Angela Davis

So. Boston Pigs Vamp on Tumblers

A group of five people who do juggling and tumbling in the street for people were beaten by police the night of August 25 when they were performing in South Boston. It was 11:30 in the square in front of a housing project.

About 10-15 kids split when the cops showed up. They told the tumbling group, "The cops are really bad. They patrol there like rat packs and anybody they don't like they do anything they want to.

They didn't like the group. "You motherfuckers, get the fuck out of this neighborhood," was all they said while beating and clubbing the group. There was no interrogation or arrest. The group plans to continue its free performances.

It's Happening on Lotsa Bases

Ft. Hood, Tex.

250 Black GI's rebelled Sunday July 26 after some brothers were harassed by white GI's and MP's. Through the night they fought MP's and Texas National Guard and some white GI's.

The soldiers were forced to do a lot of damage to Army equipment before they left. The Army and local police are now looking for the men who were still at the base as of Tuesday night.

Gay Flights Back

One recent gay group, The New Year's Gang, based in New York City, attacked a group of Nazis at a Nazi rally in Chicago August 16th, resulting in a variety of cry for help. The group, which has been active on the East Coast, marched on the Women's Liberation front while the Nazis were marching to keep peace at the front. The Nazis were marching in the streets of New York City.

The New Year's Gang issued a statement to the press saying it was a victory in that it is in agreement with the New Year's Gang.

Brian Flanagan, the Weatherman accused of attacking and paralyzing corporate counsel Richard Elrod during the October 1969 "Days of Rage" demonstrations, was acquitted on all counts.

He was first accused of hitting Elrod with a lead pipe; then the story was changed to kicking him in the neck. Defense counsel argued that Elrod had tripped while chasing Flanagan.

Weatherman Freed

Between January, 1969 and April, 1970, there have been 4,330 successful bombings in the U.S. and another 1,475 attempted bombings. Bombings took place in every state of the union. The breakdown given by the Dept. of the Treasury is:

- 56% - done in campus disturbances
- 19% - done by black extremists
- 14% - done by white extremists
- 2% - during labor disputes
- 1% - attacks on religious institutions
- 1% - in aid of criminal activities (murders, robberies, etc.)
The spirit of the people will win!

The People's Revolutionary Constitutional Convention was such an up. It made me remember that the revolution is about people, not about theory. It made me remember that we're winning when people act together to get what they need, not when I feel satisfied that we've adopted the correct strategy.

The first part of the winning feeling was feeling how many people had chosen to be on the same side, how that was more people than last month and there will be more next month. When Huey spoke that night, to some 7000 of us all children to an independent income. One...saw that we were just sitting around saying what we need, not when I feel satisfied that we've adopted the correct strategy.

And Huey told us we were beautiful, not because of what we thought or said, but because of what we had done. We were together because we dug on the same struggle, and Huey symbolized the will and the ability to struggle in an organized fashion. And Huey told us we were beautiful, not because of what we thought or said, but because of what we had done — we had come to the convention, we had made a victory in the face of all the pig threats, the boost of the information offices, the seed for upright light solidarity, the government threats to ban it. He said we needed to make a new Constitution to help us win, because "we need something to express the spirit of the people's movement."

The second part of the winning feeling: we weren't just talking, we were acting. The next day, when we got together en masse to hear what we had done — was the winning-part of all. Revolutions win because they meet the needs of the people. What we did that day was define — remember or "chant" might be better words — the needs of the people. The workshops had a lot of problems: everyone was coming from a different situation, there were too many white college kids, calling the document a "constitution" got us into endless circular arguments about what good laws were without power. But almost every workshop succeeded in getting down on paper our objectives — the things that all of us, black and white, gay and straight, men and women, workers and students — need to live decent lives. Not that we all need the same immediate things. But we all need for everyone's needs to be met, if our own needs are going to be met.

That night the workshops reported back: plain people, mostly black, very few heavies, black or white, gave the reports. It was like unrolling a mural we had each done a piece of: the right of all children to an independent income; the right of all national minorities to self-determination; separate, autonomous, control their own communities; no draft; no US forces abroad, free housing and medical care... We learned from each other what the needs of the people are. That alone is a step toward winning. There was no shit about "good politics" and "bad politics" — politics meant what we want to do, not a person's private stock of ideas. We're all black and white; we're all back in our separate places, we've all got different strategies for carrying out the struggle, suspicions of each other, and a lot more difficulty acting alone than acting in that mass. We've got to deal with all of that. A lot of the time I'm going to think we're losing, either because I'm losing some small battle or because I can't see how our actions fit together into ever taking over. But I see now that a lot of that down is a personal power trip — you can tell by all the "TV" in the sentence — it's a separation of myself from the people. The convention — the up feeling — was people's power. All power to the people!

