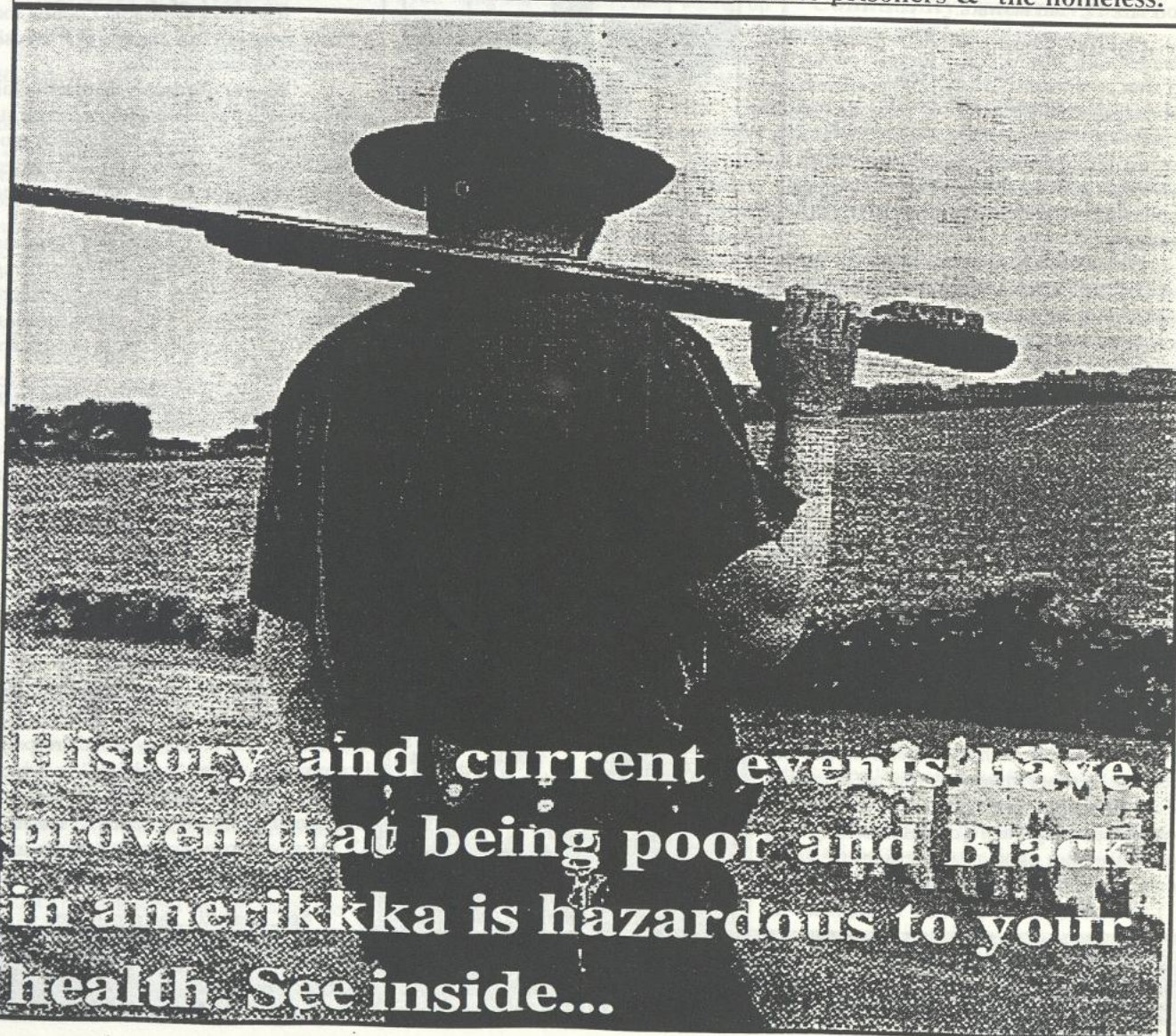


BLACK AUTONOMY



NEWS. VIEWS. UNITY IN ACTION.

Vol. #3; Issue #6. Oct.-Nov. 1997. \$1.00/ U.S. Free to prisoners & the homeless.



History and current events have proven that being poor and Black in amerikkka is hazardous to your health. See inside...

Black Autonomy.

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Fighting Back!

Actions and analysis from the activists of Black Autonomy International.

Black activists demonstrate unity in court.

By G. Jackson.
BAI; Seattle, WA.

On August 11, myself and others appeared at the Seattle Municipal Court to support bro. Devaun Howard.

Howard, 18, had been arrested and charged with "obstruction of justice" on August 5 after he witnessed Seattle Police officers assaulting another Black man at Westlake Park in downtown. When he requested the officer's badge number, he was ordered to get back, which he did. When he asked for the badge number again, another officer grabbed him and placed him under arrest.

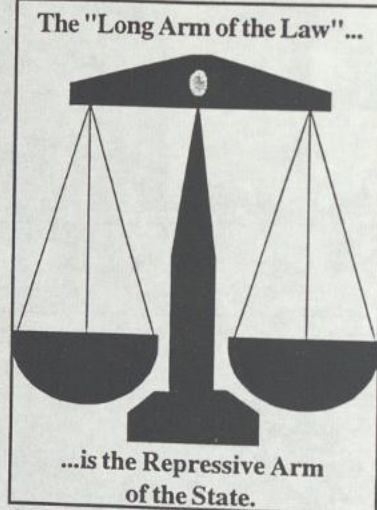
When he was released from jail, he discovered that his book bag that they confiscated had the distinct smell of urine all over it. In addition, some items had been purposely destroyed and then put back.

When Devaun's name was called in court, all of us and his family stood up; and remained standing until his case was done. The prosecutor for the city recommended that all charges be dropped, and the judge agreed.

The judge was visibly shaken by the display of Black community unity; she sat there looking stupid with the gavel in her hand undecided about whether or not to interrupt the prosecutor just to tell us to sit down.

