

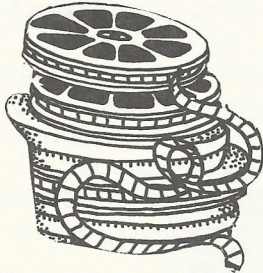
IN MASSACHUSETTS  
413-586-4407  
PO BOX 4690  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

# THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO 7 ON TRIAL FOR SEDITION/CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK  
212-969-0448  
PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA  
NEW YORK, NY 10025

## SEPTEMBER 1989 SCHEDULE FILMS . . . FILMS . . . FILMS . . . FILMS



AT GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
402 MAIN ST.

Sept. 21st/7:00 p.m. - Interview w/Joe Doherty  
(IRA Captive)  
8:00 p.m. - Freedom Now  
Sept. 28th/7:00 p.m. - Shut Down the Control Units  
8:00 p.m. - 30 de Agosto - Hartford 15

AT NORTHAMPTON UNITARIAN CHURCH  
220 MAIN ST.

Oct. 2nd/7:00 p.m. - Fair Doctrine - Political Struggle  
& The Law  
9:00 p.m. - Freedom Now  
Oct. 3rd/7:00 p.m. - Interview w/Joe Doherty  
8:00 p.m. - Ohio 7: Fighting for Their Lives  
9:00 p.m. - Interview w/Geronimo Pratt  
(New Afrikan Captive)

### SEPTEMBER

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### OCTOBER

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## UPCOMING COURT DAYS

WHERE: Federal Courthouse, 1500 Main Street,  
Springfield, MA - 5th floor

WHEN: 9:30 - 1:00, 2:00 - 4:00

The Ohio 7 need your presence in the courtroom!  
YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER AND EXIT AT WILL!  
No Photo I. D. necessary. Call 586-4407 to  
arrange a ride or someone to go with you.

## JULY TRIAL UPDATE:

### A Bright Shining Lie

*The government has been prosecuting the Ohio--7 for almost 5 years. More than 3 of those years have been taken up on the sedition/RICO case in Springfield. They are desperate for more convictions.*

Two factors have combined to bring the brunt of the prosecution to bear on Pat Levasseur at this juncture of the trial: (a) She is the only one of the Ohio - 7 not in prison, and (b) The judge has put the government on notice that they have yet to introduce enough evidence against her that would allow him to let the jury decide her guilt or innocence. In other words if the government were to conclude it's prosecution today, the charges against her would be dismissed.

*Enter Edwin Peterson. fbi cook and bottle washer.* To "cook" evidence is courthouse parlance for the fabrication of evidence. Peterson is eminently qualified for the job. He joined the fbi in 1969 and from 1971 - 1978 was assigned to the NYC office as a counterintelligence agent. He worked with agent Robert McCartin of the infamous "Squad 43" which targeted the Black Panther Party (McCartin and the squads activities have surfaced through FOIA documents which revealed fbi counter - intelligence operations - COINTELPRO). Peterson was also assigned to investigate the Black Liberation Army. He has been involved in investigating the May 19th Communist Organization and the Madame Binh Graphics Collective ( which included

searching their trash with five other agents in August of 1983). In 1983, Peterson became a member of the BosLuc task force based in Boston. His area of expertise was suppose to be the United Freedom Front activities. During 1984 - 1985 he was attached to the Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) in New York City and later helped set up a JTTF in the fbi's Newark, NJ office. He has also been involved in investigations of those presently on trial in the Resistance Conspiracy case in Washington, DC.

At issue in the Springfield trial are items allegedly seized by Peterson and other agents from a 1979 Chevy van on Nov. 5, 1984. This is the same van Pat, Ray and their children were arrested in. Of particular importance, and critical to the government's case against Pat, are keys which the prosecution maintains fit the locks to a garage in New Haven, CT in which a quantity of explosives was seized in June, 1986 (after the Ohio - 7 were indicted for sedition/RICO).

Until the judge gave his speech about not enough evidence existing against Pat to warrant a jury deliberating over it, the prosecution's position was that no such incriminating keys were ever seized from Pat or the van. The defense accepted this position because they knew that, in fact, no such keys were seized and a critical fbi lab report analyzing all keys seized concluded that none of the van keys fit the locks from the New Haven garage. Additionally when the defense lawyers were allowed to review the keys a year earlier, the identification tags on the keys did not identify any of the van keys as fitting the garage locks. Even the government's summary charts which documents all the seized keys (and which is shown to the jury) clearly stated that no keys found in the van fit the garage locks.



Several days before he was to testify, Peterson traveled to Springfield to consult with the chief prosecutor. One day before Peterson was to take the stand the prosecutor announced in court that they had discovered keys that fit the garage locks and that these keys had been located in a purse (by inference — Pats) seized from the van.

The defense immediately moved for a mistrial based on government misconduct: (a) the introduction of the keys allegedly seized from the van when the fbi report and id tags contradicted this, (b) Introduction of the keys that were not on the government's exhibit list of evidence — as required per court order, (c) the government's deliberate supplying of disinformation in response to defense motions based on federal rules of discovery, the government has an obligation to show a defendant the evidence to be used against her/him. (d) Failure of the government to provide Brady material (previous court testimony of Peterson which showed him committing perjury and which would help clear Pat of charges against her), (e) A continuing pattern of discovery violations by the government that has gone on for the entire length of the case.

