THE HOUSTON POLICE MURDERED CARL HAMPTON
Note how the noble swine men
To demonstrate their might
Lay still like snakes in best of day
And then attack at night.

The Peoples Party Building
In racist Houston town
Is held by pigs who smiled while Carl
Lay dying on the ground.

—Oh yes sir if we see your gun
Its steel so shiny blue
I see your badge I see your club
I guess it's really true
That you are brave and bold and strong
And red and white and blue.

Oh yes O valiant pig-face

I'll keep my hands in sight
Oh no I won't resist arrest
I won't put us in a fight
OK I'll keep my mouth shut
I won't try any trick
I'll drop to the floor like a killer hog.
Though you tell us we are sick
You are a raving madman
You should be put away
In maximum security.
You should be made to stay
With your pitiful counterparts
And military forces
And psycho Wall Street businessmen
And those who dream like fascists
And those so filled with hate

By Victoria Smith

"It's not because I'm in People's Party 11 that I'm oppressed, it's because I'm black and in the United States."

Carl Hampton made that statement in a speech shortly before his death early Monday morning, July 26.

The 21-year-old chairman of People's Party 11, a revolutionary black organization, was killed, not because he was in People's Party 11 but because he was black and in the United States, because he was a revolutionary whose interests resided in his people, the oppressed people of the world.

Carl was shot down by police snipers in an ambush Sunday night, July 26, near the People's Party 11 headquarters at Dowling and Tuam streets.

He died in Ben Taub General Hospital about four hours later.

Several others were wounded in the battle, including other members of People's Party and a man from the John Brown Revolutionary League (JBRL), a white organization. (People's Party 11, JBRL, and the Mexican-American Youth Organization formed a Rainbow Coalition several months ago.)

Carl was murdered, shot down in cold blood.

The leadership he exerted, the ideas he represented and the practice he engaged in so threatened the power structure of the city that Carl could not be permitted to live. The police wasted no time. The People's Party Center had been functioning for less than a month when Carl was killed.

We want to make this clear from the start, because there is no doubt in our minds Carl's death resulted from premeditated murder. Our facts, our knowledge of Carl and People's Party 11, our understanding of the nature of repression in America lead us to believe that the "first shot" that police claimed started the gun battle that occurred Sunday night did not come from a People's Party or JBRL gun.

The events surrounding Carl remain somewhat unclear at this point. But we think that the Houston police department, as represented in the local commercial media, has lied to Houstonians about the incident. Maybe we can clear things up a little.

At 6 p.m., Sunday, two brothers were arrested on warrants charges inside a church just around the corner from the Center.

Police had harassed people at the Center continually for more than a week before Carl's death, beginning with an incident Friday, July 17, in which pigs and People's Party members and supporters held guns on each other for about 30 minutes.

We talked with Carl Sunday afternoon, only several hours before his death. He told us that two Party members had been busted that week, that police had warrants out for the arrest of him and two others, that police surveillance helicopters had hovered continually over the headquarters, that police were spreading false rumors in the Third Ward about People's Party.

Later that evening People's Party held an impromptu rally outside the Center to gather support for their friend and for the brothers in jail.

A man who has related to People's Party but is not a member gave Space City the best account we have of the events surrounding Carl's death.

As Carl was addressing the group of some 150 people, Odive Duncantell, of the Central Committee for the Protection of Poor People, another militant black group, approached Carl and told him that an unmarked police car was parked in a lot at St. John the Baptist Church, a building some 300 yards north of the Center.

Carl relayed the message to the crowd. Two black men, armed with shotguns, ran toward the vicinity of the church.

Some minutes later, Duncantell reported that there were two pigs on the roof of St. John's Church. Duncantell's next message was that someone had shot at the pigs.

Our witness said he heard a shot, but he recognized it as the unmistakable sound of a .32-caliber weapon, not a shotgun. The obvious conclusion is that the brothers who had left for the church could not have fired the shot, since they were armed only with shotguns. (People's Party policy, like that of the Black Panther Party, forbids firing on police unless in self-defense.)

Carl and another man ran down the street to check out the scene. Apparently, they moved into the street or into some position in which they were exposed. So they evidently crossed the street to hide in an alley near a business building.

Gunshots rang out. Most of the crowd in front of the People's Party Center dispersed and the rest, including members of JBRL and People's Party, moved inside the Center to get their weapons.

The first shots were apparently the ones that killed Carl.

Our witness moved across the street where he stationed himself with Carl's wife, Maggie. He said he saw JBRL member Bartee Hail dash out of the center.

Bartee later told KPFT FM, Pacifica radio, that three or four men were running toward the church, Bartee, who was trying to get to Carl, hid behind a parked car. Others with guns moved up behind him. There was an exchange of gunfire and Bartee was shot in the arm.

"The same sniper that got Carl hit me," he said. It is also possible, however, that Carl, because of his apparent location, was hit from a window in the church.

Bartee, bleeding profusely, ran back to the Center, all the way dodging bullets that were bouncing on the sidewalks.

As to who started the shooting, Bartee said, "I don't think anyone believes that People's Party 11 members and supporters went down there and opened up on snipers who had such a superior fire- arm." Bartee said the police were firing.

The logic of this situation is virtually inescapable, although the Houston Police Department and the commercial media managed to ignore it.

People's Party 11 and JBRL members are not trigger-happy motorists looking to die glorious deaths in the streets by provoking armed confrontation with the pigs. They have guns only know how to use them and they have used them only for self-defense and news-reporting gear.

The police claim that some "black militant" opened fire on them. J.O. Norris, of the Criminal Intelligence Division (Red Squid), who says he was on top of the church, was quoted in the Houston Chronicle as saying that one man shot at him and his buddy. "We didn't return the fire then. Two Negro males ran across the street and started shoot- ing at us again." At this point Norris claims he and the other policeman shot the man. This report makes no sense.

St. John's church is the tallest building in the vicinity. There is no way that a person on the street 30 feet below could "snipe" at police virtually hidden on a rooftop, with a strategically useful periscope.

The shooting started sometime after 10 p.m. and lasted less than an hour.

Artie "Cloy" Vaughn, writing in the Forward Times, claims a call went out over the police radio saying, "We get eight under fire. Put some more light on that building because we are going to do some killing."

"Hey, we got two of them. Wait a minute, I think that we got the leader. Yes we got the leader." An unidentified person in a Volkswagen drove through a hail of bullets to rescue Carl. According to one report, the car was fired on in north and is wheeled away, leaving one man, who had been trying to get the wounded Hampton into the car, holding Carl over his shoulders.

The man escaped with Carl. Carl somehow arrived at Ben Taub hospital by car, shortly after 11 p.m., in very critical condition.

One thing should be abundantly clear. The pigs were out to get Carl and they apparently didn't care whether or not they killed any of the others, except possibly Bartee, who is also a marked man in Houston. (Bartee says he was fortunate not to have been shot in the heart. Gunshot hit his left arm, and he thinks the pigs were aiming for his
Heart.

Carl didn't have a chance. Space City learned that he was shot twice in the chest and once in the leg, which at a distance of some 200 feet required excellent marksmanship and intent to kill. The pigs who claim to have shot Carl were ever in the media that they shot to kill.

Several others were wounded, but none critically. One of the wounded, however, Johnny Coward, was shot in the ankle and has lost his foot. Coward had lost an eye in a battle with police two years ago. At least eight men were shot, possibly more.

Most of the people remaining in the Center escaped out the back. The injured were on their way to hospitals.

Police began to cordon off the area, and initiated a systematic occupation of the community which eventually extended over a 20 square block area. Two whitey-tops with spotlights hovered over the area.

The men that killed Carl were part of a special sniper unit. The sniper squad technique had not been used for three years, since the police riot May 5 and 7, 1967, at Texas Southern University. (At that time, police swept through the campus, shooting up a men's dormitory. The riot resulted in one death, that of a pig, who died out of the direct line of fire from student-held territory. He was probably killed by a ricocheting pig bullet. More than 500 rounds of ammunition were fired in that incident.)

After the shooting was over and the pigs had secured the area for themselves, they entered the People's Party headquarters and gleefully trash the place. They entertained themselves by drawing moustaches on posters of Chairman Mao and writing graffiti on the wall, like "Fuck Hurey," and "Wallace in '72."

They confiscated a few arms and some literature.

After the police had secured the area north of Elgin on Dowling, a squad of at least 120, possibly more, formed at the corner of Dowling and Elgin.

A crowd of some 300 people began to gather in the area, one of whom was Don Gardiner, former news editor and associate manager of KFT-FM. Gardiner was doing volunteer work for the station at the time.

"People weren't harrassing the cops," Gardiner told us. He likened it to a crowd of people watching a wreck or a fire. The crowd was all black, except for two KFTF reporters.

Suddenly, without any warning, or any apparent reason, a line of pigs started to sweep south down Dowling, bellowing "Move on move on!" and beating and arresting everyone they could get their hands on.

Police arrested more than 500 people, all black except for Gardiner, who said he was grabbed by the hair, jabbed in the head with a rifle butt, handcuffed and thrown into a paddy wagon.

All those arrested in this sweep were charged with loitering and failure to move on. Bond is set at $200 each. Many still remain in jail.

