



Volume 1 Number 1

# Panther News



Spring 2004

## Ritual of Death

(reprinted from the San Francisco Bay View Newspaper)

By **Kevin Cooper**

**O**n Monday, Feb. 9, 2004, shortly after 6:15 pm, Rev. Jesse Jackson said a prayer for me and my visitors inside the visiting room here at San Quentin Prison. Then he and my personal pastor and friends were told to leave, which they did. I was then escorted to the rear of the visiting area and taken to a hallway that contained holding cells. I was then placed in the holding cell where I had the handcuffs removed and was then told to get undressed, which I did. I was strip searched and given a brand new set of prison-issued clothing and told to put them on.

I was handcuffed after I got dressed and was removed from that cell, where I was handed over to another squad of officers. I was surrounded by about six officers and escorted to the death chamber waiting room. When I was in the visiting room, the prison officials told me that the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals had granted me a stay of execution, but until they heard from the United States Supreme Court about whether or not my stay would stay in place, this prison was going to proceed as if I had no stay I place.

When I arrived outside the death chamber waiting

room door, it was opened and I was told to go inside, which I did. I was then told to place my back on the wall while being surrounded by a new squad of officers. These were the officers of the execution squad. There was about eight of them. The leader of the squad got real close to me and asked me, was there going to be any trouble when they took the handcuffs off of me? I looked him in his eyes and told him no and he removed the handcuffs.

I was again told to take off all my clothes, which I did, and I was again strip-searched. This time they used a flashlight to light up both my mouth and butt as they searched me! This room that I was now in was very, very cold; the temperature had to be in the lower 50s. I stood barefoot on that cold floor surrounded by those officers while my body was completely searched. Then I was given another new set of clothing; only these were the ones that I was to be executed in.

I was then placed in another cell; only this new one was half the size as a regular cell. It had only a toilet, a mattress and pillow in it. I stood there in the cold waiting for my pastor to come pray with me and for me - all

See *RITUAL* on Page 9

## Meet the Panthers-Photo Reception

**T**he Black Panther Party Photo exhibit at the California State History Museum is called "Louder Than Words" has been packing in people since it off January 27, 2004 and will run until May 15.

Although the focus of the organization changed throughout the years, the BPP produced a rich and multifaceted legacy that significantly impacted the Black Liberation struggle and the world.

Come meet BPP members and supporters who helped implement over sixty different social programs that helped to meet the needs of the community. These sung heroes of the BPP who gave their time and put their lives in harm's way to protect and serve the people, and who received very little recognition and no pay.

Special Guest will include Emory Douglas, former Minister of Culture and participate in the 1967 protest against the Mulford Act at the California State Capitol: Tarika Lewis, the first woman to join the BPP and artist for the BPP newspaper; and members from several branches and chapters. Aaron Dixon is another original Panther from Seattle whom started the first BPP office outside of California will also be on hand. Dr. Bert Small of Oakland ran our George Jackson Medical Clinic and Sickle Cell Armenia Program will be on hand.

The afternoon activities will include a discussion with BPP members, personalized tours of the exhibit,

video showings, refreshments, and the opportunity to interact directly with BPP members.

Representatives from its About Time also will be present.



## News Briefs

2003 was record-breaking year for Death Row Exonerations:

- A Pennsylvania Man Cleared by DNA evidences is the 10<sup>th</sup> exoneree in 2003 and the 112 Innocence Case overturned by DNA tests. Nicholas James Yarris, 41 has spent 21 years on Pennsylvania death row. Death row exonerations have led legislators in many states to seek capital punishment reforms.

Remember Jackson State College in Mississippi on May 20, 1970

- Police fired on unarmed Black students killing two and wounding some 12 others. More than 460 rounds were fired at the students, many students lay bleeding for more than 20 minutes while the police, picked up their shell casings.

Bush Betrayal of Troops - (from the Hightower Lowdown, Feb. 2004)

If you want to know how the Bushites "support our troops" check with any of the thousands of stunned military families who have learned that Bush's Pentagon has failed to provide essential equipment needed by our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan - everything from life-saving body armor to warm gloves, from rifles that work to flashlights. The families, having received desperate calls, e-mails and letters from the front lines, literally have had to go to their local stores, buy equipment, and ship it to their loved ones!

Halliburton's Kitchen (from Hightower Lowdown Feb. 2004) -

- Halliburton, Dick Cheney's former employer and still his financial benefactor, has gotten lots of bad ink for gouging us taxpayers on the price of gasoline that it's delivering to Iraq, charging more than twice as much as other providers.

Less known is another Halliburton contract with the Pentagon, this one to serve hot meals to 110,000 or our troops in Iraq at the cost of \$28 a day for each person - about \$3 million a day to Halliburton.

The food is bad. I don't mean untasty: It's "dirty" according to a Pentagon inspection team that found "blood all over the floor...dirty salad bar...rotting meats...and vegetables" and other nastiness in four of the military messes Halliburton is paid to operate.

Included among Halliburton's dirty-food eateries was the Baghdad mess hall that Bush used for his Thanksgiving publicity stunt, flying in and out of Iraq for a quickie photo-op. The event produced a news photo of the President holding a beautifully cooked turkey as though presenting it to the troops at the mess hall.

See *NEWS BRIEFS* on Page 2

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## ASHCROFT'S COINTELPRO

By *Matthew Rothschild*

It's official. Cointelpro is back. The infamous FBI counterintelligence program of the 1960's and '70's, which spied on Martin Luther King and Malcolm X and disrupted the Panthers and the American Indian Movement, is being revived right now by Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller.

FBI headquarters sent out a memo last month to local law enforcement agencies telling them to gather intelligence on anti-war protesters who were assembling in Washington and San Francisco, according to the New York Times. "Report any potentially illegal acts" to FBI counterterrorism task forces, the memo said.

The basis for viewing these protesters as terrorists is flimsy, as even the memo seems to acknowledge. The FBI "possesses no information indicating that violent or terrorist activities are being planned as part of the protests," the memo said. So why are they being treated as such? One law enforcement official suggested to the Times that some protesters may be acting in league with terrorists by distracting the FBI with a big demonstration

while a terrorist attack is planned for somewhere else. That's pretty far-fetched, if you ask me.

But the FBI is casting its net wide. The memo is concerned not only with people who commit violence, but who are "capable of violence," as one official said. That could be 275 million people!

The intelligence the FBI used in this memo came from FBI counterterrorism officials, the Times said. But much of the memo cited perfectly legal protest tactics, like using the Internet to recruit supporters, raise funds, and coordinate activities, the Times Said. The memo also noted that protesters sometimes go to activist training camps, raise money for lawyers and film the police. The latter activity, the memo said, was designed to "intimidate" law enforcement.

But the ones doing the intimidating are not the protesters, but Ashcroft and Mueller. Protesters aren't terrorists. And by equating the two, Ashcroft and Mueller do grievous harm to our civil liberties.



### NEWS BRIEFS from Page 1

But Bush's turkey was just a prop; the troops weren't served it, instead, getting some pre-sliced turkey-like product from Halliburton's kitchen.

