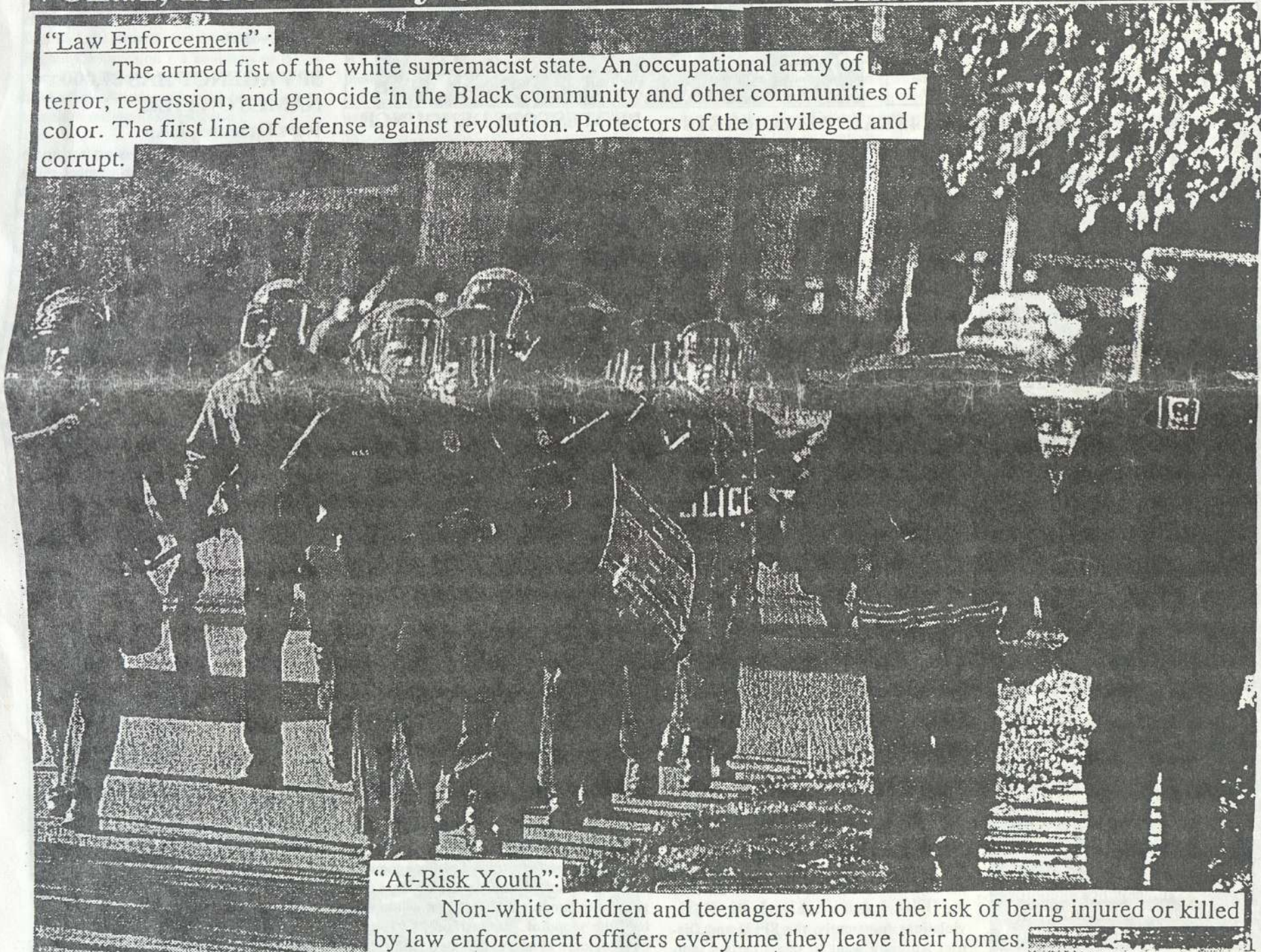


BLACK AUTONOMY

A NEWSPAPER OF ANARCHISM AND BLACK REVOLUTION
VOL.#2, ISSUE#3 May-June 1996. .50 cents FREE FOR THE HOME-
LESS OR IMPRISONED.

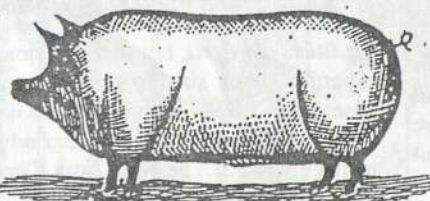
"Law Enforcement":

The armed fist of the white supremacist state. An occupational army of terror, repression, and genocide in the Black community and other communities of color. The first line of defense against revolution. Protectors of the privileged and corrupt.

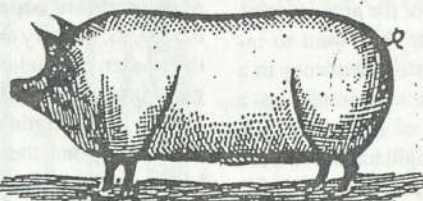


"At-Risk Youth":

Non-white children and teenagers who run the risk of being injured or killed by law enforcement officers everytime they leave their homes.



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We are anti-copyright, just give us our props whenever you reprint and send us a copy to the address printed below.

Not everything printed within the pages of Black Autonomy represents the "official position" or "political line" of the staff of Black Autonomy newspaper. Articles or text that do can be found on page 15, in the Fighting Back! activism section, or are otherwise clearly marked.

Black Autonomy
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e-mail:bd982@scn.org

**New Format!
New Low Price!**

Due to sharp increases in the cost of newsprint and in solidarity with the upcoming boycott (kick-off is scheduled for June 8th), we have stopped printing Black Autonomy on newsprint. It wouldn't make sense for us to continue going to a white-owned print shop (because the two Black-Ingresic) owned web presses in Seattle, The Facts Newspaper and the Seattle Medium adamantly refuse to print Black Autonomy) when our collective is one of the principle groups within the Black United Front of Seattle organizing the boycott (see page 3).

To be fair, our last printer gave us quality work, fast service, and fair prices but we are an organization of poor people who work with other poor people; and even without the upcoming boycott, we still couldn't afford the rise in paper costs.

It has been widely known for a long time by close comrades and allies that our humble little paper was produced mostly by the anarchist/anti-authoritarian methods of mutual aid, voluntary cooperation, and [small time] expropriation (what we call "pocket-change reparations"). Now, thanks to "market forces", we have been forced to utilize these methods even more than ever; passing the savings on to you, the reader! Let us know what you think of our new look.

-Publications Committee,
Black Autonomy Collective-Seattle,
Black Autonomist International.



NEWS OF REPRESSION & RESISTANCE
National and International Coverage.



"LIBERAL" MAYOR GETS IN, POLICE REPRESSION GOES UP.

San Francisco, CA-

On March 3, 1996, 130 marchers were arrested exercising their First Amendment rights in a peaceful demonstration against police violence.

And these arrests are not the only outrages. Since the inauguration in January, the following injustices have taken place in San Francisco:

1,700 Matrix arrests of the homeless in January & February (500 more arrests than during the same months in 1995); Food Not Bombs arrests for sharing free food & literature in March; Male police officers strip-searched a young woman at Juvenile Hall in February; Police have obtained two helicopters from the defense department for use in our neighborhoods; Increased arrests of sex-workers; A dramatic increase in squatter arrests including Homes Not Jails and Religious Witness;

Police sweeps in every poor neighborhood, including Haight Street, The Mission, The Western Addition, Bay View Hunters Point, The Excelsior & The Tenderloin. After the March 3rd mass arrests, the San Francisco Police Department and the District Attorney's office called for a meeting with "representatives" of the activist community to "set ground rules for protest." But unfortunately, the police have ignored even their own "ground rules" -- such as the "crowd control" manual and the general orders governing spying on political groups.

There were meetings with the SFPD after the 1989 Castro Police Riot & the Tom Gerard/ADL Spy Scandal. But they did not end the civil rights violations. Apparently, the SFPD and District Attorney want to select certain individuals to be negotiators for the activist community. Instead, some activists want to invite the SFPD and the District Attorney to a public forum, where the community as a whole can present a list of demands. This document, declaring our right to be free from police repression, would provide a basis for any valid dialogue with those officials who are calling for "negotiations." For more info: (415) 386-9209

PROTESTORS DENOUNCE RACIST COP ATTACKS ON IMMIGRANT WORKERS.

San Francisco, CA.-

More than 250 demonstrators took to the streets April 5, in San Francisco's Mission District. The emergency mobilization, called by Accion Y Unidad Para el Desamparado Latino (AYUDA) and the Bay Area Coalition Opposing Fascism (BACOF), was an emergency response to the video-taped beating by racist Riverside, California deputy sheriff's last Monday.

The spirited march wound through the Mission District; community anger was palpable. The cops, though a ubiquitous presence were "low-key" -- repression's Janus-face sporting a thin smile for the event.

Chanting "Raza si, Migra no!" and "No Justice, No Peace," the demonstrators were warmly greeted by residents who shouted, "Viva la Raza!" and "Si se puede!" in reply. AYUDA and BACOF organizers linked these racist attacks on undocumented immigrants to the bi-partisan drive by both capitalist parties to wipe out the last vestiges of economic and political rights won through hard-fought battles by the working class.

Since the passage of California's infamous Proposition 187, which would deny medical care and educational opportunities to undocumented workers and their children, attacks by the police, the hated INS and racist whites, including neo-Nazis and "Patriot" vigilantes have sharply escalated.

Democrats and Republicans in both Houses of Congress, shamelessly catering to the milieu attracted to demagogue Patrick Buchanan's presidential campaign, are seeking to ram through a bill that would extend the scope of Proposition 187 to the national level. Measures include doubling the number of INS cops and expanding the use of the U.S. military and National Guard along the border. Politicians and "grass roots" organizations such as the sinister Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR), are demanding that the State create a national index of "legal" workers pegged to a "tamper-proof" Social Security card; a step that would inevitably lead to an internal passport system within the imperialist metropole.

Clinton's signature is almost a certainty. Speakers from a broad array of Bay Area organizations, including AYUDA, BACOF, Food Not Bombs, Freedom Socialist Party, Love and Rage Revolutionary Anarchist Federation, La Resistencia, Radical Women, Revolutionary Communist Party Spartacist League, Workers Voice and outraged community members, denounced these brutal attacks by the cops, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and rightist vigilantes.

AYUDA and BACOF organizers view Friday's action as the beginning of a new Bay Area fight-back against the rising tide of anti-immigrant racism and xenophobia.

For more information on upcoming events please contact: Richard Marquez, AYUDA, 415-861-7419 or BACOF 415-789-8165.

SPY AGENCY HAS 87,000 NAMES ON FILE.

New Orleans, LA.-

A secret commission set up by Mississippi in the 1950s to combat racial desegregation spied on at least 87,000 people during the civil rights era, a U.S. appellate court panel was told Thursday. The question before the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here is whether the files of the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission should be opened to the public or restricted to people who were the unwitting victims of state-sponsored espionage for more than two decades. "Those people may not know their names are in the file, and disclosing their files with their names would damage them because the records contain lies, speculation and innuendo," said Luke Dove, the attorney for a civil rights activist who wants file access restricted.

The Sovereignty Commission was established in 1956 to protect the state from the encroachments of the federal government, according to the official language of the time. But it is now clear that the agency existed to resist the racial desegregation orders of the U.S. Supreme Court.

It did so by compiling dossiers on tens of thousands of people considered to be potential subversives. The list is said to include civil rights activists, college students, state government officials and others. But until now, the actual number has not been made public.

"87,000 names have been identified in the file," Special Assistant State Attorney General Mary Margaret Bowers told the appellate court. Information in the commission files led to the 1994 murder conviction of white supremacist Byron de la Beckwith more than 30 years after he killed Medgar Evers, field officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Mississippi Legislature disbanded the commission in 1977 and ordered the files destroyed, but the American Civil Liberties Union sued to get the documents unsealed. A federal court in Jackson has ruled that the files can be opened after advertisements appear in The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today and 12 Mississippi newspapers. But attorneys for Ed King, a Methodist minister and civil rights

cont. on pg. 12.

FIGHTING BACK! Black Autonomist Activism Notes.

SEATTLE'S BLACK REVOLUTIONARY FACTIONS FIGHT BACK AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER
by Greg Jackson.

On April 6th, the Black Autonomy Collective of Seattle (BAC-Seattle) organized its first demonstration. As some of you may have seen in the last issue of BA (vol#2, issue#2), Seattle Police department officer William Edwards was found not guilty by a predominantly white inquest jury in the January 15th (Martin Luther King jr's birthday) slaying of 28 year-old Edward Anderson, a Black resident of the Central district. Officer Edwards has since been re-assigned to another precinct. Attorney for the Anderson family, Lem Howell, and the Seattle Human Rights Commission (a coalition of Black clergy, business people, and white liberals) have asked Attorney General Janet Reno to launch a civil rights investigation.

With help from the Nation of Gods and Earths (5% Nation), the Pan-African Student/Youth Movement (PASYM), a representative of the University of Washington's Black Student Union (UW-BSU), and legal observers from the local National Lawyers Guild (NLG-WA), we gathered at Westlake Park (a popular Seattle consumer area and tourist trap) to raise awareness and send a clear message to city and county officials, as well as the public that the Black community will not take this lying down. April 6th is also significant in terms of Black revolutionary history in the US: on that date in 1968 Oakland Police gunned down 16 year-old Bobby Hutton in cold blood after he had stripped naked and exited a house, with his hands raised, where he and Eldridge Cleaver had been holed up inside. Hutton was the first casualty in the counter-revolutionary war against the Black Panther Party.

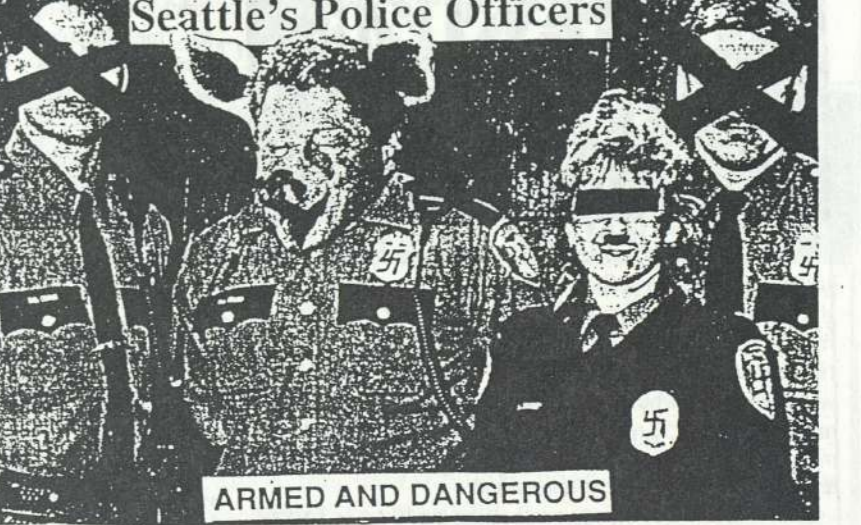
At Westlake, we had to "compete" with the Power Team, a group of Christians who perform feats of strength, who had a permit to set up on the stage area in the park. We, without a permit, simply set up across from them; sending a couple of our people into their crowd to hand out literature, etc.

We had a crowd of 40-100 (including the curious shoppers who stopped to listen, then left) during our one hour event. After the speakers from the different Black groups were finished, we then invited a white bike messenger up to speak. He told us about

how the SPD chased him down, smashed his bike after catching him (his means of paying rent, bills, etc), and then dared him to run again so they could "knock him down".

The event ended with myself and another collective member burning an effigy of city officials (Seattle mayor Norm Rice, King county prosecutor Norm Maleng, SPD chief Norm Stamper, as well as officer Edwards; both Rice (democrat) and Maleng (republican) are candidates for governor) which consisted of a devil's head attached to a "body" of amerikkkan and washington state flags. An interesting anecdote to this was the appearance of the local chapter of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) who had previously accused myself and seven other Africans of being "against unity" when we brought up the issue of self-determination at their conference held at the University of Washington a little over two months ago. I guess that now that us "counter-revolutionary Black nationalists" and "conspiracy theorists" (the two labels thrown at us by one of their representatives from Chicago when we voiced our support for the Million Man March and our class-based analysis of the event) are getting our collective shit together we are now "worthy" of their minimal, opportunistic "support"! While we do not dis them for showing up, we do question their motives. We also wonder why they uphold the Black Panther Party (BPP) as a "model" for revolutionary organization, but then condemn us for attempting to pick up where those strong brothers and sisters left off; while their white, middle class-based organization continues to do no practical work in white or non-white communities on either side of the prison walls. Yet, they want to "teach" us "backward lumpen elements" about "class struggle" and "revolution"!

Since the demo, we have been working on building support for a boycott of all white-owned businesses in Seattle, focusing our attention primarily on the downtown area; the place most of our people shop. We have asked Black businesses to offer discounts and specials (based on what they can afford) to customers who show them the flyers created by each faction within our "Black United Front" (not an "organization" exactly, but more of a collective concept of unity in struggle) about the boycott. In addition, we will be issuing specific demands to the city government and will challenge white owned businesses to take up our demands in public and repeat our message to city officials themselves if they do not want their businesses to become the targets of civil dis-



obedience and embarrassing public criticism. We are also assisting Mothers Against Police Harrassment (MAPH) in the search for where Edwards has been re-assigned, in order to mobilize demonstrations and warn other communities about this homicidal jackal in blue. For more info on the boycott, contact this newspaper.

On the prisoner support side of things, our collective has started a principled, working relationship with Raze The Walls!, a local anarchist prisoner support organization. Raze The Walls!, in partnership with the National Lawyers Guild and others has started a program of legal assistance for prisoners in all 50 states. What they do is provide advise and some limited resources for jailhouse litigators while the BAC-Seattle puts pressure on the wardens and deputy wardens of various oppressive institutions. Those who are interested can contact Raze The Walls! at PO Box 22774 Seattle, WA 98112-0774. Be sure to write the words "Legal Support" on the outside of the envelope when sending correspondence to RTW to insure a prompt response to your request.

Also, be forewarned that neither the BAC-Seattle or RTW! will tolerate frivolous claims (i.e.-suing over a change in the brand of peanut butter served in the mess hall, etc). Those who attempt to send us materials on cases that are clearly without merit will not receive assistance. Such claims do nothing but add fuel to the Republican crusade to severely limit or eliminate an inmate's right to sue a facility or its employees, in addition to adding to our rapidly increasing workload unnecessarily.

Jailhouse lawyers who have the time and energy to help us with cases are more than welcome to come aboard with their skills and talents, just write to the previously mentioned address or this newspaper (see pages 2, 14, or the back page for our address).

NEITHER BAD WEATHER NOR POLICE WILL KEEP US FROM MARCHING FOR LEONARD PELTIER!
by Greg Jackson.

On May 18th, approximately 50 of us braved the typical rainy and windy Seattle weather to march and rally on behalf of American Indian Movement (AIM) political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

Despite orders from the police that we had to stay on the sidewalk (even though we had a parade permit), we marched from

the Federal Building, north along 3rd avenue, to the rally point at Victor Steinbreck park near the Pike Place Market.