Some 30 People's Party members and supporters, including a number of Space City people, arrived at Ben Taub Hospital to ensure that Carl and the others received adequate treatment. A large contingent of police was also there to ensure that there would be no trouble when Carl died.

Besides Carl, Barter Halie, Johnny Coward, Frank Sparkman and Gregory Clarke had been admitted to Ben Taub. Since then we have learned that other injured were admitted to other hospitals.

Barter was charged Tuesday, July 28, with assault and attempted murder, while he was still recuperating from the gunshot wound.

The scene at Ben Taub was tense. We were worried, angry and confused. Some of us spent hours trying to get a good, cool doctor to come to the hospital, declare he was Carl's doctor and be admitted to surgery where he could keep an eye on the operation.

We put a call in to Switchboard at the Space City office and learned that pig cars had virtually surrounded the place. Anyone coming from or going to the office was stopped and questioned.

The regular pigs at the hospital, we understand, had been talking and joking for two or three days prior to the shooting about how they were looking forward to busting up Dowling street.

Carl's surgery was guarded by heavily armed police who, we were told, exchanged heavy pats on the back after it was all over.

Carl died shortly before 3 a.m. It was strange. We had just talked with Carl that afternoon, and suddenly he was dead.

Carl did tell us some interesting things that afternoon. For one thing, the question of Duncanstell's statement to City Council came up, the statement in which he claimed that the People's Party Center area was secured and that police would not be permitted to enter the area.

The commercial media played up Duncanstell's statements as representative of the position of People's Party II. The publicity Duncanstell received may have further antagonized the racist Houston police and lent credibility to their claim that they stationed themselves on Dowling Street Sunday night to prevent a disturbance.

"A Trap," Says Hope

The Voice of Hope, a black community newspaper published in Houston's Fourth Ward, has published an editorial stating that Carl Hampton's death was a police conspiracy, possibly involving two well-known local black militants.

The Aug. issue, which hit the streets as we were going to press, proclaims: "Several things occurred along the 2800 block of Dowling Street which clearly indicate that elaborate plans were made to efficiently snuff out the life of the youthful, dynamic leader of Peoples Party II."

Voice of Hope points out several peculiarities about that evening: the usual traffic of prostitutes was absent from the street; several business, including Church's Fried Chicken across the street, closed early; and the usual Sunday night services at St. John's Church were not held. It was from the roof or interior of St. John's Church that Carl was shot.

But, according to Hope, "Arranging to have the street deserted... was only part of the scheme. What was still needed was somebody or some bodies to lead Carl Hampton into the trap."

One suspect, according to Hope, is Willie "Lee Man" Rudd, who "attempted to form a Black Panther chapter in Houston about one year ago, is rumored to be a long-time employee of the 'man.' He is reported to be highly suspected by Blacks in several major cities across the country."

The other suspect is Oxide Duncanstell, Duncanstell was fired from his job with the local poverty program after promising to the local news media to offer ten pigs for every black person murdered by the Houston police. "He also appeared before City Council and insisted that an eight-block area in Third Ward was occupied and off limits to police."

According to the Hope editorial, "The situation is far too critical to have people who shock and judges do the death of those who are sincerely fighting for freedom for black people. It is said that either Rudd or Duncanstell or both led Carl Hampton down Dowling Street to the spot where he was brutally wounded. It is also reported that Duncanstell and Rudd were observing leaving Dowling Street together, after Hampton had been shot."
Carl was obviously critical of this statement and he reiterated the Party's position on the question of police in the black community. "If police act like police, we ain't going to bother them; we're going to go along with our work. When they start bothering us, it's going to be a different story..."

The Party people have always said that the police in our community, when they act like the police, act as if they were the police, they're going to act like the police and protect the people. If not, they're not going to be in the community, that's all.

Carl was also concerned about the rumors spread by police about the Party, particularly the one that accused Party members of putting little children in front of the center with guns. Carl said that this was just untrue. We ourselves had been by the center several times during the week and never saw any children with guns. Carl said that this just wasn't true.

Carl emphasized again and again that People's Party's campaign was not about to provoke a confrontation with the police, that the main business of the Party was to provide needed services for the black community people, from free breakfast for children programs to medical clinics to community control of police to the cooling of potential riot situations.

A potential riot situation did exist Thursday, July 23 in the area. Carl said, the community was getting frustrated, and People's Party organized a discussion to cool things down. The organization has maintained that riots are futile and self-defeating, that they result only in needless deaths.

Carl articulated his attitude towards self-defense, violence and the police very well in a statement he made Friday, July 17, the night of the first significant incident of police harassment of the Party headquarters. The statement lays out what happened that night, and it also clarifies what the Party does in such a situation.

"Basically, what happened is that a brother was standing in front of the office selling the Panther paper to cars passing by. Two policemen came by and told the brother, they asked him what was going on, doing selling those papers? The brother told them that he was selling them for People's Party.

"And by that time I walked out of his car: Carl was just arriving at the center and I asked the police officers, why were they harassing the brother, since he had a constitutional right to sell the paper. When I asked this policeman here, he got pissed off and he jumped out of his car. And he n-e, well am I? At that time I was wearing a 45 revolver, you know, in a shoulder holster, and he looked at the gun and he asked me, well, what was I doing with that gun, you know?

"So I told him that I wasn't breaking any law. So he started coming toward me like he was going to grab me and get my gun or whip my ass or do something, so I stood back and he went for his gun and I went at my gun and we were just at a stand-off. So then another brother got his 45 and came out and told him that if he shot me he was going to get his ass blown away.

"The pig's partner was in the car and he called another pig and it seemed like it was planned because it didn't take the pigs three minutes to get here. Sergeants here, inspectors here, special cats who are experts, rifle experts... you know they had everything.

"So they had to have this planned from the very beginning when they started harassing the cat. And this is all that went down, we defended ourselves. We told them that we would defend ourselves. So many people mobilized that, you know, they split. Some brother out there finally talked them into leaving.

"No law was broken, we didn't have any illegal weapons in here, just a brother out trying to sell papers for the organization and get harrassed by the police. We said and we'll say again, if police act like police, we ain't going to bother them; we are going to go along with our work. Dig? When they start bothering us, it's going to be a different story. We not going to let them ride peacefully in our community and continue to kick our ass. Because that's like giving them permission to kick our ass. We're saying no more kicking our ass. If we're going to have police in our community, then they're going to act like police and protect the people, if not, we're not going to be in the community, that's all.

"These pigs were out there smiling and happy, they try to provoke you, this pig was going to shoot me. He went at his gun to shoot me. And there was 10 or 11 people, hell, there was 30 or 40 people who saw what was happening, from Church's Chicken, from a bus that was passing by. All a person have to do, well, there'd be a lot of witnesses to this thing, and he went at his gun first and I just protected myself, that's all that happened. I don't know whether they'll come back tonight or not. But if they do, like I say, we haven't broken any law so legally we're not going anywhere.

"So this is the People's Party II. Its purpose has been simple, honest and totally revolutionary. Serve the people. Educate the people. Arm the people for their own self-defense, defense against a domestic military that has oppressed and murdered millions of black people in America for centuries.

"What could be more reasonable and necessary? Yet, what could be more threatening to the rulers of this country, who fear the power of the people more than anything? Even when that power is just budding, as it is in Houston?

"This is why卡尔 was killed. The pigs acted fast, in an attempt to destroy the bud before it blossomed.

"It was a hard thing to realize early Monday morning that Carl was dead. It still is. But his death came as no big surprise to many of us. Carl himself knew it was coming, and soon. He just felt that the thing he was building transcended the importance of his personal security. People's power is budding and blossoming all over this country, all over the world — in Vietnam and the rest of Southeast Asia, in Latin America, in downtrodden nations all over the world.

"And when American imperialism tries to pick off the buds and blossoms, new ones will grow back. The people are perennial.

"That's nice inspiration, maybe. But we should have the good sense to realize that the struggle won't be as gentle as the blossoming of a flower. The war of the poor people of the world against the American Leviathan is now and will continue to be the most important, the most difficult and the bloodiest in history. America will not relinquish control without a deadly fight.

"Carl's death and the events of Sunday night have taught many of us some very valuable lessons. And I personally have been more impressed with the seriousness of the whole thing in the process of writing this article.

You know, we really have a movement in this city and it's happened in little more than a year. Before that there was nothing, virtually nothing. It should be clear by now that the power structure in Houston doesn't want us around — any of us, black, brown or white. And don't doubt for a minute that the Houston pigs are ready and willing to do it.

Right now the police are continuing to harass our people. Whirlwinds fly over our houses and offices daily. A number of movement organizations, including Space City!, have been under police surveillance.

If there was ever a time to get serious, it's now. If there was ever a time to get together, to suspend our ideological differences for a while, it's now. That doesn't mean that individuals or organizations need or should compromise their organizational style or suddenly accept their constituencies. But we need to re-recognize our common struggle, if any of us are to long continue in that.
ORGANIZATIONS JOIN TO DEFEND PEOPLE'S PARTY II

Several Houston radical and liberal groups have joined together to form a Coalition for the Defense of People's Party II. The coalition has issued a statement claiming that Carl Hampton's slaying was a set-up, that People's Party members and supporters did not shoot first and that Hampton was singled out for assassination.