#### The Corporate Abandonment of America—

• For years now, American blue-collar jobs have been hauled offshore to faraway havens of low-wage production. Now hundreds of thousands (and soon to be millions) of well-paying white-collar and high-tech jobs are being shipped overseas. IBM, which is leading the way, even has coined a corporate euphemism for moving white-collar jobs out of the country: "Global sourcing." A Microsoft executive has instructed department heads to "Think India" and to "pick something to move off-shore today."

OK, if CEOs have no obligation to us, why should we feel any obligation to them? As they separate their corporate fortunes from the well-being of our families, communities, and country, we should separate them from the tax breaks, subsidies, regulatory favors, and political privileges they've gotten from us.

#### Inmates' Calories Cut

• The governor of Nevada told its lawmakers that the state pays more to feed its wild horses than its pays to feed its prisoners. The fact is food to prisoners has been reduced in quantity and quality. Among the states cutting prisoners food are: Arizona, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia. Texas has cut the number of calories a day for its 148,000 plus prisoners from 2,800 to 2,500. In North Carolina, daily calories have been cut from 3,300 to 2,700. Budget cuts has come in smaller portions of food and less expensive ingredients in the food.

#### Political Prisoner Marilyn Buck Denied Parole:

Marilyn Buck made her first appearance before the parole board on September 8<sup>th</sup> and was denied parole. She was given what is called a "15-year hit" meaning that she is not eligible to reappear for another 15 years. She was very strong and articulate in the hearing and continues to inspire us with her dedication and principles.

#### Reforms in Felony Disenfranchisement:

The Sentencing Project has just released a new report that documents significant reform of felon disenfranchisement laws in recent years.

The report, *Legislative Changes on Felony Disenfranchisement, 1996-2003*, finds that eight states have removed barriers to voting for persons with felony convictions, seven of them for ex-felons. The study finds an estimated 471,000 persons are now eligible to vote in the most heavily impacted states. The report can be found at

[www.sentencingproject.org/pdfs/legchanges-report.pdf](http://www.sentencingproject.org/pdfs/legchanges-report.pdf)

#### "A Dream of a Lifetime" - Become a Doctor for a Community in Need

Have you always wanted to be a doctor or do you know someone who wants to be one, but can't afford the tremendous cost of medical school? Join the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and friends in Washington DC for the Dream of a Lifetime Medical School Scholarship Conference on Saturday, March 27, 2004 From 9AM to 5PM at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, 623 Florida Ave NW (between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street).

Learn about the Latin American School of Medicine (LASM) in Havana, Cuba and the fully paid scholarship including room and board that Cuba has offered to US students who want to study medicine. Registration Fees are \$20 for students and \$40 for the general public. For more information contact: IFCO/Pastors For Peace, Attn: Velvet Ross (212) 926-5757 or e-mail: [LASM@igc.org](mailto:LASM@igc.org)



Althea Francisco and Amir-Farug Hassan in Angola Prison on a recent visit. Also known as Ronald Alisworth he was one of the founders of the Black Panther Party in New Orleans in the state of Louisiana. More on New Orleans Chapter on [www.itsabouttimebpp.com](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com) website.

## ANGOLA 3 UPDATE



After two years in camp J, Herman Wallace is set to be released back in population in Angola prison in Louisiana. He was railroaded and lied on by guards. A reaction to the Angola 3 legal battle.

### Angola Inmate Suit Is Cleared By High Court

Washington\_ the nations highest court refused to kill a lawsuit brought by two prisoners and an ex-inmate at eh Louisiana State Penitentiary who spent decades in solitary confinement. Without comment, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal filed by state officials who said they should be immune from suit by the Angola Three. Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace claim they have been subjected to cruel and inhuman punishment, in violation of the federal Constitution, by their stay of more than three decades in solitary. Both were convicted of killing Angola guard Brent Miller in April 1972. Also suing is Robert Wilkerson, who was released from prison in February 2001 after a state judge overturned his conviction for killing another inmate during a prison brawl in 1973. Wilkerson also had been held in solitary in 2002 after prison officials accused him of holding contraband in his cell. The Supreme Court refusal to hear an appeal from state officials, including Angola Warden Burl Cain and state correction chief Richard Stalder, likely will clear the way for the suit to be tried, said Joe Cook, executive director of the Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union, which is spearheading the suit.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Brother Billy X

May peace of mind and glad tidings be unto you, and all the dedicated comrades there. Insha Allah

I'm still here standing strong and fighting forward tooth and nail for total liberation and economic self-reliance. There's a conspiracy afloat in Fort Wayne to subvert my legal defense. My sentencing trail date is set for February 23, 200, but has been change because the judge over my case was an alcoholic and had to go for treatment. Please note my new address. On February Tenth, 2003 I was in the first group of ten from death row who transferred to this sen-



sory deprivation control unit. Death row is now here until renovation at Michigan City is completed.

Zolo Agona Azania #4969

**Editor Note:** Please help this brother, write him send money, and call a friend in Indiana to help. He is on trail for his life. SAVE THIS BROTHER!

### California's "3-Strike" Law—The Facts

1. Multiple studies have shown that the current "3-strike" law has not decreased the crime rate in California- in some studies the crime rate has actually increased.
2. The cost of incarcerating a non-violent "2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> strike prisoner is nearly 430,000 a year. By the time a non-violent "3<sup>rd</sup> strike" serves out their sentence, each prisoner will have cost California taxpayers nearly a million dollars.
3. Since the implementation of the "3-Strike law, the state of California has built 21 prisons and I university.
4. The prison system is the fastest growing department in the State government. It is larger than transportation and health care.
5. There are now over 30,000 non-violent 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> strike prisoners in California maximum-security prisons. It will cost California taxpayers \$2-3 billion for their incarceration.
6. A recent statewide poll shows that 66% of California voters would support changing the law to exclude non-violent offenses. Nearly 80% did not know that the current "3-Strike" law was being applied to non-violent offenders.

For more info: Citizens Against Violent Crime(CAVC) and Families to Amend California's Three Strike(FACT) 714-780-8901 or [www.amend3strikes.org](http://www.amend3strikes.org).

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14**

**SELF RESPECT, SELF DEFENSE  
& SELF DETERMINATION**

**MABEL WILLIAMS & KATHLEEN CLEAVER SPEAK**

*Two inspiring women of the 60's Black Liberation struggle meet to share their personal experiences. Kathleen Cleaver and Mabel Williams.*

**Sunday March 14,04**

**First Congregation Church 7pm • 27th St/Harrison, Oakland, Ca.**

**SPONSORS: Freedom Archives, EastSide Arts Alliance, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement&Hard Knock Radio**

## PANTHERS IN AFRICA

### Remembering Pete and Charlotte O'Neal

The United African American Community Center (UAACC) was founded in 1991 by Pete O'Neal, formerly Chairman of the Kansas City Chapter of the Black Panther Party and his wife, Charlotte Hill O'Neal, also of the KC Chapter. In 1972, Pete and Charlotte O'Neal came to Tanzania. They became African American pioneers in their ancestral homeland, learning about windmills, farming, raising livestock, and appropriate technology as they began to develop their homestead on the slopes of Mt. Meru in Imbaseni, a rural village in the heart of the traditional homeland of the WaMeru tribe.