The march and rally was organized by the local Leonard Peltier Support Group (LPSG-Seattle). Participating groups included the Freedom Socialist Party, Raze The Walls, the Revolutionary Communist Party, and the Workers World Party.

As regular Black Autonomy readers know, Leonard's parole was denied again, despite the fact that the government still admits that it has no idea who actually shot the two FBI agents at Pine Ridge Reservation in 1973. They also admit that their "evidence" is "circumstantial".

Two particular incidents struck me about this demonstration. The first one was the reaction by the various white leftists when I told them during my speech that in order to support political prisoners/POWs, you must also support self-determination for all non-white people. While they didn't say anything negative, this did rattle a few of them since what we're basically doing was reminding them that despite all their rhetoric and dogmatic belief that their party is the "vanguard", this is simply not the case. These people were captured because this was this was what they were fighting for, in addition to class liberation (the two concepts go "hand in glove"). Even the white anti-imperialists who still languish behind bars are in for fighting around the issue of self-determination; many of them transported weapons, raised funds (both legally and illegally), and carried out attacks against the state on the behalf of national liberation movements such as AIM and the Black Panther Party.

The second incident occurred when Michael Lee of Raze The Walls spoke. He asked the crowd gathered there, "If Leonard was here today, how many of you would buy him a cup of coffee?" Less than half of the crowd raised their hands. One member of the RCP in fact hesitated, then put his hand down! But they "support Peltier and other political prisoners"...uh-huh, right. They then had the nerve to ask the LPSG if they could speak. They weren't invited to speak (as I was) to begin with, yet everyone knows where to find them, and then when they asked at the demo itself if they could speak they were told "no"; what does this tell them? They need to do is think a little bit (and see page 5 of this newspaper for more reasons why the answer is still "no")!

Michael then continued on about how activists on the outside could use money that they'd usually buy coffee with as a donation towards the LPSG.

cont. on pg.11

ORGANIZER, ORGANIZE THYSELF!

by Lorenzo Komboa Ervin.

It seems to me that one of the most important tasks for us to have a Black revolution is for us to organize the potential organizers of the people. Part of the task is to make us understand that we don't have all the answers. In fact, we really cannot be expected to have all the answers, for we are merely learning ourselves. I have been an organizer all my life (I turned 50 recently) and the only thing which keeps me going is that I continue to learn, but to learn one must be humble enough to keep an open mind.

Sometimes it seems that the problem is so vast that we should just defer it over to leaders instead of doing what we ourselves need to do in our own communities. I believe that is the easy way out. For example, although I believe that the Million Man March was a tremendous achievement, it also has shown its shortcomings. No specific political demands were placed on the White government and the 120 MMM Local Organizing Committees are not, for the most part, active in grassroots organizing.

This tells us a number of things: (1) mobilizations are of short term duration, (2) it is at the grassroots level where changes will occur, not in Washington; (3) the forces which will make lasting social change are not yet mobilized. As in all other things political [here I am not talking about electoral politics, but organizing for power], the people themselves, not leaders, can truly transform society and win their freedom. The 1963 March on Washington did not free us, and I suspect the one in 1995 won't do it either.

And yet look at some of the problems which befall our communities:
* 8,000 reported cases of police brutality each year, 1,200-1,500 of which result in deaths. [This is a conservative statistic, the federal gov't itself says the actual number of cases is 2-3 times higher]. The majority are black and Latin people, unarmed at that. According to the Sentencing Project, 1 in every 3 Black men in their 20's are in prison or jail. Add to this the fact that 58% of all female prisoners are black.

* the majority of infant mortality deaths are black, and are on a level with some 3rd world poor countries.

* Unemployment levels of 30-60% in the black community.

* homicide is the leading cause of death for young black males.

* Most black children are reared in poverty.

These are just some of the conditions, if anything the picture is worse. In the face of such stark terror, it seems we have retreated into cultism, escapism, mysticism, and conspiracy theories. To me, at least, we need to work to create a new generation of community based organizers, and to work to build a new liberation movement.

I personally reject ritualism, cultural nationalism, religious escapism, and anything else that does not lead to us destroying the current United States and building a new society. I am not dogmatic about this, and I realize that everyone may not agree with my approach, but I expect people to at least give us some ideas of a method of struggle as opposed to just deferring to leaders, politicians, preacher, or celebrities, who purportedly have all the ideas if we will just blindly follow them.

We have got to start thinking for ourselves, instead of blindly being followers of some dogma or charismatic personality. We have also got to talk to one another in our communities and on boards like this to ask ourselves the right questions, if we want to get the right answers. The answers are not always easy and they challenge our beliefs which we have adopted, but they must be explored nevertheless. I am

convinced that our thinking "as usual", instead of doing serious and critical thinking is partly why we are at this historical impasse. Hopefully we can learn something from our contact with each other, rather than just degenerate into ideological one-upmanship and shouting "holier than thou" [or "more revolutionary than thou"] pronouncements, and respect each other's viewpoints.

The main thing is that we can still respect the diversity of the views in the Black community, even though we may disagree. I believe that is where correct ideas come from, they don't drop out of the sky or because of last night's long distance talk with god.

So, I've said my piece, you know where I stand...hit me.

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin is a former member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Black Panther Party (BPP), and former political prisoner (1969-1983). Currently, he is [still] a grassroots, pro-revolution community organizer and national spokesperson (USA) for the Black Autonomist International (BAI); a growing network of Black anti-authoritarian revolutionary activists and collectives. For info on speaking engagements, write or email us.



THE DEADLY TRUTH ABOUT POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER IN THE U.S.

by the Black Autonomy Collective-Seattle.

From 1981 to 1991, there were 79,800 REPORTED cases of police brutality. The actual amount is estimated at 2 to 3 times that number. Based on the number of reported cases alone, that means that between 1981 and 1991, there were 7,500 to 8,000 per year; which breaks down to approximately 658 per month on average. Of those 1,200 to 2,000 were FATALITIES.

Of these cases of brutality or outright murder, 50 to 75% involved UNARMED CIVILIANS being ruthlessly attacked by police officers.

The Bureau of Justice statistics, as well as former US Attorney general [under Reagan] Edwin Meese, admit that the Department of Justice prosecuted less than 5% of those cases FOR THE ENTIRE DECADE.

It is clear from the information above, as well as the recent events here in Seattle (the killing of Edward Anderson and Antonio Jackson, both African-American), in Riverside, California (the videotaped beating of two Mexican immigrants), in Atlanta, Georgia (the execution-style slaying of a Black man by a plainclothes police officer in front of four civilian witnesses), in Paterson, New Jersey (the second killing of a Black man in a year; the first murder incited two days of riots), in Lexington, Kentucky (an execution-style police slaying of a Black youth that incited rioting), and other cities across the US that the police are indeed an occupational army of racial genocide, political repression, and state-sponsored terror in communities of color. Not satisfied with fulfilling their quota of non-white victims, they then turn their sights on their own people. Recent evidence of this can be found in the events of September 10, 1994 on Seattle's Capitol Hill. While they didn't kill anyone in that instance, they did manage to injure both an elderly woman and a pregnant teenager. They even shoot animals (as a Lynnwood cop did recently; wounding his own partner as a result).

Unless you're a fan of the police or wish to be a victim, now is the time to mobilize resistance in each and every community in Seattle. We, as Black people and as citizens of the United States (in theory, anyway), must organize ourselves into defense units: Legal Defense, Medical Defense, and Armed Defense.

All sections of our population have role to play in this process. Peaceful demonstrators must assist the more confrontational elements. "Illegal" activities must complement and assist "legal" activities. Prayer vigils must occur side by side with massive civil disobedience. Demands for a Federal "investigation" must go hand in glove with demands for a complete withdrawal of all police forces from the community. Every Black-owned business, school, church, and

street corner must become a "mecca" for organizing activity.

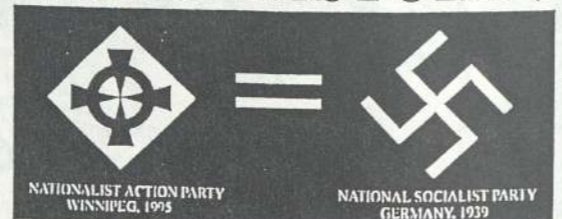
We must begin building for the full-blown Black Revolt. Other communities should look to what we are doing and "absorb what is useful and discard what is not" as part of their own community-wide revolutionizing process. One way or another, we must have real peace and real justice...or it's back to the "NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE" days of 1992! We will be treated as people or the pigs, the power structure and their supporters will suffer the consequences of their actions! 400+ YEARS IS ENOUGH!

Join, build, or assist real "fight back" organizations in your particular community. At the rate these cops are going now, tomorrow will be too late...

Harry liked to beat the shit out of niggers.



CELEBRATE WHITE HISTORY?



NO THANKS, ASSHOLES.

WHITE LEFTIST MISSIONARIES:

Black people will not tolerate left-wing white supremacist attitudes!
Disrespect breeds contempt and helps the enemy!

The following was sent to us via email from Marpessa Kuperdva. It is one more example of why the left is so weak and lacking a practical program for social transformation in the US today, and why it is up to anarchists/anti-authoritarians to step forward and represent "the revolution of every day life" on the real. This piece has been edited for length:

I'll try to be brief. I allowed myself to get rather upset today. It's been building for a while now. I have never worked with white people before this summer, not to this extent anyhow. I'm wondering if I should even write this now, it might not make good sense. My heart and soul is red, black and green, y'all know what I mean? I have been defending and supporting MOVE, Mumia and political prisoners ever since I became conscious.

All summer black organizers and brothers and sisters have been finding so much to complain about regarding the Mumia movement. "The Mumia movement has a white face, I cannot be involved." I wish I could put into words how hearing that so much has made me feel; so dismayed, so upset, and then feeling all crazy when I'm surrounded with these white people. I say to my black people, "We got to save this brother's LIFE, this is a POLITICAL murder. THAT supersedes WHATEVER our politics and personal feelings [are], we MUST save Mumia's life!"

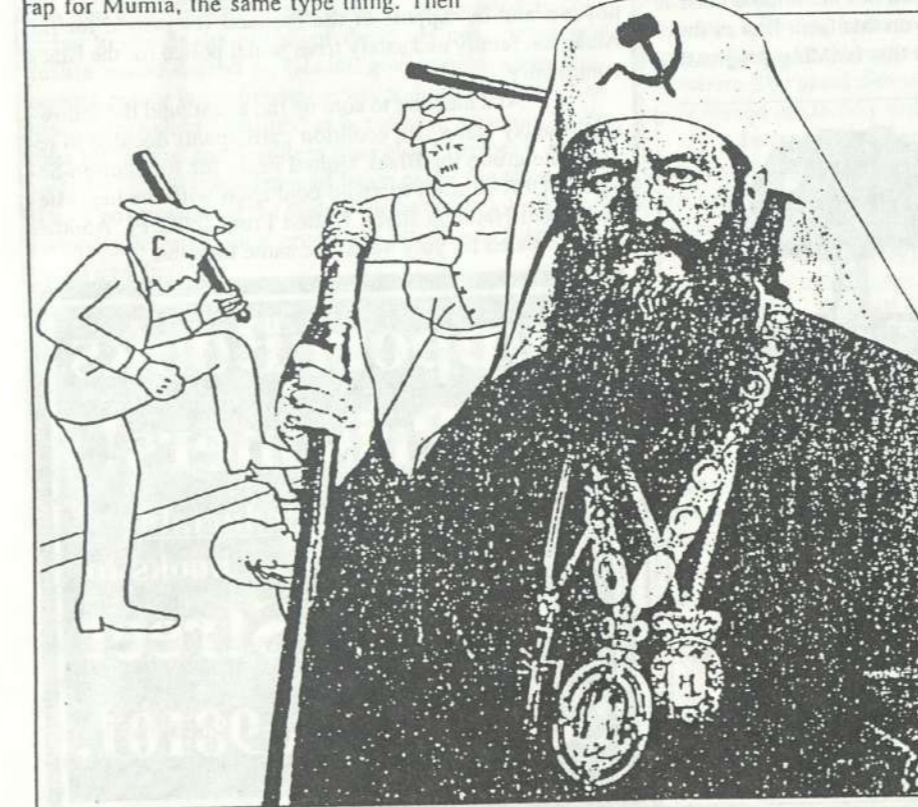
Then today again I am surrounded by these white people and, frankly, hating it. Well my good sister Pam Africa spoke to Jay, but around MOVE law and not specifically about the death penalty or Mumia.

Now I accept and appreciate where MOVE is coming from, as I said I love them with the fierceness. But these WHITE people were disparaging her to one another I was in the back so she couldn't hear) "What is this shit she is talking about?" "I didn't come here to hear this shit" and when a powerful young brother was performing a rap for Mumia, the same type thing. Then

right before me this white woman from Amnesty International gets up there talking about how much she LOVED Mumia, but we need to be reminded that there are other people on death row.

Then it was my turn to speak. I was so furious I almost jumped outta my skin. I can hardly even type thinking about it. I just cut loose. Completely. I told them that we were SUPPOSED to be uniting to defeat the death penalty and that we were SUPPOSED to be representing a united front against the death penalty at that rally, and for them to be making disparaging remarks about Pam was some FOUL shit, especially since everyone one of 'em knew they would be running, hugging, grabbing photo-ops for their propaganda, with her and Ramona whenever next they saw them, running to buy Move and Mumia t-shirts! And then I told them that it was because of MUMIA that so many anti-death penalty workers had gotten together in the FIRST place, that folks were beginning to talk more and more about political prisoners, that Mumia does NOT want the focus just to be on him but to end the death penalty, not to use Mumia as an excuse for DISunity, but to BUILD unity, that is what he wants! They could at least respect the strong revolutionary example of the MOVE family whether they agreed with what they said or no! They can't even respect someone who has had 11 members of their family publicly executed! I didn't cuss em, but my hair was standing up on the back of my neck.

There was a lot of busting around. Bob Witaneck was clapping. I was very happy to have met him, he is a real sincere guy, he worked so hard to pull this off. I would estimate the crowd at about 200, the kkkamp is right in the middle of a poor white/hispanic/black neighborhood and all those crackers had "SUPPORT THE DEATH PENALTY" signs out there and were acting like they always do, but all in all, it went well. Basically what I'm running down to y'all is just a personal thing I went through.



HUEY P. NEWTON ON THE ROLE OF WHITE RADICALS IN THE BLACK LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

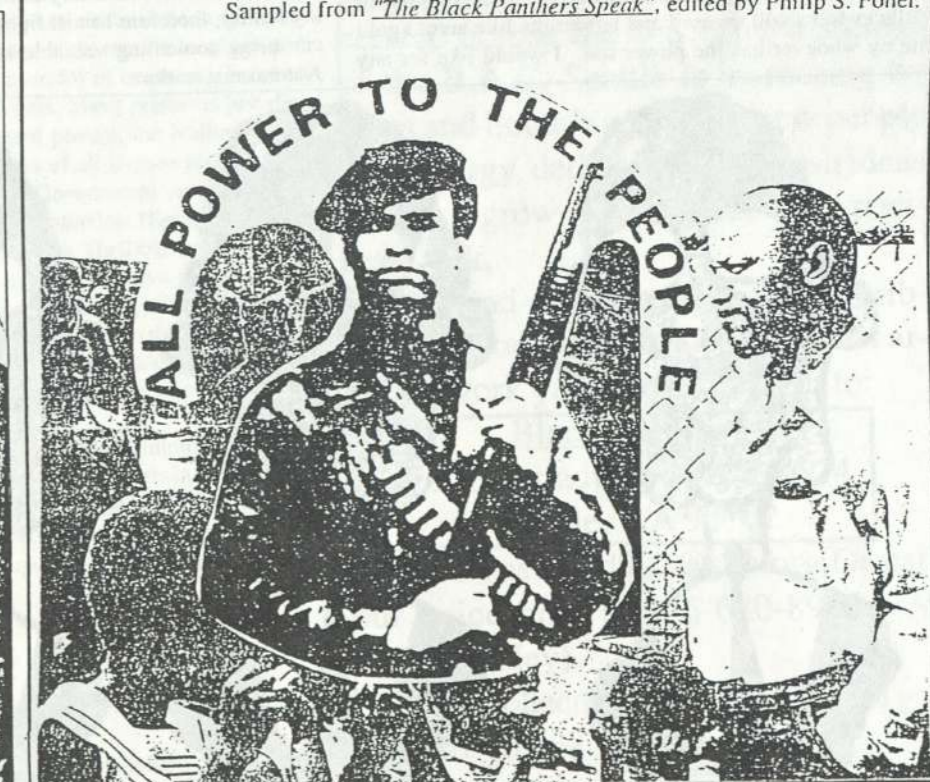
"... when something happens in the Black colony-when we're attacked and ambushed in the Black colony-then the white revolutionary students and intellectuals and all other whites who support the colony should respond by defending us, by attacking the enemy in their community. Every time that we are attacked in our community there should be a reaction by the white revolutionaries; they should respond by defending us, by attacking part of the security force. Part of that security force that is determined to carry out the racist ends of the American institutions.

..As far as our party is concerned, the Black Panther Party is an all-Black party, because we feel as Malcolm X felt that there can be no Black-white unity until there is Black unity...We've regained our mind that was taken away from us and we will decide the political as well as the practical stand that we'll take. We'll make the theory and we'll carry out the practice. It's the duty of the white revolutionary to aid us in this.

..We have never been controlled by whites and therefore we don't fear the white mother country radicals. Our alliance is one of organized Black groups with organized white groups. As soon as the organized white groups do not do the things that would benefit us in our struggle for liberation, that would be our departure point. So we don't suffer in the hang-up of a skin color. We don't hate white people; we hate the oppressor. And if the oppressor happens to be white, then we hate him. When he stops oppressing us, then we no longer hate him.

...as far as organizing white people we give white people the privilege of having a mind and we want them to get a body. They can organize themselves. We can tell them what they should do, what their responsibility is if they're going to claim to be white revolutionaries or white mother country radicals, and that is to arm themselves and support the colonies around the world in their just struggle against imperialism. But anything more than that they will have to do on their own." (PARAPHRASED)

Quoted from "Huey Newton talks to the Movement about the Black Panther Party, Cultural Nationalism, SNCC, Liberals, and White Revolutionaries." Sampled from "The Black Panthers Speak", edited by Philip S. Foner.



The Truth of the Black Middle Class.

by David Ashley.

Growing up in the middle class, I was caught between two worlds. On the one hand there was an undying loyalty to the culture and advancement of Blacks no matter what their class. Then there was the constant message pounded into me of just "get yours." As I got older I noticed that all middle class Blacks felt this pressure from both sides. However, I watched many sacrifice one for the other. As I tried to keep balance of the two messages I saw the world around me either sell out or be left out. This brought me to the Black Autonomy Collective. I realized that we can never be a formidable opponent to the White classes until the issue of class is addresses, and resolved with our own people.

The Black Middle class has taken a wrong turn. A portion (not all) middle class Blacks are slowly (subconsciously and consciously) becoming a new petite version of the same oppressive capitalistic structure that shut Blacks out from even being considered middle class thirty years ago. The "I got mines" mentality is running rampant through out the Black community. What these Neo-Bourgeoisie are forgetting is that despite their rise to the top of the Black community's stratification, they are still at a subordinate role to the White economic stratification.