Revolutionary Artists!

1) There must have been about thirty people in the room when I walked into the Revolutionary Artists workshop. About half the people were black and there were as many women as men. I didn't know what to expect but it turned out to be a real up.

All of us were just sitting around saying where we were coming from and digging on where other people's thoughts were at. People from Chicago, Washington DC, Philly, NY, New Haven, Boston, all having termed ourselves "artists." Some said: "We ain't fucking artists — we are people, revolutionaries. Artists in a capitalist society are part of an elite class — they have been taught to reflect the individualism, racism, sexism of the power structure. We got to get rid of that idea now.

"What is revolutionary art?" a black sister asked. "What do you want, where are you going? You artists aren't revolutionaries. You're painting while the rest of us are fighting... Shut!" A Panther sister asked her to sit down with us and get into what we were rapping about. I felt kind of tense. I'd been asking myself the same question. I knew her hospitality was real. But we began to talk about it, kind of definitively at first. A black sister from NY was charging the meeting, drawing connections from people's ideas and telling what she was relating to. I felt high. "Let's get a discussion center going," we started passing around a mailing list. "We can help each other by sending out supplies, information, new ideas about techniques and maybe our graphics — all around the country — dig it?"

"But I can't only relate to graphics" and one brother. "Art takes other forms. If someone does leatherwork or crooks well, isn't that creative expression art?"

Right!

Western fine arts has always been defined by the bourgeoisie for the bourgeoisie. Art critics create the artists and censor people's creativity. Capitalist media exploits people through its commercial art. Schools give skills only to a few to isolate and individualize creativity. Revolutionary art deals with people... their creativity in all forms... to express their needs and desires, the love and hate... the struggle.

"Let's talk about the convention," said a brother from Boston. "How do we as people relate to this convention?"

Well, it's confusing. Are we talking about the struggle now? About how we want to express ourselves and educate people? Do we want to draw, photograph, or paint pictures of a society we want to build, or depict the laws of the struggle now? "I don't want to see picture of guns with flowers sticking out of the barrel," said a black brother. "None of that hippie shit.

"Wait a minute, man, I'm a hippie and I don't dig that shit either..."

We must relate to the struggle now. Picking up the gun in one hand and a paintbrush in the other. Right on!

What about building the new world and the people. What we did that day was about the struggle? "I don't want to see politics... politics meant what we want to build, don't bar or not "homos. Half the people are women! Right on!

So we got it all down, not without a lot of questions still remaining. But it was really far out.

The workshop on the revolutionary arts and artists hereby submit the following declaration to the plenary session of the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention:

We recognize:
1. That all people are born with a creative potential and that the society must guarantee that every person has the opportunity to develop and express that potential.
2. That art is a creative expression of a people's culture or way of life.
3. We recognize the right of every people's culture to its form of expression and that these forms of expression should be preserved, encouraged and developed.
4. We recognize that art should be related to the interests, needs and aspirations of the people.

Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho,Ho, Homosexual, Right On!
Later, a man reading another report kept using the word “man” to refer to people. He was shouted ever, when he finally got to read it, was “after a man,” and everybody laughed some more. (The how-

olutionary and people cheered. Then he read, “Hal-

free medicine, free training in the use of weapons.

community control. Not that it made the con-
llict go away. The workshops, as far as I know, were mostly a lot worse

the revolution was going to be so hard

of the angriest of the black women read it, including

of these things, the workshop came up with a dyna-

children’s rights to insisting that women be 50% of
callers against each other — there is still a lot of mistrust, bitterness.

But by calling the conference the Panthers made

women’s liberation, gay liberation, ecology, street people, black people demanding com-

women’s liberation are to the revOo

the world. When he finished he said, “I bring you

other women would emphasize something different —
too much stress on class, not enough struggling with possessive relationships,
too much struggling with relationships. It seemed like most of the women generally wanted the same things to happen, but the tone was tension, mistrust.

One of the main tenets was racial — some of the black women angry, feeling like they and their needs were excluded from the discussion. The white wo-

ting their fists in the air at the demand that workers con-

that racial conflict going to mean our demands were not part of the constitution? Then later, other wo-

Other workshops, as far as I know, were mostly a lot worse

the hard drugs were harmful and counterrev()0

and half in Chinese. That’s the way it went.

