"My name is Bobby Hutton. I was shot down in cold-blood by Oakland police on April 6, 1968. I was the first casualty in the FBI's war on the Black Panther Party. I was only 16 years old when I was killed.

Very little has changed since my death; the KKK still harass, brutalize, and KILL our people and go unpunished. Drugs brought in by the CIA still poison our communities and young Black men like myself are still the majority of the unemployed and incarcerated.

The organization that publishes this paper is doing its part to fighting back against this madness: what about YOU? Buy a copy, get involved; they need all the help they can get.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!"

Inside: Copwatch 206 Reports. "East Coast-West Coast Madness" by Mumia Abu-Jamal. Update on political prisoners Sekou Kambui and Mark Cook. "Domestic and International Political prisoners and P.O.W.s" by Killu Nyasha. And MORE!
Residents of housing projects raided, Vallejo, CA.
3/20/97. Residents of a HUD subsidized building, Marina Vista, were awakened by four separate police organizations conducting a so-called "welfare sweep" to catch people in alleged "welfare scams" (their words).

Mainstream media made it quite clear that no criminal convictions were likely to come of the raid, but stated that those arrested would probably face eviction under Clinton's One Strike You're Out policy whether or not they were found guilty of anything in criminal court.

NAACP chief wounded in shooting. Indianapolis, In.
3/28/97. Roderick Bohannan, president of the Greater Indianapolis Branch of the NAACP, was wounded in what police say appeared to be a random shooting.

Bohannan, 46, was shot in his left jaw. He was taken to Wishard Memorial Hospital, where he was being treated in the emergency room. Hospital officials said he was in stable condition and would be admitted.

Investigators said Bohannan apparently was shot in his car in a 3400 block of North Euclid Avenue. He drove to Indianapolis Fire Station 10 at 30th Street and Sherman Drive.

A firefighter at the station who asked not to be identified said he has known Bohannan about 15 years, but he didn't recognize the bloodied man pounding at the door of the station at 1:19 a.m.

Indianapolis Police East District Capt. Terry Hiatt said Bohannan told police he and a woman left The Masterpiece, a nightclub at 3748 N. Sherman. Bohannan told investigators he drove the woman to the area of 36th and Denny streets, where he dropped her off. Police did not identify the woman. Bohannan said he was in that vicinity when he heard two gunshots. One shattered the driver's side window of his car and hit Bohannan in the face.

Bohannan, a lawyer with Legal Services of Indiana for 20 years, was elected president of the Indianapolis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in October 1995. Bohannan vowed to rebuild the chapter "from scratch."

Since his election, membership has roughly doubled to about 2,000 -- although an NAACP chapter in a community the size of Indianapolis should have 10,000 to 15,000 members, he said. As head of the local chapter, Bohannan frequently has addressed racial issues and the effects of race on other issues.

Under Bohannan, the chapter recently collaborated with the Indiana Civil Liberties Union in a class-action lawsuit against Carmel municipal officials, alleging that Carmel police stop cars, particularly those driven by black motorists, without lawful reason.

The chapter also has been vocal regarding last summer's downtown brawl involving off-duty police officers that led to the resignation of the Indianapolis police chief and criminal charges against some officers.

Hunger drives residents of town to rob train.
Vaqueria, Mexico.
3/26/97. The residents of the town of Vaqueria in the municipality of Acuitzingo near Oritzaba, Veracruz blocked railroad tracks with stones, ties, and rails, stopped a freight train, and took tons of sugar and corn.

Approximately 20 townpeople threatened the railroad workers with harm if they attempted to stop the robbery, and then they unloaded the goods.

When railroad employees attempted to stop the robbery shots were fired but no one was hurt. Authorities arrested one suspect, a 19-year old peasant named Luis Hernandez Suarez, who said that hunger had driven the townspeople to rob the train. "We robbed for hunger," he said, "we don't have work and we have to eat, as do our families, that's why we put the ranch on the train track in order to remove the sugar and corn. Everyone here has nothing to eat and we have many children and our wives who are dying of hunger and since there is no work, we steal to live."

The president of the town of Acuitzingo, Luis Gamez Andrade, said that there were no factories or other sources of employment in the area, and consequently there was much hunger. He attributed the robbery to hunger.

Three white teens charged with attacking Black youth.
Chicago, Ill.
3/24/97. Three white teen-agers have been charged with attempted murder in beating a 13-year-old boy unconscious, then bragging to their friends that they had taken care of the blacks in the neighborhood.

Lenard Clark was found in an alley near Comiskey Park on the South Side. He remained unconscious at the time of his writings, hospitalized in stable but serious condition.

Notes: Not everything in this paper represents the view point(s) or political line of the Black Autonomy Collective. Articles that do can be found in the "Fighting Back!" section (page 3), on page 15, or are otherwise clearly marked.

Feel free to copy & distribute our newspaper, just give us props.
Copwatch 206: The REAL "Civilian Review Board"!
by Greg Jackson.

The following are selected highlights from February 2 to April 17.

Feb 2.

Our first night back on the road since our brief setbacks of equipment failure and lack of funds for repairs. With two new cameras donated by supportive community people, we headed off to make the club circuit.

We observed Seattle Police Department Officer #1877 shining his flashlight into vehicles parked in the lot outside of Pier 70, one of many popular Seattle-area dance clubs that cater to a predominantly Black crowd. When he sees us filming him, he goes on a rant about how he needed to "check for car prowls problems", and then starts confronting the owners of vehicles; giving each a brief lecture on the subject; undoubtedly for our benefit. I guess to show his "caring, compassionate side"; who knows?

Well, officer #1877, it is your legal right to do what you were doing, however, your credibility as a "professional", as well as human being, goes right down the toilet when you blantly lie to the people about your activities and reasons for them. You were looking for open containers of alcohol, drug paraphernalia, and anything else to give you "probable cause" to write a ticket or make an arrest. We're not stupid. Don't second-guess or insult our intelligence. We read the same manuals, study materials, pamphlets, and memos you all do. Like you, we too are "professionals".

We later saw #1877, this time near 7th Ave. and Bell St. He had pulled over someone for a moving violation. When we went to get a better shot of the stop, we fudged up and Jaywalked in front of him. That got both me and a comrade spread-eagled over the hood of the cruiser. Little did he know we had another camera hidden from view filming everything taking place.

After running our names, he lectured us on how he was "more fair to minorities than he was to whites". He then went on to say that the copwatch "makes us [police] look bad." Well, officer #1877, show and prove that you're not a racist and an authoritarian! Sure you let us go after your speech, and maybe you would argue that we should have some amount of gratitude for your "kindness", but I don't because that's not the point: the point is that the police will be made directly accountable to the people, whether you like it or not. If this means that I go to jail or die in order for this to happen, then so be it.