The reason for this, is that all acquisition by Blacks (upper, middle, or lower class) is eventually exploited, nullified, discredited absorbed or flat out stolen by the main stream. This "minor" detail was over looked by everyone in the mad rush to integrate. The major flaw of integration, is that which ever group who has the most will remain dominant over the other on sheer numbers and power alone. For example, if someone had a soup that was 70% beef broth, 10% carrots, and 20% potatoes, no matter how much one would try to stir and mix, the beef broth is still the dominant taste. When a community or individual integrates with any other kind of system of organization without a solid power structure of their own (politically, socially, economically) they have no other choice but dependency on the other group. This reduces the person or community to a parasitic existence. This kind of living brings on three things 1.) Perpetuation of Fascism by the power structure, 2.) exploitation by the already established power structure, and 3.) frustration and oppression by the non-power structure. Sound familiar Black folks?

The Black middle class has to realize that without a united front and a "leg" to stand on, all that is accomplished by Blacks folks will be used and left empty like an old gold mine by whoever has the power too. I would like for any

bourgeoisie Negro to please explain to me how opening a business (or being a wage slave to a business) with white patrons, white-supplied resources, and basically being under the thumb of whites is somehow uplifting the race in any way. Remember that part of capitalism is to have a lower class that will guarantee that the upper class retain their position and any kind of advancement by the lower class, (whether by revolution or assimilation) threatens that foot hold.

I had an argument with a white leftist about exploitation about a year ago. His position was that since he was not an over-bearing manager or ruthless corporate shark, he was not taking part in exploitation. I then asked him if he considered his house nice one with some economic value for which he replied yes. I then ask him what his basis for comparison. He commenced to listing off different neighborhoods (majority Black) that were not "up to standard." I then asked him how much did he think his house would be worth if all houses looked like his. He had no reply because there was no reply: exploitation is the bottom line of capitalism. Even the most kind hearted person is in some way stepping on another in a capitalistic system. However, I realize that we all live in the belly of the beast and that capitalism has a strangle hold on us. All other options, past and present, were nullified or flat out destroyed. Therefore, I am not brow beating anyone for doing what has been considered the "right thing" to do. However, we live in a new day with old needs facing an old enemy with new tactics.

The role of the Black middle class, is not to stop striving, but to strive for the people. There is nothing wrong with business if the business is run by the people and for the people not for the fattening of bosses' pockets. This also requires that so-called "made it" Blacks do not take an elitist or vanguard attitude; we have enough of that from the outside groups. Progression will come when we all move together as equal unit not as a stratified unit. Splintered nations have always destroyed themselves with just the slightest push from the outside (Hutus and Tutsi tribes of Rwanda, and the number of African tribes that sold other Africans during the slave trade to name a few). The reason for this is that no matter the size of an organization it will defeat disorganization and in-fighting. These were tactics used by Whites on the native people of Africa and America despite the fact the settlers were considerable less in number.

There is no point in casting out such oppression such as wage slavery, exploitation and police brutality just to adopt the same practices once in power. This was the hard lesson that many African nations learned after defeating the colonials and installing leaders "for the people." Fascism can have White or Black face on it if there is no principled unity, which includes fair and equal distribution of assets and checks and balances of authority.

I am currently in the process of investigating and analyzing the Black middle class more in-depth so I can provide more information and suggestions for change to all our people. I am revolutionary minded but the middle class is my reality; therefore I must fight on that front first so that I can bring something valuable to this building progressive Autonomist nation.

RANDOM NOTES.

BLACK WOMAN SUES DEPARTMENT STORE; RACISM CITED. Seattle, WA.

A Los Angeles area woman is caught in the middle of legal wrangling over which court has jurisdiction in her civil rights lawsuit.

The complaint, filed last year in King County Superior Court, accuses the Seattle-based Nordstrom department store of racial discrimination, false imprisonment, violation of Washington State's public accommodations law, and emotional distress stemming from an incident on August 8th 1993 when Nordstrom security confronted Marina Ray inside Nordstrom's downtown Seattle location.

According to the complaint, Ray was had her arm twisted behind her back to the point of extreme pain, was slammed against a wall by security officers, had the contents of her purse dumped out, and was eventually strip-searched by security officers who claimed they thought she had stolen a vest. No shoplifted items were found in her possession. Ray claims that she was targeted by Nordstrom security because she is Black, and points to the fact that she was ignored by customer service personnel until after she emerged from a dressing room and returned the vest to the rack she got it from.

A trial date was set for December, 1996 until attorneys for Nordstrom filed a motion to have the trial moved to U.S. District Court after Ray's lawyer, Anthony Shapiro, added violations of federal civil rights laws to the original suit. Shapiro claims that Nordstroms made the move to delay a lengthy, costly, and potentially embarrassing trial, while attorneys for the department store giant claim that they simply want the case heard in federal court.

"I think when the evidence is presented before a jury, the jury will be troubled by the way Nordstrom treats minorities, especially how their security personnel scrutinize and treat minorities" said Shapiro.

BLACK UNITED FRONT FOR REVOLUTION KICKS OFF BOYCOTT. Seattle, WA.

As reported earlier on page 3, a coalition of Seattle area Black revolutionary organizations has formed to build a boycott against all white-owned businesses in response to the police murder of Edward Anderson on January 15th.

The boycott rally jumped off on June 8th and was positive, despite the low turnout. A rented p.a. system echoed the group's message of self-determination, economic independence, direct community control, and an immediate end to police brutality and murder for blocks. Over 200 flyers were handed out of passing Black and other non-white motorists who stopped at the intersection of 23rd Ave. South and East Union in Seattle's Central District. All responses from people, both Black and white, were in support of the boycott and in support of the demand for justice for the Anderson family and safety from brutal police for the Black community.

At a meeting to sum up the event held the following Monday (June 10), coalition participants decided to rename the group the Black United Front for Revolution-Seattle (BUFR-Seattle) to avoid confusion with the negrosie-dominated National Black United Front (NBUF). Another event is slated for July 4th at the same location.

Support Books To Prisoners!
Send your tax-deductable donations of cash or books to
92 Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98101.

[The following article appeared in "The City Sun," New York's largest black paper, June 5 - June 11, 1996 edition. It was later sampled from the internet.-ed.]

GENOCIDE AND SLAVERY IN THE SUDAN: THE FARRAKHAN CONNECTION.

by Sabit Abbe Alley.

While most African Americans are beginning to awaken to the reality of the tragic situation of genocide and slavery in the Sudan, the NOI's Louis Farrakhan still continues to aggressively deny and defend the Islamic fundamentalist regime in the Sudan and its genocidal war and slave industry. Following his return from his so-called world tour, Farrakhan traveled the length and breadth of this country not just to preach and boast about his reception in Africa but also to absolve the Sudan government from its current war of extermination and enslavement against the African people of the Sudan.

In fact, quite recently, Minister Farrakhan spoke over radio station WLJB and addressed a rally at a Brooklyn church in New York on the Sudan crisis. On both occasions, like previous ones, the Minister categorically refuted all the reports concerning the enslavement of Sudanese Africans by their fellow Arab Sudanese, which according to these very reports is done with the tacit and active support of the military government of Omer el Bashir and the cleric Hassan el Turabi. According to Bro. Farrakhan, the claims of genocide and slavery in the Sudan are mere fabrications and propaganda by the Western world and media to disgrace Islam and at the same time tarnish the "good" image of the Islamic Republic of the Sudan. He argued very fervently that the USA and other European and African countries were conspiring to thwart the efforts of the cover ups. What true Muslim would defend an Islamic government whose pronounced policy is the extermination and enslavement of its citizens, including Muslims, as is the case presently in the Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile Province? At any rate, why should the defense of Islam or the fundamentalist Islamic government of the Sudan, for that matter, be the sole monopoly or the personal crusade of Min. Louis Farrakhan? I smell a rat here!

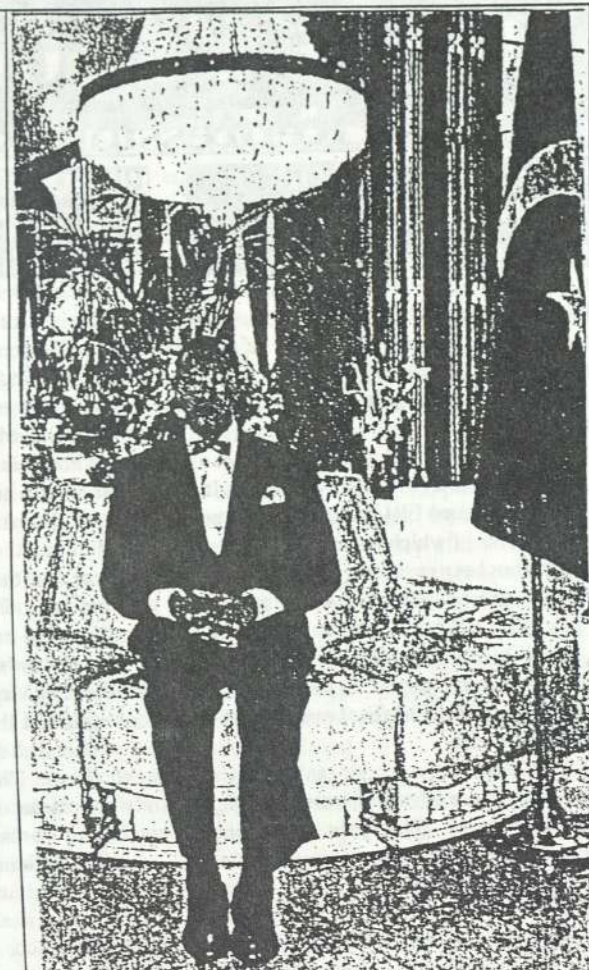
NOI AN AGENT OF SUDAN?

That the leader of the Nation of Islam is an agent of Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist regime has now been confirmed beyond any reasonable doubt by the unfolding of recent events in Khartoum. Reports emanating from the Presidential Palace in Khartoum indicate that, while Farrakhan was on his African tour, his Arab friends, President Bashir and the Cleric Turabi, asked him to travel to Zaire to persuade Mobutu to give the Islamists logistical support in the form of troops and arms and land access so that they could attack South Sudan from bases in Northern Zaire. In like manner, the two Sudanese leaders dispatched Farrakhan to Nigeria to secure for them some oil money from the ruthless dictator Abacha for the purchase of arms from China. As a result of Farrakhan's intervention on behalf of his Arab friends in the Sudan, money and arms have started flowing to the country.

Already a huge contingent of Sudanese and Zairian troops have been assembled in Northern Zaire awaiting orders from Khartoum to invade South Sudan. So, in the next few months, the Southern Sudan will probably be engulfed in a fierce and vicious warfare as the Arab Islamists push forward with their programs of jihad (Islamists genocide), Arabization, Islamization and enslavement!

Clearly, therefore, Farrakhan seems to be playing an instrumental role in the scheme to annihilate and enslave the people of South Sudan, the Nuba Mountains and the Ingessina Hills. This should not, however, surprise anyone, for all of us should have known by now that Min. Farrakhan loathes Southern Sudanese. This was clearly demonstrated during his Saviour's Day address on Feb. 25, 1996 in Chicago and in subsequent speeches, where the minister graphically described the people of South Sudan as being, "very, very, very ... very dark with kinky hair," as compared to the brown (white!) Northern Arabs, who according to Farrakhan, looked exactly like him! He used the adverb "very" 15 times to emphasize his color prejudice against the Southern Sudanese. It is indeed ironic that a supposedly Black man of slave descent should hate his kith and kin and actively participate in programs aimed at their eradication from the face of the earth. Who knows, may be the honorable minister suffers from (an) inferiority complex of some sort. But that is not important to us at this point in time.

What is important for Min. Farrakhan to realize is that despite his support for the Arab and Islamic fundamentalist government of the Sudan, the Black African people of the Sudan will not disappear from the face of the earth. Their will to survive and preserve and promote their sovereignty and heritage is stronger than the weapons and support that Bashir and Turabi have in their possession.



- An international boycott campaign against Shell.

NIGERIA... NEW REPRESSION OF TRADE UNIONISTS.

By Yinka Jeje.

You will have seen the recent case of the Nigerian Military junta's imprisonment of a 13 year old British boy, in order to capture his uncle. This is only the tip of the iceberg of repression in Nigeria.

In the past few days, Adam Oshiomole, the General Secretary of the Textile Workers Union and Biodun Olamasu, a leading trade union activist have been arrested, among others. Arrest means isolation, regular beatings and starvation. The usual diet is a cupful of beans in a bowl of water dished out to fifty prisoners. Many prisoners just die.

In response to student protest, the Military have dissolved the national structures of all Unions representing University staffs. The British Government refuse to take any steps against the Nigerian dictatorship. Nigeria is a major client for arms and military supplies. Shell Oil works hand in glove with the dictatorship, making massive profits out of the destruction and pollution of the Nigerian Delta. Any opposition is crushed. Following the judicial murder of Ken Sarawewa, oil workers leaders Frank Kokori and Milton Dabibi among many others, have been imprisoned without trial.

The Campaign for Independent Unionism is a campaign group comprising workers and activists in the Nigerian trade union movement. Its primary objective is the defense of democratic, trade union and economic rights of the Nigerian working class. We call upon you to give support to our demands:

- Free all political prisoners.
- End military dictatorship in Nigeria now.
- Sanctions against the Nigerian dictatorship.

We ask for your support. Send letter of protest to General Sanni Abacha, The Presidency, Aso Rock, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. We also ask for your financial support to help us produce material for the campaign and support activists in Nigeria facing attack.

With thanks for your solidarity,
Yinka Jeje (National Secretary, CIU)
Please send copies of protests and messages of support to CIU (Britain), PO Box 256, London SE11 5TH

WE WANT YOU!

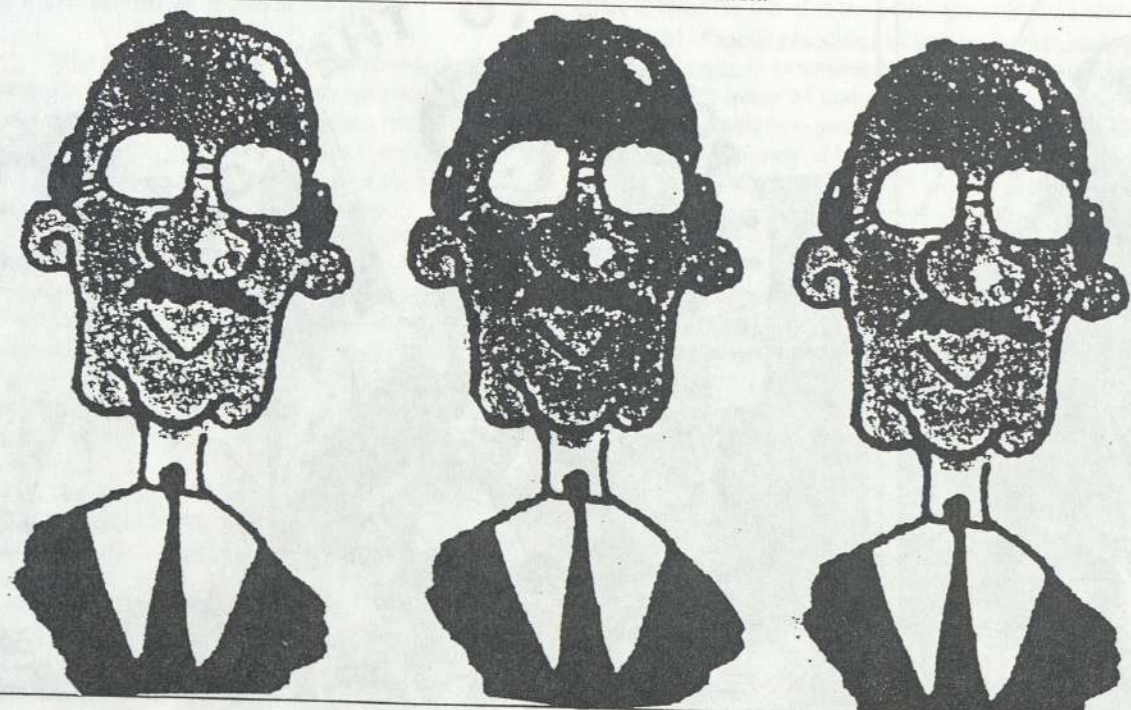
The Black Autonomy Collective is swamped with revolutionary work! From building the boycott in Seattle to prisoner support for our people incarcerated across the U.S. The workload of the B.A.C.-Seattle is increasing by leaps and bounds and needs new people with energy, dedication, and fresh ideas to help it grow and continue to do positive work.

Send us a letter briefly describing why you are interested and what areas of work you're interested in to:

Black Autonomy
323 Broadway Ave. E #914
Seattle, WA 98102.

Or email us at bd982@scn.org Or call our voice mail at 206-680-8916 (c/o David Ashley).

A collective representative will get back to you as soon as possible.



These Prisoners Need Your Support!

Prisoner Repression/Resistance.

PAROLE DENIED FOR GERONIMO - AGAIN! Los Angeles, CA-

Former Black Panther Deputy Defense Minister, and longtime political prisoner, Geronimo ji jaga (Pratt) has once again been savaged by the government of California, as parole has again been denied in mid-March 1996.

Geronimo, a documented target of the infamous COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) FBI operation, the very files and agents of which insured his absolute innocence, has been caged in government dungeons for almost a quarter of a century.

Since the mid-to-late 1960's the FBI, hyped by the late J.E. Hoover's claims of Black Panther "danger" to the American Republic, dogged the heels of every Panther of any significance.

Geronimo, as a high-ranking member of the Defense Ministry, was more significant than most. Therefore, his phones were tapped, and paid government informants put in reports on his movements. Government officials swore Geronimo and another man killed a white teacher in 1968, in Santa Monica. There was only one problem. The FBI knew, based on wiretaps, agents and informants that Geronimo was in Oakland, California, some 300 miles away from the murder scene on the day and time of the killing, and therefore, innocent.

Retired FBI agent, Wes Swearington, swore that he heard the FBI case officer say of Geronimo: "That son-of-a-bitch was up in Oakland!" When Swearington searched for the files, he found something he never saw in his 25-year career - missing files! Someone had "cleaned" the files.

One of Geronimo's jurors, Jeanne Hamilton, spoke movingly of the importance of the government's role in the railroading of the man who she sent to prison for life: "Never, ever in our discussions did we ever talk about the FBI. We had no clue as to their involvement..."

The jury was never informed that Mr. Olsen (the victim's husband) had made three previous identifications (of other suspects). The jury was never informed that the FBI had a COINTELPRO program and targeted Mr. Pratt for 'neutralization.' The jury was never informed that the FBI had wiretapped the Oakland and Los Angeles Black Panther headquarters and had documented evidence that Mr. Pratt was in Oakland at that time. The jury was never informed that the FBI activities had caused a split in the Black Panther Party resulting in members being forbidden to come to Mr. Pratt's defense. And lastly, the jury was never informed that Julius Butler (the state's key witness against Geronimo) was an FBI informant. "If we had known these facts there is no doubt in my mind that we would not have reached a guilty verdict." (Said at press conference, 2/26/96)

Geronimo ji jaga is currently awaiting an April 17 hearing before the Superior Court of California on a motion for a new trial.

