

# OLD MOLE

25¢ NUMBER 44 A RADICAL BI-WEEKLY BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS JULY 24 - AUGUST 6



**WOMEN AS OUTLAWS**

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*Blacks attending the funeral of Lester Lime, 17 year-old killed in the New Bedford riot, run to check out one of the 2 explosions which interrupted the services.*

**Riot in New Bedford**

**Now Haven Railroad Lonnie's trial begins**

**women's movement 1 year after**

**green beret in vietnam**

**cuba celebration**

# AND IN NEW HAVEN ...

# McLucas Trial Begins

The New Haven Railroad — otherwise known as the first of the New Haven 9 trials — got underway last week: Lonnie McLucas, Black Panther Party member on trial before a white middle aged jury, judge and prosecutor.

As Tom Hayden has said, "the facts are as irrelevant in this case as facts are irrelevant about Vietnam and whether the Vietcong commit terror. If people are worried about these things, we should say one thing: the US should withdraw its troops from Vietnam and from the ghettos and let the people of Vietnam and in the ghettos of this puny decide for themselves." The proceedings inside the courtroom are important only because they let you do two things: counter the lies printed about the Panthers in the establishment press, and educate people about the judicial system in this country

State's Attorney Arnold Markle began the prosecution with testimony that ranged from fishy to grossly irrelevant. He spent the first day proving the obvious: a dead body had been found in a swamp on May 21, 1969. Markle showed the jury dozens of 8 X 10 glossy photos of Rackley's dead body, taken by different people, in black and white, color, slides, from the back and front, clothed and naked, and so on. After about the first dozen, defense attorney Theodore Kosoff objected at the deluge of pictures was highly inflammatory, especially since they had not been connected to Lonnie in any way. Judge Mulvey turned him down. The whole thing was particularly unfair because Lonnie is not on trial at this time for murder — that will come later if the state can't get him on this one — but only for kidnapping, snuffing in death, conspiracy to kidnap and murder, and binding. There were several fishy things about the evidence the state presented. Markle proudly held up and passed around the jury each article of clothing that Rackley was supposed to be wearing

when he was killed. One item was a Safari jacket that was supposedly found under Rackley's head, partially under water. Markle read a note which he said was taken from the pocket of the jacket. It was in two handwritings, and was said to be from Ericka Huggins to Bobby Seale. The state plans to use it to implicate both of those people in the murder. Strangely enough, the ink on the note had not run at all, and the jacket, unlike the rest of the clothes, was completely clean and smelled of an unidentified chemical. It also had absolutely no blood on it, despite the fact that the back of Rackley's head was supposedly blown off with a .45 bullet.

The whole thing looked even more suspicious when the medical examiner took the stand. He said the original report stating that there were two bullet holes in the jacket was "incorrect," which upon examination, it was. The defense also brought out that the shirt Rackley was supposed to be wearing had two bullet holes in it around the heart, but had no blood on it. Apparently, either Alex Rackley had no blood or else the State blew its story in the first week.

Perhaps in order to beef up its presentation, the State brought out Loretta Luckes, the first of 3 former defendants in this case who have turned State's evidence in an effort to save



photos/Virginia Blaisdell

their own skins. Upon cross-examination Luckes revealed the deal she had gotten: 18 months to seven years for conspiracy to kidnap, which has a possible 15 year sentence. She also said that she "hopes the quality of her testimony for the state will get the other charges against her dropped." In other words, if she says the right things, she can be out of jail as soon as the New Haven 9 trials are over.

Even so, her testimony made state's witness George Sams look a lot worse than defendant Lonnie McLucas. The only damaging thing to the New Haven 9 the state could get her to say was that she had seen water being boiled and taken downstairs at Panther headquarters, and had seen Rackley tied to a bed, with people dressing his wounds. Luckes never said anything about a kidnapping, a torture, or a murder.