UAACC organizes year round workshops dealing with health and nutrition,



conservation, AIDS education, essay contests, art appreciation, crafts, history, and computer literacy. UAACC also facilitates many improvements to village schools through organizing programs for volunteers who visit the area.

UAACC has a cultural exchange program with Kansas City, where youth from Tanzania visit Kansas City and Kansas City youth visit Tanzania. Through the Arusha-Kansas City Sister City Program, many donations of medical supplies have been collected.

UAACC also works with various colleges and has an intern program in which the colleges provide interns who

come to teach, do medical work and participate in other social programs. In exchange, Pete hosts a photographic safari.

Recently, through a joint project between UAACC and the Kuji Foundation, founded by Geronimo Ji Jaga, a drilling company was brought into the village to drill for water so that village women no longer had to walk several miles carrying water.

For more information on the O'Neals and their work in Africa, visit their website: [www.UAACC-TZ.ORG](http://www.UAACC-TZ.ORG) and [WWW.HABARI.CO.TZ/UAACC](http://WWW.HABARI.CO.TZ/UAACC) Or e-mail: [uaacc@habari.co.tz](mailto:uaacc@habari.co.tz)

## Statement from Herman Bell

**RE: February 2004 Parole Hearing**

Greetings and Happy New Year. My name is Herman Bell. I am a husband, father, grandfather, and a former member of the Black Panther Party for Community Self-Defense (BPP). I am currently being considered for parole after serving nearly thirty years in prison for a crime I did not commit. There has been a media campaign apparently spearheaded by the P.B.A. to vilify and de-humanize me. As I explain further below, my sympathy and empathy has always been extended to the families of the slain officers. I do not wish to add to their grief and pain. I am only distributing this letter to correct and rebut some of the most scurrilous allegations that have recently been made against me and to set forth why I believe that I should be released on parole.

As a college student, I became attracted to the BPP due to its survival programs; such as Free Breakfast for Schoolchildren, Free Medical and Legal Clinics, Community Controlled Schools and Tenants' Control of Slum Housing. We also endeavored to rid the community of drugs and violence. Community representatives supported these much needed programs. This was 1968. Thirty-six years later, our communities continue to grapple with some of the social problems that existed then.

The Party's cultural and social programs were aimed at promoting a sense of self-awareness and cultural empowerment in Blacks to offset the oppressive practices perpetuated through Jim Crowism and other racist policies. My involvement resulted in my being falsely accused of the murder of NYPD officers Jones and Piagentini. I did not commit this offense.

I had two trials. In the first one, several jurors voted to acquit due to insufficient evidence and the trial ended in a hung jury. The second trial ended with a conviction, and I was sentenced to 25-years to life. The second trial was fraught with numerous improprieties. A prosecution witness was tortured and threatened with incarceration if he did not implicate me. (This same witness later recanted.) The state threatened several female witnesses with the loss of their children.. A federal judge later found that an NYPD detective committed perjury by concealing exculpatory ballistics evidence from the trial judge and jury. FBI documents later determined that a prosecution witness falsely testified in exchange for favorable consideration.

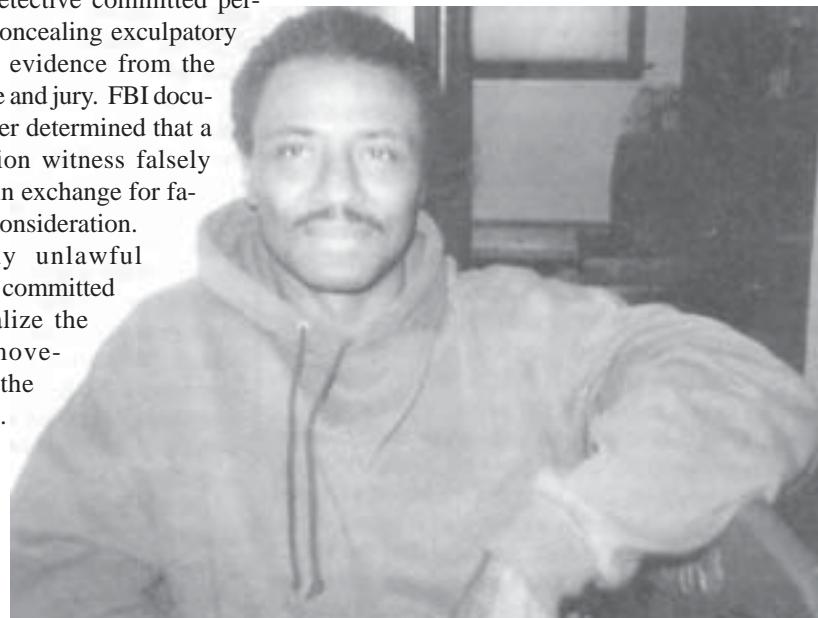
Many unlawful acts were committed to neutralize the mass movement of the sixties.

This was a period of escalating social consciousness

coupled with a growing anti-war movement, widespread civil rights activism and urban unrest. Prominent Black leaders were killed: Malcolm X, Dr. M.L. King, Jr, and Medger Evers, as well as Robert Kennedy. In like manner, so were BPP leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark murdered. Other BPP leaders were imprisoned on questionable

charges and some of them languish in prison even today. I come out of that time period.

Although I did not commit this offense, my condolences have always been extended to the Piagentini and Jones families and to all those who have suffered as a consequence of this tragedy. As a lover of humanity, I believe that an untimely loss of life under such distressing circumstances is reprehensible. Most important, I sincerely believe we all pray for closure.



Thirty years have elapsed, and I am now eligible for parole consideration. Family members of the slain officers and the P.B.A. oppose my release. The media has converged on the story and are vilifying me in an effort to keep me in prison. Some people in society might ask, why do I deserve parole.

Despite my conviction, I have im-

proved myself and I am continuing to evolve as a member of the human family. I have received a bachelor's degree from SUNY-New Paltz and a master's degree in sociology from SUNY. I have participated in all the therapeutic and anti-aggression programs available within the correctional system, either as a participant or as a facilitator. I have designed Black Studies and academic programs that are still being modeled today and I continue to mentor and tutor young men who have returned to their respective communities to lead productive lives.

I am a founding member of the Victory Gardens Food Project located in Athens, Maine, which has successfully operated for eight years and continues to operate today. The Victory Gardens Project grows organic produce, assisted by hundreds of volunteers and their family members in rural and urban areas, and donates the crops to several economically depressed communities within Maine, New Jersey, Boston and the New York City area.

Over the years, I have matured in both age and perspective. I recall the words of my spiritual adviser, Rev. Edwin Muller, who so eloquently stated: "If your goals and hope for the future are strong, the quality of your life will be transformed and so will the nature of your journey."

Considering the circumstances and all I have done to improve my life and the quality of life for others, I now seek your endorsement for my release in order to me a responsible and law-abiding member of our society.

For information and how you can support my release, you can write me at Herman Bell, Eastern C.F., Box 338, Napanoch, NY 12458-0338

## People's College of Law 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award

**S**entenced to Five years to Life for Armed Robbery in 1966 at the age of

23, Kwaku was released on parole in 1970, and discharged for parole in 1971. He has a long history as a well-known community activist and advocate for educational issues, and as a member of the Black Panther Party whom re-started the Southern California Chapter of the BPP from 1975-1981. Kwaku focus his skills to on social, political and economic issues affecting the economical and politically oppressed communities. Licensed to practice law since November 1990, he is deeply committed to the development of quality educational opportunities.