-report by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

PRISON INMATE DIED OF GANGRENE, REPORT SAYS. Greensville, VA.-

March 31, 1996. A 42-year-old diabetic inmate and dialysis patient died at Greensville Correctional Center a year ago of bloodpoisoning caused by a gangrenous, "grossly infected" diabetic foot ulcer, the state's Chief Medical Examiner has ruled. Such a condition is usually, but not always, treatable with antibiotics, experts say.

Inmates at Greensville, particularly diabetics and those on dialysis, complained last year that they did not receive adequate medical care. Greensville is the state's largest prison and has an infirmary where many of the system's most seriously ill inmates are held. The Virginia Department of Corrections said that the Greensville infirmary is accredited and that inmates receive proper medical care. The office would make public only the cause of Jones' death: blood poisoning, and its classification as a natural death.

Officials would not release the autopsy itself, but Jones' widow, Charlene Jones, made it available to the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Amy Miller, a corrections department spokeswoman, said the department's chief physician, Dr. Vernon Smith, would review the report and determine whether proper medical protocols were followed.

Health care at Greensville is managed by a private company for the Department of Corrections. A subcontractor who had provided dialysis care there lost its contract recently for unspecified business reasons, officials said. The same subcontractor, Southeast Dialysis, of Georgia, lost its contract to provide dialysis at an Alabama prison several months ago when one inmate died and several others were injured. A local diabetes specialist, Dr. John Clore, said he could not comment or speculate on whether Jones had received proper medical care. But, he said, infections of diabetic ulcers usually can be treated with antibiotics, or by amputation in extreme cases. He also said it takes time for an infection to reach a gangrenous or lethal stage.

Jones was serving a 12-year sentence for kidnapping and aggravated sexual battery. He was diagnosed as having diabetes when he was 18. Jones began dialysis treatments at Greensville in 1994. Dialysis treatment is used in end-stage kidney disease.

He was released from the Greensville infirmary Feb. 16, 1995, when the staff decided the ulcer was under control and his condition was stable. Later that month, Jones complained of the care he received at Greensville in a letter to his lawyer, a copy of which was made available to a local newspaper.

Jones' widow said the last time she saw him was March 26, 1995. She said his foot hurt and he could barely walk on it. She said he also was running a high fever. Jones' mother, Anna Jones of Fredericksburg, said her son told her in an earlier conversation that five other diabetics receiving dialysis at the prison had died and that he was afraid for his life. Inmates at Greensville, particularly diabetics and those on dialysis, complained last year that they did not receive adequate medical care.

cont. on next page.

CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACQUITTAL OF THE N.Y. PANTHER 21!

May 13, 1996 marks the 25th anniversary of the acquittal of the Panther 21, who in 1971 were the leadership of the eastern region of the Black Panther Party (BPP).

The Panther 21 were arrested in a pre-dawn raid on April 2, 1969 and charged with conspiracy to blow up the New York Botanical Gardens, department stores, etc.

On May 13, 1971, after the longest political trial in New York's history, all 21 New York Panthers were acquitted of all charges in just 45 minutes of jury deliberation. The acquittal of the Panther 21 was a major political setback and embarrassment for the Manhattan District Attorney's office and the New York Police Intelligence unit known as BOSSI which extensively infiltrated and disrupted the BPP's community programs.

The case of the Panther 21 serves as a classic example of police infiltration and political repression which created a new generation of political prisoners in the United States. For many membership in the Black Panther Party proved to be a serious liability that resulted in assassinations, frame-ups, long-term incarceration. Unlike Mark Rudd, Jerry Rubin and other white "radicals" who were able to re-integrate into the mainstream, the lives of former Black Panther Party leaders were, more often than not, irrevocably shattered. Their lives will bear the scars of the brutal and violent repression they endured forever. Many believe that the indictment of the Panther 21 was a racist and politically motivated frame-up by the government, through its Counter-Intelligence Program, to destroy the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation movement.

The Black Panther Party was a grassroots organization of young Black men and women dedicated to the empowerment of Black people. While the Black Panthers advocated self-defense they never supported unprovoked, random, indiscriminate violence. Leaders of the Black Panther Party were targeted by the COINTELPRO for what the FBI termed "neutralization" (a code word for assassinations, frame-ups, imprisonments and public vilification) in early 1969. Federal and local law enforcement agencies successfully assassinated many Black Panthers (Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, Zayd Shakur) or successfully imprisoned them for life (Geronimo ji jaga pratt, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Marshall Eddie Conway, etc.) by utilizing extra-legal means (e.g. suborning of perjury, harassing and intimidating witnesses, withholding of exculpatory evidence, etc.) In the late 1960s, as the U.S. "civil rights" movement grew and became more militant in its opposition to racist and poor domestic and foreign policies, the FBI intensified its domestic surveillance and counter-insurgency programs aimed at the Black community.

The 1974 findings of the Church Committee (a Senate Committee on Government Operations) revealed that almost 90% of the FBI's counterintelligence activities that were aimed at the Black community targeted the BPP.

The United States denies the existence of political prisoners within its borders - Instead, the US law enforcement agencies classifies these former political activists that it targeted as mere criminals.

Within the US, the criminal justice system (law enforcement, the courts, jails and prisons) is used to repress political activists - Illegal methods were used to frame political prisoners - A review of these cases reveal gross patterns of prosecutorial misconduct which includes: the fabrication or concealment of evidence by the government during trial. Statistics prove that political prisoners consistently receive longer prison terms than do right-wing fanatics (reactionaries) or non-political offenders. They are also forced to endure the harshest conditions of confinement. The majority of political prisoners in the US today are Black and former members of the Black Panther Party.

Attention all captive subscribers.

First, let me thank all of you for your support of this humble little newspaper. Your words of encouragement have been our strength through rough economic times. The second thing I'd like to say is that if any of you need to contact Black Autonomy be sure to write to the address listed on pages 2 or 14, or on the back page; DO NOT write to the return address that appears on the envelope we send your paper in. That is our bulk mail address, not our return address.

Good news for new prisoner subscribers! We are slowly beginning to add our backlog of prisoner subscription requests to our regular mailing list. As some of you may recall, we had to stop new subs due to lack of funds. We're now getting back on our feet, somewhat, and more copies of *Black Autonomy* will be arriving in the various dungeons across the U.S. -Greg Jackson.

PRISONERS! SEND US YOUR WRITINGS!

Our next issue (Vol.#2, Issue#4, July-August 1996) will have a special Prisoners' Justice Day section. Prisoners' Justice Day (August 10) is an international day of solidarity and remembrance for those of you on the inside, and those who have died on the inside; be they "political" or "social" prisoners.

Send us your articles, poetry, statements of solidarity, shout outs to friends and family, etc. by July 18th, 1996 for publication.

These Prisoners Need Your Support!

OPH PRISONERS DEFEND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. Oak Park Heights, MN.-

On March 4th, 1996 over one hundred prisoners at Oak Park Heights participated in a work stoppage to protest continual repression and violations of their human and constitutional rights. This work strike was followed by an 11 day lock down. Striking workers were not allowed phone calls, visits, and denied showers. Sent back to work after 11 days, the prisoners were given no concessions whatsoever. Prisoners who refused to return to work have been placed in a new lock down unit.

The prisoners work strike demands include an end to abusive treatment by guards (beatings, spitting in food, instigating fights among prisoners, and filing false charges against prisoners). They also seek an adequate law library as required by U.S. Supreme Court precedent, adequate physical recreation facilities, meat that is not outdated, a pay increase from the average \$4.00, adequate ventilation, elimination of excessive medical fees, and a lowering of inflated canteen prices for basic necessities.

Prisoner requests also include access to cable television channels, and revisal of the restrictive visitation policy.

STATEMENT FROM A STRIKING OPH PRISONER.

Free the Land!

Revolutionary greetings from myself & the spirits of those who passed before my time. Anyone who hears this should understand that you're fighting against a machine that is controlled by greed and power, yet it is held accountable for its actions only when you, the taxpayer, the people, the community demands it.

Oak Park Heights is practicing low intensity warfare on its prisoners. The papers say that we are going back to work after an 11 day work strike. Let me say that the prisoners in two units staged a strike on Monday March 4th for 6 hours, and then were placed on lock up status by the Warden, Erik Skon. This has been a 6 hour work strike and an 11 day lock up by the institution. The grievances of the prisoners have been manipulated by the institution and media.

Now we are expected back to work on Monday with no concessions by the warden, and the threat of punishment if we continue to demand our human rights.

This institution put out to the media that prisoners are striking back for X-rated sex channels, as Jessica Freer, programs manager told a local paper.

First, let me say that I've been a hostage here for 32 months and on Cinemax and HBO I have never seen any movie rated over pg13 or rated R. Don't be mistaken, I have seen X rated events! An "X rated" event was when the guards beat one man senseless on September 3, 1994 for asking for exercise time. They burned him on his back with cigarettes and pulled his genitals. That was true violence and torture, and that I'm allowed to view! On Friday, March 1st a one legged white male was beaten so badly by officers around 10:30 am that by 11:00 he had attempted suicide by hanging.

Now these events I witnessed,

but it wasn't on cable! These beat down methods used by these officers must be eliminated and they must be held accountable for harming us: we are human and still bruise and bleed as you free people.

The taking of our contact visiting privileges on the pretense of 2 smuggling incidents of visitors is ridiculous. Assuming that my family and friends are potential carriers of narcotics without proof is absurd.

Convicting and punishing them by restrictions on visiting is a sentence by the MN. D.O.C. Who's the law protecting? Definitely not the community, or you! Only your voice can reverse this wrong. They aren't the law. The people are!!

They convinced you to allow them to take prisoner Pell Grants, yet, nationally, it is recognized that 90% of those released with a college degree never return to prison again. We must make the D.O.C. provide adequate schooling and college programs to battle the illiteracy and recidivism rate. Why would anyone not allow a person to read? By OPH policy, only ten books & magazines & religious materials in total are allowed in your possession. I have 7 books on one religion I need alone. This must stop, for it's definitely not encouraging us to read & learn & the Western science fiction they provide tells me nothing of my culture and history.

An adequate law library should be provided by the state with state and federal law books. We need a paralegal to work in it & assist prisoners. A real grievance and filing system by law should be set up so prisoner problems can be addressed, filed, and if need be, taken to some level of litigation. Segregation prisoners should have adequate heat in their cells. The seg unit is freezing in the winter & i personally found ice in my cell 7 days ago. Segregated prisoners should not have to pay cable channel taxes when they cannot even have a television.

At this point, prisoners aren't being treated fairly as human beings. This revolutionary is asking for support & help in demanding these issues be addressed and changed for the betterment of us and you, not for a profit for the institution. Stand up and be heard & let them know you won't stand for this treatment on prisoners. Direct where and how our tax dollars are being spent because somebody's benefitting from this & it's not the prisoners nor the people, which is you! Power to the people!

Nantambu Kambo #172686
MCF Oak Park Heights; P.O. Box 10
Stillwater, MN. 55082

PRISONER SUPPORTERS REPRESENT AT OPH. Oak Park Heights, MN-

On Saturday, March 16th at 11:00am, approximately thirty five people demonstrated at MCF Oak Park Heights Prison. The demonstration was organized by Minneapolis Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) and the Love and Rage Anarchist Federation, with help from Job as a Right Campaign. Speakers included Spike Moss (M.A.R.C.H. member, radio talk show host, KMOJ) and Peter Ratcliff, (Labor History Professor at Macalester College). Solidarity statements were also read on behalf of a prisoner at O.P.H., Job as a Right Campaign in Milwaukee, WI., and human rights activist Bonnie Kerness in

New Jersey. Ms. Kerness is also the National Coordinator of the Coalition to Stop Control Unit Prisons and the Control Unit Monitoring Project.

Carrying banners and signs, the demonstrators marched from the edge of the prison driveway right up to the prison door chanting. We were met at the door by about seven prison guards and local police. Several people confronted the police while the rally continued. We had come prepared with a statement to the warden declaring our solidarity with the striking prisoners, and demanding that all retaliation by the prison end immediately.

Once denied entrance into the institution, we read the statement to the crowd and media. Speeches were given and solidarity statements were read. After more chanting (hopefully loud enough that those in the yard would hear), we marched back up the driveway and closed up the demo.

The demonstration was a clear success. We were able to accomplish five major goals:

1. Show support for the prisoners. We recognize the grievances listed by the prisoners as legitimate concerns that illustrate violations of human rights. We support the prisoners work-strike as a method to bring recognition to these grievances. We oppose the lock-up many have had to endure as a result.

2. Demand from the warden and program managers: (a.) an adequate response to the grievances. (b.) an immediate end to the lock-up, including the elimination of the new S.H.U. unit created for those who refuse to return to work. (c.) Work toward a meeting

The Top 10 Non-Frivolous Lawsuits Filed By Prisoners.

1.) A prison guard sexually fondles a prisoner who is receiving medical care in the infirmary, forces her to perform oral sex, then rapes her. Another officer forces a prisoner to perform oral sex while she empties trash as part of a work detail. Women Prisoners v. District of Columbia, D.C. (1994) (post trial order).

2.) Prisoners restrained in handcuffs and shackles have their heads bashed into walls and floors by prison guards, their bodies repeatedly kicked and hit with batons, their teeth knocked out, their jaws fractured, their limbs broken, and their bodies burned with scalding water. Madrid v. Gomez, Cal (1995) (post trial order).

3.) Confined youth are routinely beaten by facility staff, staff trafficking in illegal drugs is rampant, and sexual relations between staff and confined youth is commonplace. D.B. v. Commonwealth, Penn. (1993) (consent decree).

4.) Dozens of women, some as young as 16, are forced to have sex with prison guards, maintenance workers, and a prison chaplain. Many become pregnant and are coerced by prison staff to have abortions. Cason v. Seckinger, Ga. (1994) (consent decree).

5.) A 17 year-old boy, in jail for failing to pay \$73 in traffic fines, is tortured for 14 hours and finally murdered in his cell by other prisoners. Another teenager had been beaten unconscious by the same prisoners several days earlier. Yellen v. Ada County, Idaho (1985) (consent decree).

between the prisoners, the administration, and other organizations the prisoners choose.

3. Expose the media coverage as biased, incomplete, and irresponsible. The media insinuated that the work stoppage was based on a desire for sexually explicit television channels and free-love sessions in the visiting room. The mainstream media continues to mirror the voice of the institution without listening to the other side.

4. Show the public our support for prisoners and their human rights. We recognize that prisons are not "country clubs" and that privileges do not mean luxuries, but basic human needs. We know that the inadequate law library, restrictive visitation policy, removal of movie channels, excessive medical and telephone costs, slave wages, poor air ventilation, etc benefit neither prisoners nor the public at large.

5. Maintain a sustainable movement to support prisoners rights. We are not going away after this demo. The end of the work strike does not guarantee improvement in prison conditions.

ABC will continue to work with prisoners and organizations (and individuals) on the outside to publicize conditions, hold the prison administration accountable, continue the long term struggle against the criminal sanction system, and to build a free society.

Mpls.A.B.C.
P.O.Box 7075
Minneapolis, MN 55407

6.) Prison officials ignore warnings by the Commissioner of Health and fail to implement basic tuberculosis detection and control procedures. Over 400 prisoners are infected in a single prison. Austin v. Dept. of Corrections, Penn. (1992) (post hearing order).

7.) Prison staff engage in sexual relations with female prisoners and allow male inmates to enter the prisons to engage in forcible intercourse with the women prisoners. Hamilton v. Morial, La. (1995) (consent decree pending court approval).

8.) Several suicidal children are transferred to the state mental hospital where they are placed, naked or in paper gowns, in four point restraints, hands and feet found to the four corners of their beds, and then forcibly injected with psychotropic drugs as part of "aversive therapy." Robert K. v. Bell, S.C. (1984) (consent decree).

9.) A prisoner gives birth on the floor of the jail without medical assistance three hours after informing prison staff that she was in active labor. Other prisoners have deformed or stillborn babies as a result of receiving almost no pregnancy-related medical care. Yeager v. Smith and Harris v. McCarthy, Cal. (1989) (consent decree).

10.) Single person cells house four or five prisoners with mattresses on the floor soaked by overflowing toilets, the drinking water is contaminated with sewage, and prisoners' cells are infested with rats. Carty v. Farrelly, U.S.V.Is. (1994) (consent decree).

This information was compiled as response to the "Top Ten" list of frivolous lawsuits touted by various attorney generals.

Answer Me This!

by Ed Mead.

Mark Cook and I are co-defendants. We were both convicted two counts of first degree assault on police officers and one count of attempted bank robbery. We both received consecutive life sentences from the state and thirty-year terms from the feds. The crimes we were convicted of and sentenced on were committed while we were both an alleged part of Seattle's George Jackson Brigade. Today I am "free" while Mark is still in prison.

I am on the streets because I was a trouble maker on the inside. Mark Cook has maintained an outstanding record in prison (he's had one minor infraction in over twenty years). Mark did not do his prison political work violently. He litigated against the deprivation of basic rights for workers in federal prison industries. I was busted having three home-made hand grenades, a pistol, and eighty rounds of ammunition at Walla Walla. That was a part of only one of several armed escape attempts. Washington had my state and federal sentences run concurrently in order to send me to the U.S. prison at Marion.

Mark has already served more time than most first-degree murderers, who on average serve a little under seventeen years. I expect political prisoners on the left to serve more time than social prisoners for the same crime, just as I expect leftists to be treated more harshly than right-wing offenders. Not only are both of those true in Mark's case, but he is also serving more time than his white counterparts in the George Jackson Brigade. We whites are free. Janine Burtram is free. Rita Bo Brown is free. These Coupez is free. I am free. Yet Mark Cook, the only Black man arrested in connection with Brigade actions, remains in prison.

Mark wrote and said he would like people out here to ask three pertinent questions of state officials in Washington. These are: (1) Why haven't Mark Cook's federal and state terms run concurrently, like Ed Mead's sentence? (2) Why hasn't the Washington state parole board (ISRB) used its discretion under the Sentence Reform Act's RCW 9.94A.400(3) to run Mark Cook's state and federal time concurrently? And (3), if Ed Mead had two consecutive life

terms and Mark Cook had two concurrent life terms, then why must Mark serve more time than Ed did?

We of the Mark Cook Freedom Committee are not seeking a break for Mark Cook. That point has passed many, many years ago. What we are asking for is simple justice—something that is long past due. To get justice from this state's apparatus of repression will require the involvement of a lot of people. As a community we have to ask Governor Lowry to answer Mark's legitimate questions. We have until the end of December to try to get an answer from him. One of the three parole board members has already voted for Mark's release; only one of the remaining two members is needed to develop the two-thirds majority to parole Mark.

The George Jackson Brigade came out of a history of struggle that involved all of Seattle's progressive movement, from labor activists, Prairie Fire, the lesbian community, anarchists, prisoners rights activists, ex-prisoners and others. Not all Brigade members went to prison, and none of those who were incarcerated are in need of continued imprisonment. It is my fondest hope that those who identify as part of the progressive community of this state will add their strength, their voice, to the struggle to free Mark Cook.