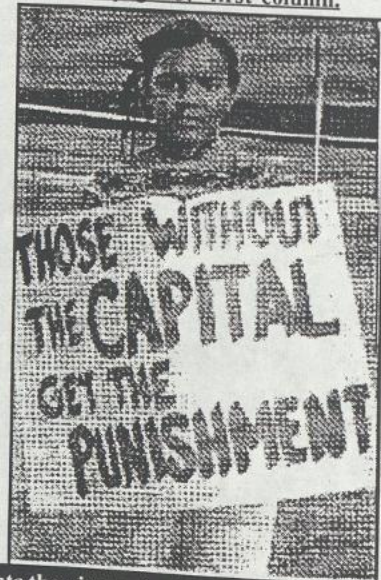
We may never really know if our presence there actually made a difference as far as the charges being dropped. One thing our presence did do was show both the grassroots and the city that there are some of us who are not afraid of fighting white supremacy and those who support it; especially when it comes to dealing with one of the most direct manifestations of white supremacy—the police and the courts.

It also showed, once again, that's its



the grassroots (particularly the youth) that are leading the charge against oppression, not the uncle toms, the pork-chop nationalists, the white government, or the white left. We, "the people", must do for ourselves or perish right along with all of our various self-proclaimed, self-serving "saviors" and "[mis]leadership".

See page 3, first column.



Black man raped and beaten by police. New York, NY

8/9/97. Charges have been brought against three New York City police officers after they arrested, then tortured, a brother who recently immigrated from Haiti. Officer Justin Volpe, 25, was positively identified by Abner Louima, 30, as the officer who shoved a wooden toilet plunger handle up Louima's butt. According to sources close to the victim, the police then stuffed the handle in Louima's mouth so hard that it broke out teeth and fractured his jaw. Louima was also beaten by 4 of Volpe's fellow NYPD officers on duty at the 70th Precinct the night of the attack.

The attack came after Louima and a friend were arrested outside a Flatbush area nightclub after a scuffle.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has promised swift punishment for Louima's attackers and has placed 24 hour police protection around Louima and his family based upon threats made by the officers in the attack.

Meanwhile, protesters from the community have demonstrated in growing numbers at the precinct in Brooklyn where the attack occurred. One demonstration brought out 1,000 people. More actions are being planned.

Louima, a "legal" immigrant from Haiti, worked as a security guard at a sewage treatment plant and had studied electrical engineering in Haiti. He is a husband and father of two children. Louima has filed a \$55 million dollar lawsuit against the city.

Gov't Workfare program kills Black woman. New York, NY.

8/8/97. On August 1st of this year, welfare reform went into effect across the country. Part of this so-called "reform" is a program called "workfare" in which welfare recipients must work in order to continue to receive their benefits. On June 17, the government's slavery scheme took its first life; that of 50 year-old Marsha

See page 3, third column.



Copwatch 206: The Powerful Eye of the People Is Everywhere!

By Anonymous.

Aug. 13.

A plainclothes copwatcher witnessed an assault of a brother at 3rd and Bell at approximately 4:45pm. If this particular scene is any indication of the direction relations between the people and the police is going, I suggest the police humble themselves and submit to public criticism...or else.

In this case, people didn't take this latest act of brutality and harassment lying down. Despite the chokehold placed on the brother by a white officer [the use of chokeholds on suspects by police officers in Washington State was banned by the order of a Federal circuit court judge in the late 1970's after people brought to the King County Jail by police "mysteriously" died after being placed in the hold. As recently as 1995 a Black man was killed in North Seattle after Seattle Police choked him into the unconsciousness.—ed.] and the pepper the spray applied by a Filipino (or possibly Latino) officer, he continued to fight back.

To his defense came a sister, armed with a garbage can lid, who tossed it into the jaw of the non-european officer. She escaped unharmed.

After finally getting the brother on the ground and pinned down, the white officer radioed for back-up, and soon we were surrounded by eight more vehicles. The police had a near riot on their hands, the people have had enough. They were able to get people to disperse without further vio-

lence.

The copwatcher informs us that he gave out the Copwatch 206 phone number to witnesses, including the woman who was with the brother.

According to eyewitnesses, the whole thing started when police walked up to the brother as he was sitting there minding his business. The white officer ordered him to stand up. After he did, the other one yelled, "why'd you stand up for!?" and pushes him in an attempt to provoke him.

It was right about here that Copwatch 206 appeared on the scene to witness the chokehold, followed by repeated blows to ribs with a 4-5 inch metal club, along with the Filipino officer swinging his wooden baton at those who encircled the scene and protested the unjustified attack.

When the Copwatch 206 representative demanded a badge number from both officers, he was ordered to get back; which he did. When he demanded it again, he was told to "get back or go to jail". It was at this point that the back-up units arrived.

Copwatch 206 fully intends to follow up on this case. Copwatch 206 also more on page 4, first column.



Copwatch 206

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from page 4.

Motipersad, who died of a heart attack while doing hard labor for the NYC Parks Department.

According to a co-worker, Motipersad had to get up at 4:30 am and take three buses to her assignment on Coney Island. There she would toil in a damp, poorly ventilated basement beneath a public toilet, as well as pick up garbage along the beach for 8 hours a day in the hot sun. According to a former employer, Motipersad worked for 17 years as a secretary for the Children's Aid Society before retiring in 1994 after two heart attacks.

Within the next two years, the number of people in workfare programs is expected to exceed one million. In New York City, 38,000 are already on the program. The city plans to raise that number to 100,000 by next year.

Community Demands Justice in the Killing of Black Man. East Haven, CN.

7/14/97 Chanting "Never again," hundreds of protesters marched into East Haven to seek the prosecution of a white police officer who fatally shot an unarmed Black motorist.

Starting at the spot in New Haven where 21-year-old Malik Jones was killed, and led by Jones' mother, about 600 people of all races participated in the peaceful 3-mile march to East Haven's town hall. Emma Jones wore a white T-shirt bearing a picture of her son and walked behind a banner reading "Justice for Malik."

"What happened to my son, Malik Jones, was an abomination to all of humanity," she told demonstrators as she stood on the steps of town hall. "By your being here, you have spoken volumes to this city, to this state and even to this country. Never again will we allow someone to walk into our community and shoot and kill our children and walk away," she said. "No way will we allow the situation to be swept under the rug."