Luckes showed how hard it is for the state to get its witnesses to say the right thing. At several points Markle had to "refresh her memory" by showing her a statement she had allegedly made when she was arrested. But even this didn't always help: at one point Luckes said: "I don't even understand what I said here myself." After lunch, she

answered Markle's questions more to his satisfaction. On cross-examination she revealed that she had gone over her testimony with him during lunch, one of "six to ten" such conversations they had.

Luckes' cross-examination was quite revealing: she said that she had never seen Lonnie with a gun, and that at all times it was George Sams who was in control and giving orders. Since he always carried a .45 pistol, she and the others were constantly afraid for their lives. She also said that Sams was constantly brutalizing the Party members he woke her up once and told her that if she fell asleep again he would slit her throat. He forced her to do 200 kneebends for not being able to say the 10 point program perfectly. Finally he pointed a gun at her head for reading the program wrong, asked her if she wanted to die, and expelled her from the Party.

Sams will be the key state witness against Lonnie in the near future.

Markle then called to the stand Frances Carter, Secretary of the local Panther chapter and one of the New

(cont. on page 18)

*Judge Mulvey, in charge of Lonnie's trial, was interviewed in 1966 for a study of New Haven. Here are a few choice comments:*

On the New Haven school situation: "I think we have a pretty good set of teachers. The only problem that is sticking out now is what to do with these Negroes."

On his children going to school with black kids: "I don't object as long as they behave themselves...Where there are little hoodlums rather than kids, I'd object."

On black leadership: "There is no real leadership among Negroes. They are all vying for a piece of the cake."



The medical condition of Margaret Carter Hudgins, one of the New Haven 9, continues to decline. According to her sister Frances Carter, also one of the New Haven 9, it is feared that Margaret has suffered permanent damage from her 14 months in Niantic State Prison.

"We're afraid Margaret has developed an arthritic condition. Her fingers and nails are curling up completely. It's affected her handwriting. She's also quite weak. A few times she has fallen out of bed and has been too weak to call for help.

"The prison hasn't helped her at all. They used to give her one aspirin a day, and when she complained, they gave her nine, but they don't do any good. She was taking a medicine for a while that helped the pain, but they took her off it because they said it was addictive. The condition started in April, 11 months after she was put in jail. It turns out that if Margaret has suffered terminal or permanent damage, it's grounds for getting her out of prison. The state's really afraid of that, so they've denied her expert medical help. She tells them she's in pain and they give her aspirin."

Margaret's family and alwyers are in the process of trying to get their own doctor to see her, but the state is giving them trouble.

# New Bedford Anti-poverty Swindle

(cont. from page 1)

there use quotes from Bobby Seale to illustrate what they have to say about New Bedford, it's an indication of the legitimacy the Panther's militant and outspoken position has given to the Black sense of oppression.

Four years of federal anti-poverty programs have done their part, too. New Bedford has had more than its share - more than \$100 million in federal funds in the last eight years, one of the highest per capita federal outlays in the country. It appears to have purchased little more than a disproportionate share of disaffection.

In the first place the federal programs promoted the belief, by word and deed, that the problems were real. The director of On Board, the official channel for all anti-poverty funds in the city, helped to organize the Poor Farm march in 1968, which dramatized the city's need for housing, and made current the figures still quoted today: 3,200 units of low income housing, and 5,000 middle income units. This is equivalent to new housing for 16% of the city's population.

Federal programs have organized tenants unions in public housing, and have begun to create day care centers. They have talked incessantly of the need for jobs.

All this would have had no radicalizing effect had it made a dent in the problems it so freely admitted. Instead, the programs only used up the last reserve of trust in the Black community. Boston's Channel 2 sent its Black crew to New Bedford last week to interview people in the street about conditions. Almost everyone interviewed had been in one federal training program or another: All of them had great difficulty finding work afterwards, few now had jobs.

A woman went to school to learn hair-dressing, only to find she could only work in Black shops, and that none needed full time help. Another went first into the youth corps, where she was paid \$35 a week to carry trays while others, older, not in the program, were paid \$60. She quit and went for 16 weeks of training, only to find that no one was hiring Blacks. A man joined the service, learned about jet engines, and found when he got out he couldn't get a job unloading freight cars.