The judge denied the mistrial motion, ruling that although the government violated the court's orders and made misleading and contradictory statements, it did not appear to be deliberate or in the realm of misconduct. So Peterson took the stand where he would lie and wilt in response to intense cross-examination spanning 6 days.

*The first thing he did was to perjure himself.* He stated he had gone over the keys alone at the u.s. attorneys office. Apparently, he did not realize that just the day before his testimony, the chief prosecutor had stated in open court that he and Peterson had gone over the keys together.

Peterson testified that he initialed and dated each key as it was seized, yet none of the incriminating keys had a date on them. Although the initials and dates were supposed to have been scratched into metal by a sharp instrument, he surmised that perhaps the dates had worn off with so much handling! Identification numbers scratched on keys had obviously been altered, a point which the judge admitted.

When Peterson produced an inventory of items seized from the van, it was different from the inventory provided to the defense by the government. It was altered. So much so that the judge ordered Peterson to bring all his files to court along with the original inventories, (only copies had been provided the defense.) When Peterson returned with his files, 2 additional inventories of the van were produced, (making a total of 4). Each inventory had been altered to change the description of various items seized and the location from which they were seized.

*The most important alterations, the "cooked" and fabricated information, was designed to incriminate Pat.* Peterson denied he had made the alterations and pointed his finger at fellow fbi agents who had participated in the search with him. But Peterson was the honcho — the supervisor and coordinator of the search. He was brought out to Ohio from Newark and placed in charge of 7 other BosLuc agents while they ravaged the van for 8 full hours. The agent who put Peterson in charge was Leonard Cross, the man who commands the entire BosLuc task force.

*The originals of the inventories were never produced. The government maintains that they were lost.*

It is the defense position that these inventories were altered after the originals were made with the express purpose of fabricating evidence against Pat at a time when the government's case against her has gone nowhere.

*The exposure of the government's scheme was due largely in part to attorney Liz Fink who uncovered much of the deception and demonstrated that if you are an fbi agent who wants to engage in the culinary arts you best get your ingredients together first. \*\*\**

Peterson's credibility evaporated quickly on the stand and when your credibility is gone you're not believable. Peterson has now testified against the Ohio — 7 at 5 different times and has lied each time. This is supported in the trial transcripts. He is a man obsessed with putting revolutionaries in prison for life and it has distorted his view on how the average juror perceives his arrogance and bias.

*When he wasn't lying he succumbed to selective amnesia. In response to defense questions he answered "I don't recall" or "I don't remember" over 200 times.*

At one point he said that perhaps the defense was responsible for some of the alterations! (all the evidence is kept in the custody of the government with the fbi having access to it).

\* \* \* \*

During the search, Peterson had a search warrant authorizing agents to "seize books, documents and other papers tending to show motive and intent". Included in the material seized from the van was a book entitled, APARTHEID: The Facts which graphically depicted the suffering of Black people in South Africa. Also seized was "By Any Means Necessary" a newspaper of the New Afrikan Peoples Organization; leaflets and newspapers on political grand juries and police repression; other political papers and a mailing list of political organizations which included the Catholic Worker, National Lawyers Guild, Puerto Rican Independence organizations, labor unions, etc.. Peterson testified this material was seized to investigate "criminal associations".

True to form, the judge would not admit most of this material into evidence. He stated that it was "good police work" to seize it but irrelevant to the issues at trial. Some of the material was admitted "for the limited purpose" of showing information written on these documents by agents had later been obliterated.

*On a lighter note. The judge admitted into evidence the kids tape player and cassette seized from the van, treating the jurors to a minute or so of ELECTRIC BREAKDANCE!!\*\**