Although we always welcome it to help pay Mark's legal fees, money is not currently the biggest priority within the Mark Cook Freedom Committee. What we need more than money is for you and yours to take an active role in trying to get the state government to answer the first of the three questions put forward by Mr. Cook ("Why haven't Mark Cook's federal and state terms run concurrently, like Ed Mead's sentence?"). By removing the fig leaves the state uses to continue imprisoning Mark, one by one, officials will have to admit that Mark was long ago safe to be released. For more information contact:

Mark Cook Freedom Committee
P.O. Box 85763
Seattle, WA 98145-2763
Phone: (206) 323-8791
e-mail: quawk@eskimo.com
http://
www.eskimo.com/~quawk/cook.html



Mark Cook at the Sheridan Federal prison in October, 1993

RANDOM NOTES.

News we learned of before going to press...

MISSISSIPPI GOING BROKE TO GET 'TOUGH ON CRIME.'

Since the state of Mississippi passed the toughest sentencing bill in the U.S., a law requiring all convicted persons (not just the "serious" or "violent" inmates) to serve a mandatory 85% of their prison time before any chance of parole, state officials now estimating that by the year 2000 the number of prisoners in it's prisons will have climbed 152% from today's numbers.

According to State Rep. Bill Mc Coy (D), by the time the state's lawmakers get done shelling out funds for more incarceration Mississippi "[won't] have one blasted dime left."

Source(s): *Corrections Digest; Prison Legal News, June 1996.*

SIX IN EVERY 100,000 WORKERS DIE ANNUALLY.

Approximately 220,000 workers die around the world from workplace accidents or work-related illnesses, according to the International Labor Organization. In a report to the World Congress on Safety and Health, the ILO said that the problem was growing in many countries, suggesting that the increases could be the result of increasing competition in the global economy. The number of work-related accidents is running at an estimated 125 million per year around the world.

Source: *Industrial Worker.*

BOSS ORDERS WORKERS TO IGNORE HEART ATTACK.

The 1996 award for 'America's worst boss' was given to a Midwest business owner who ordered his employees to ignore a fellow co-worker who was having a heart attack. The man was chosen from a list of 700 sent in from around the U.S.

A close runner up was a boss who withheld word of a missing worker who was found dead for three days for fear of a drop in productivity.

Source: *The Seattle Times.*

VIGILANTE GROUP LOOKS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AT AIRPORT IN SAN DIEGO.

Win Housley says a new band of unarmed vigilantes is stepping in where the government has failed: finding illegal immigrants.

"This is a domestic Vietnam War," Housley said as he and two other members of the "Airport Posse" patrolled San Diego International Airport. "We have the ability to end illegal immigration, but we have no incentive to do so."

About 200 people have joined the ad hoc force in the three weeks since it formed, and Housley says it has already gotten the attention of illegal immigrants seeking to use the airport to fan out across the country. "It's kind of a cat-and-mouse game," he said. "They've been watching us. We've been watching them, so they're changing their shifts."

Wednesday was the first day the group made daytime patrols. Previously, they targeted red-eye flights because illegal immigrants presumably would cross the border at night, go to the airport and wait for the last boarding call when fewer authorities and airport staffers are around.

The posse formed several weeks ago after listeners of a conservative talk-radio program, "The Roger Hedgecock Show," began calling to report suspicious-looking people pouring out of vans in the airport's parking lot.

"Whether people like this or not, the fact is, there is a law at the border that's not being enforced," said Hedgecock, a former mayor of San Diego. Jose Luis Perez Canchola of Mexico's National Commission on Human Rights said posse members approached a group of 22 individuals last month and demanded proof of citizenship.

"They are civilians assuming the role of an immigration officer," he said.

Posse members deny they confront suspected immigrants; they claim they simply notify police. Nonetheless, Claudia Smith of California Legal Rural Assistance has drafted a letter asking that the Justice Department investigate whether posse members are impersonating federal officers. Said Smith: "Every person of Latino appearance is at risk of harassment."

The U.S. Border Patrol does not have jurisdiction at the airport. But Immigration and Naturalization Service agents arrest about a dozen people there each day, said spokesman Rudy Murillo. He noted the plainclothes agents don't have any communication with the citizens' group. San Diego police officer A.R. Miles, who works at the airport, said he is bothered by the premise that vigilantes believe they can pick out illegal immigrants, particularly in a city where more than one in five people is of Hispanic descent.

"How do you train people to identify illegal immigrants?" he asked.

But Housley insisted they aren't difficult to spot. "They're nervous. They're in out-of-style clothing," he said. "When they talk to one another, it's always in Spanish. They're all, as I said, real nervous." Members say they simply want airlines to enforce federal laws requiring photo identification of passengers before they board planes.

[Since this report first came out, the U.S. Citizens Patrol has been ordered by California court to cease its activities at the San Diego International Airport-ed.]

Source: *People Against Racial Terror. (PART)*

FIGHTING BACK! from page 3.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE:

Racism, immigration, and the coming police state. by Lorenzo Komboa Ervin.

Back in March of this year, I took a trip to Belgium [with a side-trip to Holland], which lasted for about ten days. This trip was extremely educational in that it let me see for the first time how many Africans and other peoples of color have moved into the European countries in the last 30 years since I had been there.

During the 1960's when I was an American soldier based in West Germany, it was rare to see a black face among the sea of whiteness in Europe, with the only exceptions being France and England, which had substantial non-white immigration going at the time to fuel its service and mercantile industries. It needed those people then, but it does not feel it needs them now and have withdrawn the welcome mat. Many of the major cities of Europe are now majority non-white, such as Amsterdam, which also has one of the largest Black ghettos in Europe. There is a substantial non-white population base [15-40%] in Lisbon, London, Brussels, Rotterdam, and others. Depending on whose statistics you accept, 10-12% of Europe itself is now non-white....and growing! I personally saw black people everywhere, and if you didn't know they spoke Dutch, French, Flemish or other European languages, you would have thought you were in a black community anywhere in the US. When I did get to speak to them, they were extremely friendly, though somewhat guarded because of the political situation around immigration.

The European politicians feel that they have had enough of non-white immigration, now that all the hard work is done and black labor is no longer needed, and so have passed a series of repressive laws against 3rd world immigration. The most repressive of them is the Schengen Treaty adopted by the European Economic Community in 1985 [and just now being implemented] when the ideas of a European Union were first being discussed. This treaty covers immigration policies and the "free market" to be created among European nations. It is being implemented now, with these as being some of its features: "Europol", a concentrated continental police force to patrol all the nations of Europe. It has immense power over immigrants and "surplus populations", such as radicals, poor people, gypsies, and the homeless.

* Relaxation of nation-state borders, in favor of one continent-wide border. This is very similar to the various states of the United States.

* "Fortress Europe": an alliance against U.S. economic, political and cultural domination, and plans to create a new superpower.

* Extremely tight immigration policies which criminalize and penalize non-white refugees especially. They are thrown into special immigration prisons called "transit centers" and black people are subjected to a new class of "suspicion" laws, which allow them to be stopped and questioned, even summarily arrested. What the Schengen statutes did was

usher in the type of police state that has been used against Black people in the United Kingdom for quite some time.

These laws allow a police to stop a person in the streets and search their person or vehicle on mere suspicion, even makes it easier to enter a dwelling and serrat it and its inhabitants. It literally does away with the democratic rights of people of color, and give all power to the police.

Couple that with the power to control immigration, or to stop a person [non-white people] to inquire about their immigration status, and you literally have a hunting status for black skins. In Britain, adisproportionate number of prison inmates are non-white people, and we can look for the same to be the case in Europe itself. Police brutality is also a problem in both the United Kingdom and Europe. Black people are routinely beaten and killed in France, Britain, and other parts of Europe with impunity, as a deliberate social control measure, just as is done in the USA.

In addition to the racist crimes of the state, Black people are re subjected to racist paramilitary violence by neo-Nazis and other fascist scum elements. If we look at Europe alone, according to the anti-racist group, Youth Against Racism in Europe, there were 130,000 reported cases of racist attacks during 1995 in Britain. But the real figure, says YRE, is many times more.

But it is because of these racist repressive police controls and immigrant laws, the prisons are full of non-white "illegal immigrants" and political refugees from Western-backed dictatorships like Mobutu in Zaire. The irony here is that Europe is a creation of Africa and Asia, and developed its wealth from the exploitation of our peoples. Its vaunted high lifestyle is based on the sweat and blood of many generations of African and Asian peoples, yet they have adopted this morally self-righteous posture, which conquerors always adopt of "securing their borders against the heathens."

This makes a bad situation even worse, the immigrants and refugees have found it almost impossible to obtain employment. For instance, Blacks and Asians made up 5.6%, or 1-20 of the population of Britain, yet 31% of black males aged 16-24 years old are unemployed, almost twice the figures for young white males. The figures for young black women is 20% unemployment, while only 8% for white women in that age group. These figures are comparable to the rest of Europe, although in some countries it is even worse, because the government will not give them license to work at all. Add to these figures that Europe has an official homeless rate of almost 3 million, many of whom are Africans.

In addition, many of them, even those who have lived in Europe for 20 years or more have absolutely no democratic rights that citizenship would bring. They cannot vote, enter certain professions, own small businesses in competition with local cities, and they do not receive equal police protection. they are 2nd class citizens, who have no right that the white government is bound to respect. So they are prey to all the evils that capitalist society can bring on a vulnerable population, and have many of the same social problems, gangs, drug dealing, murder, and other ills that we face here in a deteriorating social system in the United States. But all is not hopeless, the people are starting to

fight back. Even with the severe repression by the state against immigrant and refugee populations, they are beginning to organize, although clandestinely at this stage.

Anarchists and white radicals have set up a support network to help the refugees, and have several large demonstrations against the repression of the immigrants, but the reality is that until they come out in a continent-wide movement led by the immigrants themselves, it will not be possible to beat this racist repressive legislation. But in addition, there have been massive rebellions against police brutality in Portugal, Britain, France, Germany, and other countries, and mass demonstrations and other organizing against right-wing attacks, unemployment, and other ills. We can only expect to see more demonstrations and rebellions, and ever more black militant movements come on the scene as the economy worsens and the scapegoating intensifies.

I had a meeting with a group of Africans in Belgium called "Truth", and also met with radical immigrant spokespersons in Holland, [Sister Njmelah especially, who interviewed me for a black radio show she hosted] and was impressed with their desire to fight back. Their weakness is that they do not have similar contacts in each of the European countries, and it is hoped that a conference will be held soon to bring the activists together.

It is very interesting that after I spoke publicly about the racist "segregation" laws which existed in the South before the coming of the American civil rights movement in the late 1950's and 60's, they compared the European immigration statutes to it and saw they could build a mass movement and win. But they also talked about transforming European society itself as well as dismantling the laws. They stated that they did not want to just win a few reforms and empower a black middle class, while so many remained in poverty. They had the radical goal of overthrowing capitalism itself.

Shortly after I came back to America, I learned that the Truth organizers had all been arrested by the Belgian secret police on "conspiracy" and illegal immigrant charges. Because of a demonstration to be held a week after their arrest, they were released but with a stern warning to desist their organizing. This, of course, was ignored, but they know they must be more careful.

Shortly after I came back to America, I learned that the Truth organizers had all been arrested by the Belgian secret police on "conspiracy" and illegal immigrant charges. Because of a demonstration to be held a week after their arrest, they were released but with a stern warning to desist their organizing. This, of course, was ignored, but they know they must be more careful.



British justice

"Do The Math"

The New Compilation
JUNE '96

TRIBAL PRODUCTIONS

The American Justice System is not Color Blind...

Mark Cook was convicted of felony assault on a police officer in 1973. The crime was committed while working with an underground leftist political organization. He has been in prison ever since.

All other members of the organization Mark was working with, who were convicted of similar crimes, have been released. Ironically, Mark was the only member of the group who was not white.

Mark Cook is a political prisoner. He has served his time, and it's time to let justice prevail.

The Mark Cook
Freedom Committee
P.O. Box 85763
Seattle, WA 98145

FREE MARK COOK

Brainstorming at the Constitutional Convention...



News continued from pg. 2

King, a Methodist minister and civil rights activist from Jackson, argued that the state should notify personally the people whose names are on file. David Ingebretsen, the ACLU's executive director for Mississippi, said the files could be opened within a year if the appellate court decides that newspaper ads are sufficient.

INCIDENT ENDING IN MAN'S DEATH TOOK ONLY 48 SECONDS. Atlanta, GA-

Wed., April 17, 1996. It took only 48 seconds for an Athens-Clarke County [GA.] police officer to step out of his squad car, spray an [allegedly] aggressive naked man with pepper spray, scuffle with him on the ground and shoot and kill him. Establishing a time frame for the events of October 12, 1995, when Officer Sean Potter shot East Athens resident Edward Wright, was one of several findings issued Tuesday by a [final] review panel. The panel, which spent weeks examining the internal investigation of the shooting, found no violation of departmental policy or training procedure in the actions of Potter and fellow officer Pat Mercandante. The shooting set off a wave of outrage among some [primarily Black] residents who accused police of mishandling the arrest of the unarmed man. For more info contact Shaba Om at (718) 329-2353.

POLICE ATTACK BLACK RADIO HOST FOR TELLING THE TRUTH. Chattanooga, TN.-

Ed Owens is the popular host of a black radio talk show in Chattanooga, Tennessee on WMPZ called "Let's Talk". For several weeks he had been making criticisms of various illegal acts of police brutality, in response to a report that Chattanooga was #7 in police brutality case reported to the Department of Justice. In retaliation, the cops struck back at his family.

His sister, Ms. Owens, and mother, Mrs. Brown were arrested on April 5, 1996 by a group of white cops led by officer J. Moody, who arrived unannounced at the mother's house, claiming that some "burglars had run into her house". Using this ruse, he barged into the house and starting searching the place. He apparently left the other cops inside for a moment while he was going to his cruiser. When they younger Ms. Brown met him outside and questioned him about why he was searching her mother's house without a warrant, he bitterly replied, "I don't need a warrant, nigger bitch, you're going to jail." He then gruffly threw her across an automobile in the yard and proceeded to handcuff her.

As he was manhandling her, the family's pet Labrador Retriever ran up and attempted to protect her, barking at the cop. The cop pulled out his gun and shot the dog, killing it. Apparently, several shots were fired because a bullet was later retrieved from the body of the family automobile. As these women were placed in the back of the patrol car, Moody's partner inside leaned over and told them: "You niggers are no good anyway, all you do is sell drugs."

It is not known what these women were charged with initially, but when the case went to court a week later, the case was justified and covered-up by a pro-cop judge, who bound the case over to the Hamilton County grand jury on grounds of "interfering with an arrest", "disorderly conduct", and "resisting

arrest", all of which were clearly made up charges. The cases are still pending in General Sessions Court at this time.

Please write and protest this outrageous case to: Gener Roberts, Mayor, City Hall Bldg., 100 10th St., Chattanooga, TN. 37402.

Also write to the DOJ below who is purportedly investigating the Chattanooga cops:

Janet Reno Attorney General of U.S. Dept. of Justice Main Justice Building 10th St. & Constitution Ave. Washington, D.C. 20020

'ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE OUT' U.S. SEEKS TO BANISH FELONS FROM PUBLIC HOUSING. Washington, DC-

March 28, 1996 In an attempt to make American public housing safer, President Clinton issued tough new measures aimed at keeping drug traffickers and violent criminals out of those projects. The measure, dubbed "one strike and you're out," will allow federal housing administrators to evict residents who commit a felony and reject housing applicants who already have been convicted of felonies. Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros said the tenants need not be convicted by a court of law to face eviction. Those merely charged with crimes will face a hearing before the local housing authority and, if the evidence bears up, will be evicted from their apartments. If the policy sounds like hardball, Clinton said in announcing the measures, that's because it is. Those who aren't doing anything wrong, he said, have nothing to fear. As for the others, there are three people waiting in line for each person living in the apartments. "We have waiting lists of up to four years," Clinton said. The housing "is a privilege, not a right."

As part of Clinton's order, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must grade housing authorities on their compliance with the one-strike rule. Those with low scores will be less likely to receive certain federal funds and more likely to be subject to increased federal supervision.

The tough measures are not unprecedented, Cisneros said. Cities ranging from Macon, Georgia, to Richmond, Virginia, already have begun kicking out felonious tenants. Housing projects in Toledo, Ohio, have been improved considerably since that authority started cracking down, he said. "We can't allow the whole of a housing complex to be destroyed because some folks come in intent on abusing and hurting other people," Cisneros said. "We have to make these developments, in a common-sense way, inhabitable again." Cisneros said. "We're trying to create public housing as it was once envisioned -- a launching pad, not where they (residents) go forever, but somewhere to go to better their lives, where their children can live in peace." "We expect to see more tests, and we think it will stand constitutional muster."

SOME MAJOR EVENTS OF POLICE CORRUPTION PROBE. Philadelphia, PA.-

Thursday, April 4, 1996. The indictment of four Philadelphia police officers

cont. on next page.

News of Repression/Resistance; continued..

was the latest blow to a department already reeling from 13 months of scandal.

Here is a chronology of key events in the corruption probe:

Feb. 28, 1995. A federal grand jury indicts five former officers in the 39th District in North Philadelphia -- John Baird, 40; Thomas DeGovanni, 44; Steven Brown, 48; James Ryan, 39; and Thomas Ryan, 38. They are charged with planting drugs on suspects, stealing more than \$100,000 in cash and property, and falsifying police reports. They and a sixth former officer, Louis J. Maier 3d, later plead guilty.

March 15, 1995. Joe Morris, 53, in prison for a 1988 drug conviction, is freed at the request of the District Attorney's Office. His is the first of more than 100 convictions overturned by the courts because of misconduct by the six former officers.

April 7, 1995. Two former 19th District officers, Derrick Mayes, 31, and Kevin Daniels, 33 -- are convicted of stealing cash, planting drugs and making false arrests of young men in West Philadelphia. Each is sentenced to five to 10 years.

June 8, 1995. A former 35th District officer, Sgt. Gene Lomazoff, 39, is convicted of stopping motorists for minor infractions, then shaking them down for cash. He is sentenced to seven to 22 years.

July 26, 1995. Two former 39th District officers Brown, named in the February indictment, and Robert Miller, 47 -- are charged with running a lucrative fencing operation out of a North Philadelphia variety store.

Aug. 14, 1995. In the first of a series of mass transfers, Police Commissioner Richard Neal guts the 39th District's command, shifting the captain and 11 other supervisors to new assignments. In the 35th District, 11 supervisors are moved to new posts.

Aug. 15, 1995 -- City Councilman Michael Nutter criticizes Mayor Rendell's response to the widening scandal and calls for an independent commission with broad powers to investigate police misconduct. An existing commission is purely advisory.

Aug. 30, 1995. Federal investigators subpoena arrest logs in the 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th and 26th Districts and the Highway Patrol. The logs cover up to 100,000 arrests over 10 years.

Aug. 31, 1995. Neal announces a 10-step plan to fight police corruption, including beefing up the department's Internal Affairs Division, expanding ethics training, and instituting random drug testing. Three men who claim they were falsely arrested by corrupt officers file the first federal class-action suit stemming from the scandal.

