has become a cottage industry as civil rights groups and even college students have used improved forensic techniques and dogged determination to win out over the intransigence of the criminal justice system.

Despite the increased ability to pinpoint the guilty or innocent through scientific means, Congress also has shown reluctance to assure that every defendant or convict alike has the right to the latest forensic techniques unavailable when they were convicted or overlooked in sloppy defense work. A bill to guarantee all inmates access to DNA testing that could exonerate them has been introduced by Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., but is not expected to pass this year.

Ultimately, it will be up to the Supreme Court to decide this issue, which seems so vital to a truly just system. Of course, there are expenses, financially and in terms of the anguish that some victims may face if cases are reopened. But Bryan clearly believes these aren't sufficient to deny a person freedom if there is any chance of innocence.



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From left: Bobby Seale, Warren Wells and Marlon Brando
Photo: Jeffrey Blankfort

grievances and demands for major changes in prison conditions, sentencing laws, labor rights, etc., and an end to the death penalty (which actually happened in 1972, although it was later rescinded). They smuggled it out of Folsom lockup to the general population resulting in the longest prison strike in California history. On Aug. 24-25, 1970, Warren and Kumasi confronted the San Quentin administration after organizing some 400 Black, Chicano, and White prisoners who stood together in solidarity behind the Manifesto.

In 1971, Warren was accused of planning bank robberies and other guerrilla actions from his cell. When his lifetime comrade-sister, Ida McCray Robinson, hijacked a plane to Cuba, it was discovered that she had just visited Warren the day before she was accused of air piracy.

Said Ida, "I learned from Warren how important the Black Panther

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The Day of Lil' Bobby Hutton's Funeral Service

I never will forget the day of Lil' Bobby Hutton's funeral. I was incarcerated at the Alameda County Courthouse, and obviously could not be in attendance...

The funeral was held several days after his murder by Oakland Police at 1218 28th St., Oakland, CA, on April 6, 1968. My family came to visit me and told me that the fumes and armor-piercing tear gas could still be smelled from the basement of the home at 1218 28th Street.

After my family departed from the visit, I went back into my cell and said to myself "Lil Bobby, your death will not be in vain, your sacrifice will only intensify the struggle".

Long Live Lil' Bobby
Terry Cotton

(*Editor's note: Terry Cotton, former Panther, was with Lil' Bobby Hutton and Warren Wells on that fatal night when they were ambushed by the Oakland Police Dept.*)

the California prison system in the 1970s. There may have been cracks in his personality - we all have them - but he will not be counted among the broken men. And I'll miss him."

Warren and Kumasi were leaders in the development of a document known as The Folsom Manifesto, which listed prisoner



From left: Geronimo, Chip and Warren

The Justice System Must Prevail

By Charlotte Hill O'Neal

In response to a letter written by Chris Dacy in the January 4th Forum section of the Kansas City Star which begins, "I have little sympathy for Pete O'Neal..." I wish to express my sympathy and my compassion to him and his family for the death of their father so many years ago. After all, I am too a wife, mother and a daughter, but the fact of the matter is that Pete O'Neal, my husband of nearly 30 years, had nothing whatsoever to do with the tragedy that befell Patrolman Dacy. The fact of the matter is also that the prosecution never produced any direct evidence whatsoever that Pete transported the firearm in question or that he even aided another in doing so!!

It is a fact that in order to file the charge against Pete at all, the ATF Bureau had to establish first that Pete was a convicted felon, thus prohibited from transporting firearms interstate. The unwarranted political pressure placed upon Judge Arthur Stanley in 1970 by both the U.S. prosecutor and the chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Internal Security prompted Judge Stanley to unjustly consider Pete a felon for the purposes of the 1969 federal charge against him, even though clearly he was not! The court clearly violated Pete O'Neal's Fourth Amendment right to due process!

As part of the nationwide campaign against the Black Panther Party in the 1960's and early 1970's, the federal investigator conducted electronic surveillance of Pete's telephone conversations without proper judicial warrants. Then the judge prevented Pete from exercising his legal right to even examine the illegally collected data clearly violating Pete's Fourth Amendment right against illegal searches and seizures and again his right to due process.

The key government witness was a paid government informant (reminiscent of the 1972 illegal conviction of Black Panther Geronimo Pratt on the basis of evidence provided by a paid government informant!)

Although the House Committee and its investigator found no evidence that would convince a reasonable person that the Black Panther Party of Kansas City represented a threat to the internal security of the U.S., the work of the committee investigator in Kansas City, the fact of the Congressional Hearings themselves and the hysteria promoting that was so widespread in the news media, this obviously influenced many Kansas City residents and some eventual jurors to regard all Black Panthers as dangerous criminals.

It was the news media who persisted in writing biased reports that focused on the Party's belief in self-defense while ignoring our community efforts that fed hundreds of children each day in Kansas City churches and provided drug counseling, clothing and legal advice to the needy in our community.

The Black Panther Party from its very inception always called for solidarity among all races and communities in America and the United African American community center which Pete O'Neal founded in 1990 until this very day, continues to have programs and projects that facilitate the strengthening of positive global community ties among people of diverse cultures, nationalities and races, a philosophy which supports strongly the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (who as many people remember was also vilified unjustly 'back in the day').

During Pete O'Neal's 1970 trial, local police frequently made threatening remarks to him as he entered and left the courthouse. Some told him that once he entered the penitentiary he would be on "their turf" and the only way he would ever come out would be "in a box!" The legal lynch-



Freedom for Fred Hampton Jr.!