Jones was killed April 14 after a high-speed police chase from East Haven into New Haven that ended just three blocks from his home. The police officer who shot him at least four times said he acted in self-defense, alleging Jones tried to run him over.

In New Haven, people lined the streets to cheer the protesters. For Black

See next page, third column.

Black Autonomy. 3

Note: Not everything in this paper represents the view point(s) or political line of the Black Autonomy Collective. Articles that do can be found in the "Fighting Back!" section (page 3), or are otherwise clearly marked. Feel free to copy & distribute our newspaper, just give us props.

2. Black Autonomy.



All over the world, African people are demanding their freedom from white supremacy and class oppression.

continued from page 3.

encourages everyone to get involved in protecting our communities from state-sponsored criminal activity and low-level genocide.

Aug. 20.

At 3:45pm, another plainclothes Copwatch 206 volunteer observed two police officers, one Asian, one white (female) doing a stop on 20th Ave. And E. John in Capitol Hill.

The brother was cuffed and ordered to place his hands on the hot hood of the cruiser while the officers searched the vehicle. The brother told the police that he had an ammunition clip in his ride (not illegal in the state of Washington unless its over 30 rounds, concealed as part of the weapon and the owner is without a carry permit, or it is in the possession of a minor [under 21], or in the possession of a convicted felon. Even then its sketchy, because 30 round clips can still be sold at gun stores due to a "grandfather clause" in the law), but no gun.

When the Asian officer found he, he yelled "what the f---k is this!?" and slammed the clip on the roof of the car. The brother was taken to jail. While the volunteer couldn't get any badge numbers, he did get license plates; the Asian was rolling in Wa. Lic #13938D, the white officer was in Wa. Lic #2239D.

Aug. 21.

Today the same Asian officer was observed on his best behavior...during a traffic stop involving a white woman. Hmm, how interesting. There was no back-up units called either for that "routine traffic stop".

Later that day, an SPD mobile command center (Wa. Lic #12580D) was

4. Black Autonomy.

observed at the park on the corner of 3rd and Bell in downtown Seattle. This is the same park where a brother was assaulted by SPD officers. The Copwatch 206 volunteer also mentioned that he was watched closely by an older officer across the street who usually works a walking beat on Capitol Hill as he was gathering this information.

Reply to the Nyungah Circle of Elders.

by Lorenzo Komboa Ervin.
BAI; Chattanooga, TN.

[This letter was written in response to a statement issued to the world by the Nyungah Circle of Elders. The full text of their statement is on page 14.--ed.]

I chose at that time not to go underground, but I have been a warrior all my life, and swore that I would return, and no barrier or territorial border of the whiteman prevent my return.

Not only will I personally return, but I will send others from my organization to investigate the condition of your/our people. Further, I will conduct an international conference on the genocide and land theft of the tribes of your country (to which we are asking that you will send a Nyungah) next year, and as I promised you I would begin to conduct the international boycott against the white Australian government.

This has begun even as we speak. I have set up the Boycott 2000 Coalition in those 17 countries which protested my false imprisonment in Australia, and I assure you that many others, white, Black, Asian, Na-

See next page, first column.

from page 3.

residents of New Haven, the shooting only confirmed their worst fears about East Haven and its all-white police force. Non-europeans make up less than 4 percent of the population of 26,500.

East Haven Mayor Henry Luzzi, who has said he believes the shooting was justified, sought to get the march called off. He called the march "deliberately provocative" and said it would serve no legitimate purpose.

East Haven police gave the following account of the shooting: Officer Robert Flodquist, 36, a 12-year police veteran, began chasing Jones in his prison van after an unidentified driver told him that the car was being operated erratically. When Flodquist tried to pull him over, Jones sped off.

In New Haven, Flodquist and another officer boxed Jones in with their vehicles. But when Flodquist got out and ordered Jones out of the car, Jones tried to back into the officer.

Believing Jones was trying to run him over, Flodquist came up from the back of the car, broke the driver's side window and shot Jones at least four times.

Jones' passenger, Samuel Cruz, 19, said Jones backed up to avoid a collision with another police vehicle.

To members of the Jones family, it is an open-and-shut case; "This was a blatant, cold, lynching-style murder," a tearful Emma Jones said in a recent interview. "He was my baby. He was soft and gentle. There's nothing in your experience that can prepare you for something like this."

Emma Jones, who has a law degree, is a longtime activist against racial injustice. Since her son died, she said, she has relived his death over and over again. "I can see myself, feel myself where he was. I can see the agony on his face as someone is pumping bullets into him," she said, breaking down in sobs. "This is so blatantly wrong."

Flodquist was put on paid leave for the first month after the shooting but has since returned to work. To defend East Haven, the town has turned to Hugh Keefe, a prominent defense attorney.

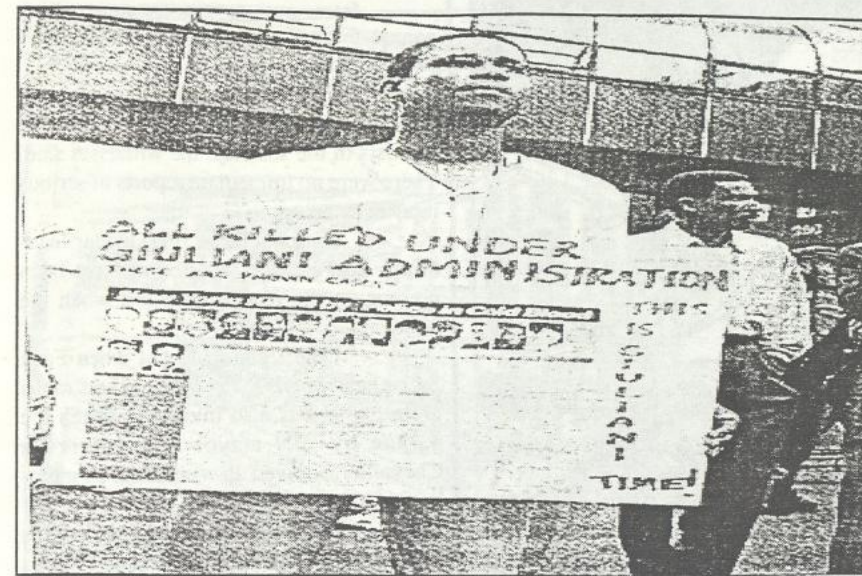
See next page, right column.