It was coming together by everybody’s mind stretching out to include each other. Macho black men cheering and clapping at the report from the male homonuclear workshop: “We demand the right to be gay anywhere, any time... An army of lovers cannot lose.” Women’s liberation artists throwing their fists in the air in the demand that workers control the process of production. City people cheering for decentralizing industry to build ecologically sound communities. Growopps demanding children’s freedom, and two ten year old kids in the row in front of us yelling “Right on!” Everyone going crazy yelling when the women demanded the right to bear arms and a women’s militia.

When the report on third world solidarity came, a man got up and read, “We demand the liberation of Taiwan,” and everybody cheered. Then, “We de-

the neighborhood, and the people all along the sidewalk were laughing and talking, little children shouting “right on!” I heard one guy say, ”

There’s never been a crowd this size in North Phila-

communication between us is still so great that it comes close to wreck-

members — men, women, blacks and whites, street people and house people — have been pitted against each other — there is still a lot of mistrust, bitterness.

But later, a man reading a report kept using the word “man” to refer to people. He was shouted down, looked confused, then corrected himself “humanity,” and everybody clapped again. Everybody cheered all the time, getting higher and higher.

The leadership of the Panthers has not been able to give the movement tactics or organization — at least not yet. All the different groups of people in the movement could never have been brought togeth-

the world. When he finished he said, “I bring you

mistrust. This was more like acceptance, respect even —

knowing we’re far apart, knowing we're in it togo.

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stereotyped Uncle Tom and smiled all the time. By m-

a bright pink shirt, and was a little older. I felt su-

posedly a born-again Christian and smiled at everyone. By the end of the evening we were talking and laughing together, exchanging political comments (he wasn’t into this, but that was our main difference) and reading together a copy of a newspaper put out by movement people in Chinatown, NY — half in Eng-

room, laughing and cheering and saluting — one guy

sciousness.’’ and people just went crazy all over the

community control of police, “ then stopped and said

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Panther Health Clinic Shot at; More Panthers Busted

Sometimes between 12 midnight and 12 noon Sunday, July 5th, 14 shots were fired into the Boston Panther Party's health clinic trailer. Use of the clinic has been increasing since its opening May 31; growing from an average of 5 people a night to a present average of 20 people a night. It now has a staff of two doctors, two nurses, one tech-nitician, two peoples' advocates and one dietition.

A Panther Party member pointed out that the shooting was done with a .38 special, the kind of gun the pigs use. The shooting, he said, was "a cowardly act," since it was done in the middle of the night, July 4th weekend, when the sound of firecrackers covered the gunshots.

He also said that a lot of people from the community had come out to ask questions, concerned about what was happening to the clinic.

When asked if the shooting would affect the clinic's operations, the Party member said, "No, nothing's going to be changed. This is exactly what they attempted to do, to intimidate our selves and community people, and hinder our work in the community."

Meanwhile the state maintained its presence at other points on the east coast.

As the trial of Lonnie McLucas continued with jury selection last week in New Haven, local and federal cops were busting other revolutionary activities. Five separate raids were made in New Haven, Bridgeport Conn., and one in Washington D.C.

Joyce Townsend and her husband Lawrence are Panthers in charge of the National Committee to Combat Fascism (NCCF) in Bridgeport. Their chapter runs a block dance, but still haven't recovered the Panthertown's weapons.

As Joyce Townsend put it last week, "They figured all the publicity about guns will give the Party a bad name. But it won't work, because every time they try one of these busts we get more support."

Panther Doug Fauntleroy was arrested the same day in New Haven and charged with assault on a police officer, robbery with violence, and conspiracy to commit robbery with violence. These charges stemmed from a struggle in which a cop from a patrol car was disarmed. The cop was holding some black children singing and marching in front of the Panther office.

In retaliation, the cops bashed Fauntleroy and briefly interrupted a block dance, but still haven't recovered the cop's gun.

Also in New Haven two white members of the Panther Defense Committee were taken to the police station and ordered to "Get out of New Haven by the weekend or pack a gun."

In Washington D.C. 14 people were busted while sitting outside the BPP office the evening of July 4th. The people, formerly members of a NCCF chapter, were busted by 30 cops because they were "disturbing the peace" with their singing.

The enforcement of his party. He's got to have a lot of votes to win the primary against the machine, and the Hemenway incident must be one of his nightmares. He's even known to lose sleep over it.

The old time residents of Hemenway hate the Boston Tactical Force (the bummed they stayed out of sight). The staff of two doctors, two nurses, one policewoman all: they tried to be changed. This is exactly what they attempted to do, to intimidate our selves and community people, and hinder our work in the community.

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