The camera lens doesn't lie and we have no reason to. What are you doing about police officers who are racist and brutal in your precinct and department? If condition. Lenard had just finished playing basketball when the attackers dragged him off his bicycle, slammed his head into a building and repeatedly kicked him, police said. Frank Caruso, 17, Michael Kwizinski, 19, and Victor Jasas, 17, were jailed as adults Sunday on charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery and committing a hate crime.

The suspects, using a racial epithet, "bragged to their friends that they had taken care of the blacks in the neighborhood, Sgt. Marshall Andrews said. They were turned in by their neighbors - many of them white.

Stateway Gardens, a predominantly black public housing complex where Lenard lives, has little in common with the area where he was attacked. The neighborhoods are separated by an expressway and railroad tracks.

Negro celebrity, such as Reverend Jesse Jackson and Minister Louis Farrakhan, have stopped by the hospital to offer their condolences. If readers would like to send cards and [especially] money to the family, please contact:

Lenard Clark Fund C/O South Shore Bank 4658 S. Drexel Chicago, IL 60653 USA.

U.S. Officials Splashed with Bison Entrails.
Gardiner, Mn - 3/23/97

An animal rights activist angry at the killing of more than 1,000 bison near Yellowstone National Park splashed U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and other top officials with rotting bison entrails Sunday.

Protester Delyla Wilson rushed into a high school cafeteria in Gardiner, near Yellowstone National Park, where Glickman, Montana Gov. Marc Racicot and Montana's two U.S. senators, Democrat Max Baucus and Republican Conrad Burns, were holding a meeting with residents to discuss the bison controversy.

Wilson, her face painted a variety of colors, ran into the room with a five-gallon bucket containing rotting bison innards and seemed intent on dumping the bucket over Racicot. But an aide to Burns caught her by the arm and the foul-smelling mess went over a table in front of the officials, splashing all four of them. Racicot and Glickman were splashed the most, but no one was injured.
you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.

Mar 1.

Just when we thought it would be a slow night, we followed SPD cars to a scene in Seattle’s Central District where 10 cars with 2 officers each had a 17 year old brother jacked up for outstanding warrants. What stood out about this stop was the overwhelming force aspect of it.

Neighbors we talked to said that this was the way the police usually handled any incident on that block and that officers routinely harassed people.

We gave his mother a ride up to the East precinct and surprised the officers there with the camera. That was fun. Here we are in the “first gateway to the lower planes of hell” (a.k.a. the U.S. Criminal “Justice” System) asking questions of 3 of its stunned gatekeepers.

The East Precinct is notorious for harassment and brutality. According to Mothers Against Police Harrasment (M.A.P.H.), they had 122 complaints of brutality filed against officers within the first two months of 1996. I personally had been there when M.A.P.H. would bring out community members and white supporters (since both bureaucratic and uniformed fascists only listen when confronted with sheer numbers) in order to get the precinct commander to listen to the complaint at all, let alone take any kind of action.

In this particular case, a 10 year old brother was forced by SPD officers to lay face down in the mud with his friend in the pouring rain. The officers later told his mother that they were looking for “four Asian teens in a car” and that’s why they stopped and searched her son. Now, I’ve heard Black men being referred to as “the Asiatic Blackman” or “the Black man of Asia”, but by looking at the young brother sitting across from me, I could tell that he wasn’t Vietnamese, Cambodian, Filipino, etc. He was African. He was darker than me! Yet it’s “people” with this kind of judgement that we hand out badges and weapons to.

Getting back to March 1, the police told us that they were going to transport the young brother to the juvenile facility for the rest of the weekend until he could be brought in front of the judge. After getting the information she needed, we gave her a ride back to her home.

Mar 2.

We came down to Cafe Arizona in Federal Way after hearing about an incident in which a Washington State Liquor Control Board officer was confronted by a Federal Way police officer in a mask who did not identify himself as an police officer initially, as well as reports of harassment from club goers we had spoken to. The liquor officer later filed suit against the Federal Way police, only to have his suit tossed out by the city.

We spoke with both a manager and a head of security there. Both told of police harassment of customers in the parking lot and in the surrounding area. Of how police targeted Cafe Arizona to be closed down almost from day one; at one point actually telling the owner that he has “too many Black customers” who “bring lots of trouble”.

So the city ordered him to increase security presence on the property, which he did. The police then told the city council that there was a fight in the parking lot involving 300 people. A video tape of the night in question shows three people fighting, then moments later being overwhelmed by security. The police parked around the club didn’t take action until after club security had the situation well under control. Cafe Arizona has since filed a 4 million dollar suit against the Federal Way police department. This brings the total number of million dollar lawsuits for the newly-incorporated city, with its inexperienced police force, back up to three; another.

See next page, left column.

from page 2.

Wilson, a member of the newly formed Bison Action Group, was held by two government officials and handed over to sheriff’s deputies. Park County Sheriff’s Deputy Doug Wonders said Wilson would be charged at least with disorderly conduct. The meeting resumed after Glickman, Racicot and the two senators had cleaned themselves. Wilson told reporters she obtained the buffalo inwards from the Montana Department of Livestock, which has been killing the bison.

Judge asked to toss 11 more cases; 282 cases voided in scandal so far.


2/14/97. In the latest aftershock from the city’s police corruption scandal, the District Attorney’s Office has asked a judge to throw out 11 criminal convictions tainted by the involvement of two former Philadelphia cops who framed suspects and committed perjury.

A spokesman for the D.A.’s Office said yesterday that prosecutors would join a request by defense lawyers to overturn the 11 cases, in which the defendants were arrested by former 19th District Officers Derrick Mayes and Kelvin Daniels.

A hearing on the cases is scheduled for Thursday. Common Pleas Judge Legrone Davis is expected to approve the joint defense-prosecution request.

The reversals will bring to 282 the number of cases dumped over the last two years as a result of the police corruption scandal. Most of the cases are from the notorious 39th District in North Philadelphia, where six former officers have pleaded guilty to robbing and framing suspects.

Public Defender Bradley S. Bridge, who has reviewed hundreds of arrest files since the first 39th District officers were indicted in February 1995, said yesterday that he would press for reversal of additional cases handled by Mayes and Daniels.

Many defendants who had their cases reversed during the past two years already have sued the city for damages.

So far, the city has paid about $4 million to people wrongly arrested in the 39th District or by Mayes and Daniels. Several defendants have been released from prison during the past two years because of
lawsuit filed by the family of a Samoan man, Tama Ava, who was attacked by the police in an unrelated incident (besides the obvious racism) was recently settled.

We'd be more than happy to craft another if they keep acting like they just crawled out of a cave yesterday!

Mar. 28-Apr. 12
In addition to our usual patrols, we have met with several nightclub owners, white, Black, and Asian, who have all said roughly the same thing: "they don't like our customers because they are mostly Black; so they harass them." One owner provided us with documentation that supports evidence of a police conspiracy to drive his customers away, but more importantly these documents help to illustrate that the SPD is intentionally harassing and intimidating Black people and other people of color anywhere they congregate in groups anywhere in the city.

