

THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE



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YOUTH INSTITUTE CELEBRATES FIRST GRADUATE



DEBORAH WILLIAMS, Intercommunal Youth Institute's first graduate, said after receiving diploma, "One of the most important things I have learned at the Institute is what freedom means and how we all must learn and grow to take our freedom."

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Editorial

"...IN TIME OF WAR"

Expensively produced flyers appeared in San Francisco last week purporting to be "death warrants" against Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale and Elaine Brown, top leaders of the Black Panther Party, and David G. Du Bois, Editor-in-Chief of the Black Panther Intercommunal News Service.

The flyers were signed by the "Black Women's Information Unit" of the "New World Liberation Front" of the "Black Liberation Army." They were discovered pasted to the walls of the KGO-TV building, KPIX and on a San Francisco Chronicle delivery truck.

Alleged "charges" against the four included "crimes against the people in time of war; disbanding and murdering comrades in time of war; using the Black People's news media to miseducate, misinform and to cover up murders they themselves committed..."

The Black Panther Party cherishes human life above all else. Following the example of Huey P. Newton, every Black Panther Party member has dedicated his or her life to the preservation of life with dignity.

Recent and continuing disclosures of the massive infiltration and disruption of our Party, ordered at the highest levels of the U.S. government and executed by professional agents, provocateurs and paid informers, should forever answer honest charges against our Party for acts which violated our proven dedication to our people and to all human kind.

The Black Panther Party withstood the merciless onslaught and learned the revolutionary lessons. We cleansed our ranks, regrouped and began the protracted uphill struggle to sink our roots deep in the community which we serve, inform and educate in preparation for the inevitable confrontation with the real enemy. That community—and history—shall be our only judge.

Unless the Black Liberation Army Brothers and Sisters publicly and firmly disassociate themselves from these latest death threats in their name against the Black Panther Party, we can only conclude that they are allowing themselves to be used in the continuing effort being made by enemies of our common struggle to set us against each other, and thus undermine our people's and all oppressed humankind's liberation. □

FIRST GRADUATE

ADDRESS OF DEBORAH WILLIAMS



At First Intercommunal Youth Institute Graduation Exercise

"Hello everyone. Tonight I would like to say a few words about my experiences as a student at the Intercommunal Youth Institute. However before I talk about my experiences here I would like to say to a very beautiful man who has taught me many things — my father, Lewis Randolph Williams who is in Soledad Prison — HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!"

"I first came to the Institute in January, 1970. Since I've been here I have had both negative and positive experiences. But I feel that I have had far more positive experiences than negative ones. I feel that the Institute has really progressed during this last year. When we moved into this building we began to do many more things. In the last four years I've spent one year in public school, so I can tell the difference between the Institute and some public schools.

"First of all, there are crowded classrooms in public schools. At the Institute the classes are small and we have more teachers to help us with our work. In public schools most of the teachers don't care enough about the students and just want to get them out of their hair. They come to collect their money and go home. Also, in most public schools our environment is just a locked up classroom.

"Here, the teachers care more about us. However, our teachers are not just teachers as they are in some schools — they are also our comrades. I feel close to especially Ericka, Amar (Casey), Kaye (Casey), Frank (Kellum) and Charles Moffett. In the last year I have worked really close with them. Ericka is helpful as she criticizes me often and has helped solve some of my problems. Charles has helped me with my music a lot and has become a close friend.

"I enjoy the classes here because we learn methods and how to work problems. I think method is important because it is a tool that helps me solve all problems and not just find the answers to a few. I like mathematics because it's challenging. I enjoy reading also — finding new words and meanings. Here the classroom is not a locked up classroom. Our school motto says, 'The world is the children's classroom.' Every Wednesday at the Institute we would go on field trips to places which would help us learn how to put into practice many of the ideas we learn in class. I think that I will miss those kinds of Wednesdays.

"In a way I'm sad because I'm leaving the Institute, because I will miss my comrades, my teachers and my classes. But I am also looking forward to meeting new comrades and learning new and more things. Although I'm leaving, the Institute is still my school.

"One of the most important things I have learned is what freedom means and how we all must learn and grow to take our freedom.

"Thank you."

YOUTH INSTITUTE CELEBRATES FIRST GRADUATE

(Oakland, Calif.) - "We set aside this day for a look into our future as seen through the movement, music, drama, understanding and wit of young people. They are like brightly lit torches which will lead the way down two roads unknown: freedom and peace."

These words, by Intercommunal Youth Institute Director Ericka Huggins, perhaps better than any others, summed up the First Annual Intercommunal Youth Institute Children's Celebration titled, "In Celebration of Knowledge" attended by an overflow crowd of 450 on Sunday, June 16, at the Community Learning Center, 6118 E. 14th Street, in East Oakland. The inspiring, delightful two-hour program featured

the graduation of 16 persons from the Center's Adult Education Program and the graduation of the Institute's first student, 11-year-old Deborah Williams.

Following a welcome from the Institute's co-director, Ms. Donna Howell, the Intercommunal Youth Band, under the direction of Charles Moffett, performed a rousing rendition of "Sunny." The enthusiastic audience, composed of the families and friends of the graduating students, then heard Rev. Hazaiah Williams, a Berkeley minister, tell them that the graduation was a reflection of "what the community can be."

Rev. Williams declared that the degrees earned by those in the Adult Education Program (comparable to a high school diploma)

were earned by people "tuned to a liberating insistence," a desire to win their freedom and the freedom of the Black community as a whole. "Blackness is given a chance through a Learning Center like this one," he said, adding, "The graduates tell us by what they have done that Blackness is an attempt to speak...to the continuing problem of human need."

