



SELF-HELP, SELF-EDUCATION = POWER



Random Scenes in the Community Development Day Care Center of Brooklyn, Inc.

By Ted Malino

"Your children . . . are the sons and daughters
of life's longing for itself.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams,
You may strive to be like them, but
Seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday . . .

The Prophet

Kahlil Gibran

At 1310 Atlantic Avenue, two blocks from the Nostrand Avenue stop on the "A" train you will find the Community Development Day Care Center of Brooklyn, Inc. When you enter the first thing that will strike you is the very plain, almost austere atmosphere. Then you will see the quotation above tacked on the wall. If you're aware of the plight of the cities of America; if you are aware of the critically poor conditions of the schools our children are miseducated in; if

you know that throughout the cities, mothers who need to work to break the cycle of poverty in which they have been trapped for generations are forced to stay at home because they have no place to leave their children; if you have witnessed the lack of community involvement in the educational process, and you have been frustrated by a sense of powerlessness; if you are aware of the lack of concern for our children in the public educational system; if you're tired of waiting for an unresponsive government to act in your best interests — go to the Community Day Care

Center of Brooklyn, Inc. You will see 175 children, ranging in age from three (3) months to six (6) years. These children are here from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and are fed three meals a day which are prepared in the manner in which they would be prepared in their homes.

You will see children learning to be proud of themselves as African Americans. You will see children expressing themselves and developing strong personalities within a group where respect for others is emphasized. Missing is the hostility and belligerence you find in the public school setting. You will see discipline here, although the shouting you find in public schools is absent.

There is a warm feeling in the atmosphere. In addition, in a time when public schools are producing high school graduates who read on a ninth grade level, the 4 and 5 year olds at this Center can read and write. To a person who knows what goes on every day in agencies which are supposed to serve the same needs, you cannot fail to be thrilled.

For too many years, poor children, particularly Black children have been exposed to the hos-

tility of their teachers, or the indifference or the condescension of their teachers. For too many years the future of our children and the hope of our people has been left to the untender mercies of the clinical approach of one sociologist after another, as though we were a race of people on a microscopic slide.

Today, we are no longer satisfied with the definitions previously imposed on our lives and the character of our existence by strangers to our communities. Today, we strive for self determination and control over the institutions that affect our lives.

The Day Care Center is a community supported and parent controlled organization. This independent organization was begun in 1967. Initially, there was an attempt at a cooperative venture, including a gas station and a drug store to finance the operation of the Center. This venture did not prove to be a successful and stable means of raising the necessary expenses for the operations of the Center. It was then necessary to find other means of maintaining the Center. Funds

were obtained from a private source and the Center gives Dances and Raffles to raise money for its expenses which include staff's salaries that go no higher than \$6,000 a year and a \$30,000 rental a year for the 20,000 square feet of space that the Center encompasses.

The Center presently has a "tax-free status" which permits contributions to write off their donations as income tax deductions.

The Center was conceived as a practical means of meeting a specific needs of the Black community in which it is based which government had already shown its inability or unwillingness to do. In the writer's opinion, this Center has become a model of the type of institution that all communities could use to their interests; institutions which are controlled by the community itself, which are responsive to the needs of the community and which function through the dedication of individuals who have found a practical significance in their daily lives in working for their communities in their communities.

The 60's and Black America

By Bob Young

The sixties, in America, was the scene of many changes for the Black man. It was the age of the "Long Hot Summer" or better known as the time when the Black Community took their dividends from the people who had been robbing them for years in their communities throughout the nation. This burst of Black energy into a strong external force of violence brought forth a counteraction throughout the nation. New Federal, State and City Programs sprang up in most of the major cities, to remove Black youth from the streets; drawing them into the system and dulling the pangs of frustration and powerlessness that had driven them into the streets in the first place. These programs were accompanied by an increase in the Police Arsenal, Special Tactical Forces, Anti-riot training and Pig pressure served as America's answer to the race riot.

