

Panthers Are American

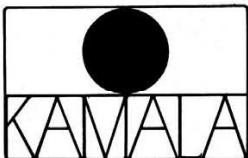
by PETER SKLAR

Because there has been so much violence and court action centered around the Black Panther Party, I felt that an article explaining the Panther's predicament was necessary. To add to my limited knowledge of the Panthers, I met with Robert Webb, Field Lieutenant for the Connecticut Black Panthers.

The Panther party constitutes a nationwide organization with 48 local branches. The minimum age of the Panthers is 16. The Party's ultimate goal is the liberation of all oppressed people. The Panther's primary concern is the condition of the black masses in America. Because they believe in self-determination, no white people are allowed into the Party. To quote Mr. Webb, "Although black people can work together with whites, it must not be for each other, it must be with each other for the liberation of the masses." The Party has implemented several programs calculated to bring relief into the black ghettos. Among these is the Free Breakfast Program for School Children. The Panthers who participate must solicit money during the day from businessmen and workers, then rise at 5:00 a.m. to prepare and bring the food into the ghetto. Mr. Webb told me that several times the police have attempted to disrupt this program simply because the Panthers had instituted it. The Panthers have also sponsored various clothing drives and free medical clinics throughout the country. In these endeavors, too, the Panthers have met opposition from the police.

A while ago, several of the Party leaders made a tour of some of the nation's worst ghettos to talk and find out what the people wanted specifically. From this, the Panthers drew up and publicized a list of ten demands. They are as follows:

- 1) Freedom from oppression: the power to determine one's own destiny.
- 2) The unbiased employment of all black people.
- 3) An end to the robbery of ghetto people by white capitalists.
- 4) Decent housing for all people.
- 5) Education that is relevant to American society.
- 6) All black people to be exempt from military service.
- 7) An end to police brutality and murder in the ghetto.
- 8) Freedom for all black political prisoners.
- 9) All black people to be tried by a jury of their peers.
- 10) Land, bread, housing, clothes and peace for all people.



IMPORTED BEADS,
JEWELRY PARTS,
INSTRUCTION, HAND-
CRAFTED JEWELRY,
POTTERY, HAND-
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opening the front door to the building, while Hampton, a Party leader, was slain while lying in bed. Dozens of Panthers have been jailed on what the Party considers unjust charges. An example of this is Bobby Seale, National Chairman of the Panthers, who, in the trial of the "Chicago 8," received a sentence of four years in prison for the charge of contempt of court. Incidentally, that sentence is the longest ever meted out for such a charge. Another important Panther official now in prison is Huey Newton, Minister of Defense, who is serving a life term for what the Party feels is an unjust charge of murder. Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther Minister of Information and author of "Soul on Ice," was sought by the F.B.I. for "questioning" but has successfully fled the country where he must remain in exile.

I asked Mr. Webb what the Party's thoughts were on cultural nationalism. He said that while the Panthers feel it is important for black people to know of their African heritage, it is not essentially the means by which they are going to win their freedom; "A dashiki isn't going to stop a bullet." In short, the Panthers feel that before they can open up the history books, there is a revolution to be fought.

HARTFORDS MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR FALLS

As of Tuesday Dec. 16 when Bill Toth applies for a marriage license in New Hampshire, another fair soul falls into life's greatest abyss. On Dec. 27th the marriage rights will be performed in Manchester, New Hampshire. Alass he fought and alass he fell, as do all great men when their time comes. Condolenses may be sent to B. Toth, c/o J. Bengiovi, 360 Laurel St. Hartford, Conn. Good Luck B.T.

-P.S. Good Luck
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Dear Irving...

Presented as a public service by the UH News Liberated Press. Address all inquiries to DEAR IRVING c/o The Liberated Press, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave., W. Hartford, Conn. 06117, or bring to the Liberated Press office in the Gengras Campus Center. All correspondence marked "confidential" will be kept in the strictest confidence (more or less).

Q. DEAR IRVING:

Imagine my dismay upon arriving back in my dorm from New Jersey last Sunday night. I found out, from reliable sources, that I had just missed a concert by Joni Mitchell. How angry I was, you shouldn't want to know from! I mean, really now, why have a concert on weekends when you know that at least half the kids have gone home. I think all events of any importance should be held during the week, when all the students are still on campus. It's very disturbing, Irving, to come back on Sunday night and hear about all the things I've missed. How can I stop this from happening?

SAM SUITCASE

A. DEAR SAM:

Next time you go home, stay home.

Q. DEAR IRVING:

I have a very sensitive stomach, and need a well-balanced diet to maintain my health. As a dorm student, I am forced to eat in the school cafeteria. The diet there is daring (how they dare serve such garbage is beyond me), but hardly balanced. As a result, I am now in bed with a severe upset stomach. What can I do to change this situation?

BETTY BARF

A. DEAR BETTY:

Take two Alka-Seltzer, drink plenty of fluids, get lots of rest, and call me in the morning.

Q. DEAR IRVING:

A very strange thing happened to me yesterday, and I was hoping you might be able to help explain it to me. I was eating at a table by the window in the cafeteria when suddenly this strange man whom I had never seen before walked up to me. Speaking with a very slight Chinese accent, he ordered me to give him my seat, so he could have a place to sit and drink his milk. When I refused, he stamped his feet and started crying. Before he started crying, I heard him mumble something about nobody ever listening to him. I asked everybody in the cafeteria who the man was, but nobody had ever seen him before. Could you shed some light on this curious occurrence?

PUZZLED PETE

A. DEAR PETE:

That strange man was none other than Chancellor Woodruff, the "Phantom of the University." The Chancellor, on his infrequent journeys onto our campus, often vainly attempts to assert his authority. For further information, write to the Chancellor, c/o the Chiang Hilton in Taiwan.

Q. DEAR IRVING:

As a dorm student, I am FORCED to pay an outrageous sum for the dubious privilege of having the management of the cafeteria allow me to eat their food at certain restricted times in certain restricted amounts. I have often wondered why our so-called "student-leaders" have done nothing to change the situation, and I think I may have found out. I have heard that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Student Senate, the Chairman of the Judicial Commission, and the editor of the newspaper, none of whom are dorm students, all have cards which allow them to have ALL the food they want WHENEVER they want it. I think it's a disgraceful situation that these four students should have this special privilege. Can you do anything about this?

MARION MUCKRAKER

A. DEAR MARION:

I had a long talk with the manager of the food service in the cafeteria. I have decided that the situation isn't nearly as bad as you describe it. And now, if you'll excuse me, I have to head down to the cafeteria to try out my new card.

CONFIDENTIAL TO DARRELL DOPE: \$25!! Cut it down to \$20 and I'll consider it.

Note: Despite the semi-facetious tone of this first column, DEAR IRVING is deadly serious. If you would like something explained or straightened out, whether it is a personal, social, academic problem, etc., drop DEAR IRVING a line.

Dr. Leslie Nims noted Radiation Biologist will be the guest speaker on WWUH 91.3 F.M. Thursday night at 9:30 p.m. December 18, 1969. The topic will be MAN & HIS ENVIRONMENT. Norm Henges will host the program.



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