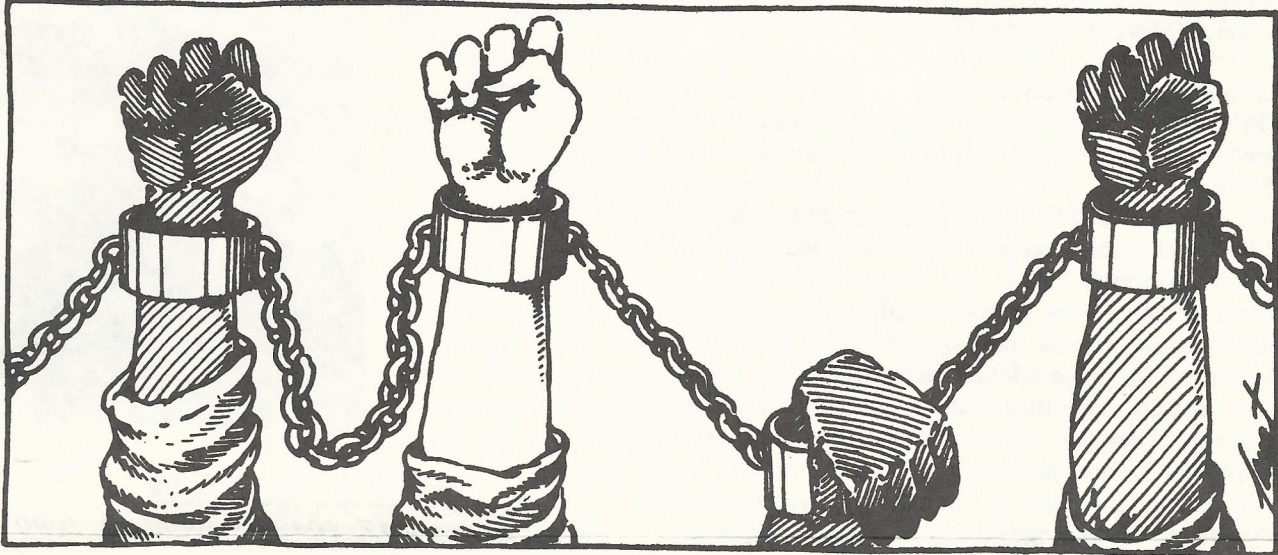


## AUGUST TRIAL UPDATE

**PROSECUTORS PROTEST**— Prior to a recent 30 day recess in the trial, the judge had said that he was inclined to have the government conclude its case by mid-September. This would allow enough time for the defense to present its witnesses within the time schedule allotted at the beginning of the trial. On August 24th, in a rare press conference, the U.S. Attorneys office said such a deadline would be "anomalous, arbitrary and wholly unfair." (They said nothing about justice delayed is justice denied). Apparently, the press coverage shook the

to read the riot act to Ray and issued a ruling that if Ray violates a bench order "one more time" he will not be allowed to cross-examine any witnesses (including defense witnesses) for the remainder of the trial. *We may be about to see a gag order — 1989 style*

**SEEING IS BELIEVING**— Mr. James Bonnell witnessed a robbery of the Sovran bank in Norfolk, Virginia. He was one of a dozen or so witnesses with nothing in particular to add until the fbi started to coach him. One month after the robbery Bonnell was shown several photos of "suspects" and asked if he could identify the man he thought was the get-away driver. Bonnell could not make a positive ID. Five months later Bonnell was watching the news when he learned about the Ohio

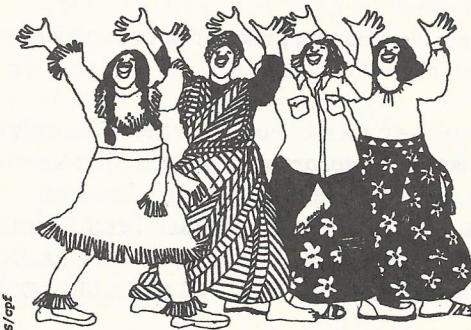


judges knees as he immediately backed off his earlier position and ordered that the government conclude its case by October 5th. The defense case will begin October 11th.

**FBI TERROR TACTICS QUESTIONED**— After the arrest of Tom and Carol Manning in 1985, the fbi held their 3 young children incommunicado for 2 months. 11 year old Jeremy was repeatedly interrogated by fbi agents and state police — a traumatic ordeal he still lives with to this day. One of the agents at these interrogations was Donald Haldimann. The government asked for and received from the judge an order precluding any questions about the interrogations (Haldimann was called in as a government witness pertaining to the robbery of a Norfolk, Virginia bank). He was also involved in attempts to form a Joint Terrorist Task force (JFTT) in Richmond, Virginia and is currently assigned to the JFTT in New York City. On cross-examination Haldimann said he "enjoyed" his work with his fellow thugs in the JFTT. Ray then asked him if he had enjoyed kidnapping and interrogating an 11 year old boy. The judge immediately jumped up from the bench and had the marshals take the jury from the courtroom. He then proceeded

7 arrests and wanting to do his civic duty he went down to the post office to look at wanted posters. He then called the fbi agent who had visited him before to tell him he could identify Jaan Lamaan as the driver. However, when he testified in Springfield he was shown photos of Jaan before and after the bank robbery. He could not identify any of them.

**SNITCH REVISITED**— During the cross-examination of a Massachusetts police officer it came out that the government informant Felipe Noguera had been arrested for the possession of contraband (\$500 cash) while visiting a prisoner in Walpole. Federal court rules mandate that this type of information be provided to the defense prior to witness testimony (Noguera testified 5 months ago). *Another mistrial motion is in the hopper.*





## **FREEDOM FOR GARY TYLER NOW!!!**

On October 7, 1974 in Destrehan, Louisiana an angry white mob, throwing bricks and bottles, surrounded a school bus filled with Black students. The students on the bus ducked. A shot rang out and a 13 year old white student standing near the bus fell dead.

And so began the frame-up of Gary Tyler, a 16 year old Black student at Destrehan High School. Tried before an all-white jury, Gary Tyler was convicted and sentenced to die. He was the youngest person on death row in the U.S. He has now been in prison for over 14 years, re-sentenced to life in prison, ***FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT.***

### **The facts speak for themselves:**

\*\*\*Gary Tyler was first arrested for "disturbing the peace" when he protested the abuse and mishandling of a Black student by a sheriff's deputy.

\*\*\*Sheriff's deputies beat Gary for hours, taunting him with racist epithets, to try and force him to confess. He refused and maintained his innocence.