Kwaku is the recipient of the "Living Legend Award" from "Turning Point" Magazine. He presently lives in Los Angeles and has a private-community base laws practice there. Up until February 1991, he was employed for 13 years in the South Central Office of the Legal Aid Foundation of LA, and was a founding member and first president of the Union of Legal Service Workers of LA.

Kwaku is the former board member of the LA chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and member of the local chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL). He is a founding member of Police Watch, and founding member and first co-chair of Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA).

From 1975 through 1981, he was Coordinator of the Southern California



Chapter of the Black Party Party. He lead plaintiff in the domestic spying lawsuit CAPA vs. Gates, et al (which was instrumental

in causing the LA City Council to disband the notorious Public Disorder and Intelligence Division of the LAPD).

He is a founding and current, board member of California Community Economic Development Association, a state-wide network of community-based economic development organizations. Presently, he is chairperson and founding member of the New Panther Vanguard Movement, which launched its "Intercommunal Reparation Campaign" in 1996.

Law Offices of B. Kwaku Duren  
1467 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, Ca 90062  
323-290-6146 and 323-296-4383

## State Prisons Revolving Door THE GUARDS OWN THE GATES

**T**eppan-yaki feasts, cliff-diving ceremonies at historic Black Rock and mai tais served at a 142-yard swimming pool are some of the festivities awaiting the more than two dozen California state legislators who began arriving today at a Kaanapali Beach resort in Maui for a junket sponsored by California's powerful prison guards union.

State Sen. Jim Battin (R-La Quinta), who will be paying for the trip from his campaign account, says it's merely "an organized opportunity for legislators to get away in a relaxed and informal atmosphere." This is the same Jim Battin who has taken \$15,500 in contributions from the union in three years. The evidence is overwhelming that state politicians who have received big money (in addition to pleasant holidays) from the union have done its bidding. Take Senate Republican Leader Jim Brulte (R-Rancho Cucamonga), who attended last year's luau but not this one, perhaps because as a top advisor to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger he is too busy to get away. The union has showered Brulte with at least \$114,000 in campaign contributions in the last three years and he is trying to persuade the governor to close the state's last five private prisons - non-union shops that the guards union views as a job threat.

The guards' domination would not be so disastrous if the union supported the training, counseling and education programs that keep communities safer by reducing inmates' relapse into crime after their release. But the union has fought

reforms with a might and unity that few other labor organizations can muster.

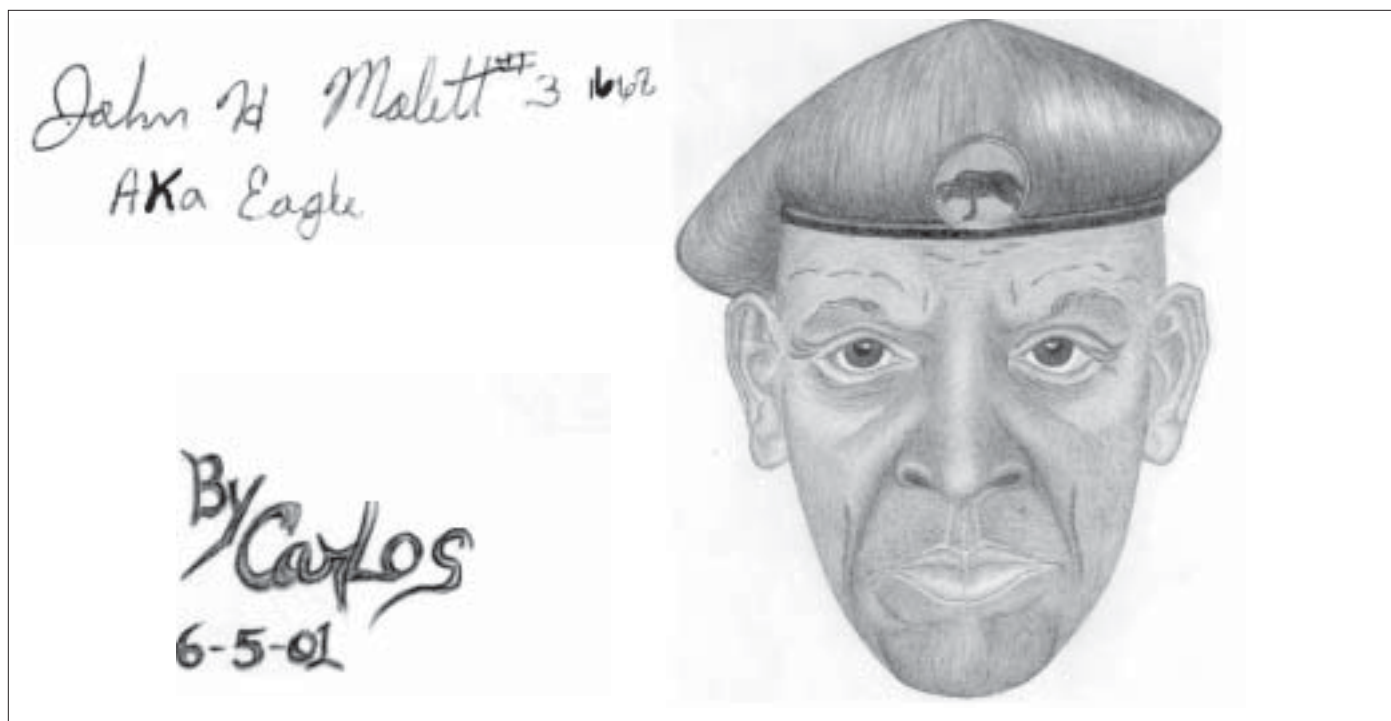
Last year, for example, then-Gov. Gray Davis, who had received \$3.4 million from the guards' union since 1998, persuaded legislators to shutter four of the state's nine private prisons and to cut prison vocational programs. The cuts left more money to raise the average prison guard's salary by 37.2% over three years, to \$73,428 by 2006. That's more than twice the average salary in the next highest paying state. The average California teacher salary is about \$54,000. The guards' contract eliminates virtually all restrictions on sick leave; the union also undermined oversight by successfully pressing for a big cut in the inspector general's budget.

Now, the union is trying to terminate college and vocational education programs in prisons statewide. Schwarzenegger should question why the state would want to close all of its private prisons when the best of them provide drug treatment, counseling and moral and vocational education for \$55 a day - a bargain compared with the \$78 a day for just a bed at a minimum-security public prison. Private prisons have had their problems, including a riot last month at the Eagle Mountain men's prison in which two inmates were killed. Yet they provide laboratories for change; for reforms the public prisons shun.

The union's usual response to critics is that its members have America's toughest jobs. Their jobs, however, are made tougher by the union's knee-jerk opposition to therapeutic and educational programs, like those in other states, that also reduce prisoners' fury and make them more controllable.