We have arranged video taped interviews with several club owners for another project taken on by the BAI in partnership with its allies. It will be called Peoples Information Network, and its coming to a public access station near you. PIN will feature footage from not only Copwatch 206, but also interviews, in-depth reporting, news from around the world, and more. Watch this newspaper or the BAC-BAI website for details.

One interesting note, and a possible testament to our impact at this time, is an incident we witnessed on March 29th. A brother was stopped for speeding, failed the road-side sobriety test, and then began struggling when officers wouldn't retrieve $4000 he had in his trunk.

After he spent the weekend in jail, I can report that one of our comrades saw him and was told that the charges were dropped. Apparently the Port of Seattle Police Department's case was weak; or maybe they seek to do "damage control" because of the chokerold (use of chokeholds on suspects by police were banned in Se-

continued from page 3: right.

the scandal, including one convicted murderer.

The two ex-officers were convicted of corruption charges in 1995 and are serving prison terms of five to 10 years each. In most of the convictions scheduled for reversal, the two officers were the only witnesses. They typically stated in police reports or in court testimony that they saw the defendants buying or selling drugs.

That was similar to the pattern in the 39th District, where the six corrupt officers often lied to substantiate each other's false testimony.

In January, a Common Pleas judge threw out warrants for 12 defendants arrested on drug charges by the two officers. The 12 failed to appear for court hearings and never stood trial.

Video tape shows jailers ignored; taunted dying Prisoner. Fort Pierce, Fl.

2/8/97. A Black man who swallowed cocaine when he was arrested died after jailers ignored his pleas for help and taunted him in a three-hour ordeal captured by a jail surveillance camera. Two sheriff's deputies were fired and five others were disciplined.

Anderson Tate moaned, thrashed and chanted prayers for more than three hours while bound to a chair Dec. 3 at the St. Lucie County Jail. Jail employees and deputies walked past him, one of them making fun of him.

"I don't want to die. I'm burning up," he said on the videotape footage released Wednesday. "I'm 300 degrees. I've got too much cocaine in my system."

Aborigines warn of last chance to cut Black deaths. Canberra, Australia.

2/17/97. Australian Aboriginal leaders gathered in the nation's capital on Monday for what one leader said was a final chance to draft an effective strategy to combat the increasing number of Aboriginal deaths in custody.

"I would like to call this summit the last chance summit," said Mick Dodson, social justice commissioner for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

"I think it is time for us to nail them (governments) and say the time for meaningless reports is over...it is time to say to..."
Copwatch 206 investigates Police Harassment at local Restaurant.

by Nuru Shukuza.

In a recent interview, Alfred Johnson, the owner of the Happy Valley Restaurant, discussed his past and present conflicts with local Seattle Police.

Since opening in 1992, they have had incident after incident of unnecessary pressure from law enforcement to close to the place down. Johnson, a Black man, has a customer base that is mostly Black as well.

In February, Johnson had his liquor license suspended for 5-6 months from a local military base. These accusations were later proven false due to no proof and his license was reinstated.

But this was only the beginning, according Johnson the police have come in the parking lot and told customers that they do not need to be in a place like that. Also, they have told him that he had to make certain changes in procedures and security.

He was told that he had to raise the cover charge, putting lights around the entrance, and hire more security. Johnson complied with their demands but it still was not enough.

They then said that is was his responsibility to record license plate numbers and drivers licenses for them regardless of probably cause. The police have even come into his place during business hours and searched the place with a flash light looking for “suspects.” This kind of action by the police has obviously caused a considerable drop in his clientele. Ironically, when the police have been needed they have not responded.

The police would do surveillance of his restaurant from across the street with night goggles, watching everyone that came in and out. Johnson had signed an agreement with the police stating that if they saw illegal activity in the parking lot they had the right to come on his property and make the arrest. However, instead of doing so they would come Johnson and tell him that the observed illegal acts and claimed that he was a part of it. They also claimed that he had over three hundred 911 calls about his establishment. Johnson claims that any 911 call in the area is automatically connected to him because drug activity in a near by apartment complex has been blamed on him.

Ironically, allot of this surveillance began after Johnson appeared on television commenting on the closing of a local Seattle club, Celebrities. He stated that when the club was closed people will just migrate else where. Also, about the time that he was being watched and considered to be involved with drug dealing, the Internal Revenue Service claimed that he owed $42,000 in back taxes. Once he told them that he did not have the money they dropped the case.

Pressure has also come from community groups. The Pioneer Merchant Committee, Seattle Crime committee, and Block Watch, all of which were put together by the police and have few or no members that live in that area, have met with him to complain about the noise and so-called illegal activity.

Johnson is currently fighting the local police legal action, but this is not the first time he has taken Seattle police to court. He once had a lawsuit against them but the police department promised to work with him as soon as he dropped the charges. But when he dropped the case they refused to work with him.

Sock it to their Pocket!

Racism made costly.

by the Black Autonomy Collective.

As was reported last issue, Michael Lee from Raze The Walls was physically attacked by three white employees of the Speakeasy Cafe.

Representing himself in court, Lee filed a small claims suit for the maximum amount of $2,500. Judge Pro Tem Yvonne Ward ruled that the Speakeasy Cafe was li-

from page 5, right column.

governments this is 1997 and this is the last chance,” Dodson told delegates.

The two-day meeting of 100 delegates is expected to produce a strategy for reducing Aboriginal deaths in custody, to be presented at a summit with state, territory and national government ministers later this year. Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation chairman Patrick Dodson said the strategy must ensure authorities provide proper care for people in custody and threaten legal action for those who failed to do so.

A government report earlier this month said Aboriginal deaths in custody had jumped to record levels as governments failed to implement steps urged to prevent such deaths. Aboriginal deaths in custody soared 46 percent to 19 in the year to June 30, 1996, from 13 in the previous 12 months, the report said.

The report said six of the 19 deaths were suicides, five resulted from illness and eight stemmed from injuries sustained by Aborigines during or after their arrests, mostly in road accidents during police pursuits. It criticised state and territory governments for failing to implement key recommendations of a 1991 special national inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders make up less than two percent of Australia’s 18 million people, but account for almost 20 percent of deaths in custody.

British government considers legal action against tabloid for exposing racists.

London, England

2/17/97. The government is considering legal action against a tabloid that identified five young white men as the killers of a black teen-ager, a top law enforcement official said. Solicitor General Sir Derek Spencer said the Daily Mail could face contempt charges for printing pictures of five suspects on its front page, calling them “murderers.”

The newspaper said, “If we are wrong, let them sue us.”

Some members of the House of Commons commended the Daily Mail for its accusation against the five, who were acquitted in a rare private prosecution brought by the slain teen-ager’s family.

Stephen Lawrence, 18, was stabbed to death by a gang of whites on April 22, 1993. Police charged two men with his murder but a jury in July acquitted them after finding insufficient evidence to convict.

See next page, right column.