By Akua Njeri*

Fred Hampton Jr. is a political prisoner. He was framed on charges of aggravated arson. He was accused of firebombing a Korean merchant store in the aftermath of the Rodney King Simi Valley verdict. In a trial that lasted 3 days with a majority white jury, Fred Hampton Jr. was convicted and sentenced to 18 years in prison. During the course of the trial, the prosecuting attorney held up a political newspaper that

laid out the historic relationship of parasitic merchants and the African community. This newspaper had not been entered as evidence. The prosecution was allowed to wave it before the jury and state that because this article in this newspaper talked about Korean merchants (Fred sold the newspaper but did not write the article), therefore he had a motive for the arson and must have done it. During the course of the trial the prosecution questioned Fred about the political work he was involved in and my role in that work locally and nationally. The store was closed for 10 minutes, minimum physical damage to property (singed carpet) and no damage to persons. He was convicted on the testimony of a known snitch/informant in the community who was a security guard at another store. The security guard stated that he knew it was Fred Hampton Jr. because he had an argument with him weeks before about some Malcolm X buttons and a political newspaper Fred had attempted to sell him, and he saw Fred running in the area at the time of the incident.

Fred Hampton Jr. has been incarcerated for 8 years. His unjust incarceration has been raised up in the context of the use of prisons and jails as part of the continued attack on the Black Community. It has also been used to expose prisons and jails as the "new cotton" giving economic life to a dying U.S. economy. He founded the "Communique Newsletter" to address the question of political prisoners, prisoners of war, and political prisoners of conscious inside U.S. penal institutions. He has consistently organized against the inhumane conditions inside the prison, for inmate rights, and struggled to make "one inmate, one contact" (linking the prison population with those on the other side of the wall) a reality. He also initiated the "Martyr of the Month" campaign in efforts to heighten the political consciousness of those behind the walls.

!!!New Developments!!!

Fred Hampton Jr. recently received notification that he had been granted "good time". This is time earned while in Cook County jail and having no tickets. His outdate has been moved up to September 12, 2001. We are still encouraging everyone to write letters and fax Governor Ryan and the Prisoner Review Board urging them to grant clemency based on innocence for Fred Hampton Jr. If this petition is granted Fred will not be on parole and would be released immediately. There is no timeline for the Prisoner Review Board to make its recommendation to Governor Ryan who makes the final decision. We still have work to do! Write and fax:

Anne R. Taylor, Chairperson • Prisoner Review Board • 319 E. Madison Street, Suite A • Springfield, IL 62701 • Fax: 217-524-0012

Governor George Ryan • State of Illinois • 207 State House Road • Springfield, IL 62706 • Fax: 217-524-4049

Write letters of support to:

Fred Hampton Jr. • aka Alfred Johnson #842954 • Stateville CC, P.O. Box 112 • Joliet, IL 60434

**Akua Njeri is a Black Rights activist, writer, and public speaker. A former member of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, Akua survived the brutal assassination of her husband Fred Hampton Sr., Deputy Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party on December 4, 1969. This brutal assassination of Hampton and Mark Clark, Defense Captain from Peoria, IL was part of the U.S. Federal Government's COINTELPRO attack on the Black Power Movement of the '60s. Akua serves as an advisor to community groups and organization.*



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The Lives of Political Prisoners

Many of us view our political prisoners as heroes and sheroes. They are all that and so much more. But, what we do not discuss is what they go through inside of the prisons on a daily basis and the after effect. We need to take a closer look at this, and then we will understand why it is important that we must work to free "ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS". We can no longer work on one or two at a time.

A life of a political prisoner is hell. Our comrades have been beaten, tear-gassed, starved, experimented on, witnessed the murder of their comrades, killed, maimed and the list of atrocities goes on and on. For those political prisoners that have been released, we expect so much of them. We must understand that they need healing first. They need to be embraced, taken care of and have someone to reintroduce them into society.

How many of you have taken the time to think about how the world has changed since our comrades were incarcerated??? What about the new technology??? Prices have changed, the world is complicated, confusing and so very different than how they left it.

Picture being confined and going through mental and physical abuse for which there is no escape and the threat of death is 24/7. What I am asking each one of you to do is to understand what a political prisoner goes through. It is more than a trial or trumped up charges. We sisters and brothers have a culture of "Walking Wounded" in our midst and we must prepare to help them in anyway that is needed. We must understand, like all prisoners of war, there will be/is Post Traumatic Stress Disorders that we all must deal with, but WE must prepare ourselves now, in order to help them later.

It is on each and everyone of us to organize centers for healing; places for them to live, retraining in life skills and for jobs, retreats, financial support and we need to devise a way to work with them on these issues while they are incarcerated and have programs in motion for them when they are released.

As the wife of a former political prisoner, I know what they go through. I understand and have experienced the effects of trickled down violence that they have faced. I know that we have grant-writers among us and comrades that can write this into reality. Let's do this, because we MUST take care of our own and these comrades are our finest. If anyone has any suggestions on beginning the process please put it online.