The ultimate victims of this feudal control of the state's prisons are the law-abiding people, often poor, who live and work in the neighborhoods in which prisoners are released, full of anger and devoid of skills.

The elected officials so hungry for the guards' campaign donations have been incapable of changing the system. The new governor, however, is already making changes at the top of the corrections bureaucracy and may prove himself able to say "No,"



## Colfax Riot - 1873 Massacre Recalled

Odinga Kambui and Diana Kimble of Dallas TX traveled home to Colfax, Louisiana for the 130-year Commemorating the massacre there. The Colfax Massacre also known as the Colfax Riot took place April 13, 1873 in the area where the courthouse stands now.

According to several historical studies, the massacre happened after tensions grew between whites and blacks during the Reconstruction Era between 1865-1877. During this period the state had a black



lieutenant governor Pinckney Pinchback. He became the first black governor following the impeachment of Gov. Henry Clay Warmoth.

Some historians say that because of massive political corruption during Warmoth's administration tension were high in part of the presence of carpetbaggers and scalawags. In Colfax where the population over whemingly outnumbered the whites, tensions were high and hate groups moved to terrorize the blacks. On April 13, 1873 between 150 -400 blacks were brutally killed at the courthouse grounds and the surrounding area. Three whites were also killed, there names memorialized in the town cemetery. A sign reads that the three fought for white supremacy.

This event was simple done out of

hate says Diana Kimble. In the immediate aftermath the Colfax Riot was no secret that sent shock waves through the nation and forced the federal government to expand its hated military and administrative presence in the South.

Two governors, two legislators, and two seats of state officials claimed power in Louisiana in 1873. The Carpetbaggers vs a state, which only wanted self-rule (Old Southern Good Boy Rule). This dual governorship sparked a number of violence situations.

When both governments appointed officials in Grant Parish blacks loyal to the Cartbaggers government took over the courthouse they believed was rightfully theirs. An irregular army of about 150 well-armed whites massed outside. After a weeklong standoff the whites torched the courthouse, then gunned down the blacks trying to escape the burning building.

For more info contact Odinga Kambui : odinga@juno.com  
Also by phone at 214-9828

Coming April 10,2004  
Community Awareness Day  
Celebration  
3:30-&pm Remembering the  
Colfax Massacre



## Women in the Struggle

On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> the It's About Time Committee and K.I.N.K.S International hosted a forum entitled "Women In the Struggle". Sister Sheba, a former Panther and It's About Time volunteer, moderated the panel, which included Kilolo of the All African People's Revolutionary Party, Staaaju and Sananna Chocheski of Straight Out Scribes. In addition to their work as community educator's thorough poetry and visual art, both mother and daughter are ardent advocates of Mumia Abu Jamal.

The panel discussion began with short presentations by each sister. Kilolo began with a story illustrating the horrific plight of women living in Africa today. She explained that high rates of infant's mortality, warfare and epidemic diseases are the result of economic system controlled by foreigners and corrupt governments instead of people themselves. The All African People's Revolutionary Party has long been committed to political education and continues to sponsor study groups throughout the world.

Staaaju related the history of Mumia's encounters with the US police state in general and the racist politics of Philadelphia in particular. This includes Mumia's history as a nonviolent protester attacked by Philly cops as a youth of fifteen, his membership in the BPP, his rise to fame as a radio/print journalist covering the MOVE Family in Philly. She also

spoke on his arrest for the alleged killing of Philly cop engaged in an act of brutality against his brother, the slander and libel on the part of the mainstream press to promote a racist agenda. Staaaju also announced plans for a March and Rally to be held in San Francisco on April 24, on Mumia's birthday.

Sananna's presentation was both interesting and inspiring. Raised by Staaaju, this sister has been an activist her entire life. She has personally worked on a number of political prisoners cases, visited prisoners and participated in demonstrations and organized support for progressive causes. Her poetry, as does her mothers reflects a mature and devoted commitment to Principles of justice, culture and political awareness and environmentalism.

Following the panel discussion, comments and question and answer period followed. Our host, Akilah Sutton, proprietor of K.I.N.K.S. International, noted the importance of community in building and maintaining the kind of business environment that is capable of responding to and influencing the development of positive activity, such as art, political awareness and culture pride. K.I.N.K.S. International, located at 15<sup>th</sup> and G Street in Sacramento, specializes in natural hairstyles for people of African descent and host a culturally and politically relevant art gallery and performance space.



## Photo Exhibit In Eugene and Portland Oregon

Two days after I got back to Sacramento from New York, Black Panther International Film festival I was off again. Eugene Oregon was the site of Breaking the Chain Conference (August 8-10) and some of the organizers (Anarchist Black Cross Network) had saw the exhibit at the Critical Resistion Conference in New Orleans back in April and helped get me get to Eugene.

Chuck Armsbury and Nora Callahan of the November Coalition and I had talked about working together on a number of issues and when I told them about going to the conference, we decided to travel to Portland and Seattle together and talk to people about our projects, we both were headed to the Hemp Festival in Seattle.

The November Coalition is an organization that educates people about the so-called Drug War and it's victims. They stand against the prison-industrial complex. Nora an outstanding speaker and winner of the 1998 Thomas Paine Award for grassroots organizing. Chuck was a graduate student at the University of Oregon at Eugene back in the day. He taught sociology and joined the Struggle in the 1960's. Chuck became the captain of the Young Patriot Organization, an all white revolutionary group that was former in Chicago and became a member of the original Rainbow coalition. In Eugene he started and helped work on the breakfast program. He worked very close to the Eugene and Portland offices of the BPP. Chuck was framed and was sent to 10 years in prison, but the power of the people got him out a few years later.

I was looking forward to the conference, because Safiya Burhari and Ward Churchill was the keynote speakers, I had called Safiya a number of times while in N.Y. no answer, saw Ward at the Film Festival we talked for awhile. Friday night was the first night and I got there early and got a good location for the exhibit. Ward spoke about COINTELPRO and I found out Safiya was sick and wasn't coming. Most of the people I spoke to over the weekend were young whites from 17-24 from all over, but a lot from Oregon, I must of answered 1,000 questions when they saw the exhibit. Most of them it was the first time speaking to a Panther and some knew none thing about the Party. The one thing I would hear is my Mother or Father told me about you guys, most were born in the 1980's. We need to re educate them. I think I was about the only Afro/American (male) there. It was a good experience talking to those young anarchist, they need a lot of education for the long haul. We stayed all day Saturday and left Sunday headed to Portland.

The November Coalition has a motor home and we used it to travel for our

tour, it sleeps 4 people well so there was plenty of room. On the way to Portland Chuck and Nora whom are from Washington, took me a long the coastline, a lot lighthouses, many great beaches That motor home was very handle. Portland

After a day of R&R along the coast we, reached Portland in a couple of hours. We parked our motor home in the yard of Dancing Trout, a friend of Chuck whom works at the local public service radio station in Portland; they did do some free announments for us for our event. Brother Leroy Haynes former Party member out of Dallas Chapter helped me put



this together; He now is the pastor of the Allen Temple church in Portland of 1,000. We had been in contact with each other, and when I told him I was passing through, he set up the photo exhibit for me. Portland is a beautiful city; I really like it a lot. LeRoy had hooked us up with the Interstate Culture Center a former Fire Station now a three-floor community Center, very nice. He had taken out an ad in the local newspaper announcing the photo exhibit and myself, a first class job. Each day was well attended, on the final day the Panthers from Portland all came out including Jeff Ford former captain of Portland and his former wife Sandra whom ran the Fred Hampton Free clinic in Portland, which is still open after 34 years, the city runs it now, (boy what a legacy we have) Their Son Lumumba Ford is the young person the government is trying to hang an case of aiding the enemy on, John Ashcoft often talks about Lumumba's case, the family is almost helpless, because the power of the government.

