

It's About Time...



Volume 6 Number 2

Fall 2002

DONOVAN JACKSON Victim of Police Brutality

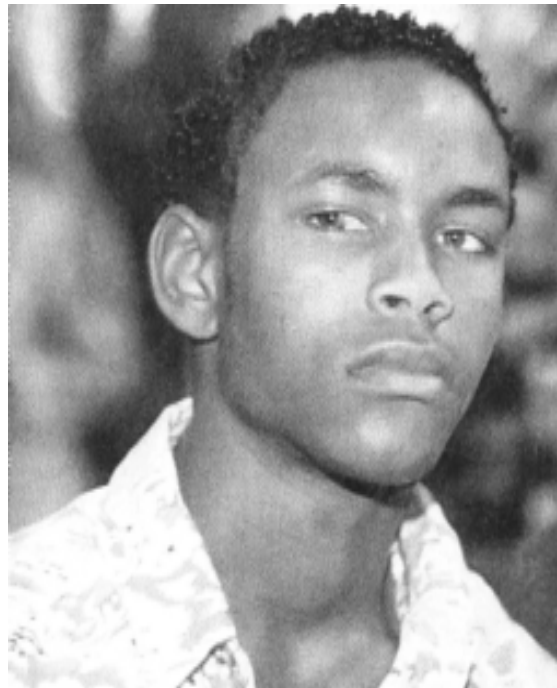
Police Brutality has united the Inglewood, CA community against racial profiling and the people have called for action against those involved.

The Donovan Justice Committee demands that:

1. That all charges against Donovan Jackson-Charis be dropped.
2. Criminal punishment for criminal behavior by police. They must do jail time like everyone else.
3. That criminal charges be filed against all officers involved, that all officers/deputies who witnessed the crime and failed to stop it be suspended without pay.
4. Election of a civilian police review board.

For more information contact:

The Donovan Jackson-Charis Justice Committee
P.O. Box 561243
Los Angeles, CA 90056



BLACK AUGUST 2002 (Part 2) by Kiilu Nyasha

Black August is a month of great significance for Africans throughout the diaspora, but particularly here in the U.S. where it originated. "August," as Mumia Abu-Jamal noted, "is a month of meaning, of repression and radical resistance, of injustice and divine jus-

tice; of repression and righteous rebellion; of individual and collective efforts to free the slaves and break the chains that bind us."

On this 23rd anniversary of Black August, first organized to honor our fallen freedom fighters, Jonathan and George Jackson, Khatari Gaulden, James McClain, William Christmas, Hugo Pinell, and the sole survivor of the August 7, 1970 Courthouse Slave Rebellion, Ruchell Cinque Magee, it is still a time to embrace the principles of unity, self-sacrifice, political education, physical fitness and/or training in martial arts, resistance, and spiritual renewal.

I'm very pleased to note that Black August has been embraced by our youth who are eager to learn and propagate the heroic history of our freedom fighters and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Black and other oppressed peoples throughout the world. The hip-hop generation is becoming conscious and aware, and their spoken words and raps have been spreading this political consciousness far and wide.

However, I'm deeply concerned about the fact that our longest held warriors who have been tortured the most for their activism in behalf of the people, especially Black prisoners, are so seldom mentioned and rarely if ever included in written and spoken word re our liberation struggle.

Ruchell Cinque Magee and Hugo L.A. Pinell (Yogi Bear) have been incarcerated in California gulags since 1963 and 1964 respectively. That's nearly

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News Briefs

South Africa Mining Bill Approved

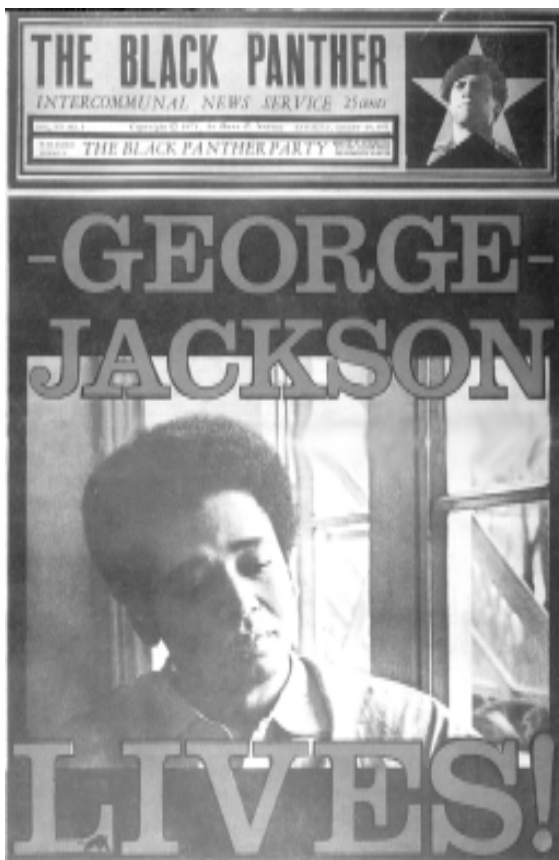
A controversial bill which will transfer ownership of all South Africa's mineral rights from private companies to the state has been passed by parliament's lower house. The governing ANC party and labor organizations say the new legislation would ensure that the black majority in South Africa participates in the mining industry, which has been dominated by whites since the apartheid era.

South Africa is the world's biggest gold producer. Gold and platinum account for about 20% of the country's exports and the mining industry employs about 500,000 people. The mining companies argue that the bill violates property rights and will undermine the confidence of international investors in the South African economy. Diamond company DeBeers has said that it could cancel projects worth \$775 million if the bill is passed.

Jury Awards Earth First! Activists \$4.4M

Twelve years after they were arrested in the bombing of their own car, two Earth First! activists were awarded \$4.4 million Tuesday in a federal suit claiming they were framed by Oakland police and FBI agents. After 17 days of deliberations, jurors awarded the money to activist Darryl Cherney and the estate of Judi Bari, who died of cancer in 1997. Cherney and Bari were injured when a bomb exploded in their Subaru while

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MILLION FOR REPARATIONS
NATIONAL RALLY, WASHINGTON DC,
AUGUST 17, 2002.
Photos courtesy Tarik Bell, Washington, DC.

The Blessings of Water!

by Charlotte Hill O'Neal



Pete O'Neal and Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt at UAACC in front of a history mural by Tanzanian artist Imam Daffa.

The following is an account of the successful conclusion of a cooperative project between the Kuji Foundation and the United African American Community Center (UAACC) to bring water to an East African village. The Kuji Foundation was founded by Brother Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt.

Brother Pete O'Neal, former Chairman of the Kansas City Chapter of the Black Panther Party is founder and Managing Director of the United African American Community Center based in Arusha, Tanzania East Africa. Brother Pete has been in exile in Africa since 1970. Brother Pratt was released from prison in 1997 after having been held as a political prisoner for more than 26 years. Both brothers continue to "serve the people" with serious commitment and love.

Sister Charlotte Hill O'Neal, also a former KC Black Panther is Pete's wife of 33 years and serves as Cultural/Arts Director at UAACC.

As Brother Pete called to one of the brothers to "turn on the pump now!!" all of our hearts skipped a beat. Would what came out of the pipe be salty and brackish? Would the strongly running flow suddenly stop and become an ineffective trickle?

We all had been sending up our prayers of hope to the Ancestors. Our fingers (and toes) were crossed in anticipation and all that was left was the verdict

from the headman of the drilling crew. Our lofty expectations could be dashed with a *thumbs down* signal from the geological report.

And then unexpectedly a gush of water roared lustily from the pipes that had drilled more than 50 meters (165 ft.) into rock and soil that hadn't seen the sun in eons of time. The faces of the Tanzanian drill-



Pete O'Neal and UAACC member, Kidasa, with water!

ing crew suddenly broke out in wide smiles and they pumped the air with thumbs-up signals of confirmation.

WE HAD WATER!! The drilling rig's powerful bit had cut into a source that was nearly endless in supply!!

There is no way that even striking the mother lode of an oil deposit could possibly thrill us as much as striking it rich with water! (*well almost no way!*)

There is an old saying in Kiswahilli "**Maji ni Uhai**" **Water is Life!** How true that is.

After more than two decades of hauling barrels of water and repairing pipes regularly pierced and trampled nonchalantly by elephants and Cape buffalo, we were ecstatic to be able to finally pull the heavy bottle out of the fridge and raise our glasses of champagne in celebration of **WATER!**

Brother Pete made a toast to our absent comrade and the organization that helped us to make it hap-

pen. We toasted Brother Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt and the **Kuji Foundation** who shared our vision and determination to bring a reliable source of water to Imbaseni Village that would ultimately enhance and strengthen the work of UAACC.

Brother Geronimo, whom we hadn't seen for more than thirty years, during a visit a few months ago at our UAACC main office in Imbaseni Village, understood immediately how having a reliable source of water could impact our community work in a most powerful way. He immediately began to get the wheels of support turning which lead to UAACC being able to hire the services of the Stanley Drilling and Mining Company, one of the largest of its kind in the world!

Construction of tanks and standpipes to serve our community has already begun. Think of what it will mean to women and youth who have for years, had to walk and haul water for miles everyday just to meet the most minimal water needs of their families!

Sons and Daughters of Africa have participated in a most historic endeavor! The true spirit of brotherhood

and positive cooperation between the Kuji Foundation and the United African American Community



A villager uses the new faucet.

Center UAACC has brought water to an East African village!

The spirit of the Panther still stalks the night!

THREE BIG COMPANIES NAMED IN SLAVE REPARATIONS SUIT

Three large U.S. companies were named in a lawsuit filed on behalf of black Americans descended from slaves, the first potential class action seeking reparations from firms for profiting from slavery. Aetna Inc., CSX Corp. and FleetBoston Financial Corp. were named in the lawsuit filed in federal court in Brooklyn, N.Y., by Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, 36, in the latest step by some blacks to get compensation for what their ancestors suffered as slaves.

Aetna and CSX said slavery was a regrettable chapter in U.S. history, but the events in question oc-

curred so long ago that a courtroom was not the proper venue to decide on reparations. Attorneys said 12 other companies would be getting letters in the coming days requesting a dialogue on a settlement, and that as many as 1000 unidentified corporations may have profited from slavery.

The complaint did not contain a monetary damage figure, but did estimate the current value of slaves' unpaid labor as \$1.4 trillion. The gross domestic product of the United States at the end of 2001 was \$10.25 trillion. "This is a case about wealth built on the backs

and from the sweat of African slaves," said plaintiff attorney Roger Wareham. "We expect those companies that are targeted to stand up." Wareham said any damages collected would be put into a fund to improve health, education and housing opportunities for African Americans.

Advocates of reparations for slavery say the descendants of slaves are being hurt economically and sociologically by their ancestors' bondage. Those who

ANGOLA 3 UPDATE

Since our last report, Herman Wallace has been transferred to Camp J, a punitive isolation unit. He was railroaded, after being accused of having contraband which he denies and offered to take a lie detector test. We believe this is a retaliatory action due to the recent favorable ruling by the Federal District Court that their civil suit against the state should proceed. (for more info: www.angola3.org)

Robert King Wilkerson recently returned from his second European trip spreading the news about the Angola 3. On his first visit, he went to Germany, Belgium, Holland, and Paris. The long 9-hour flight was a first for him, after being on lockdown for almost 30 years. In each city, he was greeted enthusiastically by local support groups. He spoke at universities, community groups and before the parliament in Holland.