Here are a few suggestions that I have:

1. Organize a group of people who are responsible for visiting each political prisoner and prisoner of war. They will be responsible for stamps, money and packages for each PP and POW (this way one individual will not burn out).
2. Each state takes care of their PP's and POW's, but in cases of death row or serious illnesses, we all get behind that issue.
3. We share all legal findings and resources.
4. Organize and open agencies to help and hire our comrades.
5. Form relationships with the relatives of the PP's and POW's.
6. Organize a prison busing program.
7. Become instrumental in the lives of the children of the PP's and POW's.
8. Form co-ops to buy items needed for the comrades.
9. If able, find a way to teach a class in the prison system that will help the inmates once they are out.

These are just a few suggestions. Criticism and other suggestions are welcome.

Talibah - Los Angeles
Summra7@aol.com

It's About Time...
Publishing Committee

William (Billy X) Jennings Editor
JoNina Abron,
Gail Shaw, Clark Bailey Contributions

Sacramento BPP Women



At the Free Huey Rally in Oakland, 1968, Joyce Lee, Delores Henderson, and Joyce Means, shown in the above photo represent some of the women of the Sacramento Chapter of the Black Panther Party. Joyce Coles, Sharon Pinkney, Margo Rose, Shirley Finney and Gloria Abernathy were also in attendance and were the first women of the Sacramento Chapter. These women were instrumental in organizing, initiating, and maintaining the Party's social service programs in Sacramento, such as the Breakfast for Children Program.

On Father's Day in 1969, Sacramento police instigated a "shootout" with the Panther Party destroying the Sacramento Headquarters and the Breakfast for Children foodstuff stockpiled there. The then Mayor of Sacramento personally inspected the office and commented on the "savagery in which the food and other items were destroyed." It should be noted that we received no federal, state or local funding for any of our programs. Donations from local companies were solicited and received by these women.

Anike Osunkoya (formerly Margo Rose)
Sacramento Black Panther Party

Freeing a Prisoner to Die - California

As testament to our own humanity, even the ignoble should be granted the chance to die with dignity. That's the reasoning behind a rather obscure bill that would improve the opportunities for terminally ill prison inmates to die at home among family and friends.

Known as the "compassionate release" act, AB 675 would make prison releases easier for convicts who have a year or less to live. The bill would require that family members be notified if a doctor diagnoses imminent death. Relatives would then be informed of the process to apply for early releases of loved ones.

Only those clearly dying - and not serving life sentences or murder convictions - would be eligible to apply. Any application could be quashed by either the prison director, a judge or the governor. Currently, there are not mandated health notices to relatives and compassionate paroles are limited to inmates that have six months or less to live.

Critics contend that such public compassion should be strictly reserved for the victims of crimes, not for those who commit them.

"Individuals should have an opportunity to die at home, to collect themselves, to have that bit of humanity," argues Assemblywoman Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, author of the bill. Migden is right, bolstered by a three-strikes law and the advancing age of baby boomers that's graying the prison population - swelling the ranks of inmates who might qualify for a compassionate release.

Her bill sailed through the Assembly with rare bipartisan support, and no problems are expected in the Senate. But no one knows what will happen when it lands on the governor's desk. Gov. Gray Davis has balked at similar parole issues and the fear is he will do so again now.

If a sense of compassion does not compel the governor - and it rarely does on criminal-justice issues - perhaps he will consider that it often costs as much as \$100,000 a year to incarcerate a terminally ill inmate.

COINTELPRO - A History to Learn From

What was Cointelpro?

"Cointelpro" was the FBI's secret program to undermine the popular upsurge which swept the country during the 1960's. Though the name stands for "Counterintelligence Program," the targets were not enemy spies. The FBI set out to eliminate "radical" political opposition inside the US. When traditional modes of repression (exposure, blatant harassment, and prosecution for political crimes) failed to counter the growing insurgency, and even helped to fuel it, the Bureau took the law into its own hands and secretly used fraud and force to sabotage constitutionally-protected political activity. Its methods ranged far beyond surveillance, and amounted to a domestic version of the covert action for which the CIA has become infamous throughout the world.



Donald Cox, BPP member, victim of cointelpro.

How Do We Know About It?

COINTELPRO was discovered in March, 1971, when secret files were removed from an FBI office and released to news media. Freedom of information requests, lawsuits, and former agents' public confessions deepened the exposure until a major scandal loomed. To control the damage and re-establish government legitimacy in the wake of Vietnam and Watergate, Congress and the courts compelled the FBI to reveal part of what it had done and to promise it would not do it again.

How Did It Work?

The FBI secretly instructed its field offices to propose schemes to "misdirect, discredit, disrupt and otherwise neutralize" specific individuals and groups. Close coordination with local police and prosecutors was encouraged. Final authority rested with top FBI officials in Washington, who demanded assurance that "there is no possibility of embarrassment to the Bureau." More than 2000 individual actions were officially approved. Documents reveal three types of methods:

1. **Infiltration:** Agents and informers did not merely spy on political activists. Their main function was to discredit and disrupt from the inside.
2. **Other forms of deception:** The FBI and police also waged psychological warfare from the outside - through bogus publications, forged correspondence, anonymous letters and telephone calls, and similar forms of deceit.
3. **Harassment, intimidation and violence:** Eviction, job loss, break-ins, vandalism, grand jury subpoenas, false arrests, frame-ups, and physical violence were threatened, instigated or directly employed, in an effort to frighten activists and disrupt their movement. Government agents either concealed their involvement or fabricated a legal pretext. In the case of the Black and Native American movements, these assaults - including outright political assassinations - were so extensive and vicious that they amounted to terrorism on the part of the government.