The explicit anti-poverty programs, which account for about \$15 million of the \$100 million, don't even pretend to create jobs or housing, which are the real needs, so they only raise false hopes. The urban renewal programs, which account for most of the rest (\$37 million for north terminal and south terminal areas and many more million to construct Interstate highway 195) create some employment and a little housing. But the housing is too expensive for the people in the West End, and the money that doesn't go to designers, construction company coffers, and kickbacks doesn't even create enough employment for the white construction unions.

Ironically, the poverty programs have begun to train spokesmen for the discontent they have crystallized. One of the earliest programs, the Job Corps, avoided this by getting its trainees out of the city. It contracted IBM to set up a camp to which unemployed youth could be sent to live, where they would work at whatever jobs IBM or the state found for them. The new programs, which hire people from the community for some of the lower positions, keep potential spokesmen in the city and in daily touch with the community. On Board staff, for example, were active in the campaign to rename a public school in the West End after a black Civil War hero. In addition, anti-



(photo/Steve Halpern)

poverty bureaucracies provide conditions of work - white directors with final authority over black personnel with only small working latitude - which set the stage for on-the-job politics. Blacks have occupied the offices of both the two major anti-poverty organizations, On Board and Model Cities, in the last four months, demanding greater control.

Such political practice, the presence of massive programs which legitimate the problems they don't solve, and a national Black militant presence have brought the Black community a long way from the simple rage of Newark.

Not all the changes came about slowly. New Bedford's 'Black' community has always had two distinct parts, the Blacks, who lived mainly in the West End, and the Cape Verdans, who lived in the south. They were in some ways less together than many Black communities - until the shooting

In whaling days - New Bedford was the whaling capital - Portuguese and Yankee whites picked up light skinned Blacks from Portugal's Cape Verde islands to be harpooners, and West Indian Blacks to be galley boys. The caste distinction rooted in different jobs and different skin tone got embedded in geographical separation (West End vs. South End), and Cape Verdans have always

been allowed in higher, but still low level, positions of power in the city. Many Cape Verdans were light enough to 'pass' over to white, and the community came close to thinking of itself as white.

At least one New Bedford white thinks the change first became noticeable, particularly among the young, at the time of Martin Luther King's assassination. Lousy over-all economic conditions - the decline of northern textiles has left Eastern Massachusetts in the same economic category as Appalachia - have since been dramatically worsened by the current recession. The 'last hired and first fired' rule that applies to all non-whites has cut deep into the Cape Verdans Community. The city now claims the over-all unemployment rate in the city to be 16%, and admits 30% unemployment in the Black community.

Poverty and urban renewal destruction of South End housing have begun to force Cape Verdans toward the West End. All these things meant it was no accident that Lester Lima, a Cape Verdans, was sitting with other Cape Verdans and Blacks outside the Black Brothers office in the West End, when white men opened the door of a '57 Chevy and fired a 12 gauge shotgun into them. That shot did a lot to make the Cape Verdans community think Black.

## Joan Bird is FREE



(photo/LNS)

Joan Bird, one of the Panther 21 who has been held on \$100,000 bail in New York's Women's House of Detention since April 1969, was released July 7. Money for her bail was raised by the Committee to Free Joan Bird. The group is a part of a city-wide Women's Union who has working for several months using the slogan "\$1 from 100,000 women."

The Panther 21 are charged with conspiring to blow up New York department stores, police stations, and the Bronx Botanical Gardens. The only other woman charged, Afeni Shakur, was released earlier this year, also on \$100,000 bail.

Because of the uncertain state of the Market, \$40,000 was all it took to "purchase" \$100,000 worth of State bonds in Joan's case.

After she was released, Joan joined other women outside the Women's House of Detention and chanted with them for several minutes. The House of Detention was the scene of a demonstration on International Women's Day, March 8, when women chanted "Free Joan Bird", and women inside shouted "Raise our bail!" When Joan was released, women inside and out shouted much as they had on March 8.