Got a news tip?

Contact us:

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from page 4, left column.

native Americans, Mexican-Americans, and the whole of humankind will hear of your plight, and join you to obtain the birthright to which you are entitled: land and independence.

Your letter is so important because it not only makes your wishes known, but it confirms our statements that an international boycott of these bread and circus Olympic games, on stolen land soaked with the blood of your ancestors, is really the way forward to winning the human rights of the Indigenous people in the land known as Australia.

Boycott Racist AUSTRALIA! by Lorenzo Komboa Ervin; BAI; Chattanooga, TN.

[The following is text being circulated by our organization in the U.S. on the behalf of, and at the request of, our brothers and sisters in Australia.--ed.]

In 1993, after fierce bidding, the year 2000 Olympic Games were awarded to AUSTRALIA over China by the International Olympic Committee, allegedly because of a better human rights record. But is this so? You be the judge. Here is a list of crimes by the white racist regime:

* mass murder [genocide] of 500,000 Aboriginal (black) people and the continued theft of their lands. These murders continue with deaths in H.M.S prison service and police custody to the present day. AUSTRALIA is based on the rape and theft of the lands of Aboriginal peoples. Even the courts of the country are recognizing this, but the government is openly defying the court system, as well as international law and public opinion by refusing to abide by the Mabo, Wik, and other rulings granting

native land title.

*The rise of Pauline Hanson, the openly white racist politician, who is against Asian immigration and the human rights of Aborigines, and who is for a "white AUSTRALIA" restricted immigration policy, which discriminates against non-whites. She calls the Aborigines "savages" and "cannibals" who should be eliminated from "civilized society."

The rise of her *One Nation Party*, a fascist, white supremacist electoral movement, is a serious development which will continue to impact on Australia's position in the world making it a pariah nation, based on her present influence on the government, and likelihood of being elected Prime Minister.

*Government stealing of 100,000 Aboriginal (black) children and giving them to white families, in some cases sending them out of the country. This was done by police agents, the arms of crying parents, theft of newborns from hospitals, and forcing the parents to give them to white authorities or be imprisoned. Light-skinned Aborigines were given to White families to raise, while dark-skinned youth were thrown into foster homes and juvenile prisons. This sort of thing has not been seen since Nazi Germany, and was clearly a policy of racial genocide.

The federal government refuses to punish those responsible for this criminal policy, return the persons to their rightful families, or make any sort of restitution. It has taken an unrepentant white racist posture, denying at all they were responsible, or that anyone should be concerned 30 years after the crimes were committed. Not recognizing that yesterday's children must live

See next page, left column.

continued from page 4; right.

Study: Executions of Innocent People 'Inevitable'. Washington, DC

7/15/97. The possibility that innocent people wrongly convicted of murder will be put to death in the United States is growing, says a new study by a group critical of capital punishment.

"The current emphasis on faster executions, less resources for the defense and an expansion in the number of death cases mean that the execution of innocent people is inevitable," concludes a report by the Death Penalty Information Center.

Bryan Stevenson, an Alabama lawyer who has represented death row inmates, called the report "a serious indictment of the American capital punishment system." He said "dozens, possibly hundreds" of innocent people may be among the more than 3,200 men and women on death rows across the nation.

Rebellion against police killings; mourners fight back. Bombay, India.

7/18/97. Shouting "Burn the police!" and throwing stones, at least 8,000 low-caste [lower class--ed.] Indians streamed toward a Bombay crematorium to mourn 10 people killed by police in a city slum. Two children and eight adults were shot and killed by police trying to quell class-based rioting that broke out in a poor Bombay neighborhood.

Brazilian police battle army. Brasilia, Brazil.

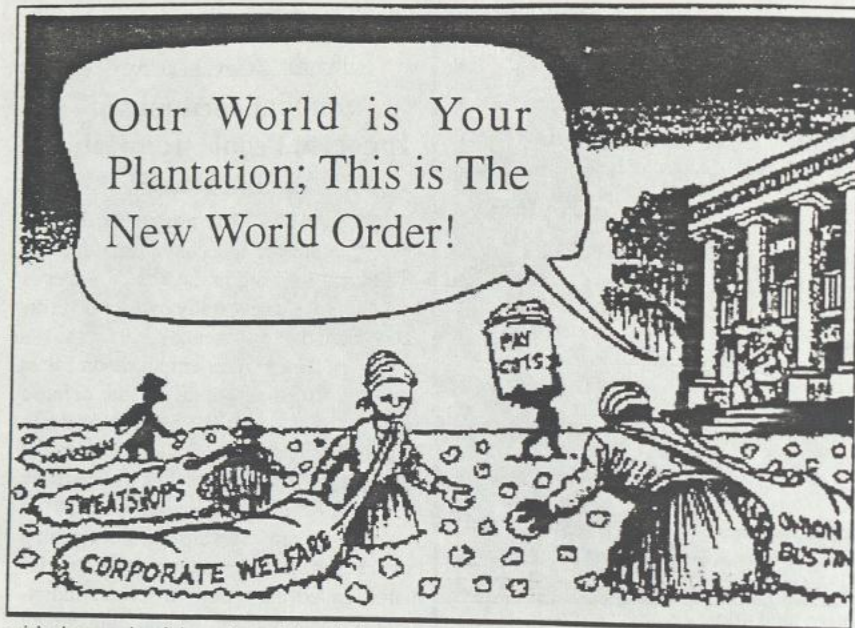
7/18/97. At least three people were injured when striking Brazilian police officers battled with army units in the northeastern state of Alagoas, officials said. Officials said the clash, in which up to 400 rounds were fired, occurred after the head of the legislative assembly in the state capital Maceio requested military protection against demonstrating police; on strike over unpaid wages.