Rev. Williams then read off the names of the Adult Education graduates, and presented them with their diplomas. They are Arlene Clark, Alvin Cook, Sr., James Ervin, Bernice Mosby, Pamela Perkins, Ronald Porter, Walter Rozier, Vivian Simmons, Emma Watson, Joceiter Weaver, Naomi Williams, Lola Wilson and Quentin Martin.

Sister Donna reminded the audience that the Adult Education Program had only begun in September, 1973, and that the Intercommunal Youth Institute opened in January, 1971. Referring to the "In Celebration of Knowledge" program, she said, "This is an historic event for us."

LAUGHS AND CHEERS

Following a trombone solo, "I Believe," by Deborah Williams, the audience laughed with and cheered the youth in the Afro-Haitian Dance Program, directed by Ms. Jackie Buist. The students, in two groups—one from the ages of three to nine and the other the ages of 10 to 15—performed a series of West Indian and African dances remarkably executed by children so young. Sister Ericka later pointed out that "Our children are not afraid," and that was evident in the confident manner in which the children performed the dances. The younger children also performed several gymnastic stunts.

Reflecting on the past year at the Institute, now attended by 87 students from ages two and one-half through 11, Ericka said that the Institute staff was "overwhelmed" by the large crowd and that it showed that "we have made a tremendous leap forward in unity in the Black community. Our children love themselves and they love each other. The future is dependent on the children," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



REV. HAZAIAH WILLIAMS reading text of Adult Education diploma before presenting it to ARLENE CLARK (center), the first of 16 so honored at the Learning Center's "Celebration of Knowledge."

SUPREME COURT RULES SUSPECTS NEED NOT BE TOLD RIGHTS

(Washington, D.C.) - The Nixon Supreme Court proceeded with its mission of withering away Constitutional safeguards and legalizing fascism last week when it voted to let prosecutors use evidence obtained from defendants who are not fully informed of their rights.

The 1966 Miranda ruling declares that suspects must be told their rights, including the right to have a lawyer provided free. In a virtual reversal of the Miranda decision, the court ruled in the case of Thomas Tucker that although the prosecution learned of witnesses only through a statement Tucker gave police without being informed of his rights, his conviction on a 1966 rape charge would stand. The police had not informed Tucker of his right to a lawyer.

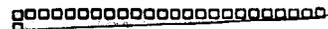
Justice William O. Douglas, dissenting, said the circumstances did not meet Constitutional standards for protecting Tucker's privilege against self-incrimination.

YOUTH INSTITUTE BAND WINS WEST REGION FESTAC '74

(Oakland, Calif.) - The Intercommunal Youth Institute 21-piece youth band, The Moffettes, won the North American Zone Far West Region FESTAC '74 competition in their category last week and will represent the region in national competitions in Washington, D.C., later this year.

If the outstanding group of Oakland youths, ranging in age from six years to 17, are successful in Washington, D.C., they will join the North American Zone cultural contingent that will participate in the Second International Festival of Black and African Art and Culture scheduled to be held in Lagos, Nigeria, in November, 1975.

The Far West Region competitions were held between May 27 and June 9 at Laney College and Oakland Auditorium, both in Oakland. The Moffettes' first appearance was Thursday eve-



Brother CHARLES MOFFETT shares his musical skills with the youth as he leads the Intercommunal Youth Band (above) and teaches music classes at the Community Learning Center.

ning June 6, at Laney College. In that appearance they played four selections, "Sunny," The Theme from Shaft," and two original compositions, "Peace, Please" and "Movin' and Groovin'."

As is now habitual for this fine group of young Black musicians, they were given a rousing and enthusiastic reception and there was little doubt that they were way out in front in their category.

WINNERS

On Sunday evening June 9, The Moffettes appeared a second time along with winners in other categories. This appearance was at the Oakland Auditorium and once again the Moffettes brought the house down with "Sunny," "Peace on Earth" and an original composition, "Give Thanks" that featured their amazing six-year-old drummer, Charnett Moffett.

The Moffettes are led by and named after Brother Charles Moffett, the dedicated musical director at the East Oakland Community Learning Center and at the Intercommunal Youth Institute, who is assisted by his son Mondre Moffett, himself an accomplished musician. Brother Moffett resigned from a position as principal of a junior high school in Berkeley to direct the Learning Center Music Program.

A professional jazz musician for 20 years, Charles Moffett is also an educator. He resigned as music director of the city of Oakland because of the city's refusal to find funds to service the community.

In an earlier interview in THE BLACK PANTHER (December 8, 1973), Brother Moffett explained why he came to the Learning Center: "I got the chance to do the things I've been trying to do all my life. Here at the Learning Center I've introduced my new technique; integrating

and correlating music with all subject matter.

"I meet regularly with other teachers (at the Intercommunal Youth Institute) about the students' subject matter and problems. If another class, on geography, for example, is studying Spain, I introduce musical knowledge based on Spain. Mathematical concepts such as fractions are made realistic and are easily grasped by students when, for example, eighth notes are studied in music."

This is the man who is responsible for creating, in the six months he has directed the Learning Center Music Program, a youth band whose members have won the honor of representing the West in national competitions in Washington, D.C., and hopefully will travel to Lagos, Nigeria, in November, 1975, to participate in the International FESTAC.

The FESTAC '74 regional committee, under the direction of Brother Arthur Monroe, is currently planning regional appearances for the winners in the various categories—dance, drama, crafts, literature, foods and many more—in order to raise funds to cover the costs of participation in the Washington, D.C., competitions, and to accumulate funds to send the winning representatives to Lagos, Nigeria, next year. □

BOLIVIAN STUDENT UNREST

(Bolivia) - Over 200 students have been arrested by the Bolivian government in the last month in the government's drive to halt a wave of student unrest. The minister of interior has threatened to take "all necessary measures" to halt strikes that have closed universities in La Paz, Sucre and Potosi. □