6 Black Autonomy.
DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND P.O.W.s
by Kiilu Nyasha.

The government's genocidal attacks against Black and other oppressed peoples, domestically and internationally, culminate in premature death or incarceration.

In an 11-year period, California's prison population more than tripled, from 52,000 to 170,000 (S.F. Chronicle, 8/295). Nationwide, there are over six and a half million prisoners including more than 3,000 on death rows, the majority of whom are Black or Brown.

But the perpetrators of this genocide, the Republicanists and their financiers, are not generally viewed as the real criminals. Instead, their victims are propagated through their media as being criminal, i.e., the criminalization of the poor is what's happening. In the light of this unjust, racist, criminal system, the vast majority of prisoners are therefore "political." Thus, when we say, "Free all political prisoners!" -- we are really saying, "Free the people!"

Nevertheless, there are prisoners we specifically refer to as political prisoners and P.O.W.s who have actively (inside or outside the walls) opposed capitalism and its primary allies, racism and sexism. They are the conscious ones who willingly put their lives on the line for our collective freedom.

Among our longest held prisoners of conscience, freedom fighters, are Rachell Cinque Magee (34 years!), sole survivor of the Marin Courthouse Rebellion of August 7, 1970; Hugo L.A. Pinell (Yogi), (32 years!) the only one of the San Quentin Six, charged in the aftermath of the August 21, '71 assassination of Comrade George Jackson, still locked down in Pelican Bay's torture chamber known as the SHU (Security Housing Unit); COINTELPRO targets: Marshall Eddie Conway (27 years!), (geronimo ji jaga (27 years!), Jalil Montagui (26 years!), A. Nuh Washington (26 years!), Herman Bell (24 years!), Sundiata Acoli (24 years!), and Leonard Petitier (21 years!), and many others too numerous to name in this short piece.

In addition to COINTELPRO targets they want to keep under lock and key till their natural deaths, they've planned the legal murder of "the voice of the voiceless," our beloved warrior, Mumia Abu Jamal, who continues to fight for our freedom "live from death row."

In Black August, 1997, the MOVE 9, all members of the Africa family, who refuse to renounce their religion and MOVE, will have spent 20 years in various prisons for the "friendly fire" murder of a policeman with ONE bullet. In that case, even the judge admitted he didn't know who fired the shot. And the oppressors obviously don't give a damn so long as they have any thin-ilm-tam excuse to keep revolutionary sisters and brothers locked away from the people.

Then, we must remember the valiant Puerto Rican P.O.W.s, all 15 of whom are serving mammoth sentences for so-called "seditious conspiracy" -- really for trying to liberate Puerto Rico from U.S. colonialism. They have already spent 18 years in Federal penitentiaries, and are systematically being denied parole. Alexandria Torres did torture time in the infamous Lexington Control Unit that has since been closed as a result of public outcry. Dhylcia Pagan went to the Board a few years ago after doing 15 years and was denied 15 more.

And the list goes on including radical whites like Sylvia Baraldini, Marilyn Buck and Linda Evans who put their lives dead on the line for the Black Panther Party, its Liberation Army, and all oppressed people.

Can we live here in minimum security and relative comfort, and just forget about our sisters and brothers who were captured and/or kept locked up for fighting our battles on the front lines? The answer is simple. We cannot! We must escalate the struggle to FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS -- and in the process, free ourselves. A Luta Continua.

from page 6.

with murder but the state abandoned the case, saying there was "insufficient evidence."

Lawrence's family won permission in 1994 to mount a private prosecution, and five men were named as defendants. Two were released before the trial, and the case collapsed in April when a judge ruled that testimony identifying the three remaining defendants was inadmissible. This month, a coroner's inquest in the case resumed, but all five suspects refused to answer questions. The inquest jury ruled that Lawrence was unlawfully killed, but it did not accuse anyone.

Sir Montague Levine, who presided at a coroner's inquest, said the prosecution had failed because "a wall of silence and fear" prevented witnesses from coming forward.

Imran Khan, a lawyer for Lawrence's family, commended the Daily Mail.

"If those youths wish to challenge the accusations, it could bring into the public domain issues which have yet to come into that domain," he said in a BBC radio interview.

David Osland, former deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police who was responsible for the murder inquiry, said he was satisfied with the department's investigation.

City bureaucrats reject agent's claim.

Federal Way, Wa.

2/24/97 City officials are reject-
We Support OUR Troops!

Sekou Kambui.

Born: 6 September 1948.
Gadsden, Alabama.

Political Affiliation(s):

Brief History:
Sekou Kambui joined the Black Panther Party in 1967. Later, he joined the Republic of New Afrika (RNA). Prior to that he had helped organize events with Black youth, and had provided security for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Congress On Racial Equality (CORE), and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). On the morning of January 2, 1975, Sekou was captured in North Birmingham for allegedly running a yield sign. During the stop, Sekou and a passenger were arrested for possessing a 9mm pistol that the police claimed was listed on a "hoiselet" as stolen as part of a murder in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Sekou was charged with two counts of murder: one charge for the assassination of a Birmingham-area Ku Klux Klan leader, the other for the assassination of a white multi-millionaire.

Trial highlights included perjured testimony, witnesses threatened and intimidated by investigators, as well as no evidence tying Sekou to either murder scene or 8 Black Autonomy.

Break The Silence! Send A Book To Jail! Benefit raffle for Raze The Walls! prisoner support network.

Tickets are on sale now and cost only $1.00. Each ticket qualifies you for the three drawings being held at Red and Black Books 132 15 E. Seattle, WA May 17, 24, 31.

The winning prizes are:
Week one a $15 Red and Black Bookstore gift certificate. Week two a $25 Red and Black Bookstore gift certificate. Week three a $50 Red and Black Bookstore gift certificate.

Red and Black ships books all across the United States and the certificate is good from anywhere. Just send it in with the title of the book you want and they will get it out to you. Tickets are available from Raze The Walls! P.O. Box 22774 Seattle, WA 98122-0774.<bi573@scn.org>

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with this design

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Prisoners

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s/n William J. Turk #113058
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Cash or money order made out to "Mike Mason" only please.
by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"White supremacy by its very nature and intent requires the continuing oppression and subordination of African peoples and, in time, may require their very lives. Subordination by a people requires that that people in some way or ways be violated, dehumanized, humiliated and that some type of violence by perpetrated against them. The violently oppressed react violently to their oppression. When their reactionary violence, their retaliatory or defensive violence, cannot be effectively applied to their self-liberation, it then will be directed at and applied destructively to themselves. This is the essence of black-on-black violence." — Ames Wilson, Black-On-Black Violence (1990).

For black youth, the dizzying aura of death pervades their expanding consciousness as two of their heroes, the lean, angular Tupac Shakur, and the broad, obese Notorious B.I.G. (a la Chris Wallace), both targets of high-powered drive-by shootings, are lowered into the moist, cool earth. For millions who banded to their beats, and who nodded to their raps, the lesson slams home that even million of dollars can't buy one minute of more life, and for those in their teens or early twenties, life, which once seemed everlasting, becomes chillingly precarious.