On his recent, second trip, he spoke in 10 cities in England. He then went to Europe and spoke before the parliaments of Belgium and Portugal. He also visited Amsterdam and a few smaller cities. He was gone for over a month, organizing for his comrades who remain incarcerated at Angola. He said that the people were appalled by the facts of the case and the unjust, brutal treatment of the Angola 3. As a result, several new defense committees are being formed overseas.

He has also traveled widely in the U.S. and is available to speak at schools or for community groups (kingwilkerson@hotmail.com).

In between his travels, Robert King Wilkerson is working on his book, "Cry" From The Bottom, which should be released early next year. He also is known for his famous and delicious "Freelines" (his special pralines), which he hopes to distribute widely in the future.

Albert Woodfox is still awaiting a decision on his appeal and is a plaintiff in the civil suit charging cruel and unusual punishment for his 30 years of solitary confinement.

Our deepest sympathies go out to him on the loss of his sister, Violetta.

Write to: Albert Woodfox #72148
J-Cuda, 2-L-13
Louisiana State Penitentiary
Angola, LA 70712



Robert King Wilkerson visits Europe.

Herman Wallace #76759
TU/CCR U/B #13
Louisiana State Penitentiary
Angola, LA 70712

For all the latest developments and events regarding the Angola 3, visit the updated website: angola3.org

In Memorium

To family, friends, comrades and supporters of the National Coalition to Free the Angola 3

It is my sad duty to inform you that on August 10, 2002, my sister, Violetta passed away after a long and difficult battle against cancer. According to personal beliefs, my beloved sister has gone to a better place, but I think that we all agree that her pain and suffering have ended. That knowledge unites us all at this difficult time.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to those who were able to visit her in the hospital, giving strength and comfort to her and my brother-in-law Michael Augustine. I will be forever grateful to those who befriended Violetta and gave comfort to her in her final days.

As your friendship made her a better person, there is no doubt that her friendship made all of us better human beings. Thank you so very much for being there for my family, but most of all for my sister.

In Peace and Love,
Albert Woodfox

NEWS FLASH

In Conjunction with Black Panther Party History Month, the New Panther Vanguard Movement in Los Angeles will give away 1000 free bags of groceries, in the tradition of the BPP. People in Los Angeles are encouraged to volunteer to participate in this event. Contact (323) 296-4383

BIG NEIGHBOR IS WATCHING

By Stew Albert

He's a friendly guy and you let him into your house because he is delivering an air conditioner on a sweltering day in August. He makes some amiable conversation, the guy loves your house and when you show him around, he's blown away by all those old 60's posters on the wall. "Must have been a great time," he declares.

The delivery guy leaves and you forget him and concentrate on the air conditioner and getting cool. But the guy doesn't forget about you. On the contrary, he makes a full report about your posters to Homeland Security. It seems he has another job that runs parallel to his deliveries and installations. The friendly man who loves your house is an informant volunteer for the Justice Department's new agency and its nationwide program of participatory dictatorship called TIPS.

All over America, postmen, parcel deliverers and all kinds of repair people and truck drivers are being recruited and trained in the paranoid practice of re-

porting on the "suspicious" or "unusual" behavior of their fellow citizens. It is perhaps the most terrifying of the various tyrannical measures that have been employed by George Bush since September 11th in order to insure the preservation of American freedom.

Getting citizens to spy on their neighbors in large numbers, and FEMA plans to beat East Germany's record, involves the destruction of our civil society and the replacement of communal sensibility with chilling paranoia. When Big Neighbor is watching, the necessary distance between society and state is pushed aside and we are left with massive mistrust, fear and a sense that 1984 wasn't just a scary book.

Usually repression does not base itself on the mass recruiting of proletarians; but in this lazy consumerist age when so many people have their objects of desire delivered to their door and a multitude of workers get to see where you live, it makes sense that at least the most mobile members of the working class would be eagerly sought out for snooping and betray-

als of trust and the old good neighbor policy. Some American workers will be taught how to parley a friendly smile into amateur espionage. To keep things fair, everyone in the country, even rich people, will be encouraged to spy on their neighbors.

The TIPS informants will have stickers prominently displayed on their vehicles offering phone numbers where the stray snoop and gossip can call in information about any observed offbeat behavior and eccentric happenings. And of course, this will be a great way to settle a grudge.

The US Post Office under the embarrassment of public exposure, has decided, for the moment, to drop out of the TIPS program. But possibly there are enough bored, restless and angry Americans, the kind that want to do things, that will be described as being significant and of vital importance, enough desperate homeland volunteers to turn TIPS into a smashing success and a horrible new way to be an American.

ENRON - George Bush, Ken Lay and the Axis of Greed

By Tim Wheeler, Editor, People's Weekly World

On a tour of the Bayou City recently, a friend took me to see Enron's twin towers. Out front is the familiar upended "E" glowing in the sunset like a cattle rustler's branding iron. "We call it the 'Crooked E,'" my friend said.

Attorney General John Ashcroft - who received \$57,000 from Enron - was busy with the war on terrorism so he looked the other way as shredders destroyed evidence behind Enron's tinted glass facade. The crimes are legion: corporate fraud, insider trading, price fixing, influence peddling, tax evasion, obstruction of justice.

Signs of a coordinated cover-up are becoming clear, aimed in the first place at hiding George W. Bush's "good ole boy" ties to Enron's former CEO Ken Lay. Like Ashcroft, Bush is preoccupied as "commander-in-chief" and has no time to answer the main question, "What did you know and when did you know it?" The smoking guns of Enron make the White House look like the O.K. Corral.

As for Lay, he "took the fifth" and flew home to Houston. My friend drove me past the Huntingdon in fabulous River Oaks where Lay is hiding out in his \$7.1 million penthouse a few blocks from the mansion of his bosom friends, George and Barbara Bush.

Two Sets of Rules

Millions of people at home and abroad were hurt by this debacle, the largest corporate bankruptcy in history. Enron was once rated the 7th largest corporation with annual revenues of \$101 billion and reported profits of \$2.7 billion. The Corporate insiders got tips that the company was coming down. They sold off \$1.1 billion in Enron stock while they were trading for as high as \$90.75 a share. Lay alone reaped \$101.3 million in profits.

But ordinary workers were barred from touching their Enron 401(k) accounts as the stocks plunged to 78 cents a share. These were workers who played by the rules. But when the crash came, there was one set of rules for the rich and another for them.

Those rules were written into law by Republican and Democratic lawmakers like Texas Sen. Phil Gramm and his wife Wendy, who as Chair of the Reagan-Bush Task Force for Regulatory Relief pushed through exemptions for Enron from government regulation and oversight during the 1980's. She was rewarded later with a seat on Enron's board that paid her \$918,000 in annual salary and stock options.

Together, the politicians gobbled up at least \$6 million from Enron's trough. Enron favored the most rabid, anti-union warhawk Republicans by a ratio of \$1 to \$3 in their campaign contributions. So many elected and appointed officials were on the Enron dole, it is hard to find anyone in Washington with hands clean enough to investigate what Enron Vice President Sherron S. Watkins called "an elaborate accounting hoax."

In Bed with Enron

By far the biggest Enron recipient was George W. Bush who received an estimated \$2 million starting with his race for Texas governor in 1994. Bush, who calls Lay "Kenny Boy," flew to campaign stops aboard Enron corporate jets during the 2000 presidential election campaign. The nation's oil and gas monopolies poured \$41 million into Bush-Cheney coffers that year.

When Bush lost the popular vote, Enron's lawyer, James A. Baker, Sec. of State in Bush senior's cabinet, was rushed to Florida to orchestrate the termination of the vote count. House Majority Leader, Tom DeLay of Houston, another recipient of Enron cash, sent a goon squad to Florida to bully election officials. The count was stopped and the U.S. Supreme Court put Bush in the White House. It was a "very American coup" brought to us by Enron and corporate America. Bush promptly named 30 Enron executives and consultants to his administration.

Craig McDonald, executive director of Texans for Public Justice (TPJ), a watchdog group in Austin, cited letters Ken Lay wrote to Bush during his tenure as governor. Bush tried to hide these letters in his father's presidential library. The Texas Archives released them pursuant to a Freedom of Information lawsuit. "They show a very close personal relationship between Lay and Bush," he told me in an interview of TPJ's offices a few blocks from the Texas Capitol. "The visibility of the corruption is astounding," he added, "the degree to which the rich and the powerful were controlling policy."

Ken Lay needed deregulation of the energy market to gain control of it," said McDonald. Putting Bush and Cheney in the White House was crucial to their goal of deregulation and privatization. Lay met with Cheney and his Energy Policy Task Force six times to dictate the language of its report. "Cheney may have been talking, but the words were Lay's," McDonald said. "Bush was in bed with Enron long before he made his first run for political office." A federal judge has rejected Bush and Cheney's claim of "executive privilege" and ordered them to surrender the records of the Task Force, although White House dealings with Lay and Enron are not covered by the order.

The Problem is the System

McDonald scoffed at the Bush Administration's clumsy damage control. "They want people to see Enron as one rogue corporation. In fact, people are beginning to understand that Enron is one of many," McDonald said. "The problem is the system. This is good government if you are Enron. But the policies promoted by the monied class benefit them, not us."

Many are beginning to ask: Isn't there a better way? Ratepayers in Oregon burned by Enron-owned Portland General Electric are calling for public ownership of PGE. Defenders of Social Security point out that the collapse of Enron 401(k) accounts wiping out the life savings of 4,000 workers is an argument against Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. "Clean government" advocates say the only way to end the sewer of corporate cash in our political system is publicly funded elections at all levels.

We agree and take the argument a step further. Socialism, a system in which the people own and operate the means of production, the energy complex, steel mills and banks, is a logical alternative to the system of profit greed that brought us Enron. Operate these facilities and institutions democratically to meet human needs rather than corporate greed.

Fleeing California - and the World

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) cites a memo Lay handed to Cheney last summer that was obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle. She calls it the "smoking gun" of Enron's role in the California energy crisis

of 2001. Electricity brown-outs were spreading across the state and rates leaped 400 percent. Yet Lay's memo instructed Bush and Cheney to "reject any attempt to re-regulate wholesale power markets by adopting price caps or returning to archaic methods of determining the cost-base of wholesale power." Boxer said, "As we connect the dots, it is becoming increasingly clear that California's sky high electricity prices were brought about by Enron's methodical plan to free itself from all government oversight to hike up energy prices in secret."

Enron had pushed through deregulation which "allowed Enron to buy and sell electricity behind closed doors in an effort to trade up the price of energy through futures contracts before it reached the consumer," Boxer wrote, adding, "deregulation also gave Enron's traders access to real-time California electricity needs - demand and supply - allowing them to drive up prices at a moment's notice."