\*\*\*The Black students were searched and the bus seats were thoroughly examined several times over a period of hours by numerous officers. No gun was found on the students or the bus. Hours later, deputies claim they found a gun, with no finger-prints, on the bus. There has never been any evidence or tests to show that a bullet fired from this gun killed the white student. This so-called "murder weapon" was later discovered to have been "stolen" from a firing range used by the police. When Gary's new attorneys tried to get the gun and bullet for testing, they had mysteriously "disappeared" while in the custody of the St. Charles Parish authorities. They have never been recovered.

\*\*\*Several students on the bus reported seeing a white man with a gun across the street from where the shooting occurred. The deputies did not investigate.

\*\*\*The federal appeals court admitted that Gary Tyler's trial was fundamentally unfair and that he was denied the presumption of innocence; however, the court refused to release him, saying his lawyer failed to object to this trial error. All legal appeals are exhausted.

Gary Tyler is a political prisoner. He was arrested because he spoke out against racism and injustice. He was sentenced to die because he was a young Black man fighting segregation. He remains in prison because the system will not admit he was framed.

Gary has been adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International in West Germany.

Gary Tyler must be free! He needs your help. The only way to win his freedom is to educate, organize and mobilize a broad movement among many people to fight for his freedom.

**Contact the Committee to Free Gary Tyler to join in these efforts: Call 1-504-822-4455 or write P.O. Box 13520, New Orleans, Louisiana 70185 for more information.**



Gary Tyler



Huey P. Newton

### **HUEY P. NEWTON**

**February 17, 1942—August 22, 1989**

Servant of the people. That's what Huey Newton was when he co-founded the Black Panther Party with Bobby Seale in 1966. In many ways Huey and the Panthers continued the legacy of Malcom X. They put into practice their firm belief that Black people must be free. They practiced armed self-defense and instituted "survival programs" such as free breakfast programs for children and free health care. Survival pending revolution that would bring justice and peace to the Black Nation.

Nothing is more threatening to the white power structure than oppressed people organizing and fighting for their freedom. Huey and the Panthers came under attack by the FBI's Counterintelligence (COINTELPRO) programs. Members of the party were assassinated, imprisoned, exiled, and caught up in internecine disputes initiated largely by COINTELPRO.

Huey Newton was shot to death on an Oakland, California street on August 22nd. Whether he was murdered by government agents or parasitic drug dealers may never be known. What we do know is that Huey Newton was destroyed by a system which is so rotten with white supremacy and violence against the oppressed, that every leader who rises from the Black Liberation Movement is killed or imprisoned.

Huey had his weaknesses. You can read about them in the daily news. But he also had his strengths. At one time he dedicated his life to freedom for Black people. He's a part of our history and another fallen warrior.



# DOWN WITH THE STRUGGLE

Three months before the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and the police killing of Panther leader Lil' Bobby Hutton, a lesser known chapter in the Black Liberation struggle erupted into violence on a city street in Nashville, Tennessee. Several young, Black men were confronted by armed police, and when done was done, two of the officers were dead.

The media orchestrated a racist campaign of vengeance against the three brothers who went to trial on murder charges: Ralph Canady, William Allen and Steve Parker. The newspapers headlined the case as only those who own the press could see it: The accused ( "Black militants"), the politics ("Black Power advocates") and the motive (outside agitators in the area to attend "political meetings" with a large quantity of "racial literature" in their possession). The media took an act of self-defense and turned it into an attack on the fabric of white society. Everything the white powerstructure feared became personified in the courage of three Black men.

The moratorium on the death penalty was decried by the white sheeted, blue uniformed, business suited racists as they had to settle for life imprisonment imposed on the three brothers.

I first met the brothers behind the walls of the Tennessee State prison in 1970. I had just been transferred from Montgomery County jail in the wake of a food strike over conditions, which served as a good introduction to Ralph and his raps as soon as I hit incoming.

Ralph had coal black skin, a quick mind, dry wit and the speed of a mustang, which he often displayed on the basketball court. Hence, his nickname "Fast." He was the sort of person that didn't smile a whole lot, but when he did, the expression on his face softened and his eyes were triumphant. He stood and walked with his head erect and projected defiance to his captors. He did not know the meaning of the term defeat.

In 1970, Ralph said Black people are rising up and that he was rising with them. He left no question in anyone's mind that he was down with the struggle on any front that produced movement towards Black people gaining their freedom.

The day I met Ralph he gave me a copy of Fanon's Wretched of the Earth and we easily fell into discussion of the Panthers, Stokely, Coltrane, Mingus, Marx and jim crow. We talked about jim crow because the color line was rigidly drawn in Nashville. Rigidly drawn. The cells were segregated, the mess hall was segregated, recreation was segregated and the paupers' cemetery at the rear of the penitentiary was segregated.

Guards ruled over this scene like field bosses. "Captain" they were called, or "bossman." Among the prisoners were other standard bearers of jim crow-klansmen and their apprentices. Ralph made it clear I would be tested by both guards and prisoners.

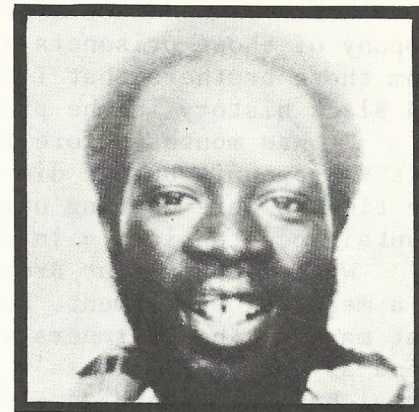
That moment was not long in coming. The brothers and I walked to the mess hall and stood in a single line. As men entered the mess hall, the single line broke into two color lines veering left and right. Blacks on one side, whites on the other. The seating was similar, with Black and white sections and tables.