Media reports that Tupac and Biggie were slumped by black men causes many to shake their heads in muted anger, at the ugly madness that turns black men into deadly enemies of other black men. Again.

Over a generation ago, when the Black Panther Party was regnant, with chapters and branches in over 40 U.S. cities, that same kind of madness would express itself, with tragic consequences.

As early as March 4, 1968 then-FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover issued a memo describing the goals of its COINTELPRO program as, "to prevent the coalition of militant Black Nationalist groups which might be the first step toward a real man in America," and "to prevent (nationalist) groups and leaders from gaining 'respectability' by discrediting them to the 'responsible' Negro community, to the white community and to Negro radicals" (FBI memo to Special Agent-in-Charge <SAC> Albany from FBI Director, March 4, 1968).

For the BPP, this meant a government campaign against it, including "brownmail", where the government secretly wrote letters to Panther leaders, in the names of other Panthers, each threatening the other, which led to deadly conflicts. It also included outright government murder, where, as in Chicago, Ill., state and federal agents conspired to shoot and kill Panthers like Fred Hampton, Sr., and Mark Clark, in December 1969.

At the height of these conflicts, the Black Panther Party split, with East Coasters against West Coasters, resulting in the virtual death of the organization. Good brothers like Sam Napier and Robert Webb died as brother attacked brother. The youth grew to manhood amidst hustlers and drug merchants, many having never seen a living Panther, or any other revolutionary. In such an environment is it any wonder such young bucks as Tupac and Biggie would proudly call themselves 'Thugs' or "Hustlers"? They have never seen nor realized a liberation movement, and that energy, that power is turned inward, until it erupts against those who look the most alike. Black men against Black men.

As the late, great Frantz Fanon noted in his classic "Wretched of the Earth" on the impact of colonialism:

"When the (white) settler or the policeman has the right the livelong day to strike the native, to insult him and make him crawl to them, you will see the native reaching out for his knife at the slightest hostile or aggressive glance cast on him by another native: For the last resort of the native is to defend his personality vis-a-vis his brother."

The oppressed condition of blacks in America engenders the same kind of self-hatred that Dr. Fanon observed in colonial Algeria, before the liberation. Tupac and Biggie, although ostensibly millionaires, were a hiccup away from prison and felt they wouldn't live very long.

As with too many of their generation, they didn't. For the lives of the oppressed are too often held cheaply, even by the oppressed themselves.
After the legally allowed amount of time expired (20 days) the judgement was still not paid and no further communication was received from the Speakeasy. Michael then returned to court and placed a lien on the real estate holding(s) of the Speakeasy. Two days later a notice of appeal was received which stated that “Witnesses were unavailable at last minute-Defendant was therefore unable to produce essential evidence.” The rules of the Court clearly state what you can appeal; coming to court unprepared is not one of them.

There are several options open to enforce the judgement. The first is garnishment of ALL corporation funds. In short, once the proper work is filed this raclist can't spend a nickel without having authorization of the court. The second is garnishment of wages. The third is turning the judgement over to a collection agency.

Whatever the final out come of this case is there are several important lessons to be learned here:

1. In dealing with racist businesses you don't have to physically attack them. Sue them in court. Its a lot more painfull for your target.
2. With a little determination any one can pursue their case in small claims court.
3. As a community we have power, resources and knowledge to defend ourselves but only if we practice mutual aid and voluntary cooperation.

Bear in mind that throughout this process so far Mike hasn't spent a on court costs of any kind, only copying fees, a lot of time, and alot of mental work.

The King County Law Library is located on the 6th floor of the King County Court building (3rd and James). Just walk right in and ask the library technician where you can self-help books on small claims actions. There are tons of them there; from filling the action to actually collecting the judgement. Beware, photocopies are 15 cents a piece and you can't borrow stuff from there without leaving a $50 deposit. Oh by the way if you have problems with your landlord (and who doesn't), they also have information on how to enforce your rights under the Landlord Tenant Act.

**Flames Erupt from Innate’s Head. Starke, Fl.**

3/25/07 A condemned murderer's black leather face mask burst into flames as he was electrocuted, prompting the attorney general to warn killers to stay away from Florida "because we may have a problem with the electric chair." The governor said the state will consider changing its method of execution after the grisly death of Pedro Medina, a Cuban refugee convicted of murder. Attorney General Bob Butterworth said Medina's gruesome end would be a deterrent.

It was the second time an inmate's mask has burst into flame during a Florida execution. The first time, in 1990, executions were suspended for three months. While
On July 24, 1996, Elbert R. Butler, Jr. was fatally shot by a Wilmington police officer.

In the aftermath, officers entered the vacant house only to find Mr. Butler in his underwear, and unarmed. The officer involved, unnamed to the public until November 8, remains on paid administrative leave.

Elbert Butler was a drug addict and he did not have permission to enter the vacant property, however, that is not the issue. The issue is justice for all people throughout our community regardless of religion, ethnic origin, professional or personal circumstance. The secrecy, the lack of forthcoming information made public, and the timing of the release of information, questions the integrity of the investigation.

According to City officials, before the November election, the City had completed their part of the investigation some time ago.

Yet, according to City officials, after the election, the Police Dept’s investigation would not be completed for several weeks. It is noteworthy that the State Attorney General might not be privileged to all the findings of the Wilmington Police Dept’s Internal Affairs Division, and therefore, some findings might not have been available for the Attorney General’s consideration.

The State Attorney General’s Office has determined that “All evidence supports the conclusion that Patrolman Scott Chaffin truthfully reported his subjective state of mind, i.e., that he was in fear of serious physical injury or death when he shot Mr. Butler. As such, Patrolman Chaffin’s use of deadly force is not subject to criminal prosecution under Delaware law.” This conclusion considered the “high crime area” as justifiable support.

On February 14, 1997, the State Attorney General released an amended report indicating that Patrolman Chaffin had initially ordered a moving figure inside the home to halt, but later opened fire on Mr. Butler without repeating the order. The amended report also included a statement by Patrolman Chaffin, that he “believed” he had identified himself as an officer - “I don’t know exactly what I said, um something to that effect.” On February 7, 1997, City Solicitor Carolyn Schlecker had announced that Patrolman Chaffin violated department policy when he used excessive force resulting in the death of Mr. Butler. “Former Wilmington Police Chief Samuel Pratcher decided to grant a hearing to Chaffin who is not eligible because of his probationary status. As a 16-month rookie, Patrolman Chaffin is not eligible for a hearing, can be fired without cause, and further, he cannot appeal the penalty.