Both Bush and Cheney rejected the pleas for price caps for several months. Then the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, headed by Pat Wood, Enron's handpicked nominee, approved caps that locked in sky-high utility rates in California. California Gov. Gray Davis charges that this scam cost California ratepayers at least \$8.9 billion in overcharges. Part of the scam was to shift blame to Davis and other Democratic officials. Enron and Bush-Cheney hoped that outraged voters would elect a Republican governor and legislature in next falls election. Sen. Boxer has demanded the confiscation of Enron's loot hidden in offshore dummy corporations in the Cayman Islands. Use it, she says, to reimburse California ratepayers. And why not demand a state takeover under eminent domain of the electric and natural gas utilities of California?

Pentagon's role: Protect Enron and Oil Profits

Enron was among the most aggressive of the transnational corporations with ambitious plans to plunder and exploit workers and consumers around the world. Visit Enron's official Web Site and you are inundated with reports on the corporation's huge gas, oil, and pipeline deals on every continent. Enron received \$7.2 billion in public financing for 38 projects in 29 countries between 1992 and 2001. There is a connection to the war in Afghanistan. Under the protection of the Pentagon, Enron had already signed billions of dollars in oil, gas and electric deals with Uzbekistan and Russia. Now the Bush Administration is setting up military bases throughout Central Asia, including permanent bases in Afghanistan, to protect this empire of oil.

Justice for Enron Workers -and the People

We urge the following in response to the Enron debacle:

1. Nationalize the energy industry with strong democratic controls. Impose tough regulations and oversight to insure safe and clean energy at fair rates. Insure fairness and safety for energy workers, including union rights. Confiscate the hidden wealth of Enron and use it to pay Enron workers severance pay and to provide health care benefits until

CHENEY'S ROAD TO WEALTH

by Robert Scheer - Creator's Syndicate

Vice President Dick Cheney has spent most of the past year in hiding, ostensibly from terrorists. But increasingly it seems obvious that it is Congress, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the media and the public he fears. And for good reason: Cheney's business behavior could serve as a textbook case of much of what's wrong with the way corporate CEOs have come to play the game of business.

The game involves more than playing loose with accounting rules, as Halliburton Co. is accused of doing while Cheney was the Texas-based energy company's chief executive.

On Sunday, SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt, whom Cheney pushed for the job, reluctantly turned on his sponsor and announced a vigorous investigation of Halliburton's accounting violations. Recent business scandals, however, are also the product of legal loopholes that allow firms to scoop up billions in unregulated profits. It was just such loopholes that allowed the rise and subsequent fall of Enron and telecom heavyweights such as WorldCom - in the process making CEOs such as Cheney very, very rich.

Recall that Cheney was a political hack for most of his professional life, first as a staffer in the Ford White House, then as a congressman for a decade and after that as secretary of defense under the current president's father. During the Clinton years, however, Cheney took an extremely lucrative five-year cruise into the private sector as chief executive of Halliburton. After deciding, following an extensive search, that he would be George W. Bush's best candidate for vice president, Cheney resigned from the energy services company with a \$36-million payoff for his final year of corporate service.

This journey from the public payroll to the corporate towers and back left a slimy trail of conflict-of-interest questions. For example, Defense Secretary Cheney conveniently changed the rules restricting private contractors doing work on U.S. military bases, allowing the Kellogg Brown & Root subsidiary of his future employer, Halliburton, to receive the first of \$2.5 billion in contracts over the next decade. When Cheney left to become CEO of the entire company, he recruited his Pentagon military aide, Joe Lopez, to become senior vice president in charge of Pentagon dealings, which ultimately formed the most lucrative part of the otherwise ailing company's business.

Since returning to the public office, these disturbing patterns have continued. In a scathing expose' of Halliburton's military contracts, for example, the New York Times revealed that the vice president's old company had been the main beneficiary of the Pentagon's rush to build antiterrorism military bases around the world. This new work will cost taxpayers many billions, and according to Pentagon investigators' estimates, without any cost controls the final bill will be considerably higher than if the military's own construction units did the work.

Cheney denies having a role in securing those recent contracts, as he does knowledge of Halliburton's alleged accounting improprieties. Unfortunately for Halliburton's stockholders and employees, parlaying his Pentagon contacts into profit has proved to be Cheney's only major business success. In fact, CEO Cheney put Halliburton's future in doubt by engineering the acquisition of rival Dresser Industries, a move ballyhooed at the time as justification of his \$2.2 million annual salary and massive stock op-

tions. But the acquisition has proved to be a disaster because Halliburton assumed Dresser's long-term liability under asbestos lawsuits.

Even without the Dresser acquisition, Cheney was running a failing operation at Halliburton. The company, despite the government gravy garnered, had earnings well below Wall Street's expectations - until it suddenly changed its accounting rules. By assuming it would be able to collect on cost overruns on myriad construction projects, Cheney's Halliburton was able to inflate profits by \$234 million over a four-year period. Halliburton failed to disclose its accounting shenanigans to the SEC or the company's investors for more than a year afterward, leading to more than a dozen lawsuits alleging fraud, including one by Judicial Watch.

And why are we not surprised that Halliburton's accounting firm was Arthur Andersen, earlier this year convicted of obstruction of justice for shredding documents in connection with Enron? Andersen's dubious methods have become the disgrace of American accounting. Cheney, however, was sufficiently enamored with it that in 1996 he glowingly endorsed the accounting firm in a video, thanking it for going "over and above the just-sort-of-normal, by-the-books audit arrangement." Of course, ordinary investors did not know they were getting less than "by-the-books" auditing.

It is especially ugly that the president and vice president, men in a position to know just how sketchy the accounting practices of public companies are, were so eager to make our Social Security system a vehicle for pouring individuals' retirement money into a stock market they knew to be a house of cards.

SPYING AND LYING: THE FBI'S DIRTY SECRETS

Mark Weisbrot, *AlterNet* June 6, 2002 (Mark Weisbrot is Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC)

It seems that the FBI is likely to be rewarded for the missed warnings, fumbled intelligence, and bureaucratic foul-ups that preceded Sept. 11. Attorney General John Ashcroft has announced that the FBI is changing its rules so that it can spy on domestic organizations, even where there is no evidence of specific criminal activity.

It is doubtful that the Administration could get away with these changes if the real functioning of the FBI as a political police force were better known. The press has referred to the agency's COINTELPRO (from counterintelligence program) operation of the 1960's and 70's as though it were ancient history, a minor aberration of the FBI's quirky and fanatical director J. Edgar Hoover.

In fact, COINTELPRO was a massive operation to infiltrate, disrupt, harass, and otherwise interfere with the lawful activities of civil rights advocates, peace activists, religious organizations, and others. One of the FBI's most famous and hated targets was the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In a covert operation that now reads like a B-grade movie script, the FBI

actually made a serious effort to blackmail Dr. King into committing suicide.

Less well known is that FBI operations against law-abiding citizens did not end when these abuses were exposed in the 1970's. We know that they continued well into the 1980's, when the Reagan and then Bush (the elder) administrations faced mounting domestic opposition to their wars in Central America. Death squads in El Salvador were murdering religious workers and clergy, the Guatemalan military was carrying out what is now acknowledged as genocide against its indigenous population, and an army of terrorists was trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua.

The US government was supporting and sponsoring all of these crimes with billions of dollars, and that did not sit well with many Americans. I was one of them, and joined a student group called the Latin American Solidarity Committee at the University of Michigan. Unbeknownst to us, the watchful eyes of the FBI were closely monitoring our actions. So closely, in fact, that one of our members wrote a history of the group's activities with the help of

documents obtained from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. We enjoyed seeing all of our names in print, and pored over the documents with a mixture of awe and laughter, amazed that the federal government could have taken our little student group so seriously as to keep track of everything we did and who attended our meetings.

As it turned out, this was part of a nationwide spying operation involving all 59 FBI field offices. The whole thing might be secret to this day, if not for the fact that one of the Bureau's informants had a change of heart. He had infiltrated a community of religious activists in Texas, and later said that he had second thoughts when his supervisor suggested that he sleep with a nun in order to discredit them.

The Dallas Morning News broke the story, and the FBI was forced to conduct an internal investigation. FBI director William S. Sessions (1987-93) told Congress that the investigation had left "no stone unturned" and that his G-men had stopped their "counter-terrorism" - yes, they actually called it that - operations by June of 1985.

Sessions was lying: documents released to our local group showed that their spying in Ann Arbor continued well beyond that date. But the press accepted that the FBI had changed its ways, and today the whole story of their illicit activities in the 1980's has disappeared into the memory hole. That is a shame, because there is no evidence that the FBI ever reformed itself, and now we have two new reasons to worry about it. One is the blank check that Ashcroft has handed to the FBI, which threatens our civil liberties. The second is that after decades of crying "wolf" to justify its function as an American KGB, the FBI is now charged with protecting us from real terrorist threats.

There has never been an accounting of how much of the FBI's resources have been devoted to policing the constitutionally protected activities of our citizens. Congress should demand this accounting as it examines the massive intelligence failure that preceded Sept. 11.

Historians like to say that we ignore the past at our own peril; in the case of the FBI, it may be literally true.

It's About Time

Committee to Celebrate
the Founding of the
Black Panther Party

PO Box 221100 • Sacramento CA 95822
(916) 455-0908

Rori Abernethy
Clark (Santa Rita) Bailey
Kathleen Cleaver
Bobby Coleman
Terry Cotton
Emory Douglas
Claudia Grayson (Sister Sheba)
William (Billy X) Jennings
Frank Kellum
Tarika (Matilaba) Lewis
Madalynn Carol Rucker
Talibah Shakir
Gail Shaw
Jimmy Slater

Press Release

BLACK PANTHER PARTY HISTORY MONTH

Oakland Public Library, the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and Laney College Join in to Promote Panther History

Black Panther Party (BPP) History Month is set for October, the month the organization was founded in Oakland in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

A number of events are being planned.

The Oakland Public Library and It's About Time will co-sponsor the Black Panther Party Photo Exhibit during the entire month of October, 2002. The exhibit will cover the growth and development of the BPP in Oakland; including the famous Rallies to Free Huey at the Alameda County Courthouse, the Free Breakfast for Schoolchildren Program, Sickle Cell Anemia Testing, Free Food Giveaways, Voter Registration and the SAFE program, a senior escort service. Most of the photos will be on display in the Oakland History Room of the

Main Library downtown. Photos will also be on display at the West Oakland Library at 18th and Adeline and The Martin Luther King Branch on 69th and E. 14th St. in East Oakland. Over 75 photographs from the It's About Time Archives will be on display.

It's About Time, in conjunction with the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, will also host the First West Coast Black Panther Video and Film Festival on October 18th and 19th at Laney College. A number of documentaries about the BPP, its programs, members and the FBI's program to destroy the Party will be shown. Some of these videos will be shown for the first time on the west coast. A donation of \$10 a day is requested. All proceeds will go to support our ongoing programs

Other activities will include a BPP Legacy Dinner on October 19th at Geoffrey's Inner Circle for all former BPP members, community workers and supporters. The dinner will highlight the many achievements of the Black Panther Party in Oakland by its rank and file membership and certificates of recognition will be awarded.

The 2-Pac Youth Conference will be held Saturday, October 5th, at Castlemont High School. There will also be an evening of Spoken Word at the Java House at 3306 Lakeshore. Other events will be announced on our website: itsabouttimebpp.com or call (916) 455-0908.

It's About Time is an organization of former BPP members and supporters who recently hosted the 35th Year Anniversary Reunion Conference in Washington DC.