After we received our food and sat down together, it seemed as if every pair of eyes in the place was on us. I could hear the steady din of noisy conversation rise to a crescendo. It dawned on me as I struggled to chew my food that I was in the midst of one of the most frightful and insane atmospheres I had ever been in.

Next to me was Ralph with a broad smile. Almost 20 years later, I still remember the simple words he used to address the situation: "You got an idea what it feels like?" his point was not lost and I got hold of a shank before my food digested.

The tense atmosphere continued with each passing day that found me bunking (incoming dorms), eating, hanging out and playing ball with Ralph and other brothers. White prisoners tried to press me with threats-and later there would be fights. Guards gave me warnings about "staying with my own kind" and the warden himself made an appearance with his hand holding an anonymous death threat against me retrieved from the mail box-so he said.

Jim crow wasn't about to give up much space at the time. A goon squad picked me up in the yard one day and a classification board determined that because I was "agitating the racial situation," it would be necessary to isolate me from the general population. So, as a first time offender doing 2 to 5 , I was placed in a cell on death row. The ultimate irony was that during the one hour a day I was let out of my cell to exercise, I was in the



Ralph Canady

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(over)



company of those prisoners scheduled to be executed - most of whom were Black. It was largely from these brothers that I came to understand the role of Malcolm X, Islam, poverty, culture and Black history in the process of Black peoples' struggle for human rights.

It was months before I crossed paths with Ralph again. We couldn't see each other in the Unit VI seg unit but we did get to exchange greetings and a few words thru the air ducts. At the time we were waiting our respective turns to be transferred to the end of the line - Brushy Mountain penitentiary - in the mountains of East Tennessee.

When I arrived at Brushy in late 1970, the razer strap was still being used on prisoners as a means of punishment. Knoxville TV did an expose of the prison that included documentation that many of the prisoners were being driven insane by deplorable conditions. And jim crow was there as well. There wasn't a Black guard in the place yet 50% of the prisoners were Black. Racial harassment and tension were a constant reminder that violence could erupt at any moment.

Ralph and I rarely saw each other because of Brushy's separation and control policies. When we did, there were no books to exchange because the administration had banned anything with political content. What we did was run the treadmill of the basketball court together, sweating and wondering just when the shit was going to jump off.

It did of course, but by that time I had been released. Both guards and prisoners died in the wake of rebellions at that evil penitentiary. Ralph and the brothers were transferred back to Nashville but they were not long for the walls. Ralph never stopped talking about the need to be free and he put that sharp mind of his to work on an escape plan that got all three of them out of prison right under the noses of the guards during visiting hours. They made their break in 1973 and remained fugitives until captured in 1986.

Ralph was captured on April 1st, placed in an isolation cell in Baltimore County jail and lynched the very same night. The same Baltimore County jail in which Black prisoners have had dogs unleashed on them in their cells and who have been killed by the dozens during sporadic rebellions. Ralph was not the first Black man to be murdered in that cell nor is he likely to be the last. An inquiry of sorts was made by government officials but there were no indictments of those who put a noose around Ralph Canady's neck and strangled him.

I cannot forget Ralph's death. I remember him saying to me under the eyes of jim crow, "you got an idea what it feels like?" It triggers an emotional outburst within me that rivets my attention to the memory of this brother's face, as I wonder what it felt like for Ralph. What did it feel like when klansmen wearing guard uniforms came into his cell looking for blood. Looking to kill a Black man.

Lynching is the klans' style and 400 years of white supremacy pronounced a death sentence on Ralph Canady. I say to myself that this brother was too good and too valuable to his people to die like this. He was too beautiful to die at the hands of some demented racists. But then, it is reality, isn't it, that every day in the concrete jungles of racist america, Third World people have their lives smashed out of them by killer cops and suffocate from social neglect. This realization makes his death no less painful.

The blood and fighting spirit of Ralph Canady joins with other African women and men whose sacrifices nourish the roots of freedom. Which nourish the roots of the Black/New Afrikan nation. Which will make class war inevitable and victorious for the oppressed.

From the coal black skin and triumphant eyes of a brother I will never forget, I hear the message of Harriet Tubman - "YOU'LL BE FREE OR DIE!"

Raymond Luc Levasseur  
1988





## Boston Killer Cops

On July 13th a community meeting was held in Boston to protest police killings, brutality and racism. "We must get out and do something about these cops who are shooting and killing our children" said Gwendolyn Richardson whose 20 year old son Raymond was shot in the back by a member of the Boston police "Power Patrol" on April 5th. He was unarmed.

Raymond was kept in a jailhouse hospital for 3 months and received inadequate care. He has since returned home but continues to return to the hospital for additional surgery.

Also addressing the meeting was Betty Johnson whose son Donald was killed in a hail of over 200 bullets fired by Boston police. He was unarmed and Black.