I met Brother O.B. Hill whom has a bookstore and when I told him about Black Panther History Month in October, he was down for it and held events in Portland, this pass October around the Party's history. During the day I did in-

terviews with Sandra Ford as well as Jeff and Leroy. Another important thing happen in Portland a journalist I have been talking to over the pass year from the Portland Tribune invited me the newspaper. He is the person whom has been writing articles about the Found " Intelligence Reports from the Bureau of Police, Portland. Someone uncovered a file of Police records, covering the FBI and Portland Police spying on groups and people.

I was able to look at files and get copies of how the Pigs spied and planted disinformation about the Party in Oregon and Seattle. Jeff Ford name is on almost every report as well as Aaron Dixon and

well, a ton of stuff even a letter Sandra Ford had wrote to Chuck in prison, and they had a copy in every file. What is great about this information is that it's not Blacked Out, you can see whom they sent copies too and who wrote it and what time. A great find. After I got back to Dancing Trout's pad I shown Chuck this file and he almost fell out, we spent the night going over the papers. Thanks again to Brother Haynes good job, see you in 2004. On to Hemp Fest.

### Seattle

After six days on the road we got to Seattle at about 2 p.m. parked the motor home at Atty Dan Merkle apt downtown, overlooking Pikes Pier. It's Hemp Fest time in Seattle, over 150,000 will come out for this event, I have heard about it, since I and a crew of Panthers attend Reggae on the River every year in Humboldt County. Chuck and Nora are big people whom know the people whom ran this event, in fact they arranged for Aaron Dixon to speak on the program on the main stage.

Dan had left us the key to this 18th floor pad, and we relaxed until he came an hour later, he was arranging for the big kick off party to the Festival on top of penthouse.

A great party I didn't know anyone, Chuck and Nora introduced me to everyone and it was on then, many of the sponsors of the Festival was there including some ex-cops for Hemp, when Aaron Dixon came we kicked it for a few hours, they had everything Hemp food, candy, drinks, very good party.

I stayed at Aaron's; he has two very beautiful daughters (teenagers). Aaron was captain of the Seattle Chapter along with his brother Elmer, the first office of the BPP outside of Calif. in 1968.

Elmer Dixon Panthers from Seattle. I even got a copy of an FBI booklet put out by Hoover himself on the BPP 40pages of BS. This was printed March 1971, every agent must read. Its About Time Archives are fat with all that info that was donated to us from the newspaper. The files had a lot about Chuck Armsburys as



**Elbert "Big Man" Howard**  
One of the original members of the Black Panther Party 1966-1974, Deputy Minister of Information, first editor of the BPP newspaper, member of the BPP Central Committee, Party spokesman.

**NEW BOOK: \$ 12.00**

**For orders e-mail:**  
**bigman0138@aol.com**

## THE USA PATRIOT ACT

### Government Action that Threaten Our Civil Liberties

#### New legislation takes away our so-called freedoms

With great haste and secrecy and in the name of the "war on terrorism," the federal government passed legislation with sweeping new powers that undermine the Bill of Rights without demonstrating that these powers are necessary to keep us safe. The 342-page law, titled the USA Patriot Act, was passed on October 26, 2001 by the US Congress with little debate and signed by the president. Many of its provisions had been written before 9/11/01 and had been declared unconstitutional in the past.

#### What rights are being threatened?

- First Amendment-Freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and press
- Fourth Amendment- Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures without probable cause.
- Fifth Amendment-No person to be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.
- Sixth Amendment-Right to a speedy public trial by an impartial jury, right to be informed of the facts of the accusation, right to confront witnesses and have the assistance of counsel.
- Eighth Amendment-No excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment shall be imposed.
- Fourteenth Amendment-All persons (citizens and non-citizens) within the US are entitled to due process and the equal protection of the laws.

#### The USA Patriot Act

- Creates a new crime of "domestic terrorism" that labels lawful advocacy groups as "terrorist" bodies and subjects o surveillance, wiretapping, harassment, and criminal action for legal political advocacy.
- Allows FBI spying on religious and political organizations and individuals without having evidence of wrongdoing.
- Expands the ability of law enforcement to conduct secret searches, gives them wide powers of phone and internet surveillance, and access to highly personal medical, financial, mental health, and student records with minimal judicial oversight.
- Allows investigation of American citizens for criminal matters without probable cause if investigators say it is for "intelligence purposes."
- Permits non-citizens to be jailed based on mere suspicion and to not be allowed readmission to the US

#### Panther FYI

**B**rother Charles Barron city councilperson for the city of Brooklyn in New York is a former Party member from Brooklyn.

Robert "King" Wilkerson of the Angola 3 is still making and selling Freelines under the name "Kings Candy. It is very good and part of the money goes to Defend fund of the A3 for more info:www.kingsfreelines.com

Panthers in NY and California are starting to organize for the 39th year and 40th years reunions contact [www.itsabouttime3@juno.com](mailto:www.itsabouttime3@juno.com) for more info.

Big Black (He's one of the survivors of the Attic prison massacre of 1971 in New York, and he was a key plaintiff in a successful class action against the State of New York) has had a stroke. He is not doing well.

#### Send cards and greetings to:

Frank Smith 2609 Brookhaven Drive Kinston NC 28504 send checks and donations addressed to Ellen Pearl Smith for more info call 212- 226-4106

for engaging in free speech. Suspects may be detained indefinitely without charges or court review even if they he been convicted of a crime.

#### New Federal Executive Orders

- 8,000 Middle Eastern and South Asian immigrants have been interrogated because of their religion or ethnic background, not because of actual wrong-doing
- Thousands of men, mostly of Arab and South Asian origin, have been held in federal custody for weeks and months, sometimes without any charges filed against them. The government has refused to publish their names and whereabouts, even when ordered to do so by the courts.
- The press and the public have been barred from immigration court hearings of those detained after September 11<sup>th</sup> and the courts are ordered to keep secret that the hearings are taking place.
- The government is allowed to monitor communications between federal detainees and their lawyers, negating the right of attorney-client privilege.
- President Bush has ordered military commissions to be set up to try suspected terrorists who are not citizens. Hearsay and secret evidence are admissible; conviction requires only a two-thirds vote.
- US citizens suspected of terrorism are being held indefinitely in military custody without being charged and without access to lawyers.

#### What Can Be Done?

This lack of due process and accountability violates the rights extended to all persons, citizens and non-citizens, by the Bill of Rights. It resurrects the illegal COINTELPRO-type programs of the '50's, '60's, and '70's where the FBI sought to disrupt and discredit thousands of individuals and groups engaged in legitimate political activity.