We are a non-profit 501c3 corporation. Tax-deductible donations to our Newsletter, Books Behind Bars and other programs can be made to It's About Time, PO Box 221100, Sacramento, CA 95522.

Editor's Note:

Gail and I went to see Georgia Jackson (Mother to George and Jonathan Jackson) over the Labor Day weekend.

She will be 83 years old in a few days. She wanted me to tell the rank & file "hello, stay strong, keep fighting and don't ever give up."

Stop
Police
Brutality
March on
October 22

STANDARDS OF PUNISHMENT

(Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter, June 2002)

Since September 11, quite a few politicians and pundits have said that the United States should torture individuals whom U.S. military or law enforcement personnel consider "dangerous or potentially dangerous." They contend that torturing such people to get information could save American lives, and that the rest of us should not be told torture was taking place. In other words, out of sight means not responsible.

The problem with these arguments is that they are immoral and illogical. They are immoral because torture is simply wrong. Torture hurts people. The prohibition on torture is one of the bright lines separating civilization from barbarity. The U.S. Constitution spells out the prohibition, as do international treaties the United States has signed. And the torture arguments are immoral because they require lies - lies our government would tell us, lies we would tell ourselves, and lies we would tell one another.

Then, too, the arguments for torture are illogical because the United States cannot sustain them. Which of us would undertake to prove that tor-

ture "works"? Or that torture accords with our national ideals? Or that our allies and adversaries will not know we torture? Or that we will want our own children to make a living as torturers?

But the discussion about torturing people whom U.S. "security" forces call "captives" is a reminder of what goes on - and has long gone on - in prisons. In mid April, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Hope v. Pelzer*, No. 01-309, in which former Alabama prisoner Larry Hope sued because of torture by prison guards.

Hope Stated that, in 1995, guards at Alabama's Limestone Correctional Facility punished him by taking him out in the hot sun, handcuffing him to a metal crossbar with his hands above his head, and leaving him there for seven hours without water or a chance to go to the bathroom. At one point, guards brought a cooler of water to him, let prison dogs drink from it, and then dumped the rest of it at his feet.

Hope's attorneys argued, among other things, that no officer could believe he was acting lawfully in cuffing a prisoner to a "hitching post" - a barbaric practice long understood to be

unconstitutional." The guards' attorneys claimed they followed state prison regulations in using a "restraining bar" to immobilize Hope and that if he had agreed to rejoin his work crew, they would have released him right away.

The Atlanta-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit earlier ruled that Hope's treatment was unconstitutionally "cruel and unusual" but that the guards were immune from prosecution. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case by July.

Meanwhile, in the five years between 1995 and 2000, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa and Wisconsin adopted chains or leg irons for work crews. They maintain that such practices are not "illegally cruel." This brings us back to the post-September 11 United States, in which some government officials and newscasters go further. They say that in the "war on terrorism," legality is irrelevant and torture is okay. They want us to call U.S. torturers "Patriots" or to send suspects to "torture-ready" countries.

Can we use this debate to draw attention to torture in U.S. prisons? It's possible, because people seem willing

to allow or to ignore torture for at least two reasons. First, many are afraid of anyone who is suspected or convicted of a crime, and fear can bring out cruelty in people who normally consider themselves compassionate. The second is that even though our Constitution claims a person is innocent until proven guilty, many people without first hand experience regard arrest or imprisonment as a reason to disregard a person's humanity. Out of sight, out of our responsibility.

But of course, we all know that is not true. Each of us bears responsibility for what we do with our own lives and what we do to others. And frankly, torture always hurts. Us all.

Resources:

Amnesty International

322 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10001
(212) 807-8400

Human Rights Watch

350 5th Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118-3299
(212) 290-4700
www.hrw.org

BUSH MAY LEAVE A TEXAS-SIZE MESS IN IRAQ

Did Anyone Get to Vote on 'unilaterally determined pre-emptive self defense'?

By Molly Ivins

Here we are playing hawks and doves again on the matter on Iraq-war or no war? - with particularly peppy exchanges from our more excitable brethren on the right concerning "ap-peacement" and lack of patriotism on the part of anyone who isn't ready to nuke Baghdad now. Bubba and Joe Bob have a question: "Why don't we git Oh-sama Bin first?"

I bring this up because it seems to me what the right wing is fond of describing as "the media elites" are so absorbed in their own tong warfare, they quite forget the American people have a great deal of uncommon good sense. Does life in Washington, D.C., actually resemble an endless round of "Crossfire," or does it just seem that way from the boonies? At last count, we were already involved in military actions in seven countries, counting Colombia, which is either a different set of terrorists or a civil war. Seems like that's a lot on our plate now.

Under the new Bush doctrine of "unilaterally determined pre-emptive self-defense," we get to go around attacking anyone we want without provocation. Not so much as a "Remember the Maine!"

or a Tonkin Gulf resolution.

Did anybody ever get to vote on "unilaterally determined pre-emptive self-defense"? According to published reports, the administration is also contemplating the use of earth-penetrating nuclear weapons in Iraq. Whatever happened to the "no first-strike policy"? - did anyone ever get to vote on that? Has anyone studied the consequences of violating it?

Hard to find a soul in this country who doesn't think getting rid of Saddam Hussein is a good idea, but there are lots of people wondering why it's up to us to do it, and also asking, "What happens then?"

Given our experience with George W. as governor, that's a particularly relevant question. Not that it's on par with a nuclear first-strike, but Texas now faces a \$7 billion deficit and rising. As governor, Bush inherited a surplus, pushed through two big tax cuts and left virtually nothing in the Rainy Day Fund, so now we're not just broke, but in the hole. As witness the case of the charter schools in Texas, the man does have a habit of coming up with not-very-bright ideas and then wandering off to leave someone else to clean up the mess.

Speaking of cleaning up messes, how smart is it to get involved in a war with no allies? Canada announced Tuesday it won't support war. That means, among other things, we have to pay for all of it ourselves, unlike the Persian Gulf War. Our fiscal house is not in good order now. Bush and Congress both blew the surplus in record time and will leave us with \$742 billion and rising added to the national debt by the end of the decade. That's without a war.

Joseph Nye argues in his new book, "The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go It Alone." That anti-Americanism thrives on the perception that we don't give a rat's behind how the rest of the world feels about anything. That's the famous "arrogance" for which we get criticized.

On that count, a war with Iraq could play right into terrorist hands. It's apparent that our ally Saudi Arabia has a far stronger connection to Sept. 11 than our enemy Saddam Hussein, so attacking Hussein makes us look like hypocrites willing to sell out our foreign policy for oil. That we'd also have to kill a whole lot of innocent Iraqis (next

guy who uses the words "precision bombing" has to eat them) should count for more than it probably does with all those hard-nosed Bush foreign policy advisers who have never seen war.

The ideological struggle over foreign policy - unilateralism vs. internationalism - is in danger of becoming one of those futile-ism fights, where people get so engaged in putting down their opponents, they lose sight of reality. We used to give an award for it in the Texas Legislature: "If He Votes Yes, Then I Vote No."

It is smarter to stick with what works. Life is not "Crossfire" - there are more than two sides. So is there a better way? Nye thinks there is.

Since terrorism flourishes in the "failed states," why not support international efforts to get these wretched places on their feet? There was a poll of foreign affairs experts and scholars at the end of the 20th century, and it found widespread agreement that the single most effective American foreign policy effort of the century was the Marshall Plan.

Seems to me the lesson of Sept. 11 is that we cannot afford to ignore what the rest of the world thinks.

35TH YEAR BLACK PANTHER PARTY ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

The Black Panther Party (BPP) 35th Year Anniversary started out with a big bang with many comrades being registered and greeting one another. Prior radio appearances and press releases were effective in bringing out local people to view the photo and historical displays, which included more than one hundred pieces. Many comrades also brought their own personal pictures to share with one another.

About 350 former Panthers attended the conference, as well as many community workers and supporters. Throughout the 3-day event, more than 600 people came through to watch the videos, visit the displays or get information. Many media were present including CNN, C-SPAN, BET, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Independent Media Center and others.

Thursday's program began with the movie "The Murder of Fred Hampton" presented by Akua Njeri (Fred's widow) and Fred Hampton, Jr. They spoke about their experiences and Fred Jr. recited his poem, "Murder on Monroe St." There were workshops being presented throughout the afternoon dealing with Police Brutality, Reparations, and Economic Development in the Community. The film "American Exile" which follows the lives of Pete and Charlotte O'Neal from Kansas City into exile in Tanzania, and the many programs they have developed there, was a big hit with the many comrades who had not been aware of Pete and Charlotte's activities for the last 30 years. Entertainment was provided by Born Infinite, a local conscious rap artist. Finally, the evening concluded with a panel on Reparations.

Friday's focus was on Political Prisoners with many workshops held throughout the day. Robert King Wilkerson reminded us that April 18 marked 30 years in solitary confinement for the remaining Angola 3 prisoners, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox. He read a letter from Herman and Albert that received a standing ovation from the conference attendees. The evening panel on political prisoners included Marshall Eddie Conway, imprisoned in Baltimore, the Philly 5, Rice and Poindexter from Nebraska, the Angola 3, and Pam Africa wrapped up the evening with a fiery speech in support of Mumia.

"Sooner or Later Someone is Going to Fight Back," a video of the police raids on the New Orleans BPP office was presented, and entertainment provided by Truth Universal, a conscious rap group from New Orleans.

Saturday began with a panel on

COINTELPRO with many people providing testimony regarding their own personal experiences. Workshops and film showings continued throughout the day and many people continued to view the historical displays. Bobby Seale spoke at the closing session regarding "Where do we go from here?" He discussed ways for us to return to our communities and provide mentoring and organizational skills. Many of us celebrated Saturday evening at a buffet dinner and enjoyed the live music and the chance to socialize and network one last time.

The It's About Time Committee, who sponsored the event, recognized the historical significance of our East and West Coast comrades coming together for the first time in many years and overcoming the divisive tactics of COINTELPRO. This is the beginning of the opportunity to continue to work together in solidarity, especially to free our political prisoners.

Other special events with a very positive response were the meetings of Panther Women, and the Children of Panthers who held their own workshops. For the first time, a dialogue was established between the BPP members and members of the New Black Panther Party, many of whom attended a workshop on the Legacy of the BPP. The many differences in ideology were addressed and lines of communication opened.

Overall, the Conference provided a great opportunity for people to gather information on the Legacy of the Black Panther Party presented by BPP members. We recognize the importance of preserving this history and telling our stories. It's About Time has begun to develop an Archives of BPP historical photos, posters, newspapers and other documents in the hopes of eventually having a traveling exhibit and a permanent museum.

Our next project will be a Black Panther Party Video Festival to be held in Oct. 2002 in Oakland, CA. Further information will be forthcoming on our website: itsabouttimebpp.com

It's About Time is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to our Archives, Newspaper or Books Behind Bars, a program which sends progressive literature to prisoners around the country.

Contributions can be made to:

It's About Time
PO Box 221100
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 455-0908

e-mail: itsabouttime3@juno.com

THE 35TH YEAR REUNION & CONFERENCE OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

By Elbert "Big Man" Howard

The reunion and conference was all that it promised and more. The committee and staff of the It's About Time organization have my undying gratitude and love for putting on such an affair.