Who Were the Main Targets?

The most intense operations were directed against the Black movement, particularly the Black Panther Party. This resulted from FBI and police racism, the Black community's lack of material resources for fighting back, and the tendency of the media - and whites in general - to ignore or tolerate attacks on Black groups. It also reflected government and corporate fear of the Black movement because of its militancy, its broad domestic base and international support, and its historic role in galvanizing the entire Sixties' upsurge.

The Black Panthers came under attack at a time when their work featured free food and health care and community control of schools and police, and when they carried guns only for deterrent and symbolic purposes.

Cuban Medical School Applications

IFCO is pleased to announce that an updated version of the application for full scholarship to study medicine at the Latin American School of Medical Sciences in Havana, Cuba is now available.

Your request for this revised application for admission to the September semester must include the following information:

1. Applicant's full name
2. Complete mailing address
3. Phone numbers for day and evening
4. Information as to the best time to reach you
5. E-mail, fax and cell phone if available

All applications must be on this new form. Priority consideration will be given to African-American, Latino/a, Native American, Asian American and other youth from poor and underserved areas. Applicants must be US citizens between 18 and 25 years of age, and high school graduates.

Please help IFCO spread information about this very special opportunity to study medicine on full scholarship and return to provide health care to underserved areas in the US.

All community organizers, school counselors, pastors and others are urged to share this information with your constituents and members.

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N.U.D. (Non Urban Dictate)

You have probably never heard of "N.U.D." with good reason. It is the acronym for a very subtle and little known marketing term specifically directed toward people of color. NUD stands for Non Urban Dictate; three words that essentially mean a company is not interested in the Black Consumer. (An NUD label means that a company does not want their marketing and advertising materials placed in media that claim an urban audience as their main target.) There are legitimate reasons for companies not using urban radio. It may be that Blacks don't index high in certain categories or that a company's strategy is to market to the Black consumer down the road after they have established a strong position with their primary target. But an NUD usually means that a company is not interested in the Black consumer. Companies evade discrimination liability by embracing it as theory rather than policy. As a service to Black consumers, the Urban Institute will list all companies that have an NUD policy. Armed with this information, we feel that Black consumers will be able to make informed buying decisions. Companies with NUD include: America West Airlines, Aruba Tourism, Builders Square, Busy Body Fitness, Calico Corners, Ciba Vision, Comp USA, Continental Airlines, Don Pablo, Eddie Bauer, Ethan Allen, Grady Restaurant, HBO - Apollo Series, Jos. A. Bank, Keebler, Kindercare, Lexus, Life Savers, Mondavi Wines, Northwest Airlines, OM Scott, Paternal Importers, Peppridge Farms, Starbucks, Weight Watchers

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS -

An international human rights conference on winning amnesty for U.S political prisoners and pows

On November 8, 9 and 10th, 2001, an unprecedented international convocation on behalf of U.S. political prisoners and prisoners of war (ppows) will take place in Havana, Cuba. Sponsored by a broad coalition of U.S. based groups and hosted by the Organization in Solidarity with the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL) which is headquartered in Havana, the Tear Down the Walls conference will focus an international spotlight on the United States record of persecution of those who struggle for social change. Participants from around the world will come together to learn, strategize and join the fight to win amnesty for the nearly 100 women and men who are some of the longest held political prisoners in the world.

For more information about the conference check out: www.thejerichomovement.com/teardownthewalls

To receive a brochure and a registration packet (available in July) send your mailing address to teardownthewalls@lycos.com or Tear Down The Walls, PO Box 3585, Oakland, CA 94609 or call 510-539-0050

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POWS!!!

Editorial Notes: Plans for the 35th year Reunion Conference in Washington DC are developing fast. I have been in contact with comrades from Seattle, Chicago, New Orleans, New York, Baltimore, Des Moines, Houston, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento and Washington DC. There is an enthusiastic response from across the nation. We also have been in contact with comrades from around the world, including Spain, Japan, Paris and Africa. Many are looking forward to this opportunity to see each other and take part in this historic event.

Sherry Brown, our DC contact person has been organizing in that area. Nzinga Conway of Baltimore also has been organizing. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank Father Earl Neil - former spiritual advisor of the Black Panther Party, Dr. Ron Walters - Political Science Dept., Univ. of Maryland; Howard Croft - SEIU International, former UDC Urban Studies Dept.; A.C. Byrd - International Friends & Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Ron Clark - Executive Director of Rap Inc.; and Sam Jordan - Health Care Now, former Director of Amnesty International's Project to Abolish the Death Penalty for their support and interest in participating.

DRUGS AND COLLEGE AID

Students shouldn't have to pay twice

There was a good reason why the Clinton administration never seriously enforced a 3-year-old law barring citizens recently convicted of drug offenses from receiving federal financial aid for college: it is a discriminatory and shortsighted policy. But now that the Bush administration is taking a more vigorous approach to enforcement, it is even more important to repeal the law.

Approved by Congress in 1998 without much notice, the law renders college aid applicants ineligible if they've been convicted of any drug crime. A single conviction for marijuana possession, for example, disqualifies a student for a year from the date of conviction. Crimes involving heavier drugs or selling drugs merit longer ineligibility. About 9,000 students last year lost aid as a result of the law, and with stiffer enforcement, the numbers could increase dramatically.