Sept. 19, 1995. Before a packed City Council chamber, the Police Advisory Commission opens public hearings into the case of Moises DeJesus, a North Philadelphia man who died in 1994, three days after struggling with arresting officers. "He was hit, then handcuffed, then hit again, and again," said one witness. "He was thrown in [the police van] like a dog. That's when I said, 'He's dead. He's dead.' At the close of the hearing, about 200 off-duty officers chant: "Kangaroo, kangaroo!"

Sept. 26, 1995 -- Breaking with a traditional code of silence, the president of the group representing the city's black officers calls on all police to turn in corrupt colleagues and report misconduct, past or

present. "The credibility of this police department is at stake," says David E. Fisher, president of the Guardian Civic League. "These rogue cops are . . . tarnishing the badge."

Nov. 16, 1995 -- The Inquirer reports that the Rendell administration paid \$20 million over the preceding 28 months to settle more than 225 lawsuits alleging police misconduct. A spokesman for the mayor calls the upsurge "a statistical anomaly."

Dec. 21, 1995 -- In its report on the death of Moises DeJesus, the Police Advisory Commission calls for the suspension of six officers. The report says that one officer struck DeJesus with a flashlight or nightstick and that five others "were not truthful in reporting what they observed."

April 3 -- Four more officers -- Julio C. Aponte and Edward A. Greene of the 25th District and Lester F. Johnson and John P. O'Hanlon of the Highway Patrol -- surrender for booking on federal corruption charges.

RACIST INMATES KILL BLACK YOUTH. Madison, OH-

On Thursday, April 25, 1996 on the juvenile wing of Madison Correctional Institution in Ohio a 17 year old African-American male was murdered in a race-based organized "hit".

The inmates took over the wing, told an African-American guard to leave, stabbed the victim at least 30 times with homemade shanks. 3 adults who were on the juvenile wing were involved, and perhaps directed, in the hit. After they murdered the victim, they wing was given back. The authorities ordered the 5 to pack so that they could be removed to isolation. All 5 white inmates were already packed; further indication of the premeditation. The warden of this institution is African-American. Needless to say the institution is on lock-down and the emphasis of the local mainstream press was that a correctional officer had been endangered, with little attention given to the murdered Black youth.

1,000 PROTEST AGAINST KKK. Louisville, KY.-

Ku Klux Klan members held a rally Saturday to recruit new members and deliver what they say is a message of hope and deliverance as about 1,000 people showed up to protest the white supremacists.

Standing in a heavy rainstorm, 26 Klan members stood on the steps of the Jefferson County courthouse, wearing their trademark white robes and hoods. They waved American flags while shouting a message of white supremacy.

There was no violence at the rally, which was held by Klan members from Indianapolis. The estimated 600 police officers on hand at the rally did not make any arrests. The rally lasted about an hour and a half. Klan supporters and the nearly 1,000 people who showed up to protest the event were separated by fence barriers.

NEO-NAZI KILLS ONE; THEN HIMSELF. Jackson, MISS.-

A white supremacist who sprayed a shopping center in a largely black neighborhood with random gunfire left neo-Nazi notes behind, leading police to conclude Sat-

urday that racial hatred sparked the deadly shooting.

Larry Wayne Shoemake, 53, was found dead inside the abandoned restaurant where he had fired dozens of shots -- killing one person and wounding 10 others -- before he set the building on fire and perished in the flames.

The stand off began during peak business hours at the bustling shopping center. Hundreds of shoppers and passing motorists sought cover in buildings and ditches along the highway. All of the victims identified by authorities were Black. One woman treated at a hospital and released was not identified.

Police gave no details about the notes left in Shoemake's house, except to say that they did find assorted nazi and Klan propaganda at the home.

MAN GETS 16 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ATTACKING NATIVE AMERICAN. Los Angeles, CA-

April 30, 1996. A Huntington Beach man was sentenced to 16 months in prison Monday after admitting his role as an accessory in the near-fatal stabbing of a Native American man by two white supremacists.

Shannon Martin, 23, was charged with retrieving the knife used in the Feb. 3 attack on George Mondragon, 20. As part of Martin's plea in West Municipal Court, a separate conspiracy charge was dismissed.

Two other people have been charged with the attack on Mondragon, who was slashed as many as 27 times near a Huntington Beach lifeguard tower after the group approached him and asked if he believed in "white power," authorities said.

When Mondragon started to run, he allegedly was punched by Michael Steven Eckert, 17, of La Palma. Police said Mondragon then was stabbed by another defendant, 20-year-old Erik Anderson, of Huntington Beach. Investigators described Anderson and Eckert as a self-professed white supremacists who allegedly had accosted other minorities that night. Anderson is charged with attempted murder and commission of a hate crime. Eckert is charged with attempted murder and conspiracy to commit a hate crime and is being tried as an adult. Martin was accused of taking the knife from a bush near the tower, but authorities said he did not participate in the attack.

BLACK DRIVER RAPED BY NEO-NAZIS; ARRESTED AND BEATEN BY POLICE. Seattle, WA-

Cheryl Glass, the only black female race car driver, was outspoken about equal and civil rights until neo-nazis gang-raped her in her home. Soon after she was beaten by police and injured, threatening her future in racing. Neighbors in her all-white neighborhood of Shoreline began a police-sanctioned campaign of harassment: "I'm going to do everything I can to run you niggers out of the neighborhood," said one while beating her with a rake. Cheryl was arrested and charged with 9 crimes she didn't commit and beaten again.

All charges against Cheryl were dismissed after the public was alerted to this

injustice. Cheryl spent 6 months in a wheelchair with injuries to both hands and both feet due to police beatings.

Cheryl's attorneys have filed a claim for compensation for her injuries and will file a lawsuit if she can stay alive long enough. The police were caught illegally searching her van; soon after a massive gasoline leak flooded the engine and driver's compartment.

For more info on this case contact: Muenster & Koenig, Attorneys At Law 506 Second Avenue (Smith Tower), suite 1613 Seattle, Washington 98104 (206) 467-7500 Fax: (206) 467-0101

THREE DIE IN POLICE-LEFTIST MAY DAY CLASHES. Istanbul, Turkey-

May 1, 1996. Outlawed leftist groups clashed with police during May Day rallies Wednesday. Three protesters were killed and 69 people were injured.

Two members of the illegal leftist Revolutionary People's Salvation Party Front were shot and killed during the melee that began when police tried to search some of 100,000 people arriving to hear union leaders speak.

Istanbul Gov. Ridvan Yenisen told state television that 52 policemen were among those injured in the demonstrations on the traditional labor holiday, usually marked by socialists and communists. Some protest-

cont. on back page.

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Federal Prisoners need your help.

Dear Mr. Jackson,
I am writing to you because there's a dire situation and hopefully you can help. Let me explain and allow you to judge upon the merits. I am currently incarcerated at a federal penal institution. Unlike most facilities, the inmate population doesn't fall into the norm for those whom are incarcerated. Over 95 percent are first time offenders, have high school diplomas, some college, and a growing number with college degrees!

What makes this place so different is that the inmates take an active part in helping themselves and others. This is true now more than ever since there have been major cutbacks across the board. This is why I am asking for your assistance. The majority of individuals when they leave here, do not return here or to any other penal institution because of our active role. The institution used to purchase books that inmates like myself used to help others regarding the following:

- 1) writing resumes and cover letters
- 2) education and training
- 3) development of new job skills
- 4) overall successful re-entry into society
- 5) legal issues & litigation

We have had some success in regards to publishers & organizations donating books and materials so we can continue our positive work within these walls. Our goal is to re-enter society as an asset, not a liability; to build, not destroy. I personally am working towards my bachelor's degree in business management and Administration, which I should complete this year. Your newspaper would be of great assistance to our cause here. I am also looking for individuals or organizations that I can contact in the states of Washington and Oregon. I only ask that you do what you can, nothing more. Again thank you for the time you've given me by reading this correspondence.

Virgil L. Hunter
P.O. Box 75961, Drawer A
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas
66027-7140

Questioning right-wing Black Nationalism.

Bro. Greg,
It's been a while since we last conversed my brother, hopefully things are all righteous in your world. As for self, I'm striving to keep my head above the chaos of this environment and remain positive.

Bro, the purpose of me writing you is two fold; initially you'd been on my mind and I'd planned to contact you in regards to securing another copy of Bro. Ervin's manuscript because these laws shook my cell down and took the copy you sent me. But yesterday I received the latest B.A. and upon reading it your brief article on your role in the organization of the MMM just jumped out at me do to the fact that the issues you touched upon in it is something that I'm currently at task with many brothers who I once held very close association with. The crux of the matter is simply that at a certain point the ideology of N.O.I. became much too narrow and restrictive for myself. Yet once I stepped out of that cipher and truly analyzed the structure of the organization and its aims I saw with the utmost clarity that Mr. Farrakhan—just as the Communist Worker Party—has and is playing on the frustrations of a disenfranchised people to further his authoritarian, elitist and pseudo-theocracy tendencies. I suspect that if we were to look deeply within the conscious elements throughout our ghetto-nation we will clearly see that in regards to the common lot of Black people there is seriously little in which Mr. Farrakhan's organization is actually doing to alter our situation.

What I would really like to know is exactly what sort of details were involved with the taking of this loan from those Northern African Nations. And furthermore, if we as a collective are fighting oppression are we not battling this oppression as it reveals itself in any and all forms. If so, then how in the hell can Mr. Farrakhan—in all due honesty—except finances from a region that is overtly oppres-

sive, religiously elitist and is currently enslaving, raping and outright murdering its own citizens—BLACK PEOPLE—who refuse to worship in an Islamic fashion. Is this Farrakhan's ultimate vision for this—so-called—Black eco-structure/"Nation within a Nation"? Surely you've noticed how in just the past 3 or so years he has entrenched himself in the position of "BE ALL TO END ALL" in regards to knowledge of what the Black community needs and the means by which they shall express those needs. Currently within the Texas Penal System—within cultured circles I mean—one can not even speak against this man without certain gung-ho narrow-visioned brothers attacking you be it psychology or physically. Presently there is an idea that irregardless of what is being said it is "Holy" because this Man has stated as such.

Brother Jackson, has it not historically been our people's downfall to follow any silly so and so who labels himself a quote "Man of God", whatever that means. Historically, the downfall of our culture has been perpetuated within the narrow confines of pseudo-religion and reactionary bullshit. In my eyes this current phase that we are seeing with the MMM is no more than another play on the emotionalism of brothers who are seriously in need of direction.

I think that since these finances have already been secured in the name of the Black people of America then we should strongly call into account an explanation of how and where these monies are going to be distributed through the ghettos of America. 1 billion dollars is a lot of money and in my opinion it should be used in such ways and organizing inner-city classes so as to education the masses on everything from parenthood to how to run a small business. Then at such time as each individual completes these classes they should be able to submit a viable proposal to a loan/grant committee that will review the proposal so that the individual can become economically independent. This tactic coupled with the organization of workshops on such issues as the significance of regenerating finances in the Black community will create a more organized info-structure between all classes of Black people.

Also I feel that at some point we are going to have to deal with our people's in effectiveness in educating themselves to issues germane to their lives. That goes for economics, African history, and social morality in the context of Black people and our dealings with others.

See point blank I think that if this brother—Mr. Farrakhan—can humble himself to HIS PEOPLE and focus his energies towards the real issues that effect the common people in the ghetto then he can in fact be a very potent voice within the Black community—albeit not the only one. We've had our fill of snake oil salesman and Black Moses' and shit, now its time for the common people to become critical of all issues germane to our existence and anyone who props themselves up as a voice of the people should be critically assessed and their ideologies should and must be studied with the utmost diligence. **"MY MIND WON'T ALLOW ME TO NOT BE CRITICAL OF ALL THINGS IN REGARDS TO SELF, NATION, AND PEOPLE."**

On that note I'll close this out, hopefully you can provide me with a copy of Bro. Ervin's booklet or another related study material you might have. Peace.

El-Sun Jeru Qudar
c/o John H. Richardson #648851
Rt. 2 Box 4400
Gatesville, Tx. 76597

Vote "NO" to Democrats and Republicans.

Black Autonomy,

Hi! I saw your review in Factsheet 5. I wrote to you in hopes that you will at least mention vote pairing to help people break their addiction to lesser evils. Both Democrat and Republican politicians are enacting laws resembling Nazi Germany. One way to protest, is to simply not vote. But that is passive, and for many people not satisfying. A more active way to show disapproval is to vote-but NOT for the Dems or Reps. Instead, vote for alternative parties.

Whether or not an alternative party ever wins is not too important. More important, are the messages that votes deliver. Regardless of who wins, politicians pay attention to these messages. If public opinion shifts, so will politicians. If no alternative parties are on the ballot, I vote only

on ballot measures. That too send a strong message.

Chris Withem,
Salem, Oregon.

Greg Jackson responds;

Chris,

If voting ever changed anything, it would be illegal. If the power structure was truly interested in what the public wants, all representatives would be elected directly and subject to immediate recall by popular referendum. If individual states were truly interested in empowering their citizens, it would not cost close to 3 million dollars [in the state of Washington, anyway] (office space, campaign workers, paid signature gatherers, etc) to get an initiative put on the ballot or put in front of the state legislature. If the federal government, the US Supreme Court in particular, wasn't so afraid of African people holding self-determined political power (even within the inherent and obvious confines of capitalism and white [male] supremacy) it would not have ruled back in 1992 that all-Black voting districts in the South constituted "reverse discrimination" and were "unconstitutional"; nor would it throw popularly elected Black [liberal negrosie] officials out of office based on this ruling and then allow the Illinois Republican Party to create another all-white voting district in a wealthy suburb of Chicago that same year.

Further, party-type structures are fundamentally authoritarian, as are elected officials who get paid more than the people they supposedly represent, are not subject to immediate recall or expulsion by the voters (only a state legislature or the US Congress can do that through impeachment proceedings.), and are elected specifically to think "on the behalf" of the voting public (and what about non-white peoples who have legitimate claims to self-determination or those under 18 who cannot vote legally; are they suddenly unimportant? They don't vote, so they don't count?). Show me one instance in US history when a politician actually knew better than the people most directly affected by his or her decision on a particular issue.

Would you allow someone else to make day to day decisions on life or death issues affecting you without any real direct consultation or permission from you to do so for four years (1 presidential term), eight years (2 presidential terms), or a lifetime (the average term of a US Congressman and/or Senator)? And what about the appointment of public officials such as US Supreme Court Justices, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials and the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (who hold office for life) by those you and others elected based on who could talk a good game on television, radio, or in printed media?

The bottom line is that voting is a defensive posture taken by the masses out of routine, indoctrination, fear of the unknown, and above all political weakness. Voting to block an initiative such as California's 'proposition 187' (which attacks Hispanics in particular) or Colorado's 'no "special" rights for gays/lesbians' initiative makes sense because the forces of revolution in the US are still very weak (but are making a slow, steady come back; thankfully) and right now the ballot is the only useable tool we have at this particular moment in history...a tool that any legislature or Supreme Court can declare null and void at the stroke of a pen! As stated above, this has been demonstrated and the repercussions are still being felt.

It is through dialogue like this and grassroots, non-authoritarian community organizing for social revolution that better tools are forged; tools that will pull fascism, and those who support it (white or Black), out by the roots!

Don't be fooled! Beware of false prophets bearing expensive gifts, making lofty promises, & wearing big smiles!

Was Malcolm "class-conscious" and "anti-authoritarian"?

"It is always better to form the habit of learning how to see things for yourself, listen to things for yourself and think for yourself; then you are in a better position to judge for yourself."

"I'm not going to sit at your table and watch you eat, with nothing on my plate, and call myself a diner. Sitting at the table doesn't make you a diner. Being here in America doesn't make you an American."
-Malcolm X

ANARCHISM + BLACK REVOLUTION = NEW BLACK AUTONOMOUS POLITICS

Unified position statement of Black Autonomy newspaper and affiliated Black Autonomist (anarchist) activists in the United States.

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 it is that I have been talking about for the last fifteen years, and also to place it within an 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 I 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 Anarcho-syndicalist tendency during the 1880's called 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, wherein 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 ideas 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 I dared to raise in my pamphlets 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 white world-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 nationalism 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 benefitted 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, I contend that it is the actual class relations in North American society.

So-called "white" people are a super-contrived 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 Socialist". 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 I personally have good relations with many of these organizations, I 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 me, 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 communes, 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 of 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 be 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.

The Panthers proved how dangerous Black revolutionaries can be to this system, now we will finish the job!

[For more info write to the address listed in the front of this newspaper.]

the speakers platform. Others carried flags of the illegal Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, which is waging a guerrilla war in south-eastern Turkey.

After the speeches, some protesters went on a rampage, damaging banks, stores and vehicles and attacking police with sticks and stones. Police fired into the air, and at least one bullet struck and killed a protester, a government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Yenisen said 227 demonstrators were detained by police.

Leftist unions organized the May Day gathering to protest high inflation. Wednesday was a Muslim holiday and most businesses were closed. In the resort town of Izmir, dozens of people including six policemen were injured in a clash after police tried to stop demonstrators from jumping over barricades. Several demonstrators were detained, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported.

During a 1977 May Day gathering in Istanbul, unidentified gunmen opened fire on tens of thousands of demonstrators, killing 37.

THOUSANDS IN MEXICO PROTEST ECONOMIC CRISIS, GOVERNMENT Mexico City, Mexico-

May 1, 1996. Angry workers jeered Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo on Wednesday as thousands filled Mexico City's streets to protest an economic crisis and Zedillo's inability to end it.

Hundreds of unionized workers whistled in derision at Zedillo as he entered the pro-government Labor Congress in Mexico City to mark traditional Labor Day celebrations. On the streets, thousands of independent workers gathered in the capital's giant Zocalo square, chanting anti-government slogans and waving homemade banners to protest an economic crash that has thrown millions out of work.

Organizers said they hoped more than 150,000 people would take part in the protest. Even some official unions took to the streets, defying government orders to cancel traditional street celebrations for the second year in a row amid fears of violence by workers fed up with a steep recession.

Thousands of police, some clad in riot gear, were dispatched to the city centre to keep an eye on the workers, but there were no early reports of trouble.

Zedillo tried to warm his cold reception at the Labor Congress by promising workers that the worst of the 16-month-old economic crisis was nearly over. "We are about to take the road to recovery," Zedillo said. But the young Yale-trained economist made it clear he would not bow to populist pressures to raise the minimum wage and spark inflation just as the economy is

stabilizing after tumbling nearly 7 percent last year.

Zedillo imposed a strict economic policy following his December, 1994 devaluation of the peso. While the plan has lowered inflation from about 50 to 30 percent, the economy has taken a beating and thousands of businesses have shut down.

Reflecting growing divisions with Mexican labor, Monday's rally was sharply divided between official events held behind closed doors and the large, spontaneous rally of disgruntled workers on the streets.

Since the devaluation, workers' wages have fallen 39 percent in real terms, according to a study by Mexico's National Autonomous University. A poll by Reforma newspaper on Monday showed that 89 percent of Mexican workers believe the country's labor laws should be reformed to help workers. Most said raises and wage increases were given according to influence and corruption.

PROTECTOR OF THE RICH ROBBS FROM THE DEAD. Los Angeles, CA-

May 2. LA police officer La Tanya Bell, 28, was sentenced to 30 days in jail and 3 years probation for robbing a corpse of \$2,787 last year. The police had been called to the Koreatown-area hotel by the manager when he received no response from repeated knocking on the door.