For the family, who had to endure such a lengthy investigation, former Chief Pratcher’s decision does not spell R-E-L-I-E-F. Consider the issues and concerns surrounding the actions of admittedly afraid Officer Scott Chaffin:

# Climbed up on a roof and attempted to enter a vacant house through the only known accessible entry and exit.
# Attempted to enter a darkened house without visibility inside.
# Attempted to enter alone when more than one person was suspected of being inside.
# Reported Mr. Butler came out of window and “lunged” at him (inconsistent with report that Mr. Butler found in a sideways position, shot in the left side of head — lunged?).

Consider the issues and concerns surrounding Officer Chaffin’s adherence to the standard operating procedures of the Wilmington Police Dept.:

# Inexperienced officer deployed to “high crime area”.
# Suggestion that “high crime area” justifiably supports officer’s fear (questions arise about Chaffin’s job-readiness).
# Who gave the order to go up on the roof (Supervisor? Chaffin’s own volition?).
# Officer’s choice not to secure location and wait for back-up (not threat of serious physical injury or death imminent).
# Officer’s choice to stop Mr. Butler with
gunshot to head rather than any other method.

# Though shooting occurred July 24, 1996, Officer did not make official statement until September 5 (questions accuracy of statement after time lapse).

The friends and family of Elbert R. Butler, Jr. believe that the State Attorney General's conclusion is premature and inconsistent with their investigative findings: the friends and family believe that Patrolman Scott Chaffin did not adhere to department policy at the time of the shooting; the friends and family believe that Patrolman Scott Chaffin acted recklessly, and therefore, created the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting of Mr. Butler; the friends and family believe that Patrolman Chaffin violated Mr. Butler's civil rights.

The friends and family of Mr. Butler are not waging a personal vendetta against the officer, City or State Officials. In fact, they have steadfastly refrained from any action that might jeopardize a thorough investigation, or due process for the officer involved.

The safety and welfare of all Wilmington residents is the issue. Elbert R. Butler, Jr. could have been anyone’s son, husband, father, friend, cousin, brother — even you! Justice isn’t a matter of placing blame. It is a matter of upholding what is right.

PLEASE SUPPORT:
The Friends & Family of Elbert R. Butler, Jr. P.O. Box 2955 Wilmington, DE 19805

The trial of Gammage and Albert ended in a mistrial when Coroner Cyril Wecht, who had examined Gammage’s body as a private pathologist, suggested in front of jurors that Albert should explain what he did that night. A defendant is not required to testify at a trial. In today’s ruling, Cashman removed District Attorney Robert Colville and his staff “from any further proceedings with regard to these cases” and named the state attorney general’s office to handle any further proceedings. Colville said today he probably will appeal to state Superior Court.

White police officers will not be tried in the death of a Black motorist.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

4/22/97. Two white police officers will not be tried in the death of a black motorist because prosecutors unfairly singled them out for charges, a judge said today. Allegheny County Judge David Cashman dismissed involuntary manslaughter charges against Brentwood police Lt. Milton Mulholland, now a janitor, and Baldwin Officer Michael Albert. They had been accused of killing Jonny Gammage, 31, during a struggle following a traffic stop on Oct. 12, 1995. The judge called prosecutors “vindictive” and said they “bowed to public pressure to file charges.”

"The unbuttressed suggestion made by the defendants that their prosecution resulted from the capitulation to public pressure is the only logical and supported reason why they had been singled out for prosecution,” Cashman said in his ruling.

The trial of Mulholland and Albert ended in a mistrial when Coroner Cyril Wecht, who had examined Gammage’s body as a private pathologist, suggested in front of jurors that Albert should explain what he did that night. A defendant is not required to testify at a trial. In today’s ruling, Cashman removed District Attorney Robert Colville and his staff “from any further proceedings with regard to these cases” and named the state attorney general’s office to handle any further proceedings. Colville said today he probably will appeal to state Superior Court.

"He doesn’t like our tactical approach to the case. That’s no reason to throw it out of court,” Colville said.

The officers’ lawyers denied Gammage was pulled over only because he was a black man driving an expensive car late at night in a white suburb, saying he was driving in an unusual manner and that at any rate they couldn’t see his race through the tinted windows.

E. Orange, Black NJ
Police Officer relieved of duties for whistleblowing.
East Orange, NJ.

2/7/97. East Orange Police Officer De Lacy Davis, (founder of Black Cops Against Police Brutality; B-CAP) was relieved of his duties at the East Orange Municipal Court where he works in prisoner transportation and ordered to respond to the department’s internal affairs division to explain a column that
Calendar.

May 1st
International Workers Day.

May 3
Ad Hoc Coalition Against Racism and The Death Penalty Grassroots Organizing Conference and Media Event.
9:00 am to 6:00 pm. (AFSC)
1501 CHERRY STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA
Participants include Pam Africa (MOVE), Komboa Ervin (Black Autonomy International), and Bonnie Kerness (National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons).

For more info contact:
Bro. Komboa Ervin
Black Autonomy International
2014 Citico Avenue
Chattanooga, TN, 37404
komboa@mindspring.com

Sis. Mparessa Kupendua, Afrikan Frontline Network
P.O. Box 968
Wilmington, DE 19809
nattyreb@ix.netcom.com

May 17
4th Annual Malcolm X Conference.
Hosted by the Pan African Student/Youth Movement.
At the Mecca International.
23rd Ave & E. Union
2pm.

Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA)
Communique #15.
April 23, 1997.

The International Representations of the MRTA reports the following to the international and national public: Militants from other Latin American revolutionary movements will join the MRTA if Fujimori does not free the political prisoners.

Several revolutionary groups that we will not specify for security reasons have expressed their intention of joining the political-military struggle of the MRTA in the Peruvian jungle if Fujimori's government does not agree to free the political prisoners imprisoned in Peruvian jail-tombs.

The inhumane conditions of these prisoners as well as the sympathies for the MRTA that have been awakened in revolutionary groups throughout Latin America have caused the formation of a movement called “The International Combat Block” that includes members of several nationalities and will co-ordinate revolutionary strategies from “the Rio Grande to Patagonia.”

Paradoxically, the insistent position of dictator Alberto Fujimori is creating a movement of groups joining the MRTA that will increase the MRTA's political and military strength and will increase its coordination with other revolutionary groups on the rest of the continent and throughout the world.

The MRTA has expressed its willingness to continue struggling for peace with social justice, the only peace that lasts, but if this peaceful path is closed one more time, we have decided to continue the struggle by other means, and we are grateful for the international solidarity of all of the people in the world that have seen in our struggle the revalidation of their own struggles, the hope of building a better world, without hunger, without unemployment, without neo-liberalism. Neither surrendering, nor conquered... The struggle continues!

International Representation of the MRTA
April 1997.

Black Autonomy Solidarity Statement To The MRTA.
April 23, 1997.

According to the Corporate News Network, 140 Peruvian troops tonite attacked the Japanese Ambassador's residence where 72 hostages were being held by 14 MRTA fighters.

Using bombs and grenades, as well as small arms fire, the guerrillas were literally mowed down, although how many were killed by small arms and how many by explosives is not known at this time. Two military policemen were killed, along with one captive.