The policy amounts to a heightened form of double jeopardy. Students who have already paid the criminal penalties for drug convictions - through drug treatment, probation, community service or time in jail - are being made to pay again through the loss of college aid. This prevents them from following a productive path that may be the best insurance against recidivism. The hammer falls unequally on poor college students, putting up a barrier to higher education for convicted students who need financial aid that doesn't exist for convicted students who are better off.

Then there is this irony: while they demand answers about drug offenses, federal college aid applications show no interest in other, more serious forms of crime. A student can commit arson, burglary, even murder, and still qualify for aid. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder of Indiana, who sponsored the original law, now wants to revise it, saying he never meant it to apply to college applicants, only to students who are already in and receiving federal aid. Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts has a better idea: Do away with it altogether. His bill HR 786 awaits action by the House.

BLACK AUGUST 2001

Black August is a month of great significance for Black People throughout the African diaspora, but particularly here in the US where it originated. It was first organized to honor our fallen freedom fighters,

George and Jonathan Jackson, Khatari Gaulden, James McClain, and William Christmas, as well as the sole survivor of the August 7th Courthouse Slave Rebellion, Ruchell Cinque Magee.

Jonathan Jackson, Christmas and McClain were killed by prison guards during their armed liberation attempt in Marin County on August 7, 1970. George Jackson was murdered on August 21 a year later, and Gaulden was killed acci-

dentally on the yard of San Quentin in 1978. During this historic month, annually, the brothers who participated in the founding of Black August wore black arm bands on their left arm and studied revolutionary works, focusing on the writings of George Jackson - Soledad Brother and Blood in My Eye.

As Mumia Abu-Jamal stated in his commentary, Black August, "August is a month of meaning, of repression and radical resistance, of injustice and divine justice." On this 22nd anniversary of Black August, it is still a time to embrace the principles of unity, self-sacrifice, political education, physical training, and resistance.



JONATHAN JACKSON 17
Murdered by pigs



JAMES McCLAIN 37
Murdered by pigs



WILLIAM CHRISTMAS 27
Murdered by pigs



RUCHELL MAGEE 31
Wounded by pigs

LBJ Targeted Black Power Radicals Files Show FBI Secretly Checked Stokely Carmichael's Draft Status Excerpts from an article by Hans H. Chen

The 1966 election of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) to lead the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) so alarmed President Lyndon Johnson that he ordered the FBI to send him reports on the "black power" activist several times a week, and even inquired about Carmichael's draft status.



The FBI's release of a part of its files on Carmichael fuels the long-standing suspicions of SNCC members that the government sought to silence the civil rights group by sending its leaders to the front lines of the Vietnam War. Carmichael's FBI file numbers over 18,000 pages and would ordinarily take years to review and release, the FBI said. But after negotiations the agency agreed to expedite the publication of the file's first 282 pages.

Those pages reveal a pattern of government suspicion, observation and infiltration at the highest levels. Three months after Carmichael's election to lead the civil rights group SNCC, Marvin Watson, a key Johnson aide, called the FBI asking for information on Carmichael and the SNCC. "Watson stated that the President would like to be reassured that the FBI has good coverage on Carmichael," wrote one of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's aides.

Under the rallying cry of black power, Carmichael rejected the philosophy of nonviolence that had first motivated the SNCC's founders in 1960, and he called on blacks to win economic and political self-sufficiency. After Carmichael's election, SNCC expelled its white members and abandoned the political alliances earlier civil rights activists had formed with the Democratic administrations of Kennedy and Johnson. Activists felt betrayed by Democrats. Johnson's surveillance of the group reflected

the mutual distrust between Carmichael and the mainstream, white-dominated political system. Two years before Carmichael's election, Johnson had prevented 60 black activists at the 1964 Democratic Presidential Convention from replacing the state's segregationist, all-white regular delegation. Johnson did, however, dispatch 30 FBI agents to monitor every move that SNCC made at the convention, according to Robert Dallek, a Johnson biographer.

Carmichael's FBI file shows that Johnson showed an unusual interest in the black power activist's draft status. Cleveland Sellers Jr., who served as SNCC's national program director, spent four months in jail for draft evasion in 1967. Johnson's inquiry confirmed the feeling at the time that SNCC members were being made available for the draft as retribution for their outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War. "All of a sudden, it seemed as if all the young men in SNCC were being drafted," Sellers said. "So it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that, systematically, SNCC was under attack by the administration to draft us into the armed services."

After one year leading SNCC, Carmichael left to join the more radical Black Panther Party.

At a mass rally in Oakland in February 1968, he was designated as honorary BPP Prime Minister. The FBI quickly initiated a Cointelpro effort to "foster a split between the two most prominent black nationalist groups" through the media. Utilizing the services of Peter Cardoza, an infiltrator who had worked his way into a position as the SNCC leader's bodyguard, the Bureau applied a "bad jacket," deliberately creating the false appearance that Carmichael was himself an operative. The Bureau forged letters on Black Panther Party letterhead and planted informant reports supposedly written by Carmichael to the CIA in another activist's car. This gambit worked, as is evidenced in the assertion by BPP leader Huey P. Newton: "We charge that Stokely Carmichael is operating as an agent of the CIA."

