

Who's attacking who?

BLOW THE WHISTLE ON URBAN GENOCIDE!

San Francisco, 1980 — Tremendous changes are underway affecting the survival of communities and the lives of thousands of people. Under the banners of urban renaissance and "gentrification," the inner city is becoming a place for whites only to live in. Housing speculation has rehabilitated Black people right out of Duboce Triangle, the Upper Haight and Alamo Square. BART may mean rapid transit for downtown commuters, but for the Latino community of the Mission it has brought skyrocketing rents and escalating police crackdowns on Latino youth. More is at stake here than just a new coat of paint or returning a neighborhood to its original charm.



Gentrification, a romantic term conjuring up images of privileged white landed lords, is in reality a forced relocation program that has as its goal the destruction and dispersal of Black and Third World people from the heart of U.S. cities. Gentrification is not isolated to San Francisco. It's one prong of a national strategy for the 1980's to contain the rising resistance of Black, Latin American and all Third World people to the ever worsening colonial conditions of life they face in this country. This spring's explosion in Miami is the first wave in a new tide of Black rebellions for freedom and human rights. But this time around there are plans to prevent the inner city seats of power from becoming the war zones that they were in the 1960's. Third World communities are to be replaced with white people who will be a base for white power against this resistance.

The Haight Fillmore is one neighborhood undergoing this gentrification process. Black community life flourished for years in the Fillmore despite redlining and city neglect. Now Black people in the Fillmore are being forced out as money pours in and their neighborhood becomes a place where they can no longer afford to live. But the surge of white gay "pioneers" settling the newly renovated Fillmore see themselves as participating in an urban renaissance. Housing speculator Donald Lipper speaks for many when he says, "Why the hell should this gem of a city be given to welfare Blacks? Put them in Idaho or at least Oakland."

Is it really an urban renaissance these homesteaders are bringing to the Haight Fillmore? That remodeled Victorian that a couple can easily afford to rent is out of reach for a Black woman struggling to support her children. The hip new shops and cafes aim neither their prices nor their services at the needs of the Black community. The new white residents of the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association have demanded the removal from the area of Opportunity II, an alternative high school aimed at meeting the educational needs of Third World youth. Neighborhood associations and groups like S.A.F.E. demand more police to rid the streets of unemployed Black people who are viewed as "human trash." The result is increased police crackdowns and violence in a community where the police have long been seen as a standing army.

What we're really talking about isn't the rebirth of a neighborhood, it's the ripping apart of the fabric of the Black community. It's urban genocide, and there are no innocent bystanders. White liberals who shudder at the growth of the Klan close their eyes to the devastation that gentrification is bringing to Black people.

Why is this happening at this time? U.S. imperialism's response to the rising struggles of Third World people for national liberation is a strategy of heightened oppression and terror against colonized people within its borders. The goal of this strategy is to marginalize Black and all Third World people out of the system by destroying their ability to survive and advance. In the U.S. today Black people are struggling to survive against high unemployment, major cutbacks in social services, deathtrap housing and police terrorism. This is genocide, and let's face it, a high standard of living for whites cannot be maintained without creating genocidal conditions for Blacks. Johannesburg, South Africa is a model of marginalization and points to the future of the U.S. — driving Black people into decaying Sowetos where they can be kept in servitude, out of the way, and under control. In order to accomplish this, masses of white people need to be

mobilized in a white supremacist defense of their own self-interest and against the survival of Third World people.

This is exactly what's being played out in SF's gay community. White gays looking for cheap apartments and their own space are taking over Black neighborhoods in the name of escaping gay oppression. They are using slogans of gay rights to cover up the fact that they are trampling over the human rights of Black people. Concern with safety has meant working hand-in-hand with the police to secure the communities they are taking over.

GAY LIBERATION IS NOT ABOUT COLLABORATING WITH THE POLICE!
GAY RIGHTS AND FREEDOM CANNOT BE WON ON THE BACKS OF BLACK PEOPLE!

Gay groups like CUAV and BAR that complain loudly about attacks on gay men and make a point of targetting Blacks and Latinos for retaliation must be stopped. Whites invading Black communities will inevitably come face to face with responses of rage and defense from people in these communities.

To Black people fighting for their human rights, gentrification means genocide, just as the acquittal of five white policemen in Miami exposed the genocidal nature of the US injustice system. The Black Liberation Movement is taking to the streets, demanding an end to this vicious strategy. Last November thousands of Black people marched on the UN to denounce all forms of genocide and the imperialist system which produced them. They called for self-determination as the only way to stop genocide and win their human rights.

As the crisis of the US system deepens, Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano-Mexicano peoples' resistance to fascism and genocide will be impossible to stop. Their struggles for self-determination and national liberation are key to overturning US imperialism once and for all.

The lines are being drawn in America. The issue is who supports human rights and liberation and who supports fascism and genocide. White neighbors getting together over coffee to form SAFE blocks in "gentrified" areas are functioning as vigilantes helping to build fascism. White gays who settle in the Fillmore and then organize to "Blow the Whistle on Crime" are helping to build a police state consciousness and apparatus.

We urge progressive white and gay people to resist these white supremacist mobilizations and refuse to participate in genocide. Defeat SAFE when it comes to your block. If you're looking for housing, don't be a settler in a Black or Latino community.

SUPPORT THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT!

TAKE A STAND ON THE SIDE OF BLACK HUMAN RIGHTS

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