A rally is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, at Emancipation Park, Elgin and Dowling, across the street from Peoples Party II headquarters.

As we go to press, the following groups have joined the coalition: Peoples Party II, Mexican-American Youth Organization, UH MAYO, John Brown Revolutionary League, Space City Collective, Houston Welfare Rights Organization, Cooperative High School Independent Press Service, Texas Southern University student body, UH Committee for a Human Environment, UH Young Democrats, UH Young Socialist Alliance, Women's Liberation Front, Houston Women's Liberation Study Group, Youth International Party of Houston.

Another coalition, composed entirely of black groups including Afro-Americans for Black Liberation, Hope Development, Urban League, Harris County Council of Organizations and NAACP, has formed to protest the murder of Carl Hampton.

The group is demanding the firing of Police Chief Herman Short. It is also organizing a boycott of downtown stores.

Wednesday evening, July 29, the Houston Welfare Rights Organization held a rally and expressed militant solidarity with Peoples Party II.

The whole world is watching, the whole world is watching.

...and another murder...

Two Houston police patrolmen vamped on the black community again Tuesday, July 28. This time they didn't even get the man they were looking for.

The cops spotted Archie Sayles of Brazoria, Texas, walking down the street near the intersection of Scott and Holman. They thought that he resembled a suspect in a forgery case, and they tried to stop him on the street.

Sayles ran into a cafe, and tried to run out the back door. One cop ran through the front door and shot Sayles. Sayler then ran out the back door and was shot by the other cop.

Both patrolmen claim that Sayles was carrying a gun. Witnesses to the shooting, however, did not see Sayles with a gun.

The two cops were W.E. Reed, 25, and Paul Michna, 23.

TRAP...

Cont. from 3

Because of their "highly questionable behavior," says police, they shouldn't be trusted. "Each of these characters have clearly demonstrated that he is either a damn fool or a pimp for the 'man,' or both."

The Voice of Hope is published by Rev. Earl Allen, who is co-chairman of the Black Coalition, an amalgam of mostly black groups who have been meeting in protest of Carl Hampton's killing.

What Now ...

Cont. from previous page

struggle at all.

Bartee Haile told KPFT radio Monday, July 27, "I feel that the movement in the city of Houston has to at this point fight for its life. And that means by any means necessary. John Brown will not be leaving this city. I'm sure People's Party will not be run out of town. I'm sure MAYO and other people won't. So at this point we must be prepared to fight for our lives. And it is a war.

"If people ask what am I for, I'm advocating our survival and getting the truth to the people. And more of us will be shot and more of us will be killed. But we must go on.

People's Party II may be having a hard go for a while. We can't let People's Party die as a result of Carl's death. We can't let things fizzle out the way they did after Lee Cito was put away. Anyone in this city who claims to be in the movement has to give People's Party time, money and if necessary, armed support. And our support for the Party must be total and unequivocal.

One thing that really hit me, something I have known for years but hadn't thought much about lately, is that if I, if we, don't live our lives fighting this American monster that killed Carl, that is killing people all over this world, that is destroying the planet, that is twisting people's minds -- well, then our lives aren't worth shit.
IN NEW YORK

Puerto Ricans Free Hospital

NEW YORK (LNS)—"My aunt died of a wrong blood transfusion." "My friend’s mother died of hepatitis from a dirty needle."

"My brother broke his arm and had to wait two hours in the hall before a doctor came out."

The people speaking were all under 12 years old and all Puerto Rican. They were sitting around a table in the basement lunchroom of the liberated Lincoln Hospital, taking part in a political education class run by Denise Oliver, Minister of Finance of the Young Lords.

At 6:30 that morning, a group of about 200 Puerto Rican men and women from the YLP, Health Revolution, Uprising Movement, a city-wide radical union of black and Third World health workers, and the Think Lincoln Committee made up of workers and patients from Lincoln, returned the hospital to the people of their community. Among their demands were door-to-door health services for preventive care, sanitation control, nutrition, drug addiction rehabilitation and child care, day care and senior citizens’ services, a permanent 24-hour-a-day ambulance, and an end to the $140 minimum wage for all workers.

Hours later, hundreds of people were streaming in through the front door to get free tests for tuberculosis, iron deficiency, anemia and lead poisoning. Curious patients looked up at the ancient dirty building that could easily pass for a warehouse and saw a health care facility with flying doves and banners in the window proclaiming, "Welcome to a hospital!"

Lincoln Hospital is located in an industrial area of the South Bronx (a borough of New York City), on the edge of one of the largest, most rundown areas in Puerto Rican ghetto in the city. Leaflets handed out to the press explained that the Lincoln is a hospital only but a butcher shop that sells patients and frustrates workers from serving those patients. This is mainly because Lincoln exists under a capitalist system that only exists for profit. But even this system made an attempt at scrapping this butcher shop by convincing this building 26 years ago.

"Now we are prepared to show how, in a socialist society, institutions SERVE all people."

Members of the press buzzed around in the large ground floor auditorium of the nurses’ residence, the main building occupied. The 10 o'clock press conference was held in the Young Lord’s unique style. Yoruba (Pablo Yoruba Guzman), Minister of Information, presented himself on schedule, dressed like the other leaders for the occasion, in a long white medical coat.

Before the conference officially began, Yoruba announced the Lord’s support for the current strike of TV cameramen and asked all scab news men to split.

PRESS: Okay, conditions at Lincoln are bad, but isn’t it just rhetoric?

HRUML representative: I’ll tell you why, it’s a butcher shop. People come in here after getting stabbing in the stomach and have to wait for an hour in the corridor holding in their in-"tes" and their hands. People with broken bones line the hallways and get no medication for pain while they wait for their beds to be set. People who have been in automobile accidents arrive in an ambulance and there’s no wheelchair and no stretcher so they have to be dragged in to wait with the others in the hall. Come in here on a Friday or Saturday night, go to the emergency room and see for yourself the blood flowing and splattering all over the walls.

PRESS: Okay, now we know things are bad at Lincoln Hospital, but why the take-over? A couple of weeks ago, you took a TB truck, last January you seized a church. Are you planning to go on taking buildings?

THINK-LINCOLN COMMITTEE’s Yoruba Turrent was asked to respond. For months there was garbage piled on the corner of 162nd Street and Cortlandt right outside of this hospital. We complained, we petitioned, we called the mayor’s office. Nothing was done. Addicts from all over town came here to get their dirty needles in the rubble. One day we decided to act. We moved the garbage into the office of Dr. Antanno, the hospital adminis- trator. That same day the garbage got removed.

PRESS: Well, all these extremist things you’re saying are all well and good. But isn’t it true that you have to compromise when it comes right down to what’s going to happen with this hospital?

Gloria Cruz, Health Lieutenant of the YOUNG LORDS PARTY answered quickly and firmly: "No compromise on the health of our people."

On the second floor, in the psychiatric out-patient clinic, Mrs. Catherine Hamptonico of the South Bronx sat in the waiting room. What did she think of the take-over? "I think it’s gonna be an improvement," she said. "This place can’t get worse. Yesterday they told me to come in here for my medicine. I waited for an hour and then they told me they couldn’t find my chart. I’ve already come three times just for medicine and I haven’t got it yet.

After four and a half hours, negotiations between the Lords and the mayor’s men broke down. It seems that just as Mayor Lindsay’s smoothie spokesman were agreeing to move the patients out of the area, a plainclothesman sneaked into the room and started to drag a Lord brother out. The Lords exploded, stormed out of the meeting and called another press conference.

Once again, by now 6:30 in the after- noon, the press and Lords followers jammed into the auditorium. This was the room where the testing had been carried on all day long and reporters who might have missed it before, now couldn’t help but see the medical scale and the long table with supplies set up just below the stage.

Many of those in the room were teenagers, tough street kids from all over like the Bones, the Skulls, and the Savage Seven. They listened as Yoruba ran the meeting through all that had just happened, how the city had shown bad faith.

"We will defend this hospital," he said. "We will hold the hospital. They still have to come in here and take us as we serve our people."

But that’s not what happened, and the less political street gangs who took Yoruba’s challenge to the cops seriously, learned a mind-blowing tactical lesson.

As bulldozers of Tactcal Patrol Squad and Special Events cops parked in front of the hospital, and Spanish-speaking plainclothesmen in sandals mingled with reporters waiting for the bloody bust, groups of Lords left the hospital a few at a time. One brother who had a large Afro, dark glasses and was still wearing the long white coat, was hoisted by a radio newswoman on his way out. "Hey man," the Lord told him, ‘I’m in a hurry. Go to the next building to per- form surgery."

By the time the 150 helmeted per- sonnel charged through the door of the hospital, there was no one im- prisoned other hospital employees. Not one Lord left. Someone said it seemed absurd, like an old Keystone comedy; the police captain, not bellied and pompous, leading his men back out again still in formation. A hundred and fifty cops to remove one Puerto Rican flag from a hospital roof.

The hospital occupation lasted a little over 12 hours, that’s all. New York radio and TV news broadcasts flashed stories of the terrible con- ditions at Lincoln all day long. Newspapers from coast to coast carried the story. The Associated Press quoted Dr. Antanno Lacoctt, saying that the Lords did a service to the community by dramatizing conditions at Lincoln.