The American Civil Liberties Union, along with the Bill of Rights Defense Committee and hundreds of local organizations, is campaigning to repeal the Patriot Act and working to pass town, city, county and state anti-Patriot Act resolutions and legislation.

Find out more about the Patriot Act by visiting the following websites:

[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org) [www.bordc.org](http://www.bordc.org) or write the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) 125 Broad St., 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004

## WHEN THE TROOPS COME HOME

By Richard Geffken

**H**istory tends to repeat itself, and few ever heed its lessons. After establishing an Empire for Bush's corporations, the Army of the United States will return to stamp out all the minor parties of the right and left as terrorists groups. The purge may possibly include the Greens as gay and lesbian perverts. The Libertarians should fare okay because their goals serve corporate interests. After three successful Prussian wars, Bismarck stamped out Germany's minor parties most effectively in the 1870's. There are many more similar events throughout history, dating from Roman times to Hitler and Stalin.

Sixty-one percent of Americans don't vote, which means the majority of Americans already suffer taxation, legislation, and judicial interpretation without representation. They obviously don't care about tyranny so long as they have jobs and entertainment.

Bowing to the will of the small group enforcing the Republican-Democrat One Party Rule (Reprats for short) has become engrained in the American mind. To this well indoctrinated mind, third parties are already un-American. These people will obey oppressive laws and still say they live in Freedom, even waving a flag. When that sounds ridiculous even to them, they agree to needing to be protected from local crime, international terrorists, or weapons of mass destruction in the hands of primitive third world populations who don't know how to use them. Basically, it is easier to not challenge a government so long as any excuse is found for supporting it instead. This too is not new.

The people now pay for a repressive military establishment that includes private armies established for federal mega-agencies; and, as if the government did not have enough police and military units, hiring armies from corporations like Whackenhut, Pinkerton or Dyncorp.

In short, American's have already surrendered Democracy in preference for a fascist dictatorship, or, what is really coming next, rule by an oligarchy of aristocrats from a few hundred families. These have been permitted to rule without restraint for a century now anyway. Failure to prosecute, try and execute the Bush brothers and Kathleen Harris for criminally rigging a national election was the death knell for democracy worldwide. Now they can, already have, and will continue to wipe their asses in your face.

For those not caring for the taste, it is time to challenge their immoral demonic, sadistic rule. Remember, two World Wars were fought for Democracy. Perhaps, somebody still cares.



Left to right  
Leroy Jones, Ernie, Jason, Brian,  
and Ed Edwards, former members  
of New Orleans office.



## Fallen Comrades

Fallen Comrade:

### Alli Awusi

He grew up in Oakland, joined the Party at the beginning and was a Panther in good stand. Alli died a few months ago in Austin TX. He was a schoolteacher and historian. He used to take photos and wrote many poems about the struggle, published author. He used to call me and ask about what's happening in Northern California. I would supply him with information, video's, newspapers, although very sick at the end, he still carried on the legacy work of the BPP. Long Live his Spirit  
Billy X



### Safiya Burhan



## Following Bro. Nat Turner

By Muz' Guthania

Every time I see a club applied to  
The bare skull of a Black person  
I think of following Nat  
Every time I see a dog sicked on  
A defenseless person I think of following Nat,  
Every time I look and see people  
Starving I think of following Nat,  
Every time I look in the eyes of the elders  
And see centuries on top of centuries of  
Suppressed pain and hate I think of following Nat.  
When I sit back and see the oppressors laugh  
At the state of my people I think of following Nat.  
Every time I think about lives and the unseen scars  
I think of Nat.

## CALLING SISTER LOVE

**W**ere you member of the Black Panther Party or a BPP community worker back in the day? If so, you may be interested in or in need of help with post-traumatic stress disorder. Post-traumatic stress disorder is characterized by depression, sleep disorder, anxiety, substance abuse, etc.

In the spirit of the retreats begun by the late Safiya Buhkari and Kathleen Cleaver, the It's About Time Committee would like to host a similar series on the west coast. Many women have not shared their traumatic experiences while in the Black Panther Party, with good reason in some cases. Stigma, the super-woman syndrome, fear of 'airing dirty laundry' and the need for trustworthy and understanding therapists have delayed the healing process for too many sisters.

We are recruiting former Panther women who are also qualified therapists to facilitate these retreats. If you are interested in attending and/or planning this series, contact Sister Sheba c/o of the It's About Time Committee.

## Indianapolis Chapter

The Indianapolis chapter has implemented a program involved working with parents and children's to develop a strong family foundation, through educating both parents and children. Our campaign Educational system Community Alter Training is channeling a practice of present educational system here, which's seeking parents and court consent to prescribe Ritatil, a drug. The Chapter has also been working with N'Cobra for reparations for six years. On August 9, 2003 the Vanguard held a Unity in the Community Bar B Que at Washington Park. Free meals were served to the community also there was speakers, music and poetry. This was a big success and we plan on doing it again in 2004. We also are planning on holding a Black Panther Photo exhibit and free grocery give away. We will also participate in Black Panther History Month in October.

Contact Sister Nahylan Obdeljabbar  
p.o. box 532635

Indianapolis, Indiana 46253

## RITUAL from Page 1

the time not knowing what the United States Supreme Court was going to do.

About a half hour later, my pastor arrived and she was placed in a cell next to mine. It was to my right hand side, but on an angle, and it was hard to see her through the cell bars, but a managed. I was asked once again did I want a last meal. I said no. I was asked did I want water. I said no. The warden came in and asked me did I have a final statement. I said no. My

arms were once again checked so they could make sure that they could find my veins, and officers were passing by with armfuls of alcohol pads, swabs and other assorted items for my murder - and their execution!

My pastor did a great job in keeping me focused, and somewhere in the middle of one of her scriptures, the phone rang. It was my attorney calling to let me know she was with me in spirit, and as soon as she heard something from the U.S. Su-

preme Court, she would call and let me know.

I entered the death chamber waiting room around 6:35 pm and around 8:15 pm the phone rang again, and it was once again my attorney. She told me that she heard from the court and that they refused to hear the state's petition. They denied the state - and upheld my stay! Even before I told my pastor the news, I told those officers that I meant them no disrespect in what I was about to say to them, but

they weren't going to do their job tonight! I then told my pastor and she and I prayed! I came within three hours and 45 minutes of being murdered by the state of California.

I am now recovering from the manmade ritual of death that I had to experience. I will never be the same again! I am only getting stronger and more determined to do my part in shutting down the U.S. government's pride and joy, their capital punishment system!

## African Burial Ground - New York



In May 1991, the first human remains from an 18<sup>th</sup> century African Burial Ground were unearthed in Lower Manhattan when the U.S.

General Service Administration was preparing to build a federal office tower at Broadway and Duane Streets. Since that time, the remains of some 400 enslaved Africans have been recovered, a small fraction of the over 20,000 enslaved Africans estimated to be buried at the African Burial Grounds from its opening in the late 1600's to its closing in 1795.