Boston cops kill unarmed people for sport: Levi Hart, 14 years old, Elijah Pate, 19 years old and beaten and shot to death, Braxton Mitchell, 17 years old, shot in the head, Walter Robey, shot and left to bleed to death in a jail cell, James Bowden, shot while returning home from work.

"When first I started this trial I asked for justice — that's what I'm looking for, which I didn't get. There were 11 police officers there.... They didn't have to shoot him in the heart. They shot him down like he wasn't human."

On August 7th a jury cleared all police officers in the killing of Elijah Pate, a 19 year old Black youth. The jury rejected testimony of witnesses and a medical examiner that the unarmed Pate had been shot in the back.

Mrs. Pate said the jury's award of \$20,000 was "a slap in the face". This sum based on the finding of 1 civil rights violation by one of the cops who had stood on Pate's neck as he lay dying on the ground.

*The Justice for Raymond Richardson Committee will be meeting again to plan future actions. If you'd like to help or contribute to Raymond's medical expenses and legal fees, contact: Justice for Raymond Richardson Committee c/o Annette Edwards, P.O. Box 58, Dorchester, Ma. 02121*

## Killer cops and vigilante gangs - New York

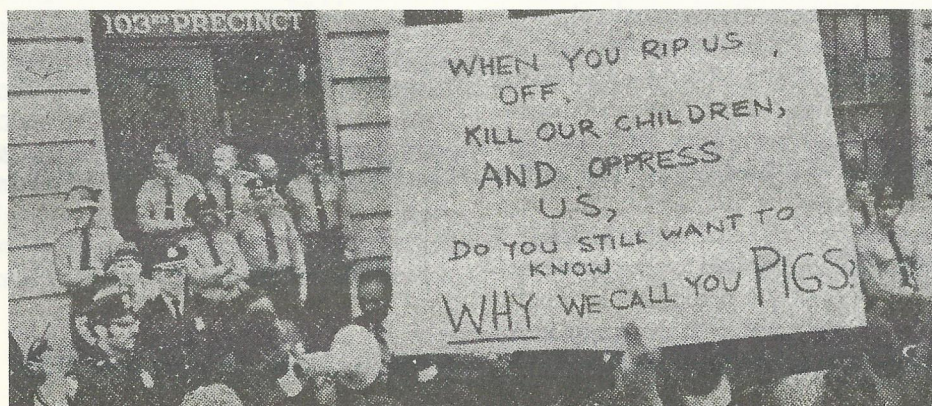
— **Yusef Hawkins** had every right to live but somebody didn't like the color of his Black skin and shot him to death at point blank range. He was 16 years old. The "somebody" was one of 10 white males laying in ambush in a predominately white section of Brooklyn to "shoot a nigger" (overheard by witnesses).

The white youths were said to be lying in ambush for black and hispanic youths they thought were dating a white neighborhood girl. But Yusef Hawkins had come to the neighborhood to look at a used car which was for sale. He did not know his white attackers nor the neighborhood girl. The murder took place in a neighborhood of "neat lawns dotted with plastic pink flamingos and ceramic madonnas," steeped in racism. And Yusef Hawkins' father rages, "Who will pay for this? Who will pay? " Amerika.

— **Kevin Thorpe**, a 31 year old Black man, was attacked by 10 white NYC police officers. Witnesses said the cops struck Thorpe with their fists and night sticks after he had been knocked to the ground and placed in handcuffs and leg restraints. They then jumped on different parts of his body and sat on his chest, compressing his chest so much he couldn't breathe. The autopsy report says he was "asphyxiated". Colin Moore, a lawyer for the Thorpe family said, "the report makes it clear that Kevin Thorpe died as a direct result of police violence." All 10 police officers implicated in this racist murder remain on active duty.

— **Richard Luke** was beaten to death on May 22, 1989 by NYC Housing Police. A Black man with severe asthma since childhood, complained of chest pains and difficult breathing. When the cops arrived they put a nightstick around his chest and pinned to the floor. Instead of taking him to a hospital, they took him to a holding cell, where police said he started "banging his head against the wall". He died in the holding cell. Immediately after his death several hundred friends and neighbors organized a protest march from the Housing Police station to the Queens — borough Bridge where they blocked traffic.

— **Goshen, New York.** A second grand jury has been selected to investigate the death of **Jimmy Lee Bruce Jr.**, a 20 year old Black youth, who died as a direct result of a choke hold put on him by one of two white police officers. Bruce had been placed under arrest for allegedly participating in "rowdy behavior" outside a movie theatre. ....