Favorable publicity pushed the cops into declaring charges against Yoruba and Luis Perez who they had obvious disappearance of pure frustration after taking the hospital empty.

The next day, a complaint at Lincoln was operating and 75 hospital employees turned out for a meeting to begin figuring out how to return Lincoln to the people for good.
by Chickenheart

Mathis, Texas is a very ordinary farm town, located on the edge of the fertile Rio Grande Valley (known to growers as "The Valley"). There is only one business which keeps the valley alive — farming. Farming, however, has become highly competitive lately, and the growers have tried to cut costs everywhere they can to keep up the profits. One area where they have been highly successful in keeping costs low is in their labor force — the migrant workers.

The migrants in the valley are mostly Chicanos who are poorly educated and forced to take any work they can get. The growers know this, and they are able to make the Chicanos' misfortune into extravagant profits.

The Chicanos suffer all of the traditional indignities of the poor in America. A second-rate education, hunger, disease, racism and a power structure that profits off of the misfortune of others. Their suffering is incredible, and to the average migrant, there is no way out.

Doctor Pete Logan, a resident of Mathis, was doing his best to combat the disease, racism and non-education which oppresses the Chicanos. He was active in the school system, and he managed a free clinic for migrant workers, funded by a $45,000 grant. In fact, he had first-hand knowledge of the poverty of the Chicanos and the need for other public officials (and the growers) by speaking out against the systemic oppression. Dr. Logan was doing his best to help the poor, and he was killed by a policeman for "attempting to escape" from a supposedly escape-proof prison.

I attended a meeting called by Dr. Logan’s family and the local MAYO, held to discuss what the people were going to do about the shooting. Speakers included Dr. Logan’s father and his brother; Carlos Guerra, national chairman of MAYO; Yolanda Birdwell, spokeswoman for Houston MAYO; and several residents of Mathis.

The speakers, talking to a crowd of about 2,000 people, discussed the possible solutions to the problems of the migrant workers. They urged the crowd to attend a march protesting Dr. Logan’s death on August 9.

I talked with Greg Salazar, Houston MAYO, after the meeting, and discussed the impact of Dr. Logan’s death on the Chicanos.

An interview with Greg Salazar of Houston MAYO.

Mr. Wexler: What is MAYO involved in the incident, and what has the local Chicano response been to your coming here?

Greg: Dr. Logan’s family wants to give the FBI a chance to investigate the shooting, and see if they are going to do anything about it, to bring justice to the whole affair. It seems doubtful that the FBI will do anything about it; they’ve never done anything before, and the only reason anything at all is being done is because of the strong protest.

Some of the Gringos in this country are really scared, and they are boarding up their windows and preparing for a race war. They say that they are especially afraid that MAYO will stir up things by bringing in outside agitators.

This isn’t true at all; MAYO is not leading the protest nor trying to stir things up. We have proceeded with a lot of restraint, and we will stop if Dr. Logan’s parents feel that the FBI has brought justice to the whole thing.

Right now we are planning a march on Sunday, Aug. 9. If we feel that justice is being done, the tone of the march will definitely be non-violent, and we will hold to mourn Dr. Logan. Otherwise, if we feel that justice has not been done, we will march in protest. We invite MAYO’s from all over the state to participate in the march.

Mr. Wexler: Can you give me a brief outline of the circumstances of Dr. Logan’s death?

Greg: Well, I’ll give you the facts that we know. Dr. Logan was drunk, firing a gun into the ground in a restaurant parking lot. When the police drove up, Dr. Logan unloaded the gun and gave it to the deity.

He was then put in a patrol car made for carrying prisoners. The car does open from the inside, and there is a wire screen separating the front and the back seats. Dr. Logan was also not handcuffed, which was strange as the cop knew he was drunk.

The cop claims that Dr. Logan somehow escaped from the car and fought with him, and that he had to shoot Dr. Logan twice in self-defense. The car that the cop was driving was immediately put on another assignment, and no one can examine it until two days after the shooting. An autopsy also showed no bruises on Dr. Logan’s body, so the story about the fight seems improbable. The whole incident seems bizarre, and all we are demanding is an impartial investigation. We will be back Aug. 9 for the march, and we only want justice.

Chicano Moratorium
In Houston

Sunday, July 26, Chicanos from the Houston barrios and from across the state took to the streets of Magnolia for the first time over the Vietnam issue. Approximately 1200 Raza participated in the march and Invas (rally) at Hidalgo Plaza.

The Junta consisted of a cross section of the Chicano community. As the march proceeded down the avenues of the barrio, both young and old were attracted to the spectacle of LA RAZA (UNDA) marching in respect for the Chicanos who have fallen in Vietnam and marching to demand that our brothers be brought home — immediately and not in pine boxes.

Marchers carried banners, 25 crosses representing the Houston Chicano dead, and a black casket that symbolized the total 8,000 Chicanos dead in Vietnam. Marchers sang the leftist version of "Sun God and Chicano Atehu," and chanted "Raza Si!" and "Chicano Power!"

At the start of the rally, Herman Guerrero spoke, and then the Chicano Junta made the traditional march from the plaza to Hidalgo Plaza.

"Radical Chicano Atehu," the Junta, ended by driving into the streets, and the crowd of 10,000 people was divided into small groups to march.

Thus the first Chicano Moratorium ended, but La causa continua.

-Pedro Vasquez
Commissioners
Play Politics
With WRO

The Houston Welfare Rights Organiza-
tion (WRO) confronted the Harris County
Commissioners Court for the fourth time last Monday concerning the inad-
tuital and inhuman conditions at the
Elcer St. food stamp distribution
center.

First, Pamela Johnson presented the
group's official statement, then Mary
Davis related several specific incidents
such as:

* the stamp center pig slap ping a
pregnant woman.

* the pig pulling "agitators" out of
line and holding their cards for
several hours. (Agitators" are invariably WR
O leaders like Perri Harris).

* exploiters charging 15 cents for
a glass of water; the women are afraid
to leave their place in line and aren't
allowed inside the building out of
the hot sun.

At this point Commissioner Bill
Elliot showed his ass for the first time:
"Are you sure it wasn't flavored
water?" Honest, he said that.

Next, Mrs. Hernandez related an in-
cident where a woman came to the
center three successive days and wait-
ed in line all day only to be turned
away at closing time. After three days
of paying baby sitters and transportation
costs, she didn't have enough
money for her stamps. Partial pur-
chases are not allowed.

Comm. Elliot showed it again:
"That's not fair! But we don't make
those rules and the people at the cen-
ter do their best. However, I do under-
stand the problem, especially when
these women's husbands go out and
drink the money up in beer."

Picus Judge Bill Elliot, a political foe
of Comm. Bill Elliot interjected: "I
couldn't face myself the rest of the
day if I didn't voice my resentment
and opposition to Mr. Elliot's inad-
tuital imbroglio."

Come, Elliot: "That wasn't imbroglio,
that was a statement of fact.

From the floor, Mrs. Hernandez:
"If I had a husband, I wouldn't be
here today, but my children will be
educated and won't be fooled by peo-
ple like you."

Comm. Elliot: "You don't under-
stand the judge."

Mrs. Hernandez: "I understand you.
You're the one on TV griping about
us."

At this time WRO and friends left
the chambers. Waiting outside were
an administrative assistant to the
courthouse and Jack Pickering, representing Judge
Elliot's opponent in an upcoming
election.

Pickering said to Mrs. Hernandez:
"Judge Elliot was just using you to
play politics. You're caught in the
middle." Unreal. Pimping for a can-
didate, and he says Elliot is "just
using you" to play politics.

Meanwhile, the administrative assis-
tant has another group cornered: "The
commissioner didn't mean anything
the way it sounded. That's just his
way of talking. Gosh, I've only been
here two weeks, but I've learned how
complicated the politics of this court
are."

What he didn't do was offer any
help. The people left the circus the
way they came -- with an inhuman
Elcer St. run by a slip-sappy pig

Where was their support?

-Pete Rowland


Welfare Mothers
Fed Up

A STATEMENT OF HOUSTON WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
MADE TO HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, July 20, 1970

We the members of Houston Welfare Rights Organization are fed up with the administration of the Harris County food-stamp program. We demand an end to the brutal and inhuman conditions that we have been subjected to at the Elder Street distribution center.

ELDER STREET TODAY

This month the food stamps lines at Elder Street are longer than anyone had forseen. Some of our members have gone to Elder Street early in the morning for three days in a row and still were unable to buy their stamps because the office did not have enough employees and facilities to issue stamps to everyone. Those who arrive very early have to risk robbery because they carry substantial amounts of money to pay for their stamps when there is no guard outside to protect them. The sick and the elderly still have received no special consideration. One Red Cross worker reported that ten times he has brought disabled people to Elder Street only to have to take them back home because they were too ill to wait in line. And this month is only an indication of what is to come.

ELDER STREET IN THE FUTURE

No end to the increase in the stamp lines is in sight. There are some 372,000 people eligible for food stamps here in Houston. Presently 13,000 families are participating in the program with another 1500 being certified every month. At this rate the number of participants will double in eight months, but probably sooner because a low estimate of the stable number of participants is about 55,000 families -- over four times the present number. There is no way the present allocation can cope with this demand.