It brought together not only old friends in the struggle of so many years ago, but it also brought together family members who had not been together in a long time. It brought together brothers and sisters who were political prisoners who are now free and who never had a chance to experience fellowship with their comrades before.

It brought together children of Black Panther Party members who are now grown up but never had a chance for fellowship with each other.

There were many workshops chaired by old Party members that dealt with many issues that were not explained or resolved with the break-up of the Party. There were workshops that answered questions related to the Black Panther Party's relationship with other groups; White Americans, Brown people and Asian people.

There was an opportunity to explain or clarify for some community people Party policy and practice. We also answered many questions about our community survival programs and the repression and attacks we suffered because of them.

There were workshops that dealt with issues that needed to be resolved relating to women's issues in the Black Panther Party.

Above all, it was a healing process for many former members of the BPP. Many came from all areas and regions of the United States. For me and many others, it was very satisfying to be recognized for the work that we did so many years ago to make the world and our communities a better place to live.

All Power to the People!

Footnote: Another high point for me was the opportunity to see brother Eddie Conway who is a political prisoner being held in Jessup Maryland Penitentiary. Eddie has been held prisoner for 30 years. He was in good spirits, but tired of being locked up and the whole inhumane system that goes with it. We who are not in captivity should do all that we can to set this veteran free. We must not let him live and breathe that blackness any longer. Write him a letter, pay him a visit, do something on his behalf as he did for us all those years ago.

Marshall Eddie Conway
#116469
Box 534
Jessup, MD 20794

REUNION PHOTOS



Akua Njeri, Chicago office, mother of Fred Hampton, Jr. and Aaron Dixon, co-founder, Seattle office



Father Earl Neil and Dr. Herman Blake



Cerial "Bull Whip" Innis, NY Chapter



Paulette Ekum Bangura, Milwaukee Chapter

REUNION PHOTOS



Barhir, Philly, Big Man, Sultan Ahmad, Herman Smith, Clarence Stretch Peterson, Philly/Oakland. William Brown, Philly/Oakland



Former Central Committee Members: Elbert "Big Man" Howard, Kathleen Cleaver, Bobby Seale



Nzinga Conway, Baltimore, wife of Eddie Conway and Audra Jones, Boston Office, George Jackson Medical Clinic, Oakland



Betty Powell, N.O. Chapter, Safiya Bukhari, NY, Artaymas Kahli-Ma'at, Tarik Bell



JoNina Abron, Editor of BPP Paper, Mich/Oakland, Khalid Raheem, Philly/Pittsburg, Ron Scott, Mich



Michael Garvey, grandson of Marcus Garvey, and Billy X, BPP



Jimmy "Bubba" Young, NY, Newhaven/Oakland. William Roberts, St. Louis/Oakland, Kim, Nguyen, Austin Allen, Cleveland/Oakland



Kareem Howard, Fred Hampton, Jr., El Gray



Ukali, DC/Oakland and Leslie Johnson Seale, Oakland



Leslie Johnson Seale, Oakland, Rori Abernethy, Gloria Abernethy, Sacto/Oakland, Fathr Earl Neil, Oakland, Kathleen Cleaver, San Francisco/Algiers



David Johnson, San Quentin 6, Althea Francois, NO office, Robert King Wilkerson, Angola 3, former political prisoner



Paul Coats, Baltimore Chapter and Thomas "Blood" McCreary, NY



Panther Vanguard Movement: Malik Ismail, Ron Hill, Kwaku Duren, Boko Freeman



Bobby Rush, Elton Howard, Kathleen Cleaver, Omar Barbour



Gail Shaw, ICCF, Berkeley, Patsy Combs, Baltimore/Oakland

THE YEAR WASHINGTON KILLED THE MUSIC ON RADIO

By Molly Ivins

OK, it's now hundreds of thousands of words past the WorldCom bankruptcy, with the media might of this great nation devoted to explaining it all to you, and there are still six words I cannot find anywhere - *the Telecommunications Deregulation Act of 1996*.

Don't you think that's carrying our famously ahistorical journalism a little too far? When the cause of a disaster is a mere six years back, surely even American journalists can dredge up a twinge or two of memory. For those of you not afflicted by Alzheimer's in recent years, Bob McChesney, the media critic and professor at University of Illinois sums it up nicely: "The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was one of the most important of the last 50 years. It was also the most corrupt and undemocratic bill of the time: It was of, by and for special interests. Most of the congresspeople who voted for it didn't even know what they were voting on."

The bill was actually written by industry lobbyists, each of the several components of telecom snarling at one another like wolves over a piece of meat as they ripped up 70 years worth of regulatory experience. The wolves united once the bill hit the floor to push it through. We few, we happy few, who raised hell about it at the time had it condescendingly explained to us that the magic of the marketplace would take care of all our doubts.

Here's what the magic has done in just one area. Before President Reagan, a radio company could own 12 stations nationally and no more than two in any one market. After the first round of de-reg in the

1980's, that was changed to no more than 28 nationally and no more than four in one market. The 1996 law changed that to as many as you could acquire nationally and eight in one market. The result, we were told, would be increased competition. Sure.

Since then, almost two-thirds of American radio stations have been bought, always by ever-larger entities. Clear Channel owns 1,200 stations nationally and two or three companies (they're always merging) own almost all of them. In all the major cities, we are down to a duopoly or triopoly in radio. Here's the result in terms of the great variety, the let-100-flowers bloom they promised would accompany this flowering of competition: Clear Channel moves into a city and rents, say, a floor of a building, which is mostly a sales office but also has eight little closets for eight radio stations. The Play List is whipped in from headquarters and is the same all over the country, for Top 40 or Easy Listening or country - we have less and less sense of our localities, of our regional music, fewer opportunities for new talent. Actually, they've ruined radio. As any serious country fan can tell you, you can hardly find good music on the radio anymore.

That's just the radio piece of the bill - the rest is even more horrible. The 1996 bill explicitly deregulated both radio and telephone cable. The bill told the Federal Communications Commission to deregulate the rest of it. Before the 1996 act, the phone companies were under the AT&T consent deal of 1984 that said AT&T couldn't do local service and the Baby

Bells couldn't do long distance. In the 1996 season of piggery, thuggery, greed and stupidity, we were told that deregulation would give us increased competition, prices would drop, and service would improve dramatically.

In 1996, there were 12 big companies in the field - it's now down to six and dropping like a stone. Prices are up, service is worse, and the 1996 act opened the door for precisely the sleazy, rotten behavior we have witnessed with Global Crossing and WorldCom. Not just opened the door, but invited it in and laid down the red carpet for it.

Now connect the dots here. This is not a business scandal. WorldCom is not just a corporate failure. This is about government. The government of this country has been bought by campaign contributions from corporate special interests. This is about the nexus between big corporations and government, the American keiretsu, the Establishment.

From Washington, we hear nothing but petty, provincial yapping over whether this hurts the R's or the D's. The R's blame it all on President Clinton, the D's blame it all on the greedhead Republican Congress. But this is about much more than the next election, or the one after that.

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their country. Because if we don't, it is going to get worse. The FCC is now chaired by the anti-regulation Michael Powell, who is determined to do for newspapers and television what has already been done to radio and cable.

UNEMPLOYMENT

by Elbert "Big Man" Howard

Where are all the jobs going?
What are we going to do?
What can we do?

Seems like all questions and no answers. There are some things that can be done. There are some things that must be done. ORGANIZE!

Work with other groups in the struggle against unemployment - trade unionists, veterans and workers who want to raise the issue of jobs at their workplace or in their unions.

With NAFTA firmly in place, unemployment is steadily rising. American corporations are moving their plants abroad at a rapid pace to draw on the availability of cheap labor. To stop this practice or at least to slow it down, we American workers must demand extension of minimum wages and fair labor standards to workers in American owned plants abroad.

With American jobs leaving the country, there are still jobs to be done. All American power brokers and politicians need do is look at the cities. They are falling apart. Our schools are closing across the country due to neglect and mismanagement. Every election and or budget year, taxpayers are asked to pay more because the schools are in need. The time is past due for an accounting. The time has come to say "no". School administrators must be told to manage the resources they are getting and raise American educational standards or get out. Accountability and results must be demanded.

We can start to fix the problems by making it clear to our elected officials that we want immediate results or we start a movement against them to remove

them from office. Over the years, they have forgotten just whom they work for.

We have to demand a public works program to rebuild the cities, clean up the environment and improve social services while creating millions of jobs at livable wages. We have to demand that the funding of these programs comes from the taxable corporate profits. They get all the tax breaks anyway.

While these programs are being put into place to create jobs, we have to survive. To get by we need an overhaul of the unemployment compensation system. We need up to 75% of a worker's weekly salary. We need eligibility to be extended to all those not covered, including first time job seekers. We need benefits to be paid from the time laid off until the time of rehire, and that funding come from the taxation of corporate profits.

Corporate profits are derived from the exploitation of poor working people. When the corporations move their operations overseas, they are in search of cheap labor and inexpensive materials. They seek out governments that have no laws against child labor. Governments that will jail, brutalize and even murder anyone who speaks out or attempts to labor organize.

Case of exposure: The Kathy Lee Gifford line of clothing being produced by child labor. These products are produced overseas and brought back into the United States without any tariffs on them and are sold to the American people at three times the cost of production. All that profit goes into the pockets of corporate America. It can be called global economy on the fast track or any other catch phrase. I still call it "exploitation."

We don't trade with Cuba because they are a communist country; but we trade with China. What's up with that?

BOBBY IS BACK

Bobby Seale, co-founder of the BPP has moved back to Oakland. Bobby and Leslie were living in Philadelphia for many years. We are glad to have our comrades back. There is talk of Bobby running for City Council in Oakland.

It's About Time Newspaper recognizes Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney for her courageous stand for justice, truth and peace.

BRIEFS from Page 1

they were driving in Oakland in May 1990. Bari, who was at the wheel, suffered a crushed pelvis.

The two Earth First! members were arrested within hours, with investigators contending Cherney and Bari were carrying the bomb for use in environmental sabotage. But the case fell apart weeks later when prosecutors said there wasn't enough evidence to bring charges. Cherney and Bari sued investigators for false arrest, illegal search, slanderous statements and conspiracy. They claimed officials ignored evidence exonerating the activists and lied to try to make their case.

WHEN I JOINED THE PARTY—Panther in Training

by Billy X



It's About Time Archive Photo

In 1968, I was 17 and fresh out of high school in San Diego. I moved to Oakland in June and signed up for Laney College summer session. In Oakland in the summer of '68 it was Free Huey or The Sky is the Limit. All of Oakland was on edge and there were daily rallies at the Alameda County Courthouse, with Panthers in leather jackets and berets. After attending a few rallies, I found out that my neighbor was in the Party. Andrew Austin drove the big white van with the panther on the side shown in many photos. I would go over to his apartment and listen to Party members rap; Sam Napier, Charles Burse, and Wendall Wade.

In August, the East Oakland office opened on 73rd and E. 14th – a big store front office. Victor Houston told me to come by. I filled out the Party application, spoke with Capt. Robert Bay, and went to my first political education class at St. Bernard's Church. George Murray, Wendell Wade and Landon Williams taught political education at that time. I was told that I was a Panther-in-training for 6 weeks.