The FBI also used Carmichael's mother as a prop in their scheme: on 9/4/68, a pretext phone call was placed to his residence and his mother was told that a friend was calling who was fearful of the future safety of her son. It was explained to Mrs. Carmichael the necessity for him to "hide out" inasmuch as several BPP members were out to kill him. Although there is no evidence whatsoever that a Panther "hit team" had been assembled to silence the accused informer, Carmichael left the U.S. for an extended period in Africa the following day, and the SNCC/Panther coalition was effectively destroyed.

Organization of All-Afrikan Unity Educate! Organize! Mobilize! MAAT FOR THE MASSES



The Organization of All-Afrikan Unity is the continuation of the Honorable Malcolm X's philosophy, politics and revolutionary thought.

The Organization of Afro-american Unity was formed by Malcolm on June 28, 1964. After his assassination, there was one other meeting of the group, after which the organization became inactive.

Brother Ade Oba Tokunbo, a staunch fighter for Afrikan freedom for over 20 years and a veteran Panther reformed the Organization in 1994 as

the Organization of All-Afrikan Unity. The small but significant change in the name of the organization reflecting not only the Honorable Malcolm X's words "I am not an American... I am one of the... victims of America!"; but also reflecting a growth in the understanding of the plight of Afrikan people. Truly, no Afrikan is free until ALL Afrikans are free!!!!

The Organization works to carry on the spirit of the Honorable Marcus M. Garvey, Kwame Nkrumah, Malcolm X, Huey P. Newton, the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, as well as other Pan Afrikan theorists. The work is accomplished thru THE AKOBEN PLAN, a framework for the reconsolidation of Afrikan Civilization.

In the O.A.A.U., our motto is to Educate, Mobilize and Organize! We must educate, mobilize, and organize the masses of Afrikan people.

In the Organization, theory and practice are balanced. Each member is not only expected to be a leader; he or she is trained to become a leader of the People.

The Black Panther Cadre is an integral part of the Organization of All Afrikan Unity. The BPC directly carries on the work of the Black Panther Party. We view the BPP as a shining example of revolutionary action in many ways.

Take the Initiative!!!

Join the O.A.A.U. in its sacred mission of liberating Afrikan people worldwide!!!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!

For more info: (410) 233-9595; 233-3074\
P.O.Box 41144 Baltimore,MD 21203-6144

Best Pics



Left: Angola III Support: Scott Fleming, Atty; Leslie George, King's Aunt and Ms. V. Mae Vincent

Right: Eddie Conway, middle, with support committee members, Ron, Cleo, Ameejill at Jessup Prison



Left: Members of Eddie Conway Support Committee, Baltimore, MD.

Right: Ruben Hurrucane Carter, Pam Africa, Billy X at San Francisco Mumia Rally



Above: Joel Durham, Anike Osunkoya (formerly Margo Rose), David Hillard, Brenda Presley, Shelly (Burse) Sanders, Barbalorisa Omowale (Charles Brunson)

FALLEN COMRADES

TIMOTHY CYRUS EVANS PRATT, better known as "Big Tim" was the sixth child of Eunice and Jack Pratt of Morgan City, Louisiana. On May 25, 2001, at the age of 55, he died of a rare cancer of the bone marrow (multiple myeloma).

Timothy earned a PhD from Howard University in Washington DC, and was a college professor in DC for many years. He recently became a writer and wrote a book centered around the miracles in this mother, Eunice's life. He was a "Big Brother" to a number of fatherless boys in the D.C. area. He was a devoted member of St. Augustine Catholic Church where he had planned to launch his "Cancer Care Ministry" for cancer victims.

Timothy was an active supporter and organizer of the D.C. Youth Orchestra over many years. He organized a group of young girls, including his fourteen-year old daughter, Tahira, into a professional group called "Sisters with Strings." Timothy was very active in the Civil Rights movement. He also worked diligently for the release of his brother, geronimo ji jaga, and in the Prisoners Rights Division of the NAACP.

It's About Time sends its deepest condolences to the Pratt, ji jaga, families.

JUDY ANNE TOWNSEND recently passed away at age 56 after losing her battle with cancer. Judy was originally from West Medford, Massachusetts, then moved with her family to Pennsylvania where she completed high school and college. She worked for the Philadelphia Board of Education for fourteen years.



In 1995, Judy moved to Oakland, CA, and lived with her sister - Lesley Tiyasha Phillips and her two sons. Although not a member of the Black Panther Party, she was a strong supporter and a valuable community worker. Judy worked especially hard in helping to organize "geronimo day" in Oakland in 1997 to celebrate his release from prison.

She will surely be missed.

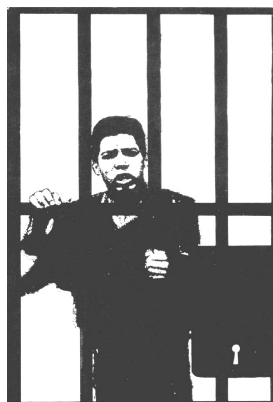
GENE A. MCKINNEY, former Black Panther Party member, died in September 2000 at the age of 58. Gene joined the BPP at its beginning. He grew up in West Oakland in the same oppressed, black community as Panther leaders Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, and Lil Bobby Hutton. He was a member of Local 342, Plumbers and Steamfitters Union.