## PUERTO RICO: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

*August 12th -- Thousands marched to the United Nations to protest a U.S. initiated "plebiscite" and to demand the Puerto Rican people's right to self-determination and Independence. The march represented a united effort by the independence movement both in Puerto Rico and the U.S.*

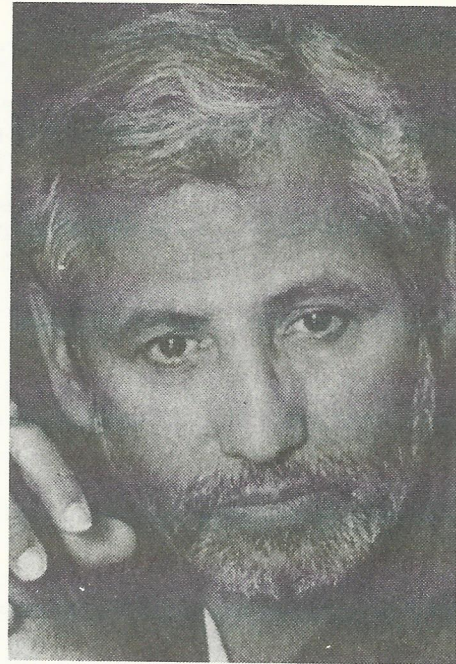
In place of a false "plebiscite," the organizers are demanding that an UN-defined and supervised plebiscite on Puerto Rican status be held under the requirements of international law: 1) The transfer of all judicial, political, and social and economic powers to the people of Puerto Rico; 2) The release from prison of all Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and political prisoners in U.S. prisons, and an end to all acts of repression against the independence movement including the repatriation to Puerto Rico of those who are exiled or forced into hiding; 3) The withdrawal of all federal troops (armed forces and police) from Puerto Rico; 4) That in any process to decide the status of Puerto Rico, only Puerto Ricans, living on the island or in the U.S. or elsewhere, be allowed to vote; 5) That the U.S. meet its responsibility for 91 years of colonial exploitation of the Puerto Rican nation by carrying out the economic repatriations necessary for the transition from colonialism to independence.

*Philadelphia -- Sin Justicia no hay paz (No justice, no peace).* Police brutality and racist attacks against the Puerto Rican community have continued unabated for months. Recently, a 15 year old Puerto Rican youth, Stephen Crespo, was beaten to death with a lug wrench by a gang of whites shouting racist insults. Two weeks later Eddie "Pinto" Cruz, 27 years old, was shot to death by a Philadelphia cop. The medical examiner determined that he had been shot in the back. Demonstrations at city hall and the DA's office have been organized by Puerto Rican community leaders.

*Money to burn --* The Hartford Courant reported that the government has to date spent over \$25 million to prosecute Puerto Rican patriots in the "Wells Fargo" trial. Eight defendants have yet to be tried. The figures were obtained from federal court clerk in response to a law suit filed by the Courant. \$15 million of the total was for "Investigation."

**A VICTORY FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE --**  
*Companero Filiberto Ojeda Rios acquitted of all charges!!*

A jury in Puerto Rico acquitted Filiberto Ojeda of federal assault and weapons charges in just 4 hours of deliberation after a month long trial. The charges stemmed from a 1985 fbi led attack on Filiberto's home. Though he had been under fbi surveillance for weeks and could have been arrested at any time, the fbi chose to employ a military assault on the Ojeda home, firing their automatic weapons, backed by helicopters and rocket launchers. Filiberto said during the trial (in which he defended himself): "I could reach no other conclusion... they tried to assassinate me." Filiberto defended not only himself, he defended the Puerto Rican nation. Our heartfelt congratulations to you companero!



Filiberto Ojeda Rios

### **WITCH HUNT! GRAND JURY REPRESSION..**

*Bob Wells and Henry "Camomile" Bortman have been subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury in Chicago. Bob Wells is a long-time anti-racist activist and member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee (JBAKC). "Camomile", former member of JBAKC, is a gay activist, a member of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and Prairie Fire Organizing Committee.*

The fbi claims the subpoenas are based on threatening letters received by the US Attorney on what looked like JBAKC stationery. However, when People's Law Office lawyers looked at the stationery it was obvious they were crude counterfeits (fake letterheads that were cut and pasted).

The subpoenas require that JBAK provide copies of all literature distributed (all of which is publicly available) and stationery used in the last 6 months. Additionally required is the testimony of Bob and Camo and a requirement that Bob submit his fingerprints, photograph and samples of his handwriting and saliva.

*Bob and Camomile are refusing to cooperate with the fbi. They will not testify before this grand jury. Grand juries directed by the fbi are a tool to intern political dissenters without trial, conviction or criminal charges. Firm, immediate resistance to this inquisition is important. The government has ordered that Bob and Camo appear before the grand jury on September 26th. They could be jailed immediately for the next 18 months. A phone and letter campaign is underway to support our comrades.*