U.S. STILL CONSIDERS CUBA "TERRORIST" Washington, DC-

Despite an admitted total lack of evidence, the US State Department decided to keep Cuba listed as a country which supports international terrorism. Countries already on this list include Iran, Syria, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, and Sudan. The reason given for keeping Cuba on the list is so democrats can appear "tough" on Castro in light of Republican criticism that the Clinton administration has so far been "too lenient" on the Marxist-Leninist state.

According to the state department, Pakistan has been far more active in supporting armed groups, including Islamic guerrillas in Kashmir. But giving Pakistan such a label "would affect US effectiveness in easing tensions in that region."

There is no sign that the 30 year-old blockade of Cuba will be ended; in addition, the US and Israel have recently signed an agreement to cooperate more closely in fighting "terrorism" around the world.

CLINTON ENDORSES NATIONAL CURFEW FOR MINORS. Washington, DC-

May 30, 1996. President Clinton plans to endorse the idea of cities imposing curfews on teenagers that could require youths to be off the streets as early as 8 p.m. on weeknights, White House aides said yesterday. The proposal, expected to be part of a speech Clinton plans to deliver today to a church convention in Baton Rouge, La., would not require any locality to impose a curfew but would offer Justice Department help to those cities and towns that wish to do so.

Under the administration plan, the Justice Department would issue guidelines designed to help cities beat back legal challenges to curfews and would serve as a national clearinghouse for information on successful curfew programs. Clinton's endorsement of curfews is in keeping with steps he has taken in recent months to preempt Republican proposals on so-called family values issues and to address anxieties that many middle-class parents have about their children.

A number of cities "have found curfews an effective way to combat youth crime," a senior White House aide said. There has been "a lot of interest" — mostly from large cities, but also from some suburban areas. Under curfew programs now in force in cities such as Denver, Phoenix, Chicago and Dallas, youths under 17 are required to be off the streets from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. during the week most of the year and 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. in the summer. The weekend curfew is 11 p.m.

Exceptions are made for youths going to and from work, being accompanied by a parent, responding to an emergency, or taking part in supervised activities.

SUPREME COURT ORDERS REVIEW OF POLICE SEARCH. Washington, DC-

May 29, 1996. In a rare victory for the people, the Supreme Court told federal appellate judges Monday to take a fresh

look at cases raising claims that police overstepped their bounds in searching for evidence.

On an 8-1 vote, the high court sided with two Latino men from California who came under police surveillance in Milwaukee simply because they were driving an old car with California license plates and had checked into a motel late at night. One judge called this surveillance method "little better than a dragnet for Hispanics."

Nonetheless, two lower courts upheld the cocaine trafficking convictions of the two men and rejected claims that their 4th Amendment rights were violated when they were stopped and their car searched without a warrant.

Reversing those decisions, the Supreme Court told a federal appeals court in Chicago to reconsider the case and to give it an "independent review." On appeal, the judges should carefully consider whether the police had a reasonable basis for stopping the individuals in the first place, the court said.

The 4th Amendment bars "unreasonable searches and seizures" by the government but the line between legal and illegal police conduct is not always clear. The decision in *Ornelas vs. United States*, 95-5257, concerns whether appellate judges should defer to an initial ruling by the trial judge or instead review the matter with a fresh eye.

Milwaukee police testified that they had questioned the two men, Saul and Ismael Ornelas, because they were driving a 1981 Oldsmobile with plates from California, a "source state" for illegal drugs. Older cars are favored by drug dealers, they said, because it is easier to hide things in them. One officer spotted a loose armrest and found cocaine hidden behind it.

A federal judge rejected the defendant's motion to suppress the evidence, ruling that police had a "reasonable suspicion" to suspect the two were engaged in criminal activity and "probable cause" to expect to find drugs in the car. Agreeing, the U.S. appeals court said it would defer to the judge's conclusions.

In Memorium to a Fallen Comrade...

Michael Taylor (1951-1996). [Sorry, no picture available].

We did not know Michael Taylor personally; in fact we only learned of him when we received word of his needless, premature death. Taylor, 45, a radio commentator for KPFK-Pacifica (90.7 FM) in Los Angeles, CA, and a strong, outspoken defender of the life of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, was found dead in a vacant lot in South Central L.A. on April 23rd; murdered execution-style. The curious thing about it was that the LAPD did not report finding his body until a week later. Currently, the LAPD is classifying his case as a robbery that turned into a murder. As we learn more about this case, we will keep you posted.

On the behalf of the Black Autonomy Collective, we would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of Michael Taylor, and encourage all of our readers to demand nothing less than the TRUTH from the LAPD, a full investigation by the prosecutor's office, and justice for Michael Taylor...by any means necessary.

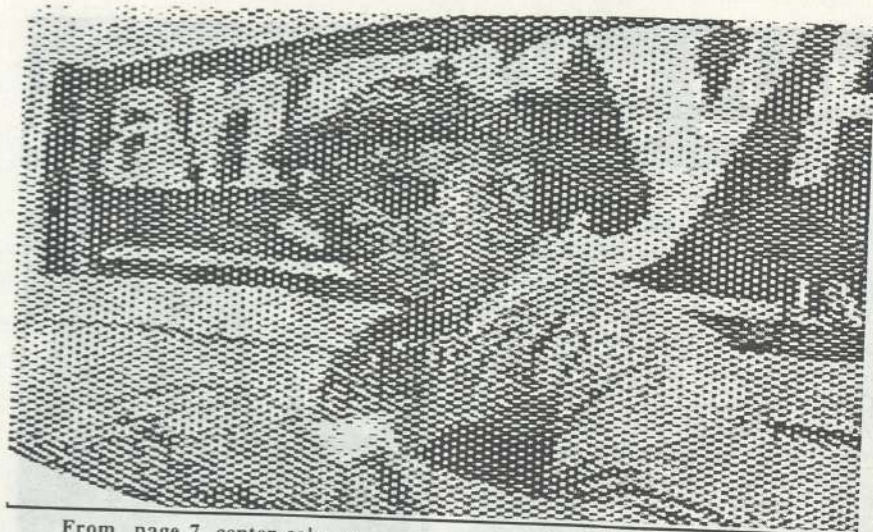
Black Autonomy

323 Broadway Ave.E.

Box #914

Seattle, Wa. 98102

USA.



From page 7, center column.

nal inhabitants of the country. Because of a history of similar racist repression in South Africa, the United States, and Europe where white governments have engaged in racist and repressive actions against non-white population groups, we especially call upon Black communities all over the world to help us wage this fight, but we want all anti-racist and human rights organizations to join us in an international campaign against AUSTRALIA and especially an economic boycott in support of the Aboriginal inhabitants of the country.

WHAT CAN YOU DO.

1. Do not attend the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, AUSTRALIA, and tell everyone you know not to attend. Call on them to begin a tourist and trade boycott of AUSTRALIA before and after the Olympics. In fact, advise your church, club, union, college and other community institution about the racist mistreatment of Australian Aborigines and get them to join the economic boycott campaign.

2. Write letters of protest to the Australian government about its racist and politically biased immigration policies, including the permanent banning order against Lorenzo Komboa Ervin filed by Philip Ruddock, Minister of Immigration. (to the Prime Minister below).

3. Don't use products made in AUSTRALIA such as Foster's beer, Qantas airlines, etc. A full list of products and services will be posted later.

4. Write letters to the Australian government about its racist treatment of the Aborigines and Torres Island Straits people living in the country to:

Mr. John Howard

10 Black Autonomy.

Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA
e-mail: jon.howard@liberal.org.au

5. Begin a campaign in your county to convince Olympics team officials and the government of your country not to send athletes or to participate in the Australian Olympics in the year 2000.

6. Begin a sanctions campaign in your country to convince the government authorities and business associations in your country to cut off all military aid, trade and economic support, and other foreign aid to AUSTRALIA until it recognizes the human rights of the Aboriginal people, gives them reparations for centuries of abuse, and recognizes their title to the land.

7. MAKE A DONATION to the Boycott 2000 Coalition. We will need money to fight, for printing, copying, mailing, phone calling and a host of other things. Your financial contribution is important:

BOYCOTT 2000 CAMPAIGN
Account # 202-39-84
First Tennessee Bank
701 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN. 37402 (USA)

8. Reprint this article in your newsletter, newspaper, or internet newsgroup to get the word out on the boycott. Write newspapers, call radio talk shows, and television news departments as well.

9. If you would like a speaker to visit your college, community or your country to talk about the boycott and international human rights, [see page 15].

See page 13, left column.

from page 7, right column.

Border Patrol agent investigated for importing pot. San Diego, CA.

8/6/97. A U.S. Border Patrol agent was arrested during his shift Tuesday with several bags of marijuana stashed in his van, authorities said.

Agent Thomas Bair faces charges of importing narcotics, Border Patrol spokesman Robert Gilbert said. Bair was arrested shortly after 2 a.m. when colleagues noticed "something that was out of the usual with him," Gilbert said. They found several duffel bags of marijuana inside his Border Patrol van.

Deputy Sentenced for Firing at Youth; Lying on Report. Los Angeles, CA.

8/5/97. A 34-year-old sheriff's deputy convicted last month of shooting at graffiti artists while off duty in the Antelope Valley received a suspended sentence and probation and will serve no prison time.

Bobby Rodriguez, a nine-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, was sentenced to five years of probation, fined \$1,000 and ordered to perform 1,000 hours of community service.

On July 9, a jury found Rodriguez guilty of assault with a firearm, gross negligent discharge of a firearm, shooting from a vehicle and filing a false report.

Antelope Superior Court Judge Chesley N. McKay Jr. said before sentencing that sending Rodriguez to jail would not serve the public interest.

Rodriguez has been suspended without pay during the trial, according to a department spokeswoman. A departmental investigation is expected, followed by an administrative hearing, after which it is expected that Rodriguez will be fired.

Rodriguez is accused of chasing the group of taggers in his pickup truck last Aug. 31 and firing his service revolver at them several times during the high-speed chase. Afterward, he called 911 and claimed that the taggers had tried to carjack and assault him. One of the people that Rodriguez claimed assaulted him spent four days in jail until sheriff's investigators turned up two independent witnesses who testified that they saw Rodriguez chasing the taggers and heard multiple gunshots.

See page 11, right column.

The Best "Defense" is a good "Offense".

Update on Black Liberation Radio.

by San Francisco Liberation Radio.

Black Liberation Radio, run out of the house of Napoleon Williams and Mildred Jones, is an unlicensed micro radio station in Decatur, IL has been on the air since 1990 addressing such issues as poverty and police brutality.

The station was raided by the Illinois State Attorney General's office in January of this year. On May 10, the second raid took place when a SWAT team broke down the front door and took Napoleon and Mildred to jail. The raid in January resulted in the confiscation of all broadcasting equipment and other electronic equipment. A new transmitter was obtained with help from Free Radio Berkeley and the station was back on the air within two weeks. Miraculously, the station remains on the air today, but with one founder in prison and the other facing prosecution.

Mildred went to the women's prison in Dwight, IL not too long ago. She's 5 months pregnant, in solitary confinement for the moment, and in more than 100 degree heat since there is no air-conditioning. She has not been accused of any crime.

Her sentence is 3 years for probation violation from a Dec. 1995 arrest on a shoplifting charge with state authorities alleging she stole a purse from Walmart.

According to Napoleon the purse in question was Mildred's own purse. She was accused of stealing by store security after they did not see her enter the store carrying her purse. The reason she didn't have it was because Napoleon had already carried it inside earlier. The video of Napoleon carrying the purse inside mysteriously disappeared and therefore could not be presented as evidence in court. Mildred has already served time for this charge.

The probation officer, Patrick J. Berter, alleges she violated her probation by failing to report in on three separate occasions.

Napoleon told me in an interview on June 25 that the missed meetings were explained and excused (once was coming from church a half hour late because of car trouble) and another probation violation was that Mildred was charged with not having gotten her GED when only 6 months had passed and she had been given 9. In addition, a teacher had written a letter in sup-

port of Mildred but someone pressured the teacher from sending the supportive letter to Mildred. A journalist found out about it after the fact and Mildred learned about it then.

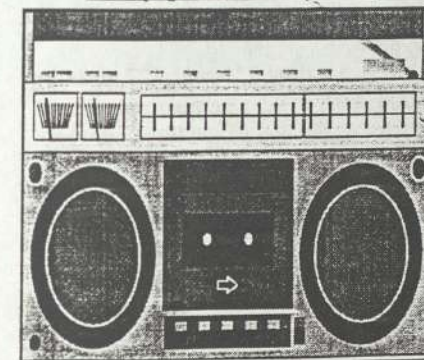
Mildred and Napoleon's 2 daughters were already taken from them in 1992 and 1993 and are in foster care. The taking of their children by the Department of Child and Family Services seems to be punishment for the radio station since, according to them, there have never been any accusations of maltreatment of the children. They also have another young son who is living somewhere else so he won't be taken into custody of DCFS also.

Clearly the child Mildred is expecting will be taken from Mildred if it is born in prison which it will be unless Mildred is released. Napoleon says Mildred could be put under house arrest, if necessary, rather than in prison which, of course, would be a great improvement, especially since being pregnant in this hot prison is really terrible. Napoleon is charged with eavesdropping—a felony. He's out on bail and his case has been continued.

Mildred Jones, #V49044,
P.O.Box 5001, Dwight, IL 60420.

Napoleon Williams
629 E. Center St., Decatur, IL 63526.
(217) 423-2737.

See page 12, left column.



from page 10, right column.

SWAT officers booted from team for behavior. Hollywood, FL.

8/7/97. Six veteran officers have been removed from the SWAT [Special Weapons And Tactics--ed.] team after being kicked out of a training session at a military post for drinking and vandalism.

The six officers were sent to Camp Blanding Training Site near Starke last month to learn new techniques in fighting drugs.

But they returned to the camp after an evening out July 20 smelling of alcohol and with open cans of beer in their van. They were ordered to get out of the van and walk back to their lodgings.

Shortly afterward, three of them broke into the training program's supplies and got into a paint gun fight. All six were ordered to leave before the training even began. The six, who have seven to 15 years experience with the department, also were suspended for two weeks: one with pay, one without.

Televised beating focuses public attention on prisons. Brazoria County, TX.

8/21/97. A videotaped beating of prisoners by guards at the Brazoria County Detention Center aired on national television has prompted an investigation by the FBI. The tape was made as a "training video" by a deputy.

The 30 minute video shows a prisoner being stomped by a guard (later identified as Wilton David Wallace; convicted of assault in the beating of another prisoner in 1983), another prisoner (this one with a broken ankle) being dragged by his arm across the concrete floor, as well as footage of guards ordering guard dogs to attack inmates.

See page 13, right column.

With "Liberty" and "Justice" for whom?

Chiapas School Update. July 15, 1997.

Advance Team in Chiapas.

Internationalists, Mexicans and Indigenous are now working together in Chiapas to make final preparations for construction volunteers to enter the Zapatista civilian community center of Oventic Aguascalientes II on July 20, 1997.

Construction Teams Ready.

Individual volunteers are traveling, or preparing to travel from far and wide, to participate in the construction of the first autonomous, indigenous Junior High School in Chiapas. Please keep us in your hearts, your minds, and your prayers.

Chiapas Military Situation.

The Mexican army continues to wage war against the indigenous communi-

ties of Chiapas. More army bases and outposts are being built, military patrols disrupt daily life, and the government has not honored the negotiated peace agreements.

The peace talks are still suspended. We trust that the Junior High School at Oventic Aguascalientes II will become a small part of the international effort to find peace with justice and dignity in Chiapas.

Donations.

Costs for the creating this unique school are very high. Please send checks/money orders made out to Grass Roots Events, INC to Chiapas School Construction Teams at 3909 Centre Street #B, San Diego, CA 92103.

*Chiapas School Construction Teams.
A Project of San Diegans for
Peace in Mexico
3909 Centre Street San Diego, CA
92103 USA
(619) 232-2841 FAX (619) 232-0500
mexicopeace@igc.apc.org
http://www.igc.org/mexicopeace*



For the first time in American history [the] government would have the ability to grant approval before a private company enters into private employment contracts with private citizens. Because of the nature of the employment system alone, personal information would be accessible to local agencies and anyone who even claims to be an employer. The government would have comprehensive files of all American citizen's names, dates of birth, place of birth, mother's maiden names, Social Security numbers, gender, race, driving records, child support payments, divorce status, hair color, eye color, height, weight, and anything else they may dream up in the future.

On May 10, 1995, a hearing was held by the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration entitled, "Verification of Applicant Identity for the Purposes of Employment and Public Assistance". The hearing was chaired by Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) and attended by Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and John Kyl (R-AZ).

Robert Razor of the Secret Service Financial Crimes Division gave the Subcommittee an explanation of the emerging biometric technological role in personal identification.

He said, "The use of biometrics is the means by which an individual may be conclusively identified. There are two types

See page 13, top left column.

of biometric identifiers: physical and behavioral characteristics. Physiological biometrics include facial features, hand geometry, retinal and iris patterns, DNA, and fingerprints. Behavioral characteristics include voice characteristics and signature analysis."

Now the people of America not only must have digital tattoos on their driver's licenses, we must also give information to the government when boarding commercial aircraft, called *personality profiles*, along with a government ID card. Of course, this guise is in order to catch some would be "terrorist".

Senator Gorton, You Piece of Sh*t!

8/26/97. With little debate and no public hearings, a Senate subcommittee last month approved two measures that would knock out some of the oldest principles in how the nation's 554 American Indian tribes are governed, and deprive them of basic operating funds if they do not agree to the changes.

Little noticed in Washington, where they were buried as riders on a spending bill already freighted with the fate of the National Endowment for the Arts and money for new park lands, the proposed changes have caused a furor on the reservations. The tribes say Congress is trying to strip them of sovereignty because of a perception that Indian reservations are prospering with casino gambling — disregarding the fact that the vast majority remain among the poorest places in the nation.

The architect of the riders, Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., who has had a 25-year running dispute with Indians in his home state, says the measures are part of a campaign to force a fundamental change in Indian affairs.

Gorton is chairman of the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, which passed a \$13 billion spending bill last month that contains the Indian riders and many provisions dear to the Clinton administration. Bracing for a showdown, the Clinton administration has threatened to veto the spending bill if it contains the Indian measures.

One of Gorton's measures would force tribes to waive sovereign immunity from civil lawsuits or lose up to \$767 million — nearly half of the entire budget for daily operations on land that 1.4 million Indians live on or near. Under the other rider, tribes could be denied federal money if their income was above a certain level.

Without sovereign immunity, the tribes say, they could face bankruptcy by lawsuits and would be unable to operate as governments. And subjecting them to income requirements, or what the government calls means-testing, would be singling them out,

The new driver's license requirement mandating fingerprints for Georgia driver's and those wanting ID cards passed the state legislature with virtually no public or media attention in April of 1996. The first known announcement was on the local Atlanta news announcing an October 1996 date to begin fingerprinting.