Gene is best known for his courageous stand for the cause of freedom against economic exploitation and political oppression everywhere. This was most poignantly demonstrated in the early morning of Oct. 28, 1967, when Gene took charge of a volatile situation and saved the life of Huey Newton. Huey had been shot in a scuffle with police officers in Oakland. Gene commandeered the first vehicle that passed the scene stating, "This is Huey P. Newton, leader of the Black Panther Party. He has been shot and is in serious condition. He needs help." He directed the driver to a Panther safe house. Huey was unconscious from a gunshot wound in his abdomen. Gene managed to get to David Hilliard's house where friends looked after him

and then took Huey to the hospital. Had Gene not seized the moment, it is doubtful Huey would have lived through that morning.

Gene again acted courageously on the witness stand during Huey's murder trial, after Huey had been indicted for the murder of Officer Frey. Huey's attorney, Charles Garry, asked Gene if he had been a passenger riding with Huey on the morning of Oct. 28, when Officer Frey was shot dead. Gene answered, "Yes, I was." Garry continued, "at approximately five o'clock in the morning did you by chance or otherwise, shoot at Officer John Frey?" Gene responded, "I refuse to answer on the ground it may tend to incriminate me." He took the blame off Huey by choosing to take the Fifth and was found in contempt of court and sentenced to 30 days.

Gene set a revolutionary example against the forces of racialism, colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism. He will be missed by his family, friends, and comrades.



BOOKS BEHIND BARS

A special project of the It's About Time Committee

Your tax-deductible donation to Books Behind Bars takes up where an abysmal educational system leaves off; at the prison gates. At the same time as the prison population has swelled, most educational programs have been cut. 100% of your donation is used to send books, periodicals and correspondence course materials to those prisoners who have asked for our help, to not just do time, but to make constructive use of their time through study.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JAMES BURFORD JR.

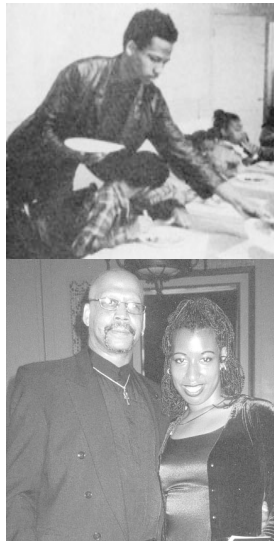
My name is James C. Burford Jr. I was born in San Francisco in 1948. At a very young age I could see that I was different, white folks showed me and my parents no respect. My grandmother told me to be quiet, "that's just the way it is". I could not be quiet, even as a boy I stood up for myself. I stayed in trouble in grade school, when a white boy called me a nigger, I hit him in the mouth. I got a few ass whippens, but not as many as I gave out. When I was 18, I got beat down by the SF Pig Dept for no other reason than I was a black man. This was the last straw. I joined the Nation of Islam because I loved Malcolm, but I left for the same reasons that he did. I needed to belong to a group of black people who had heart and would not back down from the Pigs. I met a sista at the hospital where I worked at the time who was wearing an afro. I made some stupid Negroe remark about her nappy hair. This sister was very "aware", better known at the time as "Militant" and she began to educate a brother about the struggle. Her name was Agnus Morton. She suggested that I check out the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, this was in 1966. The Party had an office on Fillmore and Eddy streets and I checked them out. The first Panther's I met were Captain Dexter Woods, and John Bowman, better known as JB. It was on. This is where I belonged, fighting for my people against this racist capitalistic American government. I started out as a soldier, selling papers on Market street with two other Panthers, Eddie Griffen and Lucky (Melvin Jenkins). Between us we would sell about 1500 papers a day and get a pocket full of phone numbers from the sista's. After a hard day of selling papers we would get a few bottles of "Bitter Dawg" and chill. Life as a Panther had its ups and downs, many more ups than downs. Jail was a fact of life, I was arrested 22 times on all sorts of trumped up charges; most of the time for obstructing the sidewalk while selling papers. Of the 22 arrests, I was only convicted twice and served time in SF County Jail. After I got out of jail I was assigned to work on the Panther Newspaper with Sam Napier. I was in charge of distribution in the SF area. I also worked on the Free Breakfast for Children Program and what ever else was needed. I have always had and always will have a strong love for my people and will fight racism to the grave. Around 1970, I had to go "underground" for several years and when I returned the Party was "different". At this point I went on with my life, dealing with these racist white folks which I'm still doing today. I'll always love Huey, Bobby, David, Eldridge, John, Bunchy, Dexter, Knox, JB, Billy X, Ducho, Ellis, Richard Brown, Sam Napier, Montilava, and all the other nameless sisters and brothers who were railroaded to prison or murdered by the fascist PIGS.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!!!!!!!!

NZINGA CONWAY

formerly known as Patsy Byrd, was a member of the Black Panther Party Baltimore chapter. She currently works for Johns Hopkins Medical Center as an addiction specialist. She has an A. A. degree in emergency medical services and has recently completed a Bachelor's degree.

Nzinga is married to Marshall Eddie Conway and is the chairperson of the Marshall Eddie Conway Support Committee. She is also on the Board of Directors of All African Unity. She is a very hard working sister who has dedicated her life to the struggle, on the front lines fighting for people's rights everyday. Nzinga is also helping organize the 35th Year Anniversary Reunion and Conference of the Black Panther Party.



REVOLUTIONARY ARTIST AND ACTIVIST EMORY DOUGLAS HONORED BY BLACK PRESS

Emory Douglas, long-time activist for social justice and Sun-Reporter Production artist, was awarded the prestigious "True Voice Award" from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (The Black Press of America).