Anti-racists clash with civilian fascists and police. Toulon, France

7/14/97. Anti-racist militants fought with members of France's neo-nazi National Front party during a Bastille Day

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with the result of these harmful policies.

*The deaths of numerous Aboriginal persons in police custody, yet no criminal prosecution or impartial inquest, which would establish their deaths as homicide, instead of rubber-stamping their deaths as "suicide" has ever taken place. Over 350 black persons have been killed like this, according to the Royal Commission on Deaths in Custody, although others in the Indigenous rights movement have said as many as 1,000 may have died in as little as the last two decades.

*One of the highest levels of police shootings of civilians in the world, and a reputation for police brutality, especially against the poor and racial minorities. Literally hundreds have been killed in the last decade alone by the racist and repressive police forces of AUSTRALIA.

*Sydney, the site of the Olympic Games, has one of the world's worst ghettos, Redfern, which is a historically black community. The white government has slated the community for demolition, rather than rebuilding housing fit for human beings; the residents are subjected to daily police brutality, random racist violence, poverty and degradation. The Australian government should be held accountable for these squalid conditions, and made to build decent housing for the black community of Redfern, keeping the community intact, not driving out the poor!

* The Australian government is holding Dennis Walker. We call upon the Australian government to release Dennis Walker and to stop persecuting him because of his race and

6 Black Autonomy.

political outlook. He is a political prisoner, held unlawfully by the Australian regime, in violation of international law and human rights standards.

*For several years the Australian government has been engaged in military and political intervention in Papua-New Guinea, which has cost the lives of over 10,000 (predominately Black) persons in Bougainville; a territory which seceded from the white settler regime for its own independent nation, and to stop mining corporations from exploiting and destroying their lands with strip-mining. AUSTRALIA, working with the mining companies and the puppet PNG government, provoked a civil war, and is arming the colonial regime.

*The July 1997 false imprisonment, beating, and deportation of visiting USA black activist, Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, when he was attempting to speak to the Aboriginal population and general public of AUSTRALIA during a book speaking tour.

The government deportation charges came at the behest of racist politician Pauline Hanson and her One Nation Party, who were opposed to his talking to Aborigines, accusing him of "spreading terrorism". This tour was cut short because of biased immigration policies which allow the political banning of speakers out of favor with the government, in clear violation of international law. In addition, AUSTRALIA has no policies of civil rights for the black population, nor any civil liberties for its citizens including freedom of speech for controversial/unpopular persons. The national government routinely spies on and represses activists, domestic and international visitors.

See page 7; left column.

from page 5, right column.

parade in the southern port of Toulon, eyewitnesses said.

Police in Toulon, whose mayor is from the anti-immigration Front, backed the rightists in the scuffles, the witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries or arrests.

National Front (FN) leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was reported to have been present on the reviewing stand when the incidents took place.

The fighting began when Fode Sylla, head of the SOS-Racisme anti-racist group, who was also invited to watch the parade by FN mayor Jean-Marie Le Chevallier, showed up with about 50 members of his movement.

The eyewitnesses said blows were exchanged as the anti-racists chanted "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" in reply to shouts of "Le Pen for president." They also said Sylla was physically assaulted by both rightists and policemen while FN sympathizers shouted that immigrants should be thrown into the sea.

Trouble had been expected after Sylla said his group would defy a ban by Le Chevallier to go ahead with a planned Bastille Day festival in the city later in the day. The African-born Sylla said Le Chevallier had no grounds for banning the long-planned open-air event.

But Sylla urged residents to defy the ban and up to 3,000 anti-racist militants later paraded through the town while nazi sympathizers shouted insults at them. The anti-racists finally held their rally unopposed. Le Chevallier asked national police to break it up but authorities declined to act in order to avoid further disturbances.

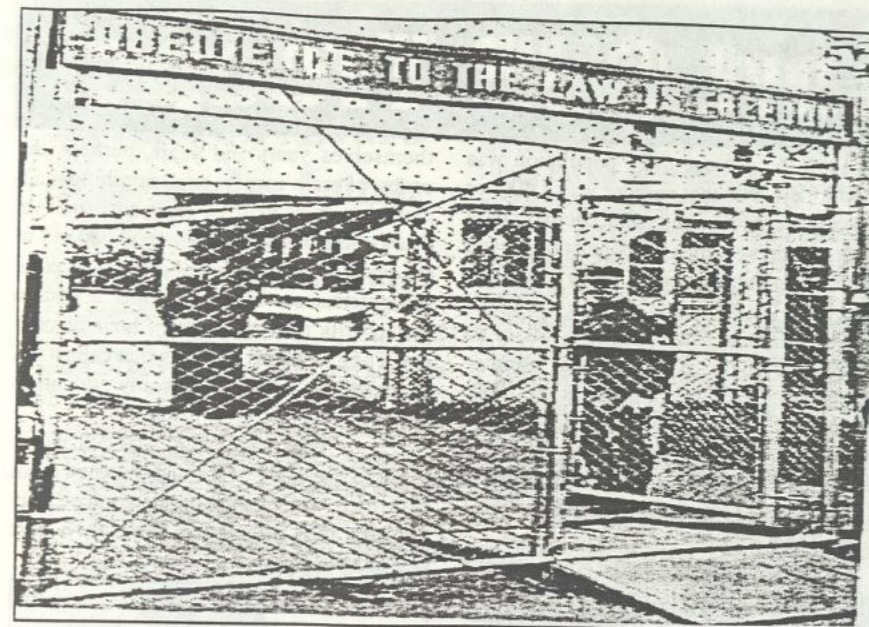
The movement has brought private prosecutions against Le Pen for espousing the theory of racial inequality and making ethnic slurs.

Police curfew sweep sends a strong message; "Nig—r Beware!" Washington, DC

7/20/97. It's almost midnight, and more than two dozen county police and sheriff's deputies mingle nervously inside a gymnasium being used as a detention center as they wait for the first wave of curfew violators to be brought in.

"This will be a totally secure area," sheriff's Lt. Bill O'Connell says to the group of deputies who have assembled in the still-empty Woodbridge gymnasium in the Ferlazzo Building to process the ju-

See next page, right column.