THE INJURY

When food stamps can not be sold, everyone from the participant and the wel-
fare institutions to the local economy suffer. A family which does not buy its
food stamps once month is by definition subject to malnutrition. The welfare
institutions then have to cope with more illness and an increase in the rates.
Also this month food stamp bonuses brought about $870,000 to Harris County.
Note that food stamps are not free; people pay up to 30% of their monthly in-
come for them.

OUR DEMANDS

First, we feel that Commissioners Court's hiring of five new workers is not
enough. A better estimate would be about twice that figure in cashers alone. But we do not want to discuss the number of workers.
1) We demand that special offices be established for the sick and the elderly
and for expectant mothers of five or six months. If a person is too sick to stand
in line, he should have a note from his doctor.
2) We demand that protection should be provided for those people who come
very early in the morning to buy their stamps.
3) We demand that adequate shelter from the sun and the elements be
provided.
4) Finally we demand that a minimum of fifteen more distribution centers
should be established in the neighborhoods. They should operate on meaning-
ful days during the month and they should be open at night too. This alone
would shorten lines at Elder Street.

We have called the attention of the people of Houston to the Elder Street
Center three times before -- in October, December and again in April. July is
time overdue for change.
Sargent Clinic–Community Control

People in Sargent have been organizing a community–controlled health-care facility. The clinic, which had a good reason to organize, and their work is beginning to be successful.

Sargent is a small, isolated, predominantly black area north of Houston. People have travel 18 miles and pay more than one dollar in bus fare to get to Ben Taub. Many children are born in taxis before their mothers arrive at Jeff Davis. There are few doctors in the community, and many of them refuse Medicaid. Den- tal care is almost non-existent. Many families drink from wells, with all the danger of polluted water that entails. So it’s not surprising that Sargent has unusually high rates of infant mortality, kidney, respiratory and heart ailments.

In the spring of 1967, Sargent people went to “Meet the Mayor.” They demanded that Louis establish a satellite clinic. After a petition campaign by 200 people in the clinic, the county commissioners, the Hospital District agreed to fund a clinic to provide outpatient services and referrals. The Houston Medical Forum, an organization of black doctors, agreed to manage it, keeping its costs.

The Sargent Clinic Committee chose a clinic site. Volunteers from the community renovated the building within two weeks. The Committee continued to operate, although control of the clinic is in the hands of the hospital board. The Clinic Committee has been able to negotiate the hours of the clinic, to handle consumer complaints, and to organize educational Consumer Forums.

But the clinic could not provide long-term care, or operate as more than an outpatient care and referral center.

When it became apparent, in February of 1969, that the hospital board was planning to construct a Medical Center in Sargent, the Clinic Committee, together with the Civic Club, demanded full participation in all phases of planning.

Since the Medical Center was funded by GED, the hospital board was required to admit “consumer participation in planning.” The Sargent Clinic Committee was invited to attend that meeting—although they might have been satisfied with a few public hearings—hence, no participation.

As it stands now, the “Sargent Medical Center” will be controlled by a community–elected board. The Board will have control of site and personnel selection, and will oversee Medical–Controlled Services. The clinic itself will provide complete health care up to hospitalization for some 30,000 people in the Sargent area. At the insistence of community people, the staff will include nutritionists, nutritionists, home visitors, health advocates, homemaking specialists, and dietitians.

Most of these workers will be recruited from the community. Staff also include directors, nurses, dentists, psychiatric workers, parents and social workers. Again, community people will be recruited and trained for these jobs whenever possible.

Recently, the Sargent Clinic Committee made a move toward becoming a city-wide focus for health care organizing. County Commissioners had refused a seven-hike in the real estate tax rate, “compromising” with a three cent increase. Without a six cent increase, improvements such as expansion of maternity wards and purchase of additional coronary care units were impossible. Some of the commissioners’ decision were immediately visible. Within a week, babies at JD were being kept in disposable cribs—read cardboard boxes—and women were being sent home within 24 hours of delivery.

The Sargent Clinic Committee joined with other local organizations under the Sargent Medical–Consumer’s Group and went before the commissioners with the Medical Forum, asking for a 3.5 cent increase so that maternity care could be expanded. The commissioners simply refused. As Fred Goggin, chairperson of the group, put it, “They were just afraid to spend the money.” Another town, Mrs. Carr, described the three cent increase as “like trying to clean a white refrigerator with just one sponge.”

The Sargent community’s fight for decent medical care has a lot of appeal to Houston people who are interested in setting up free clinics. First of all, the Sargent people worked through negotiations with the hospital board and other government agencies. Their progress was slow. Remember, the fight started three years ago—when the last clinic in the Medical Center had been closed. Three years is a long time to wait.

Second, the Sargent people have been increasingly aware of the need for consumer control of health services, as opposed to simple “involvement.” The elected Community Board will have extensive control over the Medical Center, while the Clinic Committee has only advisory powers.

Finally the Sargent community has shown that poor people understand their health needs, and are able, given some resources, to deal with them. It was the community that demanded that separation and nutrition be included in the Medical Center. The community also insisted that people from the neighborhood must be hired to deal with the health problems they face every day.

The Sargent Medical Consumer’s Group will be holding a forum on community clinics Aug. 7. If you’d like to attend, you’d better get in touch with the Sargent people, contact Fred Gagnon or Fred Harris at 674-3338.

Even a bird will fall from a branch and die without having felt sorry for itself.
PEOPLES PARTY II
PLATFORM

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.

We believe that black people will not be free until we are able to determine our destiny.

2. We want full employment for our people.

We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the white American business will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all of its people and give a high standard of living.

3. We want an end to the robbery by the capitalists of our Black Community.

We believe that this racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two miles. Forty acres and two miles was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities. The Germans are now aiding the Jews in Israel for the genocidal of the Jewish people. The Ger-

man murdered six million Jews. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million black people; therefore, we feel that this is a modest demand that we make.

4. We want decent housing. Fit for shelter of human beings.

We believe that if the white government will not give decent housing to our black community then the housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that our community, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for its people.

5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society.

We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society.

We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If a man does not have knowledge of himself and his position in society and the world, then he has little chance to relate to anything else.

6. We want all black men to be exempt from military service.

We believe that black people should not be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not fight and kill other people of color in the world who, like black people, are being victimized by the white racist government of America. We will protect ourselves from the force and influence of the racist police and the racist military, by whatever means necessary.

7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of black people.

We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by or-
ganizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self-defense.

8. We want freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.

We believe that all black people should be released from the many jails and prisons because they have not received a fair and impartial trial.

9. We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their poor group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Census takers of the United States.

10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace.

And as our major political objective, a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their national destiny.

YOU CAN KILL A REVOLUTIONARY, BUT YOU CAN’T KILL THE REVOLUTION
Women in History

Harriet Tubman

REVOLUTIONARY CONDUCTOR OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

by Sue Davis

Only one woman in American history ever planned and led a military campaign, a campaign that was a total victory. Although she was not given the full credit she deserved for scouting, organizing and executing this maneuver, Harriet Tubman’s successful battle of June 2, 1863 was later acclaimed as one of the most stirring of the Civil War.

Today we can salute Harriet Tubman properly for her role, not only in advancing the black liberation struggle, but also in providing an example of militant womanhood. Harriet Tubman dedicated her life to freeing her people and to care for their children. In doing so, she used her natural abilities and acquired skills. Truly, she is worth of the “freest citizen of the world,” for she acted as few other American women, as furthering humanity’s fight for freedom, justice and equality.

Her fight began during her youth. At fifteen (she calculated 1820 as the year of her birth), she refused to tie up a slave for a beating and stepped into a doorway to prevent an overseer from pursuing the black man who ran for his freedom. Enraged, the overseer hurled a two-pound weight at her which struck her in the forehead. But the black man had escaped. After many months the wound healed, but it left a large indentation in her head. The trauma left Tubman’s brain caused her to suffer sleeplessness several times each day throughout the rest of her life. Her determination to end slavery was constantly renewed by her own physical reminder of slavery’s brutality.

During her convalescence, her resistance strengthened as she thought of her past years of hard work, of her frequent beatings, and of the cruelty of her master. But she also thought about people as she recalled in later life, “I had seen their tears and sighs, and I had heard their dreams, and I would give every drop of blood in my veins to free them.” Initially, she prayed that her master be changed. But when she learned that he wanted to sell her to a chain gang, her prayer changed: “O Lord, if you aren’t ever going to change that man’s heart, kill him, Lord, and take him out of the way.”

Harriet adopted the religion that inspired Nat Turner and Denmark Vesey, the philosophy that promoted extensive social change. She learned to think critically within that religious framework, and through it she became determined to seek her freedom and the freedom of her people.

In 1849 she did seek her freedom. Fleeing one night from her Maryland home, Bucktown in Dorchester County, Harriet Tubman left her husband of five years (Frederick John Tubman did not share her hatred of slavery) and she struck out alone across the unknown lands in search of freedom. She was aided occasionally along the way, but she relied primarily on her own intelligence, perception, and knowledge of nature to survive. Her first reaction to being in Pennsylvania was: “When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such glory over everything. The sun came like gold through the trees, and I felt like I was in heaven.” Yet soon her thoughts turned to her enslaved family and nation, and she declared: “I had crossed the line of which I had so long been dreaming. I rippled up; I was in the middle of the stream. I landed on the other side of slavery.”