Joan's trial is expected to begin sometime in August.

# EMPTY THE WOMEN'S JAILS !!

WASHINGTON— Mrs. B, presently in the Women's House of Detention, was arrested in a D.C. department store several weeks ago. She is on welfare and her furniture allowance is totally inadequate. She felt pressed to get an apartment in shape that she just moved into with her three children. She needed curtains for her bedroom; a neighbor's kitchen window looked directly into where she slept. Having no money, Mrs. B. tried to take some curtains from the store where she was arrested for shoplifting.

Mrs. B. was brought to the D.C. Women's Detention Center, where bail was set. What little cash she had was taken from her and she was told she would have to stay in jail until someone else came to bail her out. No thought was given to her three small children who were left to fend for themselves for many days. She is caught in the desperation of poverty, locking out the possibility that she and her children can live decent lives. Sexism and racism keep her poor.

Miss S., a young and attractive

woman from West Virginia was arrested for soliciting in D.C. When Miss S. was eleven, she was raped by her older brother and some friends. Her father broke her in from then on. Since mining companies had destroyed her family's farm land, they had all been thrown into desperation. Using the only skill she had ever been trained for, she began earning money as a prostitute.

Women like this flood the jails. They are the "common criminals," often thought of as less worthy than the political prisoners who occupy movement time and energy. There should be no distinction... In the U.S. all women in jail are political prisoners. They are political prisoners because their alleged crimes are often acts of survival necessitated by a political system that allows only the powerful "legal" means of pursuing their just rights and interests. The acts for which women are arrested (shoplifting, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and prostitution) are only crimes in the sense of being illegal. These acts are not crimes in the sense of being socially evil or injurious. The important crimes the socially injurious ones like starvation and war, are not illegal in the U.S. In a just society legality and justice are one. In our society, the gap is wide. It is our political system that defines

these women as outlaws and criminals.

Larceny—including shoplifting, purse snatching, and pocket picking—is the largest offense women are arrested for, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.

Larceny offenses have risen faster than any other single crime area yet the FBI is puzzled. They do not realize that inflation is first noticed by women shoppers. That the price of meat has almost doubled. Clothing, shoes and furniture prices are putting so great a burden on incomes that many must steal or do without. Even enormous numbers of middle class women (who usually have adequate incomes) are learning the art of shoplifting.

Arrests relating to drugs and liquor are the next highest offenses women are charged with. Studies show that women are the greatest users of liquor and drugs, most especially while they sit at home alone. Women have been socialized to internalize social problems. We are trained to blame ourselves for our condition, trained to be masochistic, to be passive. Women arrested on drinking and drug use are fighting in the only way we have been taught.

In all but one crime area listed by the UCR men overwhelmingly outnumber women 7 to 1 in arrests. Yet women runaways under 18 years of age are 50% of the total. Most runaways say they are trying to escape the lives they see their parents forcing on them. They often are trying to get a better job and life elsewhere. To arrest a runaway is to arrest her search for life, her growth and her potential.

Prostitutes may be the only honest women. They are using their position as sexual objects to earn a living. Prostitutes are punished for carrying the position of women in our society to its logical conclusion. Rich men today cry their souls out to such women yet they smack them in jails should they be "caught". Such hypocrisy leaves women its victims, the fourth largest area.

Women in prisons are treated as oppressively as they are on the outside. They are denied the sanctity of their bodies, channeled into low-status women's work and are subject to constant fear of sexual molestation.

Any group of people confined to an institution for any length of time is at the mercy of the keepers of that institution. To women jail means indignity, fear of sadistic sexual attack, fear for children on the outside, and further reliance on masochistic dealings with the oppressor via drugs or other soothers of anxiety and anger.