A Panther-in-training is to conduct him or herself as a Party member and to understand the Party's philosophy and history. A Panther-in-training must read at least 2 hours per day to stay abreast of the changing situations in the community and the world. Readings included the Party newspapers, the Red Book - Quotations by Chairman Mao, The Black Book – Axioms of Kwame Nkrumah, Wretched of the Earth and other books on the BPP reading list. There was a great emphasis on study.

A Panther-in-training had to know the 10 Point Program, point by point; the 8 points of attention, 11 main points of liberalism, the 3 main rules of discipline, and Huey P. Newton's executive mandate #3. Political education classes were attended on Thursdays and Sundays.

A Panther-in-training did political work and sold the Party newspaper, the Black Panther. We had to call in or come by the office at least once a week. On Wednesdays, everyone worked on getting the paper out in San Francisco.

All Panthers-in-training had to know how to clean and operate their weapons and many more. Everyone had to have technical equipment, 1000 rounds, go to the range and know how to reload ammo.

In the Party in the early days, there was a military-like structure to the organization. Robert Bay was Captain and under him were Lieutenants, Officer of the Day, section leaders and sub-section leaders. I was placed under the leadership of Anthony Woods who was smart and streetwise to boot. Under his leadership, I learned every sewage tunnel and was taught how to reload my own rounds. I studied hard, bought myself an FN assault rifle 30-06, 10 in the clip (common at that time), and a Smith & Wesson 357 with a 4" barrel.

On September 8, 1968, I turned 18 and became a Panther in good standing, after being schooled about the rules and regulations of the BPP and how to conduct oneself in the community. Huey was convicted of manslaughter that day and the police shot up our office at 45th and Grove, a birthday I will never forget.

In our section, Brookfield and surrounding areas, we did door to door paper selling, collected information about supporters and problems in the area, attended community meetings to let the people of that area know the BPP was there to serve them, registered people to vote, set up Breakfast Programs, spoke to youth and organized Black Student Unions.

I worked hard and became the O.D. of the East Oakland office. The O.D. "Officer of the Day" was in charge of the office under the captain. My duties were to open the office at 9:00am, assign comrades to various locations to sell papers, collect donations and do community work. My office duties were to answer the phone, talk to community people coming in for help or support, and sell newspapers in front of the office. I was also responsible for getting food for dinner when the comrades came in from the field after a hard day or organizing, and setting up security for the office and our homes for the night. Somebody was always on security.

In 1969 I began to pull security at Central Head-

quarters. A plan had been uncovered that the police were going to raid the National Headquarters. We printed it in the papers to expose the plot. Only the best were called in to pull security, armed to the gills, we were ready if they came. After that, I was often called to security duty in many situations.

Watching Their Backs

By 1970 I was a well-trained soldier for the revolution. I could hold my own in shooting, military skills, as well as doing political organizing. I was now working out of Central HQ, 1048 Peralta St., in West Oakland. Everyone working at Central HQ was under the direct supervision of the Central Committee. I was chosen to assist in the daily security of David Hilliard while he was going to court for the April 6 shoot-out in which Lil Bobby was murdered.

In August, 1970, Huey was released from the Alameda County Courthouse. Our duty was to see that Huey made it to safety. Ray Masai Hewitt, Joel Durham, Geronimo and David Hilliard were also part of the welcome and security team. We were not prepared for the 8,000 people outside the courthouse. When they saw Huey on the step of the side entrance on 14th street, we quickly turned around and went out the other door on 12th. The people saw us and we began to run. We ran about 50 yards and then were surrounded by over 5,000 people wanting to see Huey. They were chanting "Huey, Huey." Huey took refuge on top of a car (now a famous photo). It was a wild, great feeling. I knew what the people felt, it was a real peoples' victory.

After David was convicted, I was chosen to work with Huey as part of his security team. Robert Bay was Huey's personal security guard. I worked with Clark Bailey (Santa Rita), and Ray Masai Hewitt. Everyday we made sure that Huey was safe, coming and going to court. We all had lunch with Charles Garry, the BPP's attorney, on a daily basis until the trial ended in 1971.

A little later, the Party bought a nightclub, the LampPost, in downtown Oakland. It was staffed by trusted Party members, of which I was one. During the day, I was entrusted to work for Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Huey's parents. I came over 3 times a week to mow the lawn, work around the house, go to the store and run other errands. But mostly, Mrs. Newton would feed me and I would listen to her tell stories about Huey when he was younger. Sometimes Huey and Rob would drop by. I would try to look busy, but Mrs. Newton would say, "Sit down and eat your food." I loved Mrs. Newton.

In 1972, Bobby Seale and Elaine Brown were running for political office in Oakland. I was drafted into the campaign and selected to be a section leader in East Oakland, my old stomping grounds. I ran section 7, from High St. to 73rd Ave. and from MacArthur Blvd. to San Leandro Blvd. I opened an office on 55th and East 14th with money raised by Vanetta Molson and community worker, Robin Hart, from Oakland High BSU. It was a large, modern office with living quarters in the back. Bobby Seale like it very much and made it his campaign headquarters. Even Huey would come by.

Eventually, Bobby was in the runoff election. Our particular section deserves credit for putting out a superior effort in his behalf by registering people and getting them out to vote. We picked up people from the San Antonio Village and Havencourt Public Housing and drove them to the polls, which put him into the runoff. Special thanks should go to Louis "Tex" Johnson, Robin Hart, William Cloud, Tim Thompson, Michael Ellis, Barbara Lee, Vanetta Molson and the Irby family.

In 1974, after securing donors for the Community Learning Center, I left the organization due to internal contradictions.

A PANTHER FEMALE

by Regina Jennings



Palm trees populate Oakland streets
She stares ahead
Traveling in guerrilla fatigues
She stares ahead
holding Panther Party papers

Her history is the holocaust of slavery
In combat boots black, she peddles
Panther Party papers

Stalking streets searched by the police
She lifts a paper bearing Huey Newton's
Name, shouting
"Panther Papers, Git your Panther Papers
right here"
"Panther Papers, Git yo Panther Papers
right here"
They come counting coins for a corner
Of power

She says, "Power to the People"
"Right on with revolution"
"Seize the time"
She mouths the mind of Bobby Seale

A S S A T A

by Regina Jennings

Time tumbled into tomorrow
But you are unforgotten
Revolutionary sister

Selling Panther Papers
Feeding breakfast to schoolchildren
Singing freedom songs
For Huey and Bobby

We remember you
Muscling the state
We remember you willing to die
For the people

Revolutionary sister
Across the water
May your name travel in summer beauty
As you study
And struggle
Across the water
Know that we remember you

WAR! What Is It Good For?
Absolutely Nothing!

America the peace loving country loves to declare war, but there seems not to be any victories. We have:

- War on Poverty
- War on Drugs
- War on Hunger
- War on Crime
- War on Unemployment
- War on Illiteracy
- War on Corruption
- War on Terrorism

An endless rectum exercise. Ways to waste and or steal the public's money. To get on CNN and play pretend.

WAR ON DRUGS

Before leaving office, Bill Clinton gave the President of Columbia \$8 million of our tax dollars to fight the war on drugs. What was that all about? Tractor-trailers with tons of drugs are getting to the streets of the USA. This year (2002), the Coast Guard has seized 70,000 pounds of cocaine. In a few short weeks, the Coast Guard intercepted high-speed boats with seven tons of pure cocaine from Columbia. Cartels are making up for lost time due to the 9-11 attacks. The war on drugs is raging with the best troops in the field, the DEA, FBI, CIA, and local law enforcement agencies.

However, the jails and prisons are overcrowded

with poor fools caught with a few rocks in their pockets or car. This is called a non-violent crime. Catch-em and cage-em laws keep law enforcement employed and poor people in prison, a source of slave labor.

How about the WAR ON HUNGER? According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization report dated 3/13/02 - 815 million people, 13% of the world's population suffers from hunger and malnutrition. That is 777 million in developing countries, 27 million in so-called transitional countries and 11 million in industrialized countries.

The WAR ON TERROR tells us a lot about the forces we pay good money to for protection.

Six months after Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi crashed jetliners into the World Trade Center Towers, the INS notified a flight school that the two had been approved for student visas to study there. So to keep screw-ups like this from happening again, some of our leaders on CNN in Washington suggested that INS and US Customs departments be combined into one bureaucracy. Why Not? One bureaucracy can screw up just as well as two. Will they let terrorists and drugs into the country at the same time? Why not?

The FBI hired Bob Hansen and let him get away with selling America's most vital secrets to the Russians for 20 years.

While they were busy spending those big budgets of the taxpayers' money, could they have at least put Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck in charge of our national security?

Big Man

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR :

Dear Brother Billy,

I write to thank you and your colleagues for the wonderful 35th Year Reunion of the Black Panther Party in Washington. It was a very rich experience for me as I renewed ties with long-time friends and supporters, and met new ones.

I was particularly impressed with the youth-oriented activities. It was thrilling to see and hear so many competent young people taking leadership.

Every session I attended was very rich and rewarding in both personal and intellectual terms. There was a lot going on in every workshop, and it is only regrettable they could not have been longer.

Of the workshops, I appreciated most the one done by the women and was pleased they let men sit in. "Big Man" was a quiet presence there. The workshop with the New Black Panthers was extraordinary. I must compliment the two moderators—they handled a difficult situation with considerable diplomacy and equanimity. Both workshops greatly increased my admiration and respect for the original Black Panther Party.

Needless to say, the 2 closing session remarks by Bobby Seale and Kathleen Cleaver were high points that will be long remembered.

While I sincerely hope there will be a 40th Year Reunion, I hope even more sincerely we will not have to wait a full five years.

I wish you every success as you continue your wonderful work.

Sincerely,
J. Herman Blake,
Director, African American Studies,
Iowa State University

From: New Collective Study Group
Re: Study Curriculum

Greetings,

Trust that this brief note finds you there at Carol Books and our enlightened one Billy X in positive health and high spirits. Just wanted to let you know we are in receipt of the recent package of progressive education material: (2) books, entitled:

"On a Move - Mumia" and "My Bondage & My Freedom" - Frederick Douglass

As always, your out reached community hand to assist those positive minds held here within this concrete dungeon in our endeavors to educate ourselves and explore various ways to reciprocate the lessons learnt to our struggling youth/community and help them to ameliorate the social ills confronting us as a people. With a personal focus of finding a way to effectively communicate to our youth not to follow that same path of self-destruction that is a one-way ticket to drug addiction, poisoning-prison and/or death!

Take care.

Dear Clark, Billy, Gail, et al,

I hope that you arrived home safely and have gotten some well-deserved rest. Thank you for putting on a magnificent reunion. I think that it was really meaningful to all who were in attendance. It was really needed.

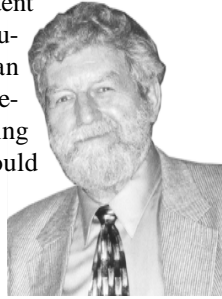
You all did a fantastic job, especially from the other side of the continent! Thank you for allowing me to be involved.

Stay well and let's stay in touch.

