

Berkeley Library Photo Exhibit 2/26/2005

Serving the people: Body and Soul Black Panther Party Photo exhibit

Opened January 25, and will run until March 19th, from the very first day setting up the exhibit it got a lot of attention, the very next day school classroom started arranging dates for tours. Pat Mullin head librarian of Art and Music department has been a great help from the very start.

She is very professional, and it has been a pleasure working with someone whom has an answer for every problem.

Pat arranged media coverage, made flyers, got me additional display space, every major newspaper on this side of the Bay covered the photo exhibit.

Saturday, February 26, was the date set for an exhibit reception, set for 2:00 pm, people started coming at 1:00 and by 1; 50 the room seating 250 was full with many people standing with the overflow of people outside

Wanting to get in. Pat started the event with a rundown on services at the library and upcoming events, she introduced me and told them my story, on how I became a Panther at 17 in Oakland back in 1968. I told them what it took to become a Panther, talked to them about the 10-point program and how I came about collecting Party photo's. I planned on showing three short video but only got to show two, I showed "Comrade Sisters", a video about Sister's in the Party and Survival Pending Revolution a video done by a Berkeley High 10 grade class. On hand to speak about their experiences in the Party was Sister Sheba whom joined the Party out of Castlemont High BSU and worked at the West Berkeley Office and at the George Jackson Medical clinic; she talked about being women in the Party and getting the work done.

Ducho was the next speaker, some of his photo's hang on the wall, he was the Party Photographer, many of the great photo's on our website he took; he also took photo's from 1969-1973. Next was Saul Levinson former NCCF member from the Berkeley office, he told about working with the Party on the Huey P. Newton Defend Committee, and helping to put the Community Control of Police measure on the ballot back in 1971 and all the work surrounding it, his son David also spoke about this experience with the Party, he played in the Lumpen Band, and traveled to China with the Panther delegation.

James Buford, San Francisco Panther spoke of the early days of the Party and why he joined, Ronnie Hapigan spoke and Richard Aoki talked about Huey and the party, how he got involved and how it changed his life. We had a Q and A section and closed because we ran out of time, a good showing of people wide range of ages, a good turn out and thanks again to Pat and her staff at the library.

Billy X Jennings