*Political banning and denial of travel visas to activists, political figures and others that the conservative government is opposed to.

This includes Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, and Irish Sein Fein leader, Gerry Adams, but also thousands of other Left-wing political or social figures. The government has admitted having a list of at least 100,000 persons for its immigration exclusion list, which includes many persons strictly on the basis of their political beliefs or affiliations. Dennis Walker, an Aboriginal leader, in prison as a political prisoner.

Mr. Walker is a co-founder of the Australian Black Panther Party in the 1970's, co-founder of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra, site of Parliament, and has engaged in numerous struggles on behalf of the indigenous people of the country over the last 20 years.

As a result he was framed on criminal charges in 1993 of assaulting an officer and resisting arrest, when he tried to stop racist cops from despoiling Aboriginal lands and artifacts. He disarmed one cop, but did not otherwise harm him, during a government harassing raid. That is why he is being held in prison as a "dangerous criminal". Mr. Walker has been called the "Nelson Mandela of AUSTRALIA", and his confinement is clearly politically motivated.

* For over 100 years, the Australian government had a White Australian immigration policy, which effectively kept out non-White persons from visiting and/or receiving citizenship, until the late 1960's. The government is still enforcing parts of the 1958 Immigration Act laws which still are discriminatory. Black people coming to Australian for any purpose are especially

from page 6, right.

juveniles after they're brought in by police. The message is clear: Curfew enforcement is usually a low priority, but tonight it's your only priority. "Officers will be patrolling the area all the time, and the juveniles will remain handcuffed."

It's approaching 1:30 a.m. when a visibly angry Demetrius L. Hicks, 19, arrives at the curfew center to sign for the release of two underage friends. The girls were arrested while they stood outside an apartment building on Longview Drive, where one of them lives, talking with Hicks and his companion, Raymond Elliott, 21. Police say the girls were picked up because they didn't have parental permission to be out.

"I'm hot," Hicks said, pacing the sidewalk. "If you're standing outside your house with a responsible adult, it should be okay to be out."

Police will conduct three more roundups in 11 months, all to publicize the new county law, effective July 1, that makes it illegal for anyone younger than 18 to be in a public place from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from midnight to 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Under the law, a police officer who catches a youngster violating the curfew has the discretion to make an arrest, give a warning or issue a summons to appear in court. Violators face up to 50 hours of community service for the first offense; a minimum fine of \$200 and up to 100 hours community service for a second offense; and a minimum fine of \$350 and up to 200 hours community service for a third offense.

Parents and business owners who knowingly permit a young person to violate the curfew could be charged with a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum of six months in jail or fines of up to \$1,000. Exemptions in the law enable youngsters to attend concerts, late-night movies and other organized activities with the permission of a parent or responsible adult. Youngsters also are exempt when they're traveling to and from work, are married or are exercising their First Amendment rights. How these exemptions are actually used in practice remains to be seen.

See page 10, right column.

Know the Law, before the Law knows YOU!

Black Autonomy. 7

harnessed, searched, accused of "dealing drugs", summarily deported and jailed. The Olympics will only increase the number of such cases.

*Giving a safe haven to WWII Nazis and other fascists. AUSTRALIA is one of the main destinations for fugitive war criminals because it gives them political asylum. It has had a long-standing fascist movement of its own, and many government officials in the current government are sympathetic to right-wing ideology and organizing.

For instance, the Ku Klux Klan has been given a free hand to organize in Queensland state especially, and the National Action movement, Pauline Hanson's "One Nation" Party and other fascists are all flourishing, due to government and corporate support or acquiescence, even when they engage in or incite acts of violence. If the truth be told, Australia is an outlaw nation whose racial policies are little different from apartheid South Africa, and we want to build an international movement against its trade and tourism similar to the anti-apartheid sanctions campaign.

We call on all persons who believe in human rights and oppose racism to join us in this protest campaign. We must expose the racist Australian police state to the world and tarnish their false image of democracy and tolerance.

WHAT IS BOYCOTT 2000?

Because of these and other actions by the Australian government, we call for the creation of a Boycott 2000 Coalition to create a worldwide protest against the Sydney Olympic Games and especially an economic boycott in support of the Aborigines.

See page 10, left column.

We Support OUR Troops!

Class War Against Youth.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"Judges are products of the containment system. The criminal justice system makes a lot of money for everybody, from the judge to the bailiff, from the bail bondsmen to the police. The sheriffs deputies, everybody. The neoslave, the young Black male, becomes the fodder, the raw material, for this industry-like profit-making system. The fodder is black, and the beneficiaries - those who profit from the system - are white."

— Judge Joseph B. Brown, Jr. Shelby County Court, Memphis, TN. [fr. Linn Washington, Black Judges on Justice (NY: New Press, 1994), p. 60]

Two brown boys shuffle into the cell to await their court date, their pants hanging down their behinds, their eyes straining to project a toughness that their tiny stature and beardless faces betray. Their bright eyes search the tiny holding cell. One paces the five and a half foot long, four foot wide glass-doored cage, while the other sits on the hard, wooden slats of the bench, his eyes unfocused, inward looking.

The other sits, and they talk to each other, their shoulders hunched bespeaking their mutual fear.

All around them are men in their 20's, 30's and 40's, their eyes harrowed into slits of dulled anger.

The two boys are 16, but they are certified as adults. They are Munchkins in the Land of Giants, and they are entering a courtroom that sees its highest duty as flinging them into the netherworld of American gulags for as long as humanly (legally) possible.

For all intents and purposes, they are doomed. In an age when crime rates are in sharp decline, the youth and adults rates of incarceration are skyrocketing. The US government's own statistical data shows these trends convincingly in Correctional Populations in the United States, 1994 and Criminal Victimization, 1973-95. The US government's own statistical data shows these trends convincingly in Correctional Populations in the United States, 1994 and Criminal Victimization, 1973-95.

With regard to juveniles in US jails,

in 1990 the average daily population was 2,140. By 1993 that number was 3,400, or an increase of 59%. The actual one-day count of the nation's juvenile jail population is even more damning, especially when examined overtime. The 1990 one-day count was 2,301, and by 1993 that figure rose to 4,300, or an increase of 87%. By 1994, that number swelled to 6,725, or 192.2% over the 1990 population figure ([see Correctional Populations in the United States, 1994, US Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (Wash, DC: US Gov't Printing Office, June 1996) p.24, Table 2.1].