President Fujimori, the puppet President, was seen bragging about the assault now. This will, of course, not end this matter. This mass murder will not break the movement, nor end the class warfare in that country. We can expect the civil war to continue, fueled by bitterness over the government's treachery, in addition to the struggle against one of the worst forms of poverty and state terrorism. The Peruvian state, in turn, will be even more brutal to the poor and to MRTA prisoners, and be more under the thumb of U.S. imperialism, who actually planned this assault.

This may be seen as an object lesson by the guerrillas that negotiation is not possible between enemies, and widespread revolutionary struggle is necessary for victory. These things will have to be discussed by those in Peru, and for those of us who support that struggle, the EZLN war in Mexico, and other revolutions in this region, our continued task is to politically ally ourselves with the Peruvian people and their revolution, and give international solidarity of the Black Revolution.

Onward to an international civil war, and the building of an international commune!
Parole for BPP/GJB political prisoner
Mark Cook?

Greetings Greg,

I have been given a special opportunity to apply for parole. A good character reference letter from you would help in my application for parole. The letter should demonstrate when and how long we have known each other and any additional information you want to give would be appreciated. The parole board had predetermined that I was not eligible for a paroleability hearing until 2004 because of a 7 and a half year mandatory minimum sentence. However, Kit Bail, chairperson of the board, invited a friend and attorney, Nancy Horgan, to present information at a board hearing that would establish that waiver of the mandatory minimum would be in the best interest of myself and the state.

The hearing was held on March 17th. Because it was a preliminary hearing, I did not make a personal appearance. Nancy Horgan and Cynthia Skow, M.S.W., Sentencing Advocate, presented my case before the board. The presentation was: my social history, a brief interview with me (two hours of video taping edited down to ten minutes), and a parole plan (job and place to stay). On March 26th Kit Bail called Nancy Horgan informing her of the decision that the board will hold a paroleability hearing with me present on May 22.

In the week of March 23rd, before I got the good news, I was scheduled to be transferred from WSR [Washington State Reformatory at Monroe-ed.] to the Airway Heights Correctional Center (AHCC) near Spokane. All of my personal property was packed and shipped, including all my address books, to AHCC. Today [4/23–ed.], I finally got all my property and can now try to get letters off.

My past experience with parole boards has left me with the impression that their minds are pretty much made up before I appear at their hearings. From all indications I am getting from various memos and notices, I feel I will be given an early parole date. It is hoped the letters will solidify their position by showing them that I have maintained positive community ties and encourage a parole date for this year. I hope to spend the holidays with my family and friends (and of course look forward to playing in the upcoming chess tournaments)!! I have been provided with a place to stay, an employment prospect has been provided with a legal office and some of my friends and Rita, Therese, and Ed have established a small trust fund to get me started upon my release.

My legal supporters have been able to make contact with the victims of my offenses, the two police officers, to determine whether or not they have concerns about me being paroled as this may also be one of the considerations of parole.

Take Care! Mark.

For information on how you can help bro. Mark at this crucial time, contact this newspaper (see page 2).

Black Liberation Radio raided...Again.

From the internet:

On January 9th, Black Liberation Radio in Decatur, Illinois was raided by multiple law enforcement agencies. In addition to taking radio equipment, they also took personal items; and threatened to take the children of the operators, Napoleon Williams and Mildred Jones, into custody. Items taken besides radio gear, tapes, and cd players were the files from years of fighting the state for custody of their two children. The warrant only listed broadcast equipment and files pertaining to broadcasting.

At the time of this writing, Napoleon hasn’t turned himself in to face “eavesdropping” charges. Their children are in the care of comrades in the area.

Please send whatever you can to:
Black Liberation Radio
629 E. Center, Decatur, IL 62526
USA.

The Struggle for Democracy Continues.

Swaziland, Southern Africa.

2/5/97. An indefinite strike by Swaziland’s workers is the latest of a series of protests that are likely to continue in Africa’s sole absolute monarchy unless demands for constitutional reform are met. The 83,000-strong Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) has been leading a mass stay-away to press for democracy in the tiny Southern African nation. Four SFTU leaders have been imprisoned for calling the strike. Swaziland, a nation of about 900,000 people sandwiched between South Africa and Mozambique, is the only country in Southern Africa that does not allow multi-party politics. A similar strike by Swazi workers last year had led to a promise by King Mswati III, Swaziland’s ruler, that a process of political reform would be started, but little has changed since then.

For five years after independence from Britain in 1968, Swaziland’s monarchy coexisted with a parliament comprising legislators elected on party tickets as others nominated by the king. However, in 1974, the then monarch, King Sobhuza II, passed a decree suspending the constitution, dissolving the legislature and banning political parties. Parliament was revived in 1978 but its members are elected in non-party polls, while the king singlehandedly appoints the cabinet. Since the early 1990s, political violence, arson, and strikes have rocked the monarchy.
Anarchism + Black Revolution = New Black Autonomous Politics.
Statement of the activists of Black Autonomy International.

The new autonomous politics is made up of the anti-authoritarian core of Anarchism and many of the tenets of revolutionary Black nationalism. This combination of all elements makes up something so new it has not been fully defined before now. We will attempt now to more sharply define what has been talked about for the last fifteen years, and also to place it within a historical context so that it can no longer be dismissed as an "eclectic mish-mash", or "corruption" of (both) ideals as the purists would claim.

And yet, it should not alarm Anarchist ideological "purists" when we speak of a Black anarchist politics. First, the early Anarchist movement in America always reflected the cultural, social and political ideals of the community that produced it. Thus we had a Germanic-dominated Anarchist-syndicalist tendency during the 1880's. The International Working People's Association which was strong in Chicago, Pittsburgh, and other industrial cities, a Jewish Anarchist movement in New York and other cities during the 1900's, where in some whole newspapers were printed in Yiddish; an Italian movement in New York, New Jersey and other areas in the 1920-30's and so on. One ethnic group after another produced a unique, though no less valid, American Anarchist social movement.

So the question then becomes, why should anyone even be surprised to learn that there will be Anarchist movements which culturally and politically reflect those communities of Africans or Hispanics. In talking about Anarchist ideals, we are not talking about "orthodoxies" which cannot be revised, we are talking about ideals which will be picked up, used by millions of oppressed peoples, and adapted to their purpose and circumstances.

Anarchist purists and other Eurocentric ideologues will just have to shudder, because it is happening now and there is nothing that anybody can do to stop it. Even as we are talking, the first slow steps toward building a core tendency of Black anarchists is a reality. Several men and women have been influenced by the ideas raised in pamphlets by former FP and SNCC member Lorenzo Komboa Ervin in the 1970's, but they have taken those ideas, made them into a class weapon reflecting the African experience on this continent, and are taking the first step to free our people and our class.

It is important that we define ourselves, since we realize we are our own liberators. We demand that Africans be subjects of history, and not mere objects that Europeans decide what to do with.