Peace and Power,
Father Earl Neil

CHUCK ARMSBURY WITH THE PATRIOT PARTY

In 1965, Chuck was a student at the University of Oregon in Eugene where he met an African American woman who would become his wife, and the emerging civil rights movement that would change the direction of his life. Chuck was born in 1941 in Kansas, and raised with two sisters in Eastern Washington State by his single mother. Throughout his teenage years he worked as a wrangler for a local meatpacker, married young, and found himself with sole custody of two young children while in graduate school in Eugene.



With five children between them, Sonja became a member of the Eugene BPP; Chuck started a chapter of the Patriot Party in solidarity with local Panthers and their son, Chon Armsbury, was born in 1969.

The Patriot Party in Eugene looked to the leadership of Chairman Bill "Preacherman" Fesperman and Arthur Turco from North Carolina and New York respectively. Preacherman's Patriot Party grew from the organizing, unifying ideas and practice of the Uptown Young Patriots of Chicago. These Young Patriots from the over-policed Appalachian neighborhoods of Uptown are the group of poor white people usually referred to, it seems, when recalling the Rainbow Coalition of Panthers, Young Lords and Young Patriots of 1969-70. Other towns and cities across the country also saw new chapters of Patriots form in response to the Young Patriots' righteous class-solidarity with the Chicago BPP.

The Eugene BPP and Patriot members fed nutri-

tious breakfasts in service to hungry children, cut firewood for elderly people and taught classes at the University of Oregon in 1969-70. Chuck worked closely with BPP members Howard and Tommie Anderson to create peoples' survival programs in this mixed region of higher education, farms and sawmills. Chuck and Sonja were raising their combined family of six children in Eugene houses that also served as information and breakfast centers. By early 1970, these houses also served as target practice for nighttime gunmen driving by in pickups.

As a result of a traffic stop in Eugene in early 1970, Chuck was brought into Portland federal court on a charge of an illegal firearm possession and sentenced to 10 years. Daughter Erika Kathleen Armsbury, named for Erika Huggins and Kathleen Cleaver, was born 4 months after her father's imprisonment. After nineteen months served, he was released on a sentence modification.

The Patriot Party had a short lifetime in the 1960s revolutionary struggle, and after a brief visit from Preacherman at McNeil Island federal prison, Chuck never heard from anyone else in the Party. Nonetheless, the spirit of a poor white's Patriot Party lived on for many people, and will go down as a genuine revolutionary impulse from white, oppressed communities throughout the U.S.

Today Chuck is Senior Editor of the Razor Wire newspaper, is married to November Coalition Executive Director Nora Callahan, and together they live and work out of their home in Colville, Washington. The November Coalition is dedicated to the reform of our present drug laws.

IT'S ABOUT TIME ARCHIVES

It's About Time would like to thank the many people who have donated photos, books, papers and videos to the people's archives. Since the 2002 Reunion Conference we have had an increase in historical artifacts donated. We are putting together a traveling exhibit to be used in libraries, schools and other community settings that are available to the public. In October, there will be several displays in the city of Oakland for Black Panther Party History Month.

Special thanks to Stephen Shames, Jeffrey Blankfort and Roz Payne whose photos can be seen on our website. Also, a very special thanks to Jahti (Tony) Jackson-Maasai who sent us a large number of negatives from Central Headquarters' files (1967-74) and his photos from 1972-1975. Big Man has donated a number of photos from 1967-1974. Thanks also to Dan O'Neal who donated his famous pictures of George Jackson, Jonathan Jackson's funeral and the Soledad Brothers.

The archives also include a number of historical buttons put out by the Black Panther Party, political posters, over 30 documentary videos about the BPP and an extensive collection of Black Panther Party Newspapers. We are always looking to add to our collection; especially paper, posters, and buttons put out by the BPP and also private pictures, letters or other documents. All donations are tax-deductible.

Contact Billy X Jennings (916) 455-0908
e-mail: itsabouttime3@juno.com or write to:
It's About Time, PO Box 221100,
Sacramento, CA 95822

THE BLACK PANTHER
INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

THE FUGITIVES

ALL OF US

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES
CDs AVAILABLE

BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Where Are They Now?

JOE VEALE joined the Richmond, CA, branch of the BPP in 1969. He was incarcerated at the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary from 1972-77 and joined the Revolutionary Communist Party a couple of years after his release from prison. Since the 1992 Los Angeles rebellion, he has been carrying out political organizing/struggle in South Central L.A. and bringing the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to the new generation of rebels. He is the spokesperson for the L.A. branch of the RCP, and currently is taking the new Draft Programme of the RCP out to the people. Joe can be contacted through Libros Revolucion in L.A. (213) 488-1303.

CLEO SILVERS joined the Party in New York, Harlem Chapter, in 1969. She worked in conjunction with the Young Lords to save Lincoln Hospital. She also worked in the medical cadre and for tenant rights. In 1971, she continued her work as a member of the Young Lords organization.

Cleo has always fought for justice and basic rights of the people. She is now co-chair of the New York Mumia Defense Committee. She is also active in #1199 SEIU, New York's Health & Human Service Union. She helped with the organization of the 35th Year Reunion and is an active supporter of the Eddie Conway Defense Committee.



HARVEY MCCLINTON joined the BPP in 1967. Before coming to the Party, he lived the fast life. After meeting Captain Bill Brent, he learned about the BPP and its programs and the importance of having a black vanguard organization. Harvey's participation in the BPP lasted until 1970. Always being an educator, Harvey has encouraged young people throughout the years to learn this history.

Even at the age of 72, Harvey is still active



BLACK AUGUST from Page 1

40 years!!! Magee is the sole survivor of the Court-house Slave Rebellion of August 7, 1970, subsequently convicted of simple kidnap (See Part 1). Yogi was convicted of two assaults on prison guards resulting from the August 21, 1971 incident at San Quentin during which George Jackson was assassinated, three



guards and two inmate trustees were killed.

While Magee has managed through his legal expertise to get himself out of the Pelican Bay SHU and on to the mainline at Corcoran, Yogi remains locked down 24/7 in a windowless cell not much bigger than your bathroom (except for occasional trips to the “dog run” or outdoor enclosure where he can exercise but still not see the outside environs due to 20’ walls and Plexiglas covering).

Yogi and his attorney, Lisa Short, appeared before the Board of Prison Terms on January 15, 2002 for consideration for parole. In the first place, the hearing had been scheduled for April 2001 and due to backlog was postponed nine months, nearly a year! That’s a very long time when you’ve been isolated with no-contact visits for 12 years in SHU and a total of 33 years in solitary confinement in one prison or another. In fact, the last contact visit was with his mother in 1970 at Soledad – 32 years ago! Only two Board members participated in the hearing with two other observers.

The Board’s decision gave Yogi two more years in SHU in spite of his having a clean record (no write-

ups or 115s) for 22 years!

In her appeal of this decision dated May 14, 2002, Ms. Short stated:

“Mr. Pinell has, by any reasonable and lawful standard, served enough time for the offenses in question. His minimum eligible parole date, even according to the Board, was 1985; it is now 17 years since that MEPD, and 24 years since the assault convictions were rendered. This record is replete with evidence that Mr. Pinell does not constitute a threat to anyone, is as fully rehabilitated as his circumstances allow, and has substantial support in the community to which he would return. The Board’s refusal to grant a parole date is violative of intracase proportionality. Five other individuals were charged and tried with him in the incident arising out of 1971. None of these individuals remains in prison though at least one of them was convicted of first-degree murder and the others of offenses comparable to Mr. Pinell. The Board violated its own policies and procedures in refusing to consider the psychiatric evaluation and opinion contained in Mr. Pinell’s proffered report by Dr. Terry Kupers. Mr. Pinell is being singled out to serve an effective sentence of life without possibility of parole because he is personally reviled by members of the Board and individuals in the California Department of Corrections.

No other prisoner has ever served a term of this magnitude under conditions as restricted and inhumane as Mr. Pinell. Confinement of 38 years – 33 of which have been in isolation – for convictions no greater than assault, amounts to perpetual confinement in violation of laws that require his release within a reasonable amount of time.

The Board’s reliance upon confidential informants to deny parole suitability and parole release runs afoul of federal and state constitutional provisions as cited above.

“The Board’s failure to act in Mr. Pinell’s past lifer hearings has effectively converted his indeterminate sentence into a judgment of life without the possibility of parole. In spite of that, Mr. Pinell remains fit, vibrant, energetic, resourceful, and balanced. The length and the severe circumstances of his confinement would have driven and has driven ordinary men insane, but not Mr. Pinell. The inordinately long periods ordered between parole consideration hearings (this last time, five years; the previous time, three years) would instill hopelessness in most individuals, but not Mr. Pinell. The exemplary disciplinary record Mr. Pinell has held fast in place for two decades de-

spite doing some of the hardest time imaginable is startling, impressive, and highly unusual, yet it is almost predictable from Mr. Pinell. His sincerity and politeness, his care and concern for family and friends, his stable mental health, deeply-held and daily-practiced spiritual beliefs, his powers of mental and conceptual organization, his high standards of self-care and altruism – these are the present-day essence of Hugo Pinell as he approaches his senior years.”

In his letters to me, Yogi wrote:

“The convictions are false, railroad jobs because I began to wake up in 1967 while in S.Q. I began to reeducate my mind, to direct my life, to attempt to take control of my own life. But in ’67 they began to mess with me for associating with W. L. Nolen, Howard Tole, etc., and reading material on black history and current events. That was contraband to them. I was out of line to them for even talking to W.L. Nolen whom I had known for yrs but was now a changed man, a man of struggle. They made up some bogus charges just to take me to the A/C where I met George. Justice is what I want but I don’t know how or where I can present it to get the proper reversal, the proper resolve, the proper decision, ‘Hugo L.A. Pinell was released today because justice prevailed over injustice.’”

“All over this nation there are many, many prisoners who experience raw injustice and many people know it but what can be done to rush this system to undo the wrong done?”

That’s a good question. We must all seriously contemplate the answer. Meanwhile, please do whatever you can to support Lisa Short’s appeal and Yogi’s ultimate release as well as the release of all political prisoners.

Please write letters of support, send job offers, money orders, or just greetings and encouragement to Hugo L.A. Pinell, A88401, D3-212, Box 7500, Crescent City, Ca. 95531-7500.



“Wherever death may surprise us, it will be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, reach some receptive ear, that another hand stretch out to take up weapons and that other men come forward to intone our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine guns and new cries of battle and victory.”