*The Coalition to Repeal the Fingerprints
Law (404) 250-8105
Visit their web site at:
www.mcwebs.com/repeal/
e-mail: robertabob@mindspring.com*

they say, because other city and state governments do not have to go through such tests for their share of federal funds. The only Indian in the Senate, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a R-Colo., has also thrown down a gauntlet on the measures, saying they would only be passed "over my dead body."

Indian governments, as well as federal and local agencies, often evoke the immunity status as a way to guarantee that projects like sewage systems or road construction go ahead without the threat of financially crushing lawsuits. Individual Indians can be sued in federal court, but the tribes themselves are generally protected. The tribes say they are under assault by Gorton and others in Congress because of a perception that they getting wealthy from casino gambling.

A report last December by the General Accounting Office found that just 10 tribes took in more than 50 percent of the \$1.6 billion received by Indian reservations from tribal gambling. Only about one-third of all American Indian tribes have gambling centers. Unemployment on the reservations is more than three times the national average, and 38 percent of all Indians aged 6 to 11 years old live below the poverty level — more than twice as high as the national average.

As Washington state attorney general in the mid-1970s, Gorton argued and lost a landmark Supreme Court case, known as the Boldt decision, in which Indians were found to have a right by treaty to take up to 50 percent of all the salmon caught in Northwest waters.

The Lummi, a small tribe with a salmon-fishing culture, were behind the effort to win fishing rights two decades ago. They have since been singled out by a legislative rider Gorton had successfully inserted on a previous Interior bill several years ago. In 1995, Gorton led an effort to cut \$200 million from the \$1.7 billion budget for Indian tribes.

Not to be out done in just attacking Native people, Gorton has also targeted a Black staff person of his who filed a racial discrimination complaint against him at his office in Olympia; firing her after she dedicated seven years to working for him.

from page 12, right column.

guards kicking inmates, and the use of stun guns solely for purposes of torture and humiliation.

Lawsuit by temporary workers stings county bureaucrats. Seattle, WA.

A lawsuit filed by hundreds of temporary workers hired by King County has bureaucrats negotiating feverishly to settle. The suit damages could cost in the ten of millions of dollars.

Voters approved a measure in 1988 that requires that temporaries receive benefits if they work more than half-time. But according to the temporaries, their lawyers, and county officials the county has ignored the law.

Superior Court Judge Steven Scott has agreed that qualifying temporaries employed in 1989 and 1990 were eligible for benefits that permanent employees received. He also concluded that county attempts to set a clear policy regarding temps have failed. Evidence of this comes from the attorney for the temporary workers, Judith Bendich, who has copies of memos from county administrators that show that the county was concerned that it might get sued for not giving benefits to temps.

The plaintiffs in the suit want back pay, retroactive benefits, damages, interest, and attorney fees. They also seek a court order to the county to stop denying benefits to temporary workers who work more than 20 hours a week.

Protest over prisoner death escalates. Hamilton, OH.

8/8/97. An angry group of residents protested the death of a prisoner Thursday night in what police officials describe as a "riot". The demonstration focused on the death of Russell Rogers. Officers said he died from a drug overdose but protestors claimed he died from a police beating.

150 residents demonstrated following a Thursday evening church meeting near downtown Hamilton, about 10 miles north of Cincinnati. Police officers wearing riot gear responded to the disturbance about 9 p.m., after several motorists were pulled from their vehicles. There were no arrests or serious injuries, but one person was hit by a brick and two others were injured by broken glass.

See page 14, right column.

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National ID Card Is Now Federal Law.

By Cyndee Parker;
The Coalition to Repeal the
Fingerprints Law.

[Taken from the internet. This selection
has been edited for length.—ed.]

In September of 1996, President Clinton signed into law, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. Buried at approximately page 650 of the new national Defense Bill, also known as Public Law 104-208, Part B, Title IV, the American public was given a national ID card. With no fanfare, no publicity and no scrutiny, the bill easily avoided the watchful eyes of even its most aggressive opponents.

The Coalition to Repeal the Fingerprints Law, a Georgia grassroots movement trying to rid the state of the new requirement to give digital fingerprints in order to obtain a state ID or driver's license, recently found the national ID tie.

The group found that the national law not only mandates a national ID card, but found how it is to be used. In Section 401-403, pilot programs have been initiated by the U.S. Attorney General, one of which is the "Machine Readable Document Pilot Program".

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Letters.

Statement By the Nyungah Circle of Elders.

"The Last of the Nyungah Elders who are standing to Save and Protect our Ancient Religion and Culture and Sacred Beliefs in the Land and not take money to sell our Sacredness".

August 7, 1997

We never had a chance to speak with Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin. We put our shoulder up against him to support him against the weight that was inflicted upon him by this Australian Government which has stopped him from freely communicating with us.

We, the Aboriginal Peoples ask Lorenzo and his People and Black and Indigenous People throughout the World to ask all Black and Indigenous Athletes not to participate in the Olympic Games in Australia. We the Aboriginal People ask them to ask all people to BOYCOTT the Olympic Games here in the year 2000.

The Australian Government has inflicted upon this man, Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin, their racist attitude as a Black visitor here to speak to the Aboriginal Nation about Racism. The Australian Government denies and deprives us of our Basic Human Rights as Human Beings to speak with this man, the same way they deprive us of our Freedom of Speech, and the same as their white Anti-Social Behaviour they inflict upon us. We live with it day in and day out, year in and year out.

Australia went forward and put up for the Olympic Games based on Human Rights. We, the First People, the Indigenous Nation of People of this Continent, the First Inhabitants of Australia, say unto all Indigenous Athletes and Black Athletes and White Athletes of the World that the Howard Government told a lot of lies about how good are the Human Rights of the Indigenous People of Australia. They told a lot of lies about how they stood up for Human Rights. This is not true. This was the false reason that Australia was given the Olympic Games over China. The Government of Australia does not and never has respected the Human Rights of us the Indigenous Peoples of Australia.

Signed,

Robert Bropho: For and on behalf of the Nyungah Circle of Elders.

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Nyungah Circle of Elders.
C/- PO Box Guildford, Western Australia
Tel: 61 (0)8 9377-1157
61 (0)8 9377-3350 - 61 (0)8 9279-6706
Fax: 61 (0)8 9377-3359

Black Autonomy gives prison authorities the blues.

What's Up, Greg?

It's me James. I know I haven't written you in a while, but I transferred from Pelican Bay to High Desert in Susanville, Ca. I know you mailed me a package and Pelican Bay mailroom sent it back [we never received it.—ed.]

Did they send you a copy of the notification of rejection? I've heard in the past that your literature is accepted at High Desert. I found out that your paper exposed some of the dirt at the Pelican Bay SHU, and from that point on you've been on their sh— list.

Peace,
James Draper,
Susanville, Ca.

Brutal KKKops: Hands Off the Homeless!

[The following anonymous letter was received by Copwatch 206 on September 11. It was also sent to other organizations and individuals, including Mothers Against Police Harassment and Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper. It has been edited for length.—ed.]

This letter is to inform you of the Gestapo tactics performed routinely by SPD [Seattle Police Department.—ed.]. This letter is a formal complaint against the City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department. This letter is a formal complaint against Pike Place Market Management/Security. I and many others have been taken to the Pike Place Market Security office and have been harmed.

While I have been detained during an incident, the SPD have [had] me/us down on the ground, they will gouge and hurt a person even though that person is not being loud or abusive in any manner. The SPD is hoping to push that person to speak up for himself, as is a natural thing to do when a person is being physically/mentally hurt. Once that person tries to defend himself against being tormented, the SPD will have an excellent excuse to further hurt as they can say the person was out of control and was after SPD officers, hence more charges,

cont. on back page; left column.

News: from page 13.

Anti-police graffiti remained on the walls of stores reading "Ask the Police," referring to Rogers' death.

Rogers, who had been hospitalized in intensive care for the past week, died Thursday morning. He was arrested last week on charges of drug possession and tampering with evidence by swallowing crack cocaine.

Police claim he did not die in police custody, but died because he ingested a large amount of crack cocaine prior to his arrest. Rogers was placed in a holding cell, and when officers noticed he was having a seizure. After becoming unconscious, Rogers was taken to a hospital, where he remained in a coma on life support.

An uncompassionate police detective was quoted as saying, "The family made the decision to pull that life support. There was no beating or dying in police custody."

People rebel after police shooting. Nashville, TN.

A discount department store near a public housing project was looted and burned early Sunday after a white police officer shot and killed a black murder suspect during a fight.

A crowd of 200 to 300 people gathered and some threw rocks and bottles at police after the shooting of Leon R. Fisher, 23, of Nashville, at about 2:45 a.m. About two hours later, a Dollar General Store was destroyed by fire. Crowds dispersed by 5 a.m.

Nobody was reported hurt in the rebellion or fire, and there were no immediate arrests. Police and witnesses gave conflicting accounts of what happened. Witnesses said Fisher was handcuffed when he was shot and police waited before trying to resuscitate him. But police said Fisher was handcuffed after he was shot and officers immediately administered aid.

"Everybody's going to say (the officer) feared for his life," said Margaret Turner, who witnessed the shooting. "How the hell can you fear for your life when this man is handcuffed and you done beat the hell out of him?"

At a news conference, Mayor Phil Bredesen defended Sgt. Randy Hickerson, who shot Fisher. Police gave this account of Hickerson's confrontation with the suspect: The officer attempted to pull over a speeding Chevrolet Suburban. It eventually stopped in the housing project and three riders fled. Hickerson ran after Fisher, who

cont. on page 15, right column.

Black Autonomy International. USA. Europe. Africa. Australia.



For more information about our organization, politics, programs, or to order educational materials, please contact us at:
Black Autonomy International (BAI)/Seattle.
323 Broadway Ave.E #914. Seattle, WA. 98102 USA.
(206) 680-8916 (voice mail) bd982@scn.org (email)
<http://afrikan.net/black.autonomy>

For more information on Boycott 2000:
Black Autonomy International/Chattanooga.
attn: Lorenzo Komboa Ervin.
2014 Citico Avenue Chattanooga, TN. 37404 USA
e-mail#1: Lervin@mindspring.com
e-mail#2: Komboa@hotmail.com
(Boycott 2000 Web site under construction).

FYI.

Out Now! "ABCF Guide to Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War Support."
\$1 + two stamps to: ABCF Box 8532
Paterson, NJ 07508-8523.
Also available, "Building PP/POW Subsistence Programs."

"On The Black Liberation Army",
New pamphlet by Jalil Mutaqim.
\$2/U.S. per copy To order contact:
Montreal ABC-SG 2035 St. Laurent,
2e etage Montreal, QC
Canada H2X 2T3.

Whatever you're smoking, reverend,
we don't want any:
"Don't Try To Save Your Own Life...
Wait Upon the Lord!"

-a direct quote taken from a local Black preacher's sermon that was broadcast live on KRIZ 1420 am-Seattle on Sunday, September 21. And the negroes, liberals, and leftists like this guy...(!)

Events.

October 12.

Indigenous Peoples Day March and Rally on the Border for Leonard Peltier.
Peace Arch Park; Blaine, WA.
In Support of ALL Indigenous Resistance to Colonialism and Genocide.
info: (206) 325-2952.
FREEPLTIER@aol.com
<http://www.unicom.net/peltier/>

October 16.

Worldwide Day of Atonement, 1997.
Mecca International 1145 23rd Ave. E
9:00pm-2am. Featuring local Hip-Hop artists and guest speakers from community grassroots Black organizations.
info: (206) 648-6555 bd982@scn.org

This event is NOT sponsored by the Nation of Islam (NOI), but is organized in solidarity with the "official" Day of Atonement events sponsored by Min. Farrakhan and the NOI.

News: from page 14.

fell. Hickerson attempted to subdue him, but Fisher ran off. Hickerson caught up and the two fought. Fisher, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, repeatedly punched Hickerson. The sergeant used his police baton to hit Fisher and gave "continuous commands" for him to surrender.

The men separated and Fisher put his hands in his pockets. Hickerson drew his gun and ordered Fisher to put up his hands. He did and Hickerson holstered his pistol. Fisher then attacked Hickerson. Another officer arrived and tried unsuccessfully to subdue Fisher with pepper spray. Fisher then attacked Hickerson. Hickerson then drew his gun and fired twice. One bullet was deflected by the vest and the other entered his upper chest, police said. Hickerson immediately began resuscitation efforts and called for an ambulance, said Chief Emmett Turner, who is Black.

Witness Margaret Turner disputed that. She said officers waited before trying to revive Fisher, though she did not say how long. She also said Fisher was handcuffed as he ran from Hickerson. Another witness, Roxanne Williams, corroborated most of the police version, including that Fisher was not handcuffed until after he was shot. But she said Fisher stopped fighting when he was sprayed, but Hickerson fired anyway.

Hickerson, a nine-year police veteran, was placed on administrative leave while an investigation is conducted.

Witnesses say it was murder. Chicago, IL.

8/11/97. A Chicago police officer shot and killed an unarmed 21-year-old West Town resident after they struggled over the officer's gun, police said. But a woman who said she saw the incident said the officer "shot him in cold blood."

Andrew Durham, 21, was shot twice in the upper thigh at after he and a female officer quarreled. Police did not release the officer's name.

Durham was pronounced dead at the scene—about two blocks west of the United Center—at 3:30 a.m., according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. The police Office of Professional Standards, the police Internal Affairs Division and the Cook County state's attorney's office are investigating. Two officers spotted Durham and Mackey Drake, 19, at 2:15 a.m. in a parking lot.

cont. on back page, right column.

Black Autonomy. 15

letters; from pg. 14

more Gestapo tactics, and more torture. A suspect will be taken to Pike Place Market Security office handcuffed. SPD will put on leather gloves and torture will begin; torture in places where there will be no bruises. I have left there limping. Many others have left there hurt. We are homeless; we have no voice, no protection. We have no money.

SPD is especially harsh on American Indians and Blacks. The SPD will lie on their reports and lie under oath. They have a great animosity towards Indians and Blacks.

I know what SPD is like, they will be after me now since I have written this letter. I am homeless; no protection. Someone must stop America from becoming a Gestapo-police state. Thank you for listening.

Texas prisoners prove that they can organize to solve their own problems.

Black Autonomy.

I am the chairman of an organization called United Black Family (U.B.F.) on this unit. I am very pleased to have read your newspaper Black Autonomy; in fact, I had the members of U.B.F. write an essay on "Black History, Direct Action, and Prisoner Support."

I would like to take this time to briefly tell you a little about this organization. The U.B.F. members are inmates that have come together to talk about what we can do to stay out of prison, and we also meet to talk about what we can do for our communities while we are still locked up.

We, the members of U.B.F., think that we are better equipped to solve the problems in our communities being that we were the ones that caused a lot of the trouble that is going on in our communities. That is, we feel somewhat responsible for some of the problems that our people are going through in the community. And we would like to help.

We have a lot of programs that we use such as the Think Tank, Educational Programs, Legal Team, and many more.

The "Think Tank Program" is where inmates come together on the yard and talk about solutions to the problems that are going on in our communities, and when we come up with solutions, we write them down and send them to someone in the free world. We write to anyone that is in the struggle. That is why you are hearing from me now.

The "Educational Program" is for the inmates that don't have their High School Diploma or G.E.D. The reason we started this program is because TDCJ [Texas Department of Criminal Justice-ed.] have made a new policy that is keeping most of the Black inmates from getting an education by not al-

lowing them to go to school. So U.B.F. started a program which teaches inmates the skills that they need to make it in the world. Now the "Legal Team" is a program that was started because of the overwhelming corruption that is going on in these plantations [prisons]. Our legal team deals with issues such as the inmates not being allowed to go to school, experiments that are being conducted on these plantations, and lots of other issues that the inmates are forced to live under.

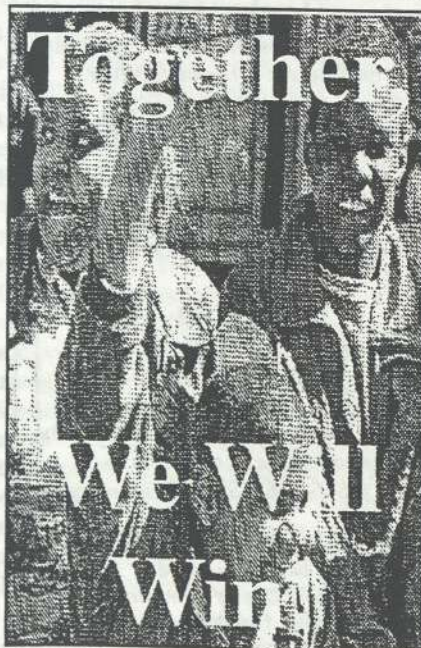
I would also like to note that since we started these programs on this unit the Crips and the Bloods have been trying to change the way that they act and do things. I'm not saying that they still don't have trouble on this unit, all I am saying is when the opportunity presents itself, U.B.F. is here to try to solve the problem.

I have learned that a lot of the problems that happen on these plantations could be solved by the inmates if the administration would not get involved. For example, this Black inmate broke into another inmate's cell (which happened to be the cell of one of the Mexican gangs), a radio was taken out of the cell, and the head gang member sent word to me asking me to talk to the person that took the radio and tell him that all they want is the radio back; and that if he did not come up with the radio, they were going to stab him.

He did not want to give up the radio, so I had to talk him into giving up the radio by being on the up-and-up with him. I told him that he did not have any support, and that he was on his own if he did not give up the radio.

Anyway, to make a long story short, I did get the radio back and the Mexican head man gave me his word that all was well. I mention this issue to show you that we inmates on this plantation can handle our problems if this administration don't get into it.

Mujahid Siddiq Abdul,
Amarillo, TX.



news, from pg.15

Police suspected that they might be trying to break into cars, said Sgt. Jerold Swarbrick. When the officers approached them, the men ran, police said. One officer caught Drake and arrested him, charging him with assault. The other officer tackled Durham with her gun drawn, grabbing his upper body, police said. Durham partially broke free and dragged the officer down the street, police said.

The officer grabbed Durham's legs, and Durham grabbed the officer's gun and tried to take it, police said. The officer fired three times, hitting Durham twice, police said.

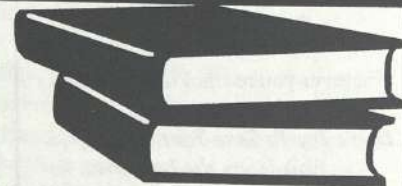
But Precious Rogers, 29, who said she saw the shooting, said Durham screamed and fell to the ground after the officer shot him once. Durham said: "You don't have to shoot me again," Rogers said. The officer shot Durham a second time as he lay on the ground with his arms raised over his head, she continued. "She shot him in cold blood, and it was wrong because you could tell from his scream he didn't have any more fight left."

"Why did they have to do this to my son?" said his mother, Sharon Ward, 39. "He and his girlfriend were planning to get married and were expecting the birth of their first child—a boy," said his aunt Nancy Durham, 33. "He was an easy going guy and would do anything he could for others." Family members said Durham would not have been trying to steal cars. They said he had a new car.

Durham, who worked odd jobs in construction, was planning to go to Malcolm X College in the fall, family members said. He was a 1995 graduate of Crane High School, where he was a linebacker for the football team.

Books To Prisoners.

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A Not-for-Profit program that answers the requests of over 500 prisoners per month. Prisoners receive everything from G.E.D. prep texts to books on famous Black leaders...for FREE.