This great Black sector of humanity has said "enough", and has now started to find its own voice. There will be no condescending saviors out of the mother country, we must begin to do this ourselves, although we know the revolutionary project to defeat the system of capitalism and enslavement requires millions of other allies who will help us. We will decide the agenda, the timetable, and the tactics of obtaining our freedom.

The new Black autonomous politics differs from European Anarchism in that we know that we are oppressed both as a distinct people and as workers for our labor power. But Anarchism places its greatest contradiction with the state and its ability to hold back a free lifestyle, and this is exactly what we cannot limit our critique to. This is a world-wide view based on their privileged place in this society. We realize that historically constructed "races" have been created under this system, which determine both the manner of life and death under this system, and that the State upholds this racial/class system. It is no accident, and it's true that racism has not been commissioned by individual white workers, but they have been the beneficiaries of our oppression, and whites are part of the social control mechanism of the state. It is nonsense to say something otherwise, like "we are all in the same boat" or all just workers like the American socialist and communist have done. We say this is a lie and part of a myth about the white working class as a vanguard and "working class heroes".

In addition, we say that people are super-oppressed because of their race under this system, not just their class. Anarchism's limitations to critique this type of oppression are quite obvious, and is what has resulted in an all-white movement, which is confused about how to intervene in struggles that involve people of other than European nationalities and how to analyse the nationalisms of the oppressed. It has always been my project to extend the Anarchist ideals to cover new contingencies and other areas of struggle not foreseen by the initiators of the doctrine.

The Black autonomists also disagree with many Anarchists and other white radicals because we know that the battle is not just against "racism," or fascist vanguard elements like the Nazis or Klan, rather it is the system which produces fascism which must be destroyed. The capitalist system literally came into existence based on the enslavement and forced labor of African, Asian, and other oppressed peoples; the genocide of the Native Americans, and the brutal theft of the lands of the Hispanic peoples are other examples of this oppression. But Europeans of all classes benefited from this super-exploitation, and capital has created the hierarchical structure of race and class oppression we live under. It is extremely important to understand that this kind of racial stratification is not some deliberate ideological nonsense that people of color have created themselves, so-called "identity movements" as some vulgar socialists call them, but has been a function of the state from inception, with one's place in society and class privileges riding on the outcome. If you are non-white, you will be treated one way, if you are white, another. So "racism" is a class doctrine, used by the state for super-exploitation of certain workers and peoples; in fact, we contend that it is the actual class relations in North American society.

So-called "white" people are a super-conceived nationality designed to help the capitalists keep workers of color in their place and safeguard the status quo. So rather than see the "white" industrial working class as a potentially revolutionary class, instead we see it as an opportunistic, collaborationist body which must be redefined and reorganized if it is to constitute a reliable ally and have any ability of fighting in its own interest as a new class.

As Black autonomists, we of course disagree with Marxists and other "radicals" who claim that an authoritarian party and strong leadership cultism is necessary to produce a social revolution. But we go further and say that neither they or the Anarchists can lead us as a people of color (or even themselves) to freedom, even though they have been conditioned as Europeans to command and rule over people of color. We can work with them on certain projects or in action on a campaign, but they will not determine the agenda or outcome of our struggles.

However, we differ with the Black Nationalists, although we share many basic ideas with them. We also believe in and treasure many of the traditions and history of...
our people, but believe it must be demystified and made into a culture of resistance, rather than personality cults or escapism from the reality of racism.

Further, we do not believe in a "race nationalism". We are not xenophobic, do not entertain any racial mythology about Europeans, and are not seeking to build a Black state as the answer to our problems. In many respects, we know that Black nation-state-ism will defeat our ability to obtain full freedom and has a limited program for social revolution. We are not immune from the laws of social nature. We believe the class politics which will show itself within any Black state, whether an Islamic, secular "new African" or otherwise will result in an extreme class differential and economic injustice. We believe that a bourgeois class and political dictatorship is inevitable, and that revolution will ensue even under such a Black state, which calls itself "African Socialists".

We also believe that historically, Black nationalism has asserted itself most forcefully as a defensive doctrine to white racism, not as an anti-racist movement, but as a counter-power movement. That is, to organize an interest group which can battle for political power inside this system. This is what happened to the seemingly revolutionary "Black Power" current produced by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the 1960's; it was usurped by the Black petit bourgeoisie.

In addition, those who argue for a state never tell how it will be obtained, and many of those arguments made are vague and fanciful. Who really believes that America will just grant an Islamic state or give up five southern states to Africans just because a small faction calling itself a "government-in-exile" or even the the majority of us want it. Why, it would require years of a bloody struggle, and a major organizing campaign. In addition, the only group which even talked about conducting a plebiscite to find out what form African people believe our independence should take was the Panthers. Even though we have good relations with many of these organizations, we have a hard time taking these people on this issue seriously and have always considered this wishful thinking or a flight of fancy. But then it is not up to us, but to the Black masses themselves.

So far, we have made little more than the arguments that many socialists and Anarchists have made for years against certain kinds of nationalism. However, it would be extremely unfair to not point out that groups like the Black Panther Party, League of Revolutionary Workers, (and even the SNCC in the late 1960's), though calling themselves "revolutionary black nationalists", in fact did not call for or actually struggle to obtain a nation state in Africa or on the existing land-territory of the United States. It appears that they had adopted some variant of socialist doctrine, and had as their primary motivation the toppling of the existing capitalist state/empire. Their position radically differed from the Cultural (Afrocentric). Religious, and other variant of nationalist tendencies.

The BPP especially was an advanced political formation which did much pioneering theoretical and organizing work on race and class issues, and although we have many disagreements with their vanguardist and authoritarian political structures, we have much in common philosophically.

We too believe in armed self-defense, but we believe it is the people at large, not a political party which must be organized in self-defense units. We too believe in armed struggle, but believe the masses extending an insurrection to a social revolution will be the likely unfolding scenario, not a vanguard party seizing power in the name of the people" or a small secret army. But, in common with the Black Panthers, the Black autonomists believe that even before capitalism is defeated, we can begin to turn our communities into dual power commons, from which we can wage a protracted struggle with capitalism and its agents. We believe in common with the Panthers and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers that the Black working class will be the decisive factor in any such struggle, not the middle class. And in common with SNCC, we think the role of the organizer is not to lead people, but to empower them and let them take over their own local struggles. We also believe that our communities are colonies or semi-colonies which are totally under the control of the state. But we do not believe in politics or electoralism in any form, and reject coalitions with Liberals or social democrats.

Finally, like the Panthers, and contrary to today's Nation of Islam and its spokesmen, we believe that there were historical, socio-economic factors which accounted for both slavery and racism, not because whites are "ice-people", "devils", or other such nonsense. This system produces racism/white supremacy, and it is this capitalist system which must destroyed to get rid of it!

So this is who we are fighters for human rights, self-determination, and freedom for our people and our class.