Harriet worked hard and did much in the underground to help others. She hid her charges on the floor of a cart to get them across the Delaware River bridge at night. In each case she showed her determination to free her people by any means necessary. As she said, “There are two things I’ve got a right to, and these are death and liberty. One or the other I mean to have. No one will take me back alive. I shall fight for liberty and when the time comes for me to go, the Lord will let them kill me.”

Harriet Tubman’s name became associated with the successful exodus of thousands of slaves. Perhaps the best known fact about her is that in all her runs she never lost a passenger: a remarkable, unrecorded record, especially because as more black people escaped, police state repression grew more vicious. She was the chief conductor on the east coast of the underground railroad, a perfect career for a woman who played the role of the short, sturdy woman who was the most famous abolitionist in America.
bar of battles, like the siege of Fort Wagner, the first battle led primarily by black troops. But the most remark-
able activity was the campaign along the Combahee River. In her own words, Harriet Tubman described the event: "Don't you think we colored people are entitled to some of the credit for that exploit, under the lead of the brave Colonel Montgomery? We weakened the rebels somewhat on the Combahee River, by taking and bringing away seven hundred and fifty-six of their most valuable livestock, known up in your region as 'contrabands,' and this, too, without the loss of a single life on our part, though we had good reason to believe that a number of rebels bit the dust. Of those seven hundred and fifty-six contrabands, nearly or quite all the able-bodied men have joined the colored regiments here." The Boston Com-
monwealth reported: "Col. Montgomery and his gallant band of 300 black soldiers, under the guidance of a black woman, dashed into the enemy's country, struck a bold and effective blow, destroying millions of dollars worth of commissary stores, cotton and tallow dwellings, and striking ter-
ror into the heart of rebellion, brought off near 800 slaves and thou-
sands of dollars worth of property, without losing a man or receiving a scratch. It was a glorious consumma-
tion."

Harriet was severely insulted and physically abused as she made her way North at the war's end — a railroad conductor, refusing to recognize her government pass as a robber, forced her to ride in the baggage car. But that was only a hint of the desperate, personal suffering she was to endure as a result of the government's denial of a pension or back pay for her nurs-
ing and soldiering during the war. Yet, she continued to serve her people. By speaking at public meetings, raising money, and selling vegetables and chickens, Harriet used her domestic work, she supported her people in need, especially those who came to her home in Auburn, New York. Aub-

The music.

Stereo 96½

Posters, T-shirts, Watches, Leather Clothes, Blue Jeans, Aprons, Vinegar

“Their’s Going To Be War!”

Harriet’s prediction, “They may say, ‘Peace, Peace!’ as much as they like, I know there’s going to be war!” came true. Although she was critical of Lincoln’s war policy [her approach was “Never wound a snake, but kill it.”] and of the North’s refusal to enlist blacks as soldiers, she aided the North’s war effort by joining the De-
partment of the South, in 1862. She worked at Fort Royal, South Carolina, among her people. Given $200 upon her arrival, she promptly proceeded to build a laundry with it and to organize a washing service so the newly-free black women could become self-sup-
porting. Devoting her time to such activities, Tubman taught, nursed, listened, and encouraged her brothers and sisters. "Most of those coming from the mainland (from South Carol-
ina to the Sea Islands) are very de-
stitute, almost naked. I am trying to find places for those able to work, and provide for them as best I can, so as to lighten the burden of the Government as much as possible, while at the same time they learn to respect themselves by earning their own living.”

Yet her major task was organizing a spy and scouting corps for the General Staff’s Intelligence Service. Wherever she went during the war years, she carried a matched of medical supplies and a rifle. She participated in a num-

This article was taken from the Spring, 1970 issue of Women: A Jour-
nal of Liberation, an outisute quar-
terly publication. It is in desperate need of support, in the form of both women's articles and financial help.


Baltimore, Md. 21218
I

"a place of our

ames sez:

For the last month there has been a constant current of expressions from all levels of the Houston community regarding the present status of rock music presentations here and its relation to those who view it as a very important community event. It's not the "community" here as well as many other persons and organizations.

Most of the expressions have been destructive or critical in content and we at Ames Productions have contributed in that vein as much or more than any other person or organization. All have recognized faults and inadequacies on all sides and are very much responsible for one another's shortcomings. The analysis of the entire situation here has now run its full course. The destructive and critical phase must now yield to a movement of constructive and sincere expressions and action, which is the important must move if anything of change and betterment is to be achieved now.

In the area of the presentation of local and national rock talent here, both in clubs and concerts, and the recognition of rock as a definite media of communication and the desire by some to organize, develop and enlarge an entire rock culture oriented community of people here, I have come to a few basic thoughts that we consider an immediate need and necessity here:

1) The hip community needs to organize an effective means of expressing the view that we, the people here that can be effective in seeing that they have a say over the manner and cost of the music and other related entertainment that is presented in Houston and aimed specifically for their patronage and consumption.

2) There is need for a place here for the professional presentation of local rock talent at a reasonable price and in an atmosphere that allows for audience appreciation and communication, which is free from commercial exploitation by any person or organization. Such a place should be organized and operated on a non-profit basis by people directly concerned with the local hip community.

3) A portion of the money paid by the people here to see and enjoy rock music should be put back into community efforts and projects that are operated for their use and benefit and are non-profit in nature. This should be required of concert productions as well as any locally operated regular presentations of such music.

These ideas were developed after several initial "discussion" meetings between myself and Bob Copas representing Ames Productions and Bill Metzler, who originally contacted me on the premise of what might be done regarding the local rock situation and who served as an important catalyst to the entire effort of all of us to come up with ideas and contributions toward a real community owned and operated project. Other people who have participated to one extent or another in these discussions are the people listed below as the Management Committee.

Basically, we have come to some definite decisions and commitments which we feel can be the beginning for the realization of the objectives mentioned earlier. Our firm commitments are as follows:

1) The new Catacombs at University and Kirby, which we own the lease on and operated until its closing in the early spring, will be re-opened, renamed and will be available for the use and benefit of all the people and organizations within Houston's hip community and will be operated and supervised by a management committee consisting of community people and our representative on a totally non-profit basis.

The monthly lease charges (presently $1250.00, and we are attempting to have that lowered), utilities and any maintenance or repair work requested by the management committee will be the only funds directed to Ames Productions from any receipts taken in at any scheduled event in the building.

2) All funds, other than the rent, utility, maintenance reimbursement, will be placed in a special bank account for the sole distribution to and use of the various local community projects or individual people in the community in need of such assistance.

Any distribution of this money will be by a majority vote of the member management committee that will oversee the entire use and operation of the facility.

Other than myself as one member of this committee, no other agent or employee of management committee will be present or have any final vote or consent to provision whatsoever. The entire membership of this committee is listed below.

All records and distributions of the operation and the fund will be kept current and will be available for audit as may be requested by any concerned party.

3) The name selected by those organizing the project is "Of Our Own" and will be the name. The name has been in the minds of people who have been working for many months toward this type community project.

4) "Of Our Own" will be operated on a seven day schedule generally as follows:

Monday and Thursday — Open nights. Any type activity may be scheduled; it is none is set, then it will not be open on those nights.

Tuesday — Auditions. Groups or individuals will perform and will be paid for performance. Open to the public from 8-12 A.M. and a $1.00 donation will be charged.

Wednesday — Open Forum — a town hall type meeting or discussion session open to the public. Any individual or group may present any plans, activities or other matters to those in attendance. The only restriction on any speaker or group is that they conduct their activities within the law and notify the management committee of their desire to make a presentation.

Friday and Saturday — Open to public from 8 P.M. - 2 A.M. Rock music presented each night featuring local and regional individuals and groups. $2.00 donation each night. If a nationally known act is scheduled by the management committee, a slightly higher donation may be requested.

5) All sound, movie projector and screen, lights and other equipment we maintain there will be available for use on request with no charge or rental required. It will be necessary for our representative to operate the equipment; however, the Management Committee as initially organized, is as follows:

R.C. Ames — Ames Productions
Dennis Fitzgerald — Space City
Bill Metzler — Musician
Linda Eubanks — Food Club
Mike Harris — formerly of Love Street
John Bartelt — Good Relations
Vicki Moreland — Inlet
Mike Dunham — Sonic Productions
George Banks — formerly of the Family Hand

With the above in motion, we are planning on an opening within the next two to three weeks. I have set no timetable or trial period as far as acceptance and attendance by the public, but we all agree that within several months we should have a good idea of the people's attitude toward this project.

Additionally, we are now working on an idea toward a Promoters — People agreement regarding any future rock concerts that may be held in Houston. Such an agreement would set a fair-to-all price range on tickets and would cover other matters regarding the manner of presentation of these acts and what is expected of the Houston audience who attend the events.

Upon completion of such a set of standards, it will be presented to all promoters and the public. It is hoped that it will be broad and fair enough for all to accept and abide by. Such a cooperative effort can be an important step in bringing about a new mutually beneficial relationship between area concert promoters and the public that patronizes their events.

