

Greetings Friends and Supporters

Black Panther Party History Month is off to a good start. It's About Time has put up a number of Photo and Art exhibits throughout the East Bay. One of the largest is located at Laney College in downtown Oakland. I attended Laney back in 1968, and joined the Party as a student there.

Last night there was a great gathering at the Student Center on the 4th floor. Special thanks to Jabari, BSU leader, for hosting the reception and sponsoring the BPP Photo and Art Exhibit.

Sister Sheba organized a panel discussion and awards ceremony. Receiving awards were James Mott (of the Lumpen Singing group) Tarika Lewis, first sister to join the BPP in 1967, Gayle Dickson artist on the BPP newspaper and Emory Douglas.

Sister Tarika spoke of joining the Party as a student at Oakland Tech High and working on the BPP newspaper as an artist under Emory. Tarika was good friends with Lil Bobby Hutton, the first person to join first the BPP. She is an outstanding musician and now teaches at Castlemont High School in East Oakland. Many students from Castlemont joined the Party; Sister Sheba was a student there.

James Mott spoke about joining the Party in Sacramento and moving to the Bay area to work with the Party. He later spoke about how the Lumpen singing group started and some of the many places the group performed and the message in their music.

Gayle Dickson joined the BPP in Seattle as a student, but was from Oakland. She returned to Oakland and worked on the newspaper under Emory's guidance. She developed her artistic skills and many of her art pieces were on the back cover of the BPP newspaper from 1972-1977. She still lives in the Bay area and is working on a book about her life's experience.

After the gathering, we walked over to the exhibit in the library and viewed the exhibit again.

Billy X

Photos

1. Tarika Lewis, Gayle Dickson, Emory and Attica (Panther Cub),
2. Group shot of people with awards, Drumming tro "Roots".
3. Young artist, group shot, Gayle's artwork, and Emory in front his artwork.