## SILVIA BARALDINI

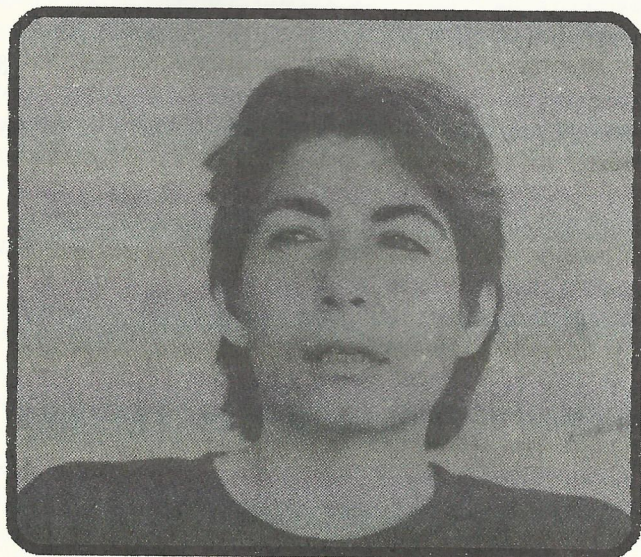
### Italian National Political Prisoner

*I was raised in Italy. In my teens I joined my parents in the United States.* We lived in New York City and later in Washington, D. C., where my father worked at the Italian embassy. During my senior year of high school, with the encouragement of my family, I became active in opposing the escalating war against Vietnam. In June 1965 I left for the University of Wisconsin; there I continued my participation in the antiwar movement. As a member of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), I joined with tens of thousands of other young people and residents of Madison in sit-ins and takeovers of the campus. Our demands focused on ending the draft, stopping recruitment by the CIA and Dow Chemical and the elimination of the war thinktank: the Army Math Research Center. SDS, in its organizing, emphasized solidarity with the national liberation movements of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Through my antiwar activity I came into contact with the Black liberation movement. The largest and longest strike at the University was led by the Black Student Union. The outcome brought open admissions to our campus and the birth of the Afro American Studies Department. In 1969 the Black Panther Party of Illinois spoke on campus. For the first time white students were confronted with the principles of self-determination and self-defense. When its leader, Fred Hampton, was assassinated by the FBI and the Chicago Police Department in 1969, I experienced my first lesson in domestic terror and state repression.

In my junior year of college the women in SDS organized ourselves into a caucus. The simple act of consciousness-raising forever changed my relationship to the struggle. I no longer defined myself as a supporter or solidarity worker. I was a participant in a movement whose goals had to include the liberation of women and gay people.

As an organizer I was constantly confronted with the pervasive-



ness of racism in the U. S.. Soon combatting white supremacy in organizing other whites to support the liberation of New Afrikan people, became the focus of my work. In 1970, I moved back to New York City and joined a city-wide effort to free 21 members of the Black Panther Party unjustly accused of conspiring against the government. For the next 12 years, the defense of New Afrikan political prisoners was at the center of my work. In 1973, I joined Friends of Assata Shakur and Sundiata Acoli. The group organized political support amongst white people for captured members of the Black Liberation Army. After an number of years I joined May 19th Communist Organization. I no longer wanted to act as an individual outside a long-term strategic direction. Representing May 19th, I traveled to Africa extensively and worked with the Zimbabwe African National Union both during the war of liberation and during reconstruction after independence in April of 1980.

*In this period I became a target of COINTELPRO and the local police department enacted by the Joint Anti-Terrorist Task Force. The goal: to destroy the mounting resistance against U. S. imperialism, in particular, stop any armed action.* November 1982, I was arrested and accused of conspiracy against the U. S. government with other white and New Afrikan revolutionaries. We were charged with the liberation of Assata Shakur and other political actions.

While awaiting trial, I was subpoenaed to testify in front of a grand jury in Brooklyn, New York investigating the Puerto Rican independence movement. I refused. I was charged with criminal contempt. I was one of the eleven political activists: Puerto Rican, New Afrikan and North American, jailed because of our non-collaboration. After two trials (for conspiracy and criminal contempt) I was found "guilty" and sentenced to a total of 43 years. Immediately thereafter, the U. S. government issued a deportation order back to Italy. In late 1984, I was moved to FCI Pleasanton. After 27 peaceful and uneventful months in general population, I was taken without warning to Lexington, Kentucky. Along with Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres and political prisoner Susan Rosenberg, I became the target of an experiment in small group isolation and sensory deprivation run by the Bureau of Prisons in an underground unit. Its aim: the psychological destruction of women political prisoners. After 2 years of protest, the unit was closed. A lawsuit, filed by Susan and me, won. Judge Parker found the U. S. government guilty of violating our first amendment rights and barred the Bureau of Prisons from using political beliefs and association as the basis for transfer and association. Our health deteriorated in the unit and after my release I had to be moved to a federal medical center in Rochester where I underwent two operations for cancer. I am currently being held at Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York.

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## ART AND THE STRUGGLE

Art has generally been overlooked as a means of propaganda by the u.s progressive community. The art show by u.s. political prisoners and prisoners of war on July 22 at Northampton Center for the Arts demonstrated just how art can be used in presenting The Struggle as the just and humane activities of real people captured and held by a criminal state power. While the imperialist state attempts to dehumanize those it captures, and to present The Struggle as the work of pathological crazies, the art presented in Northampton clearly showed the humanity of the artists, and their clear commitment to justice, anti-racism, anti-sexism, and anti-imperialism.

The many themes of art ranged from delicate silhouette studies of slavery (Tim Blunk) to images of alienation (Tom Manning) and the struggle of Palestinian People against zionist extermination (Laura Whitehorn). The dignity and struggle of colonized people in the u.s. (Leonard Peltier, Dhoruba Al-Mujahid Bin Wahad, and Sundiata Acoli) and Puerto Rico (Elizam Escobar) were well represented as was the struggle against fascism in El Salvador (Susan Rosenberg and Tom Manning). The large number of people who enthusiastically attended the show demonstrates the important role of art in bringing The Struggle's message to a wider segment of the population.

*The most important lesson of the show, however' is that a criminal state power holds these comrades for their participation in the struggle against injustice and oppression, and broadens the demand to free all political prisoners and prisoners of war NOW!*



La Poeta (The She-Poet), 1985

Elizam Escobar