It should be obvious that these projects have been sincerely undertaken to directly benefit the Houston community, and, in turn, are going to require the full support of the people here if they are to develop and survive at all.

If these projects are faced with the past Houston apathy and indifference, then a lot of effort on your behalf by sincere and dedicated people will be in vain.

We are pleased to be able to contribute our part in this project and certainly the contributions, suggestions and ideas of others are welcome and needed.

Richard C. Ames

A NEW CONCEPT IN NON-ESTABLISHMENT CLOTHING

WE TOO MARQUEE

2476 TIMES IN THE VILLAGE

14
We definitely need a place where we can come together in large numbers without being intimi-
dated. We need to do this in order to formulate a
sense of our own identity and of our proper strug-
gle.

A place of our own we can structure around
our own needs. A place of our own can be turned to
any cultural or organizational use we want:
movies, rock, theater, speakers, rallies, classes,
community meetings. We can do free things when we
want to and low admission or donation things
when we have to.

And if we support it in sufficient numbers we
can concentrate enough skills and breed to build
and sustain critical survival institutions: Switch-
boards, inlets, medical centers, day care centers,
schools, food co-ops, free stores, mechanics' co-
ops, artist's co-ops, breakfast programs... we
can teach each other, and we can learn from each
other.

One of the major stumbling blocks in this deal
is the concept of community control. The "Man-
gement Committee" doesn't really represent
much more than the people who are on it. It's
simply a group of people who were collected be-
cause they had a variety of skills and contacts.
Ideally, this is a temporary group, and ways
will soon be found to define exactly what it is that
such a group should do and to democ-
ratize the whole situation. (Cautionary Advice:
Sometimes when the State don't whither away
exactly like it oughts, a little Push by the people
can help things along.)

One thing for sure: this ain't the revolution.
This is a business arrangement with a man who
calls himself a Nixon Republican. You can't al-
avays get what you want, but... sometimes you
just might find, you get what you need. Dig it!

Dennis Fitzgerald

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PASS THIS COPY ON TO A FRIEND

Dedication: This album is dedicated to the people in our struggle to bring sanity to the world now; to NASA
for getting the people to the moon, thus giving the world a new chance to expand together universally
in peace; to Johnny Cash & Paul McCartney for their integrity in times of darkness; and to President Nixon;
"We love you cuz you need it." Peace, brothers & sisters, music proves that there can be peace of minds
even in these trying times. It is the gentlest form of communication, so we hope that you will enjoy these
songs and that you'll pass this copy on to a friend when you've "Gotten the Message." Steve Miller
by Jim Ong

If you buy Edgar Winter’s album ENTRANCE expecting the brand of blues that Johnny and the boys have been laying down, you will be surprised, maybe unpleasantly so. There is no relief and nothing to be found here, but approached from a different direction, this album is full of rewarding music, and really wailing on its own terms.

The most interesting thing to note is that all selections, with the exception of Tobacco Road, were written jointly by Edgar and Johnny Winter, and the album was produced solely for Epic by Edgar, and as a debut, it is impressive and full of imagination.

Sail On, called Winter’s Dreams, is a free-flowing menace of songs, carried along by Edgar’s high, versatile, almost eerie voice, and punctuated by some jazzed allover solos by Edgar. Plenty of orchestration, all arranged nicely and unpretentiously.

Indeed, the whole stance of the album is jazz, with a deep commitment to the blues and the tone is for the most part melancholy and tinged by this man’s unique brand of blues. The promise of things to come from the Winters has been greatly magnified by Edgar Winter’s ENTRANCE.

On the other hand, Steve Miller is a proven artist. His first four albums on Capitol were excellent, and it must be to his credit that through personnel problems, the Band always consisted of top-notch musicians. And Miller’s vocals and guitarwork have been as good as anyone around. Unfortunately Steve Miller Band’s NUMBER FIVE is a grand disappointment. There’s just not enough of that Miller brilliance, and the compositions are bland and all sound vaguely familiar.

NUMBER FIVE was produced in Nashville, without the expert hand of Glyn Johns, which may account for some fiddle, banjo, and harmonica being present, and a minimum of that vigorous brand of Miller guitarwork.

And the electronic effects, which have always been the band’s real forte, are sadly lacking. Where are the space cowboy and children of the future singing the songs for our ancestors? The cut which should be the strongest, the seven-minute Jackson-Kent Blues, is so overloaded with echo and reverberation and the vocal so underdone, as to make it impossible to understand the lyrics, and even annoying to listen to.

This is really unfortunate, for the Steve Miller Band has always been one of my favorites, and from the very first cut, Good Morning, written and sung by new bassist Bobby Windesman, I knew something was amiss. Only the moody Latin Steve Miller’s Midnight Tango saves the album from outright boredom. But that’s not nearly enough compensation from such an established creative force like Steve Miller.

School is only about a month away. Unlike last year, we’re not going to wait till the last minute to get ourselves together. We need to act now.

Those who showed up at the last meeting of people interested in doing high school work decided that to organize effectively we must start with a high school office. The functions of the office would be many — people doing newspaper work could work there (typing, layout, using the files, etc.), the office could act as a communications center; we could have a room where people could just sit and rap; we might even have a watermelon patch there. In short, the office would serve as a focal point for the high school and junior high movement in Houston, a place where many things can and will happen.

But none of this will happen by the efforts of a few. If you’re willing to help, read on; if not, stop here.

There are many supplies we will need before we can even start: desks, file cabinets (especially file cabinets), typewriters, a tape recorder, chairs and couches for the rap room, and all kinds of office and drafting (for newspaper layouts) supplies. And if we couldn’t get photography equipment, we could set up a darkroom for people to use. Please check around your house and see if you can find any of these supplies, because we must have them before we can really get going.

But for now, the most important thing we need is money, so that we can rent a place for the office, and get a phone and electricity. Right now, we have absolutely no money. Everything we get is going to have to come from students and other people who want to have a strong student movement in Houston this year. We’re going to need to get about $200 a month, and what we’d like to do is get 200 people in the Houston area, both students and adults, who will each pledge to give $1 a month to help us with this office. A dollar isn’t going to break anybody, but when we get all those dollars together, they’ll help us make a really strong Houston student movement.

No more sittin’ around just talking about things; no more sittin’ around just thinking about what we’re gonna do and never doing anything. Those days are gone. Seize the time!

WHERE TO CONTACT US:

If you are interested in helping, or would like more information, please call O’Hara (522-9769) and leave your name and number. We’ll call you back as soon as possible.

Bad Trip

Inlet, a drug crisis center which opened just a few weeks ago, finds it has a tiger by the tail. Community response is so great that Inlet needs help to serve those in need.

Open 24 hours a day, Inlet helps people on a bad trip — who need a place to crash or who just want to talk to someone who understands.

At Inlet the phone rings all day and far into the night on a dedicated phone. People who have been through similar experiences, answer the phone. But the hours are long, the people too few. At best they sleep in cat naps. More volunteers are needed now. Experience is helpful, but inexperienced people can learn and are wanted.

Tools for making furniture and repairing appliances are also needed. Because crash space is limited, lofts and bunks are being built to increase the sleeping area.

As with any growing community project, bread is needed. No salaries are paid, but the rent has to be paid, as well as the incendiaries that keep a house going.

If you need Inlet, come to 708 Hyde Park, or call 526-7925. If necessary we will pick you up. Inlet is a sanctuary where your identity is your own business. If you have your own personal problems (drugs, housing, employment, school, etc.) rap with us; we’ll work out the answers together.

Inlet is your house. The people are your people. It’s your lifestyle. Help keep Inlet going and growing. Donate money or your energy today.

Mike
America has a long tradition of vigilante paramilitary violence. Usually, it has been directed against blacks and Third World people, poor whites and dissident political groups.

In the last several years some of us have come under this type of vigilante attack because of our politics and our life styles. People have been killed in movement offices in Texas, New York, and Detroit. A radical professor was almost knifed to death in his office by an assailant. And, the Easy Rider situation is all too true in many parts of the country.

While such cases of paramilitary right-wing violence have not happened in extremely large numbers, they have occurred often enough to make it worthwhile to acquire some familiarity with firearms. In many situations it is possible to defend yourself successfully. While the legal system is biased against us, nevertheless the law is very much stacked in favor of self defense. For example, if an intruder enters your house with "harmful intent" you are within your legal rights to kill him. Possession of a gun and knowledge of how to use it is sometimes a deterrent in itself. Many people still view hippies and white movement youth as pacifists who don't fight back and can be beaten and attacked with impunity. They must be made to realize that flower children can grow thorns.

In many parts of the country the paramilitary right-wing is not very active. Almost everywhere, the main physical threat has come from the pigs. In most situations, involving confrontations with pigs forces armed defense has not been feasible, since oppression has come primarily through the courts. If the pigs come to your door to arrest you, most people will go along, since armed self defense in this case might mean death, or, a much higher level of oppression in the ensuing court case. If the assailant at your door happens to be an agent of the state, all your unarmed self defense is academic. Yet, if you employ armed self defense you will be tried for murder or attempted murder.

But, as the system becomes more repressive the pigs begin to act beyond their "normal" role of arresting people who are then dealt with through the courts, and instead, begin to function as executioners in the streets. Their attack is direct and physical, and their goal in many cases is to kill. Under these conditions armed self defense becomes necessary.