As measured by the government's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the 1995 rape, robbery and aggravated assault rates were at a 23 year low. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (VCR) measured a similar trend in murder rates [see Criminal Victimization, 1973-95, (US Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (Wash, DC: US Gov't Printing Office, April 1997) p. 1]

In the text of the latter report: In 1994, compared to 1973, the US population was about as vulnerable to violent crime but significantly less vulnerable to property crime. From 1973 through 1994, the rates of violent crime victimization had intervals of stability, increased, and decrease, while the rates of property crime underwent a virtually uninterrupted decrease. From 1973 through 1994, the rates of violent crime victimization had intervals of stability, increased, and decrease, while the rates of property crime underwent a virtually uninterrupted decrease.

The 1994-95 decline in the violent crime rate was the largest single-year decrease ever measured in the total violent category. [Crim. Vic., '73-'95, p.1]

One wonders; what is the relationship between the crime rate and the incarceration rate? The answer seems to be: very little.

The nation's incarceration rate appears to be driven, not by the crime rate, but by the needs if the prison-industrial complex. The poor, the young and the Black are unwitting fodder to feed the machine, like chickens on a McDonald's conveyor belt. Gone is even the shallowest pretense of rehabilitation, with prison's economic imperative assuming its brute mastery of the game of life and death.

Those two young boys, unless they are very, very lucky, have in store for

themselves years and years, perhaps decades, of brain-rotting, soul-smashing madness that they may, or may not, survive. They will grow to a sullen manhood out of the scent or presence of women, in a sexual slaughterhouse. They will enter a system that profits from their every hour of misery. They will feed a system that calls itself "corrections", yet outlaws any education beyond a G.E.D.

They enter a man-made hell, where the cold eye of the "Law" has deemed them to be men, while nature has determined they are what they indeed are: Boys. Boys cast beyond the pale.



Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist. He is also a father, grandfather, and former Black Panther who was convicted in 1982 of shooting and killing Philadelphia Police officer William Faulkner.

Despite contradicting eyewitness accounts, police intimidation of witnesses, and an unfair trial, he was sentenced to death.

In 1995, a death warrant was signed by Governor Tom Ridge. Due to international pressure, the order was not carried out. Not yet, anyway...

To Find out more and what you can do contact:

**International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia-Abu-Jamal.
PO Box 19709,
Philadelphia, PA. 19143
(215) 476-8812
<Mumia@aol.com>**

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Black Autonomy Prisoner Support Pages.

Update on Alvaro Hernandez Luna.

By Frank San Miguel;
Barrio Defense Committee.

Companera/os.

It's been some time since a full update on Alvaro Hernandez Luna has been sent out. In June, he was sentenced to 50 years in prison for aggravated assault of a sheriff — charges resulting from Alvaro disarming the sheriff as he pulled his weapon on Alvaro, unarmed.

The premise of this attempted assassination of a longtime Raza activist was to apprehend Alvaro for a robbery he states he did not commit and for which he was exonerated. In fact, of the three charges he faced in Alpine, Alvaro was found innocent of all but one. "It would have been a disgrace to the police and sent the 'wrong message' to our Raza that it is justified to resist racist attacks and of the political conspiracy against us," Alvaro writes of his sentence:

"We not only have the 'legal' right' to defend ourselves, but an international right under principles of self-determination." A longtime Houston, Texas (USA) activist and leader of groups like the Ricardo Adalpe Guerra Defense Committee, National Movement of La Raza, National Chicano United Front and others, Alvaro had moved from Houston to Alpine, Texas and came under scrutiny immediately."

"The state's own evidence (at trial) showed once I arrived in Alpine, I became the target of surveillance, harassment and false charges. They interrogated people close to me, asking them what I was doing in Alpine. They were told I was 'working on some legal case,' had a computer and many 'open files,' and that I had been talking to Raza about police brutality and racism," writes Alvaro. "They feared I wanted to reopen the police murder of my friend, Ervay Ramos, shot in the back by a racist, coward pig in my presence in 1968. Murder has no statute of limitations and the Justice Department can reopen any such case if the evidence is there."

A petition drive to open a federal investigation of Alvaro's charges and reopen Ramos' murder was recently initiated. Ramos was a 16-year-old student shot in the back, fatally wounding him, by Alpine cop F. L. "Bud" Powers, Jr., on June 10,

1968 after a traffic stop. Powers was later indicted for "murder without malice" in the killing, but was never disciplined, served no time and remained a police officer.

All official/organizational correspondence, requests/checks for tapes and donations to support Alvaro's case should be directed to the Barrio Defense Committee-Houston [see address below--ed.]. Checks should be made out to "Alvaro Hernandez Luna Defense Fund" (acct. no.: 2668161929) and sent to Houston. Please distribute this information and address widely.

If you have internet web browser access, please visit the Free Alvaro Hernandez Luna Now! Defense pages at <http://members.tripod.com/~defensa> and link it to your own pages if you have them (and write back to say you linked, so you can be listed on our links pages).

Please make sure to forward a copy of any material about Alvaro printed in publications. We are in the process of



developing a press kit and any support letters and articles are needed. All materials can be sent to the Houston address [below].

*Barrio Defense Committee-Houston
1436 W. Gray, #308, Houston, TX 77019
E-Mail: ahl@rocketmail.com*

A Call To ACTION: Political Prisoner Conference & Rally; Oct.10-12. by Marshall Eddie Conway; 27 Year Black Panther Political Prisoner

WE ARE CALLING ON ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRESSIVE GROUPS, AND ACTIVISTS TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF WAR.

The conference will be held in Baltimore, MD, October 10th through 12th. Registration will begin on Friday evening from 6PM to 9PM and will be followed by a POLITICAL PRISONER & POW RALLY from 7PM to 9PM. Registration will continue on Saturday morning from 8AM to 9AM. Workshops and Discussion groups will be held from 9am TO 7pm.

