

**Book signing for Samurai among the Panthers
Richard Aoki on Race, Resistance and a Paradoxical Life**

Saturday night April 21st at UC Berkeley Student Center author Diane Fujino revealed the long awaited book on Richard Aoki. It's been a few years in the making, a lot of long hours of interviews with Richard before he died in 2009. A nice crowd of people gathered on a Saturday night for the book signing. I have put together a Richard Aoki display for the event photos of Richard from the last 15 years and a few from the 1960's.

Harvey Dong, Richard's long time friend and member of the TWLF (Third World Liberation Front) was the host for the evening Ben Wong and Michael Chong were there they did the AOKI film documentary. Ben spoke of the making of the documentary with Richard Aoki and that Richard were able to see the Opening of the film at the Grand Lake Theater before he died.

Being on Berkeley campus reminded me of so much, the anti war rallies, the Third World Liberation strike of 1969, in which Richard Aoki was a main player and helped change the role of students on campus. The BPP members used to come on campus and sell Red books to raise money for the young organization back in 1967. Elrage Cleaver taught classes on campus in 1969. A lot of history at UC Berkeley.

I spoke about Richard's connection with the Legacy of the BPP. I also spoke for Emory Douglas who was in Scotland and Elbert" Big Man Howard" whom had to do his weekly radio show that night. I told them I met Ben and Michael when they were students at UC Davis, and they would come over to my house on the weekends and study Panther Newspapers and ask questions, some of the film footage of Panthers being interviewed was at my house in Sacramento.

It's About Time has already had a Richard Aoki Day last year at the West Oakland Library and a film showing at the main Library in downtown Oakland. Richard Left some Photos and newspapers from Grove Street College we will be displaying them this year.

The newly formed Richard Aoki Foundation gave out scholarships to two Asian Americans students doing work in the community.

Diane spoke about the making of the book and how she went about arranging Richard's thoughts and ideals. Her research took her into Richard's early life as a child and what it was like to live in an Internment

Camp during World War 2. How he lived in West Oakland, how he met Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. I had talked to Diane while she was writing the book and going over Richard's interviews. She wanted to use the Richard Aoki banner, It's About Time made for Richard. There's a photo of it in the book. There are over 350 pages of good reading. I have read selected sections of the book and I already like it. Get yourself a copy.

BJ