When the stakes are increased, the risks of armed self defense are preferable to submission that means death.

Black and Third World people have, through white history in this country, been subject to this sort of direct, fascist, physical attack by police. Many instances, from Robert Williams in 1961 to the L.A. Panthers just recently, attest to the fact that armed self defense can be carried out successfully. It seems clear that if Robert Williams had not had a gun, he would have been lynched by whites. If the L.A. Panthers had merely surrender ed at 5 AM, at least some of them would have been executed on the spot. One of the outcomes, of course, is exile or repression in the courts, but it must be understood that death in the streets is the alternative.

Even more important than survival, perhaps, is the fact that these instances of successful defense have made a tremendous political impact in the black community -- demonstrating the possibility of resistance and defense.

This type of fascist police attack with intent to kill has been very rare against whites, but as the contradictions of our society grow more acute, we can expect more of this against whites, and the same lessons apply.

Some people say that guns in the movement are like bullets, because "no one is ready to use them," so that it becomes just one more case of movement rhetoric outstripping reality, making people see us as fraudulent. It is true that there is a lot of talk about guns, armed self defense, armed revolution, etc., in the radical movement, with very little practice along these lines. But this does not mean that we should disown or ignore the question of guns; rather we should become familiar with them and develop realistic attitudes about their use. Too many people have a sort of death trip approach to guns -- they assume that if you acquire a gun, and aren't bullshitting around, then you should prove your convictions via a suicidal shootout in the streets. This is a misconception -- self defense and guns can be one part of revolutionary violence, a more serious movement that develops many means of struggle and resistance. We should also become adept at other forms of self defense, such as karate, judo, etc., which allow a person to defend himself in street confrontations, and we should acquire medical knowledge as well.

In the short run many of us have options available -- we don't have to participate in a radical movement, take risks, get arrested, etc. Many of us, especially whites, can back off, and not feel the repression. But in the slightly longer run, this will not be true. Those around the world who are engaged in armed struggle against the U.S. Leviathan will surely grow and be victorious, and inexorably we will all be drawn in -- either as "part of the solution or part of the problem." If we sympathize with this worldwide struggle, and consider their fight to be our fight, then we should begin now to relate to the tools of worldwide liberation.

**THE M-1 CARBINE**

M-1 Carbine

The M-1 carbine is neither a high power rifle nor a handgun—it is in a class all by itself. It is small (5% less than a normal rifle) and it is simple to use. It is strong, short, semi-automatic, and fires a special cartridge much smaller than the .30-06.

For these reasons it is an excellent weapon for self defense. While it does not have the power or accuracy for very long range shooting, it is simply powerful and accurate at 100 to 150 yards. Because it is a small and short, it can be handled quickly. Another advantage is that it has removable clips, which can hold 30 rounds. You can keep several on hand fully loaded, which gives the carbine a great deal of firepower. Since its sights are similar to a regular rifle, it is a good weapon on which to learn rifle marksmanship.

Good quality U.S. surplus carbine ammo is available for ten cents a round and commercial ammo with soft point bullets is also available. Highly recommended for self defense. Current price is $70 to $90. U.S. surplus, plus two commercial versions made by Universal and Plafinfield are available.
China Shakes The World

Belden, after talking with the peasants, also interviewed the leaders of both armies. He described Chiang Kai-shek as an intransigent, emotionally unstable dictator, surrounded by intrigue and corruption in the higher echelons of government. Mao Tse-tung, however, is revealed as a brilliant leader and an honest, open-minded individual. He had the courage to lead his troops against overwhelming odds, and he had the great ability to topple the centuries old structure of inequality and feudalism in Chinese society.

Mao never pretended to know all the answers and the Communists never made any impossible claims. After defeating the Nationalist army, they humbly stated "we must learn." Instead of speaking to the established power structure in a feudal society, they spoke to the oppressed and the starving people about their day to day life. They avoided rhetoric. (Mao once said "dogma is more useless than cow dung"). They urged the peasants to fight for land reform and equality, instead of urging them to fight against the shadowy concept of imperialism. They were able to show the people that once the western imperialists were defeated, the people would be able to determine their own destiny. The Communists proved over and over again that the only real hope for equality was in fighting for land reform and independence from western society.

Belden shows many instances where the US was guilty of meddlng in the internal affairs of China, only to find that the situation was worse than before. For instance, UN workers who brought relief supplies into China after World War 11, would protest that most of the supplies were being stolen by the Kuomintang soldiers and bureaucrats. Once the supplies fell into their hands, they would appear on the black market at a price few could pay. All of the goods sent into China by the UN were items like food and medicine, supplies which were of no direct military value. Despite this, Chiang refused to send the supplies into any area held by the guerrillas, leaving many people in these areas to starve.

Although this book was written over 20 years ago, it is one of the most important accounts of the Chinese Revolution published in the west. Not only has Belden captured the spirit of the peasants reaching for equality, but he shows that US interference in Asia is not a new phenomenon. He also reveals that the officials dictating US foreign policy haven't become any more competent in understanding the people of Asia. The US will never gain the respect of the people in Asia because our government will support any regime, no matter how corrupt or oppressive, if that regime promises to cooperate.
Gate Crashers Screwing Others

Attention Space City!

What's wrong with today's concert crowds? Don't those who stand outside and demand entrance (free of charge) realize what they're doing?

Their first thoughts are those of victory over the pigs and the producers of the concert. But in reality, they're just sucking up their brother and sister who paid to see a concert. What these people have succeeded in doing is mess ing up Space City's chance of having some great concerts. They quit paying to see concerts. Promoters would just quit giving them. It also gives the promoters an excuse to decline the large security at these concerts. That's something nobody needs or wants. If you want to go to a concert, pay the price, but if the price is too high, stay home, get stoned, do something except force your way into a show.

Maybe, if no one showed up at a concert or enough brothers and sisters complained, the prices might drop. Don't please, don't screw up others because you might think the prices are too high.

Dave Houston

Right on Space City. Your Rug is hitting the right people and hard.

Clapping Ain't Revolutionary

Space City

Up Against the Wall Electric Rocking Horse? (I.A.) If you are dancing in the street it is because someone let you not because you wanted to or because you felt like it. And even then it was probably on a side street or deaded street, not Main Street. If you think clapping hands and dancing around in a circle in front of the Creedence clear was a revolutionary act, you and I are in a different revolution. "Cool it" is definitely dead, but you guys just killed "Do it" too; you embarrassed it to death.

Real power to the people
Terry Bermudez

Houston

Fascist Atmosphere At Concerts

Space City!

We'd like to talk with you about the C.U. concert. The music was fantastic, but unfortunately, the fascist atmosphere put us uptight. We think that the pigs' strategy was really cute, putting black pigs up front and having someone there, too, which they thought would cool things off. This might have reached some of the liberal hippies but as we all know, "A PIG, A PIG, A PIG IS A PIG!"

When we were walking around we saw some of our brothers and sisters sitting on the floor in the aisles, so we decided to join them. To our surprise, they kicked us out, they greeted us saying, "Peace." As we later found out, they were part of the Faithful commune, who were assisting the pigs. Now this really pissed us off. We mean, they move out of the city to a commune where they can smoke dope and take anything and anywhere they want without hassles from the pigs, but then they come back to the city to help the pigs fuck us up! That Family is just a bunch of fascist pigs themselves.

As we were leaving we saw the group of people out front boycotting the prices. We feel that you SPACE CITY people have the right idea, but however you lacked sufficient publicity about it. When the pigs came out and lined up ready to beat the shit out of everybody, we couldn't understand why nobody joined in with you. How the hell can people who know how fascist this country is turn their backs on their own brothers?

We think now it is the time for all of our real brothers and sisters to stand against our common enemy—the Fascist Pigs of America. All Power To the People!

Your Sister,

Ames' Concern IS MONEY!

Space City and all,

Vol. 2 No. 3 (July 4-15) you printed a letter from Richard C. Ames concerning the high Houston prices. Houston was up about the "melee" which had come down at the recent Traffic concert. Mr. Ames comes on very concerned about Houston's hip audience, but I think he shows where his soul is really at when he says: "While restrictions on rock concerts at Houston's Pavillion and Music Hall hurt a concert promoter like myself."

I think your right Mr. Ames is more worried about his money than anything else. This seems to be another exploitation of hip culture. Madison Avenue, the stores, record, film, concert, book companies have realized what a good advertiser and commodity that means something which can be bought and sold hip culture is.

It's so easy to think that these people turned on and have gotten with it. Money makers will sell whatever can be sold, and they will co-opt people too. Alternate culture is a bullshit idea if people are making the same money tops.

An Aquarian

New Mexico

Space City! Ripped Up

Dear Space City,

Today at work I was reading Space City on my lunch hour when this guy I work with walked in and said to me, "I gave it to him and he read the part about Pedro Tomo's The Table. After he finished the story he wanted to finish it up. It made me mad."

Real power to the people
Terry Bermudez

Houston

The Real Pure Blue in Concert

LIGHTNING HOPKINS

8 pm Sunday, Aug 2

UH Liberal Arts Auditorium

Price: $1.50.