All events will take place at: CHRISTIAN CENTER, MORGAN

STATE UNIVERSITY, HILLEN ROAD & COLD SPRING LANE, BALTIMORE, MD

While this conference is focusing mainly on Political Prisoners and POWs, the workshops will also focus on many other issues concerning our communities. This conference will serve to organize and share information on the National Jericho '98 meeting coordinated by Safiya Buhkari. There will be workshops on:

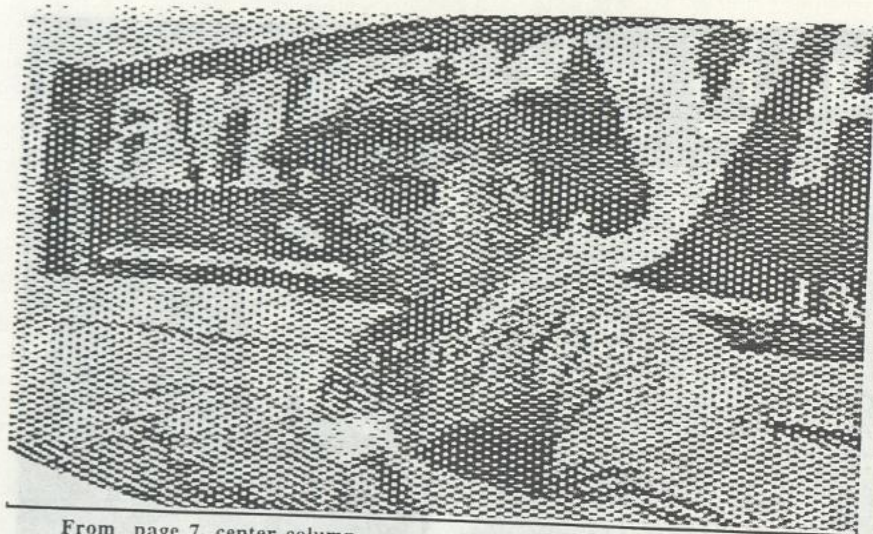
Community/Police Relations.
Death Penalty/Sentencing Disparity.
COINTELPRO. CIA Crack/Cocaine Connection. Grassroots Networking/ United Fronts. Million Woman March And More!

We do need your Contributions. Therefore a \$5.00 admission for the conference is necessary. Checks to help with the cost of the conference should be made out to *The Marshall Eddie Conway Support Committee.*

Sponsored By:
The Marshall Eddie Conway Support Committee.

Contacts:
NJINGA - (410) 276-7221
KAREN - (410) 655-4405
SARAH - (410) 243-7950

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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

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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.

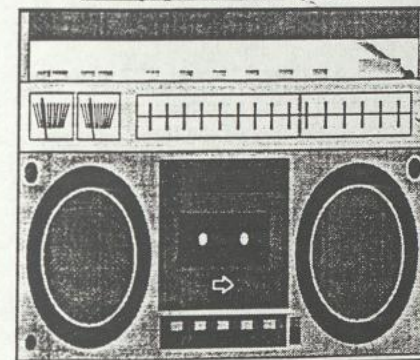
Mildred and Napoleon's 2 daughters were already taken from them in 1992 and 1993 and are in foster care. The taking of their children by the Department of Child and Family Services seems to be punishment for the radio station since, according to them, there have never been any accusations of maltreatment 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?

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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*



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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In this particular program, employers would have to "procure" a document reader linked to the federal government's Social Security Administration in order to have the potential employee swipe their new driver's license/national ID card through the reader. Then, it would be up to the federal government to either approve or disapprove the applicant for employment.

Section 326 and 327 provide \$5,000,000 per year grants to each state participating in any of the three pilot programs. The money has been allocated through the Criminal Alien Tracking Center and is called the Criminal Alien Identification System. The "automated identification system", which is to be used by "Federal, State, and local law enforcement" and will "provide for recording of fingerprints of aliens previously arrested and removed". The grants run from "fiscal years 1997 through 2001".

Additionally, Section 656 of the new law states that "after October 1, 2000, Federal agencies may only accept as proof of identity driver's licenses that conform to standards developed by the Secretary of the Treasury", after consultation with state motor vehicle officials and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. The AAMVA sees digital fingerprinting as the best way to go in driver's license identifiers.

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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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 am.

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:
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(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.

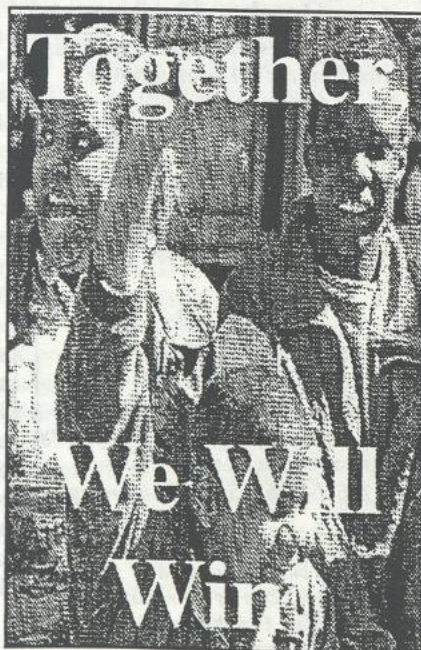
I would also like to note that since we started these programs on this unit the Crips and the Bloods have been trying to change the way that they act and do things. I'm not saying that they still don't have trouble on this unit, all I am saying is when the opportunity presents itself, U.B.F. is here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

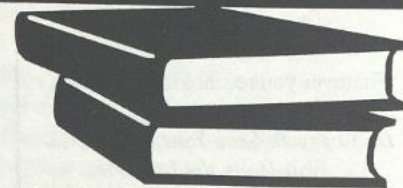
But Precious Rogers, 29, who said she saw the shooting, said Durham screamed and fell to the ground after the officer shot him once. Durham said: "You don't have to shoot me again," Rogers said. The officer shot Durham a second time as he lay on the ground with his arms raised over his head, she continued. "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.

92 Pike Street Box "A"
Seattle, WA. 98101.



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.