Emory has been active since the 1960's, serving as Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party from its inception

to the end. His artwork was a vital part of the Black Panther newspaper and proved that "a picture is worth a thousand words." His posters and other works were seen posted on walls, windows and telephone poles in black communities across the United States. His artwork has also inspired other artists, especially youth, all over the world. In 1984, at the invitation of Dr. Carlton Goodlett, Emory joined the Staff of the San Francisco Sun-Reporter.

Emory Douglas has long been an example of a true Panther. He has remained politically active over the years. He will be facilitating a workshop at the 35th Year Anniversary Conference and Reunion in Washington DC in Oct. 2001.

WELLS from Page 4

Party was, how love of people could be translated into a political context, how real men treat women, and how to fearlessly soar like an eagle, i.e., take it to the max."

"After 40 years, Warren knew what was important - that our responsibility was first to our families, to take care of them and to take care of our people, especially our youth. I loved Warren; I loved his spirit. He never became complacent although he had been locked up most of this life."

On June 29, 2001, Warren died in the custody of the California Department of Corrections after "minor" surgery at UCSF Hospital. He is survived by his only son, Warren Wells Jr., his mother, Marguerite Wells, two sisters, Patricia Ann Wells-Character and Donetta Wells-Ingram, a host of nieces and nephews and friends and comrades he has known a lifetime.

Donations to help the family with funeral costs can be sent to: Marguerite Wells • c/o Families With A Future/LSPC • 100 McAllister Street, Suite 200 * San Francisco, CA 94102

O'NEAL from Page 5

ing and literal killing of Panthers across the nation was the order of the day during that time. On December 4, 1969, only 35 days after Pete O'Neal was arrested, Chicago police, with the cooperation of the FBI, conducted a late night assault on a Black Panther apartment killing Chicago leader Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and wounding four others. Pete O'Neal was justifiably convinced that he too was on the FBI's list of Black Panther leaders to be eliminated!

Pete O'Neal's nearly three decades of exile have been some of the most productive and positive years of his life! The effectiveness of his work is powerfully evident in the lives of the people he has touched over the years in the rural villages of Africa and the urban communities across America, including Kansas City.

I agree fully with Mr. Dacy when he says that "the justice system must be allowed to prevail in this case!" Justice would be best served when Pete O'Neal once again has the freedom to live, work and expand upon the programs that have proven to be so effective in healing our communities whether in the villages of Africa or the urban communities of Kansas City and beyond.

Charlotte Hill O'Neal, a native of Kansas City, Ks., and her husband, Pete O'Neal, live in Arusha, Tanzania in east Africa.

COMING EVENTS!!

Protest Globalization - Defeat the Bush Agenda - Saturday, July 14

Celebrate Bastille Day 2001 at Bohemian Grove. Bohemian Grove is an elite summer camp of many of the top Male figures in the Bush administration, CEO's of Fortune 500 giants, those responsible for creating and profiting off the power crisis, and other of the world's most powerful and destructive individuals. They come together every summer to discuss their future -plans of corporate globalization and racist repression. It was at Bohemian Grove in 1942 that the atomic bomb Manhattan Project was planned.

Buses will leave from San Francisco for the Rally and March at 2:00pm in Monte Rio (5 miles W. of Guerneville on HWY 116). For more info: (415) 821-6545, www.actionsf.org

Marcus Garvey Day Parade and Festival - August 17, 18, and 19, 2001

All of the community is invited to participate in a weekend celebration including Talent, Information, African Market and Grassroots Exhibits Elegant Manor, 3115 W. Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA For more info: 323-735-9642

National Rally for Imam Jamil - September 15, 2001

The National Support Committee for Imam Jamil is organizing a mass rally immediately before jury selection for Imam Jamil's trial. Speakers will include prominent Muslim leaders, civil right leaders and national celebrities. The purpose of the rally is to show Atlanta and possible jurors that large numbers of people of good faith are behind him. For more info: www.ImamJamil.com

It's About Time...

P.O. Box 221100

Sacramento, CA 95822

Defeat the Bush Program!! National March on Washington DC - September 29, 2001

Surround the White House and say NO to racism and globalization. Demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and an end to the racist death penalty. For more info: International Action Center, 2489 Mission St., #24, San Francisco, CA 94110. (415) 821-6545, e-mail: iac@actionsf.org www.actionsf.org

Recommended Films:

“LUMUMBA - A Story as Eloquent as that of Malcolm X”

By Firpo Carr

Patrice Lumumba was a great African anti-colonial leader. As Prime Minister of the Congo, he put the interest of his people first, instead of exploiting them as did some of the African puppets of the oppressive, colonial Belgium government. He was for the total liberation of the Congo, and the film radiantly reflects his strong, vibrant personality and intensity. He impacted the African continent like few others during his short two-and-a-half-month stint as the Prime Minister. He was the voice of the disenfranchised masses..

“ON STRIKE” - documenting the battle for ethnic studies

The film includes interviews with Third World Liberation Front veterans from 1969, including former Black Panther Richard Aoki, LaNada Boyer, and Harvey Dong, and shows images of the National Guard spraying the campus with tear gas near the Sproul fountain. The struggle is placed in a recent context by discussing the impact of conservative Propositions 187, 209 and 227 at UC Berkeley, and on the rest of California. Department Chair Ling-Chi Wang discusses the cutbacks faced by Ethnic Studies and what Professor Laura Perez characterized as a “growing insensitivity to the blatant demise of the Department.”

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