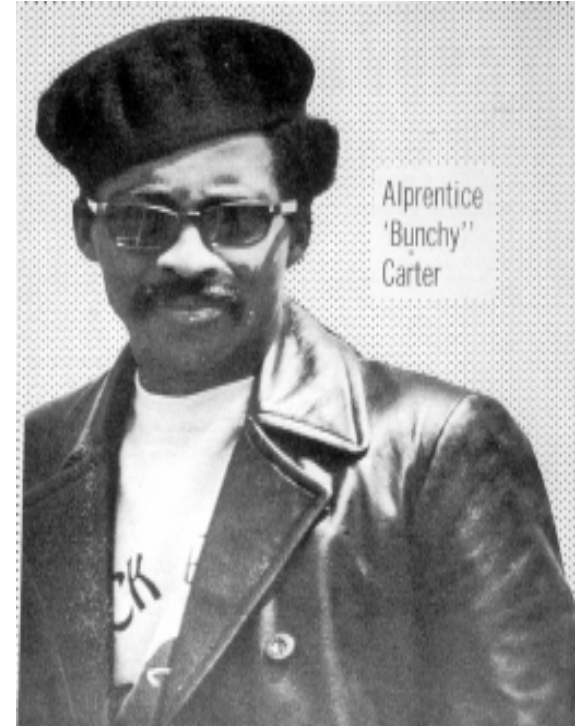
IT'S ABOUT TIME ARCHIVE PHOTOS



Huey at E. Oakland Office of the BPP in August 1970



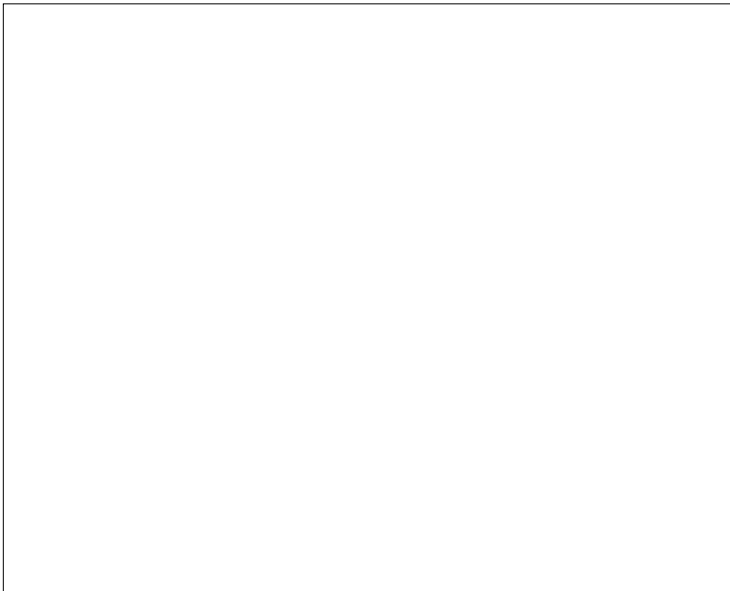
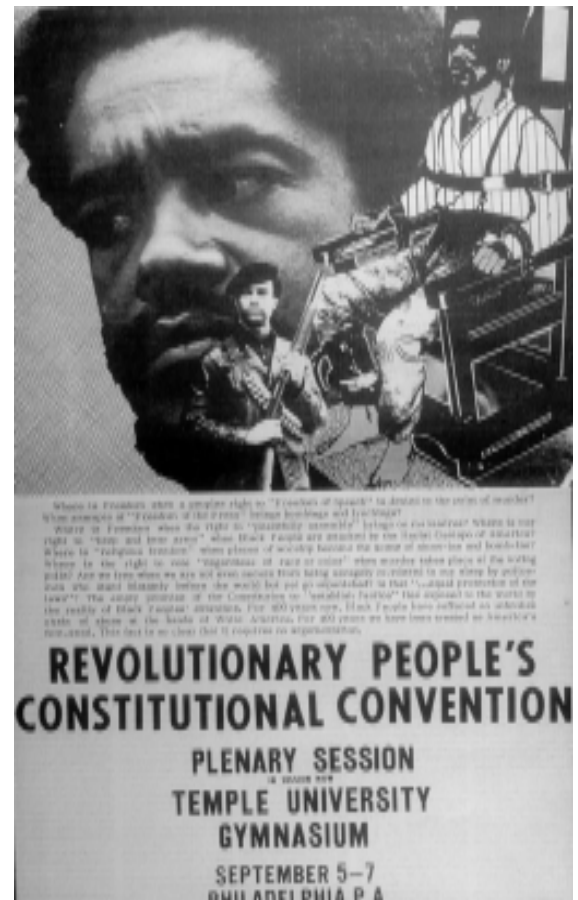
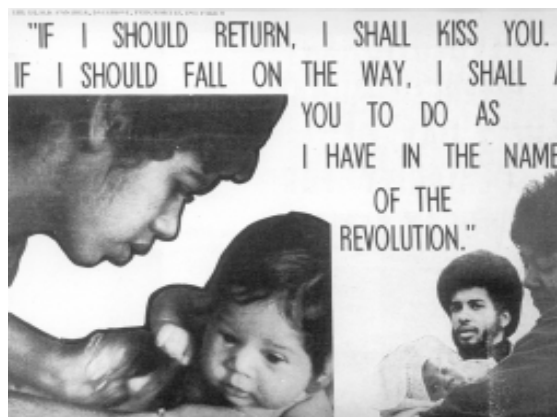
Sam Napier, Brenda Pressley & John Seale at National Headquarters in 1968, working on the paper in Berkeley, CA. © IAT



Murdered in 1969 by undercover police in LA in 1969.



Clockwise from Above: Panther Sister Marsha Turner, O.D. at National Headquarters, Oakland, CA 1969; Erika Huggins and Mai, and John Huggins who was killed in 1969 in LA by undercover police; Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention, 1971; Panther Sister Sharon Williams in LA office;



It's About Time...
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REPARATIONS from Page 2

argue against compensation say, among other things, that it happened so long ago that reparations would be punishing people who had nothing to do with the practice of slavery.

According to the lawsuit, FleetBoston is the successor to Providence Bank, which was founded by Rhode Island businessman, John Brown. Brown owned ships that embarked on several slaving voyages, and the suit says FleetBoston lent substantial sums to Brown, thus financing and profiting from his slave trade.

FleetBoston also collected customs fees from ships transporting slaves, thus profiting further, the suit says. FleetBoston did not return a call seeking comment.

The suit alleges Aetna's predecessor insured slaveholders against the loss of their human chattel. Aetna knew the horrors of slave life as evident in a rider through which the company declined to make payments on slaves who were lynched, were worked to death or committed suicide.

Hartford, Conn. Based Aetna, the No. 1 U.S. life and health insurer, said in early March it was considering making an unprecedented public apology and restitution payment over profit it made from insuring slaves in America 150 years ago. An Aetna spokesman said, "We have not been served with a lawsuit. We do not believe a court would permit a lawsuit over

events which, however regrettable, occurred hundreds of years ago."

Richmond, VA based CSX is successor in interest to numerous predecessor railroad lines that were constructed or run, at least in part, by slave labor, according to the suit. CSX said in a statement that although slavery was a tragic chapter in U.S. history, the lawsuit was without merit. "The claimants named CSX because slave labor was used to construct portions of some U.S. rail lines under the political and legal system in place more than a century before CSX was formed in 1980," the company said. "The courtrooms are the wrong setting for this issue."

The lawsuit seeks a jury trial, the appointment of an independent historic commission, restitution of the descendants' slave labor, disgorgement of illicit profit and compensatory and punitive damages to be determined at trial.

Plaintiff Farmer-Paellmann said that she went to law school with the goal of suing for damages as a result of slavery. She said as many as 60 companies had cooperated with her five years of research and provided documents showing how they had assisted the institution of slavery.

Lawyer Ed Fagan said that a series of Holocaust lawsuits settled for \$8 billion had blazed the legal trail for the slavery action.

ENRON from Page 4

they find new jobs as well as to reimburse California ratepayers.

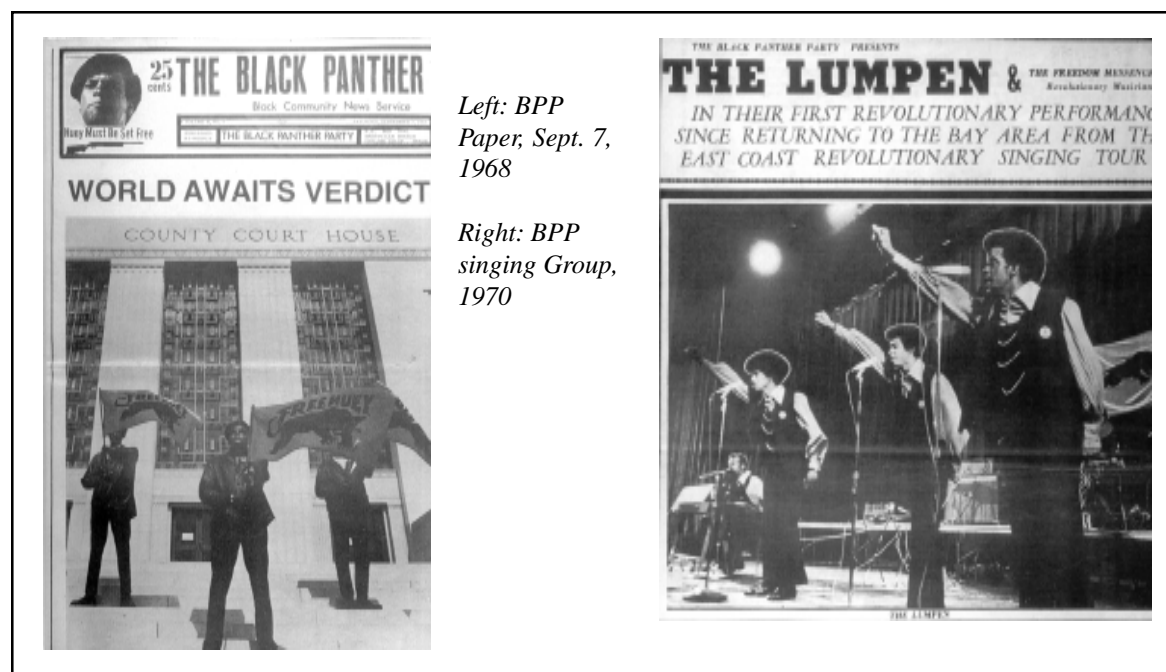
2. Reject Bush-Cheney calls for privatization of Social Security. Instead strengthen it with higher benefits including a prescription drug plan and a national health care plan that protects everyone in the U.S.
3. Full public financing for federal, state, and local elections. Every candidate in the 2002 election should be called on to prove they are not tainted by Enron or other corporate money.
4. Bring the Enron executives to justice. Expose their ties to Bush, Cheney, and other Administration officials and hold them accountable.

Fired on One Day's Notice

Debra Johnson, who served for seven years in Enron's Human Resources Division in Houston was fired on one day's notice along with 4,000 others. It was the beginning of class consciousness for many, a realization that corporate America and its CEOs care only for themselves and their profits. "The executives paid themselves but they left us with nothing," she told me. "I have two young grandchildren I am raising. I never thought I would be forced to wait in a welfare line for food stamps. But I am. I don't have health insurance."

Johnson is a member of the Enron Employees Committee that has filed a lawsuit with the bankruptcy court in New York demanding severance pay for the furloughed workers. She debunked the sob story that Lay is broke. He owns a dozen homes each worth millions. Millions more is squirreled away in banks. Said Johnson, "I don't care how many mansions he has as long as he gives the workers the severance pay they deserve. I think Kenneth Lay owes us an apology."

Richard Shaw, President of the Harris County AFL-CIO told me, "Many Enron workers viewed Ken Lay almost like a father. But when the company unraveled, Lay took care of himself and left the workers with nothing." The AFL-CIO, he said, shouldered the cost of the lawsuit and came to the assistance of the dazed workers. "We are helping the Enron workers because an injury to one is an injury to all. That's what unions are for. Workers must learn to join together and defend each other."



Left: BPP Paper, Sept. 7, 1968

Right: BPP singing Group, 1970

***It's About Time...***

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