From 1492 to 1776 more than 6.5 million people traveled across the Atlantic to the so-called New World. Of that number only one million were of European descent. The remaining 5.5 million were enslaved Africans. Enslaved Africans worked on shorelines for shipping, drained swamps, and built New York's first roads, forts, and public buildings. They removed trees for farms and grew colonial New York's food, worked on the wharves and were themselves one

of the first commodities traders on Wall Street. Americans in general and New Yorkers in particular are forever in their debt.

The Rites of Ancestral Return will afford all of the people the opportunity to say thanks to our pioneering African ancestries and bid them to finally rest in peace.

The commemorative ceremony was organized by the Schaumburg Center and other organizations and took place from September 30- October 4. The event started in Washington DC and went through 5 states and ended with an arrival ceremony, vigil, tribute and refinement ceremony at the African Burial Ground in New York on October 4.

The New York Panthers and Panther Collative were they're representing the Party as well as oppressed world of the community. That served as pallied buriers and walked in the Procession to the African Burial Ground Memorial Site. Panthers on the JOB



**Sonia Sanchez**



## THERAPY PRACTICE WILL HELP PANTHERS WITH PTSD

By Mel Mason, LCSW

In the spirit of the Black Panther Party and as a former Party member, this writer will soon be opening a private therapy practice in which services will be offered to Comrades suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

I was a member of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, joining in early 1968 after being recruited by a Comrade named Kenny Hortsley. Since those exhilarating and turbulent times, I became a mental health specialist with a Master's Degree in Social Work from San Jose State University and a Clinical Social Worker/therapist's license (LCSW) through the State of California's Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS). I currently work as a Counselor/Therapist and Professor at California State University-Monterey Bay near my hometown of Seaside, California. I will be retiring from the university in June of 2006, but plan to open my private practice in the Fall of this year.

As noted at the Party's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gathering in Washington, D.C., it has become known that many Comrades, for years, have been suffering with PTSD as a result of COINTELPRO, police shoot outs and the mass round ups and imprisonment of Comrades. PTSD is often associated with war, hence the old term "combat fatigue". The fact is the ruling class of this country – through its government – was at war with the Black Panther Party and many of our Comrades who survived are suffering as a result.

Just as the Party provided so many free services to our people, I am going to provide low-cost to free therapy – individual and group – for Comrades in need. This is the least that Comrades who might be in this profession can do to help ease the suffering of fellow Comrades who put their lives on the line for our people. Interested Comrades should feel free to contact me at (831) 582-4437 or by e-mail at [MMason3747@aol.com](mailto:MMason3747@aol.com).

Update On Romaine  
"Chip" Fitzgerald,  
The Longest Held Panther  
Romaine

"Chip" Fitzgerald was framed up for murder in 1969 and sent to San Quentin's Death Row. His trial and conviction came one year after the frame up of Geronimo Pratt. Geronimo and Chip were in the Los Angeles chapter of the Black Panther Party, which at that time was under siege by the Los Angeles Police Department. Geronimo was subsequently released after serving 27 years for a murder he did not commit, but Chip, whose life was saved by the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that declared the death penalty unconstitutional, remains in prison after 35 years, making him the longest held of the

scores of Panthers still locked down in prisons throughout this country.

Parole hearings have currently been put on hold as the new Governor reshuffles the membership of the Board of Prison Terms, which, under Democratic governor Gray Davis, was made up almost totally of retired cops. Needless to say, Chip and other Blacks serving life were routinely denied parole, an act that violates even their own rule of law.

As many who followed Chip over the years know, Chip suffered a massive stroke some years ago in New Folsom State Prison and nearly died. He was shortly afterward transferred to Salinas Valley State Prison near Soledad, California in 1999 where he remains to this day. Having been denied proper medical care for the stroke and a degenerative spinal condition, many supporters began writing letters to the Warden, A.A. Lamarque, and the State Corrections Department demanding that Chip be transferred to California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo. After a year, Chip was transferred to CMC-SLO where he received surgery and stroke care. Unfortunately, after less than a year, he was sent back to SVSP where his recovery has been jeopardized by that prison's poor medical care facility. I frequently visit Chip. He is strong in spirit, politically on point and ready to be free.

While it is necessary that people join our letter writing campaign to the Board of Prison Terms to effect Chip's parole at his next parole hearing when it is finally scheduled later this year, it is more important in the short run to write to request that the Department of Corrections follow through on its approval of nearly one year ago to transfer Chip to Lancaster State Prison which would put him close to his 87 year old ailing mother and his sister, both of whom live in Chip's hometown of Compton. Chip's older brother passed away nearly two months ago after a long illness.

Letters in support of Chip's transfer to Lancaster should be sent to Ms. Suzan Hubbard, Deputy Director of Institutions, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento CA 94283-0001. Letters in support of Chip being paroled later this year should be sent to State Of California, Board of Prison Terms, 1515 K Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento CA 95814. Letters to Chip should be sent to Romaine Fitzgerald B27527, Salinas Valley State Prison – B4-103, P.O. Box 1040, Soledad CA 93960-1040. Those wishing to do ongoing work around Chip's case should get in touch with me by writing me at Mel Mason, P.O. Box 752, Seaside CA 93955-0752 or by e-mailing me at [MMason3747@aol.com](mailto:MMason3747@aol.com).



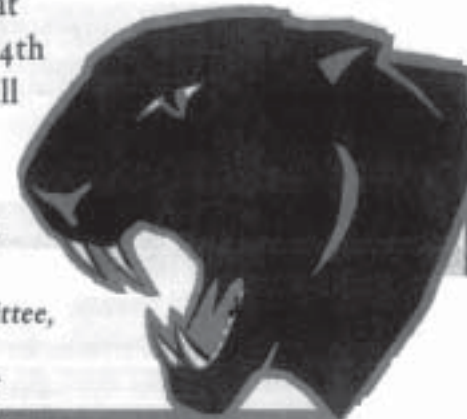
## Lil' Bobby Hutton Essay and Poetry Contest

Essays of 500-1,000 words and Poetry which address the history of Lil' Bobby Hutton, who he was and what is the significance of his life for young people today can be submitted to the  
**West Oakland Library  
Bobby Hutton Essay Contest  
801 Adeline, Oakland, CA 94607**

Submissions may be made between Jan. 1st and March 31st  
Winners will be notified by April 10th and will be expected to read their winning entries at Bobby Hutton Day on April 24th at the library. A \$100 prize will be given to each winner.

[www.itsabouttimebpp.com](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com)

sponsors: It's About Time Committee,  
West Oakland Public Library,  
the Francisco Bay View newspaper



### Statement by Elbert "Big Man" Howard

Lil' Bobby Hutton Memorial Oakland:

To the family, friends and fellow comrades, I regret I couldn't attend the service last year for the placing of the Headstone on the resting place of Lil Bobby. Lil Bobby will forever be on my mind and in my heart. He was a great young man and warrior and one of the first of our army to fall. War always seems to take the youngest, the brightness of our people.

Lil Bobby was taken away from us too soon, but he left a legacy that will not and can't forget. His love and dedication to his people, our people, is the stuff that legends are made of.

Those of us who knew him must never let him be forgotten. We must teach our children and our children, children about him. They must get to know of his willingness to pick up arms and to lay down life in order for our people to have a better life.

It was a great honor and privilege for me to have known him. I will never forget his smile or him.

All Power to the people.