Lizzie Y., a young woman on welfare, was arrested at the D.C. welfare offices in a demonstration a few weeks ago. All the women arrested were searched when they came in, but

Lizzie was given special treatment. She was made to take off all her clothes, and was told to stand and squat for five minutes on command in front of the guards. Another woman was given an internal pelvic examination for no apparent reason. These were the young attractive ones.

Other, older women who were arrested that same day were mistreated in other ways. One, a diabetic, had her medicine taken from her, and was denied a doctor when she became ill. Upon release she was told she would have to return for her medicine the next day. How many spare bottles of medicine do guards think welfare mothers keep around? Another, a pregnant woman, feared a miscarriage as she began bleeding. She asked to see a doctor, and was denied this following an internal pelvic by the guards.

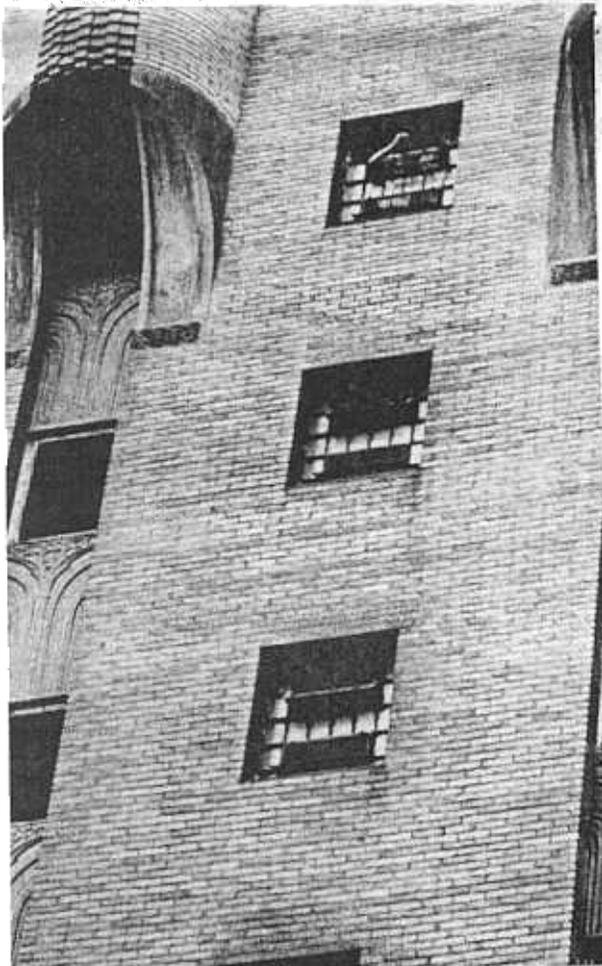
One can say this is a particular staff atrocity, but that doesn't seem to be the case. The PR Director of the DC Department of Corrections, when talking about the training program every employee must take, said they are cursory and boring for people of intelligence, but for those who work the jails, well, the two week course is taxing. What racism, and what sloppiness for a so-called institution of correctional!

Jails have special rehabilitation programs, but they reinforce the sexism and racism of the larger society. In DC jails women are given courses in typing, good grooming, and beauty parlor skills, along with on the job training as cooks, waitresses, maids, etc. To train women, who desperately need to work, in areas of "woman's work" continues to lock them into systems of low pay, low fringe benefits and low job stability.

No special care is taken to protect the dependents of inmates. When asked what happens to the children of a woman inmate, it was clear jail officials had given it no thought. "Oh, relatives take care of children," said one. "The welfare department takes them, I suppose," said another. To lock up a woman is to destroy her.

D.C. prison officials take great pride that they are becoming a "progressive" institution, yet a cop is a cop. No amount of so-called professionalization or finagling with inmate control of menus or movies will remove the obvious truth that women are arrested and jailed as scapegoats for a society whose rulers are criminals. Women are trying to survive, and the "law" is made to prevent their survival.

Women in prisons are our sisters. People in prison for "common" crimes should receive our support just as much as "political" prisoners do—both are political in a society of murderers. All should be supported and freed. All women prisoners should be freed.



womens house of detention

## POWER TO ALL SISTERS