



BLACK LIBERATION NEWS

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Cops harass blacks at Alexander Park

Ever since the Sir George Williams incident in Montreal policemen across Canada have been tense and anxiously waiting for their chance to tackle what seems to be any black misdemeanor. Perhaps their thirst is insatiable. The recent incident at Alexander Park in downtown Toronto was no exception.

It started as a quarrel between rival black and Portuguese youth over a white girl whom a Portuguese youth was about to take home. Soon after, a fist fight ensued, which the black youth won.

A crowd gathered, most of it black. Police arrived and attempted to arrest the black youth but his black brothers protected him. Several more police cruisers arrived and again they advanced, this time with swinging clubs. Several people were injured - most of them black, one policeman.

This incident points out some important facts about the Toronto police department's attitude toward the black community.

The Toronto police attitudes are predetermined by events in the United States and are therefore conditioned to deal with any black incident in the severest manner.

The black peoples' assault on the U.S. cities is a well-earned reward for the American imperialist, after years of slavery, colonialism and the most outrageous exploitation of black people known to man. This, though, is only part one of the REVOLUTION that must come!

Despite proximity to the U.S., there is no justification for the Police Department's attitudes toward the black people. The way blacks are treated when arrested, picked up on suspicion or on a disturbance charge stems directly from the policemen's attitudes. Blacks are treated more severely than other citizens.

For instance, on Sunday July 20 the Provincial Police were given a warrant to search a motorcycle gang in Niagara Falls on suspicion of illegal possession of liquor. After searching several tents the police were pelted with bottles and beer cans and booed at - a scene that would

have made the Alexander Park look like a picnic - yet the police were content to call it quits (walk away), making no arrests and laying no charges. At Alexander Park, six or more were arrested, all blacks.

The conclusions to be drawn are plain.



LEONARD BROWN OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS (FROM DRUM-ELRUM) ADDRESSES AUDIENCE AT A BLACK LIBERATION FRONT OF CANADA MEETING - LEONARD WAS ALSO A SPEAKER AT OUR RECENT SEMINARS HELD AT ROCHDALE COLLEGE

BLFC seminar demands

Citizens control of police

The series of political seminars initiated by the BLFC, held at Rochdale College over the July 25-27 weekend, contrary to skeptical press reports in all 3 Toronto dailies, were an unqualified success from the point of view of the Central Committee of our organization. The BLFC as stated time and time again has never concerned itself with being a mass organization and never intends to. Thus, in refutation of the press' innuendos describing us as a 'minority' and splinter group, our stand remains unchanged. We do not intend here to go into the structure of our organization but suffice it to say we consider ourselves a political extension of the Third World struggle raging in the underdeveloped areas. We have indissoluble links with that struggle. Our objective is to educate and spread the word of the political realities of our times and, thru education, watchfulness and exposure, to gear the people to cope with this society and critically analyze the situations in their respective home countries.

Our seminars have been designed with the above objectives in view. We had not limited ourselves to race or class but encouraged all sympathetic and resilient-minded people to partake in our discussions on political and social conditions, and

the Third World Revolution, which too many people are prepared, like the daily press, to shrug off.

Our first day we dealt with racial issues in the United States and their relevance to Canada. In keeping with the July 26th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, our focus was on Latin America and the Third World struggle. Our speakers included representatives from the League of Revolutionary Black Workers in the United States, Central Committee members and a representative from the Canadian student body. We did not measure our success by the number of people attending or the sum of money collected, but rather by the interest generated in political terms and the free discussion ensuing.

In regard to the Citizens' Review Board discussed during the seminar, it is interesting to note in passing that the police are using the Portuguese community against the blacks to recoup their image lost during the universal protest against the Nobrega shooting and the handling of the Nobrega affair. The whole press and police action have been deliberately directed towards the Portuguese in an effort to divide the people in that community.

We in the BLFC throughout our seminars and since our inception have repeatedly stated that unification with progressive forces is welcome. We do not equivocate on this stand. We think strictly in political terms and the political necessity of unity with progressive forces overrides any racial considerations. We welcome help and political contacts.

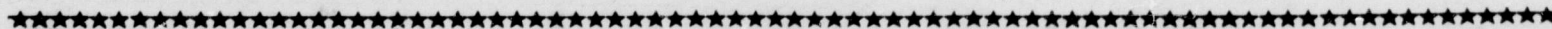
The seminars held at Rochdale developed the organization in political maturity and social realities. We continue ever onwards toward our objectives.

COMMITTEE FOR THE FORMATION OF A CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD

The Black Liberation Front has called for a united front to discuss the increasing excessive force and intimidation used by the Police Department against the citizens of Toronto - as a result a Committee for a Citizens' Review Board was formed. Here is what was discussed at the series of seminars held recently at Rochdale College.

The Committee would be set up to oversee the activities and to act upon complaints by citizens

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ELDRIDGE CLEAVER

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