A big challenge came along, following this period, that must have done wonders for locksmiths and gun manufacturers. Black Power became a part of the nation's vocabulary. The mere combination of Black with the word Power brought fear to the racist, guilt-ridden soul of America. What would power mean to a people who had been oppressed for so long? What would this mean to a people who had killed, and raped and humiliated these people for so long? White America turned to the long established Civil Rights organizations and leaders to define the term Black Power. These leaders perceived Black Power as "Green Power," "Vote Power," "Brain Power," but were very careful to stay away from "Gun Power." White America breathed a deep sigh of relief. Black Power was defined as economical and political in thrust and therefore under the control of the established economic and political powers in the nation. Political power was kicked around and debated, while economic power became Black Capitalism—adding black to the world capitalism makes about as much difference as adding water to water, all you get is more. America began to welcome and encourage Black Capitalism and why not? What easier way to eliminate the problems than to make the Black man identify with and ascribe to the very system that has suppressed him so long. How can you speak of Brothers and Sisters and believe in an economic system which is dependent on the success of the individual by defeating and depriving others to achieve your goals. There is no unity, no common goals for the benefit of the whole, only the goal of the individuals, succeeding through deft competition and the defeat of others. Of course American capitalism as very moralistic and beneficial goals, economic growth, full employment, price stability, econom-

ic freedom, equitable distribution of income, economic security—but how many of these can a Black man or any man believe in as true goals.

The endorsement of Black Capitalism quickly found roots in the Black Bourgeoisie; who found it as a new status vehicle and gained more recognition from White and Black America, but it actually offers little or no advantage to them or anyone else. A few token Blacks were placed in some new position and seen more often, but the power remained as stable and exclusive as ever.

The American cry of Black Capitalism came too late to halt the Black movement that had begun however. It may have served to soothe the people for the present, like many Federal Aid Programs do, but the true struggle for "human dignity" goes further than the osmosis of the American way of life. It is no longer only a matter of becoming an American, of wanting to belong, to fit in; not just a battle for Black rights but a struggle against an oppressive system which is strangling the white American in the Appalachian mountains just as certainly as it is destroying the American Indian children on barren reservations and black tenant farmers in Mississippi, and Vietnamese and Laotian peasants in Asia.

As people become more aware of the hideous trick that has been played upon their minds and souls by a rather small group of individuals in power and as people begin to flex their muscles and attempt to deal with their conditions of life the struggle will become more bitter and will encompass many more people. If we are ever to stem the tide of inhumanity in our nation and the world the struggle must go on. The struggle will go on.

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TUTORS!**
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NEVER AGAIN!!

By Ted Malino

At the present time, the nation is witnessing a struggle on all levels between the forces of the people and the forces of governmental repression. At stake is the right of all people to live like human beings in a society at peace with the rest of the world.

We have all seen the price of dissent. Black Panthers, Young Lords Organization members, Young Patriots, in short every organization that is truly attempting to reach the masses of people to awaken a sense of common interest and concern have been harassed, bullied, and finally murdered.

The actions of the government are to be expected. No group or individual ever has resigned power without a struggle. Therefore the people must be careful to constantly be on the alert for instances which split unity and detract from the purposes and goals of our vanguard organizations.

Recently, a female worker for the Black Panther Party was accosted by an individual presently attending Staten Island Community College. This individual has been identified. This individual attempted to take monies from the female worker for the Black Panther Party. The worker ran and was chased by this individual and two companions who have not yet been identified. Fortunately, this worker for the Black Panther Party was not physically harmed and she was able to protect the monies that she had for the Black Panther Party Defense Fund for the New York 21.

In a time when governmental pressure is heavy, it is intolerable that anyone who is part of the people for whom the vanguard organizations have laid down their lives should act in such a reactionary fashion.

This individual has also been tentatively identified as a dealer in hard drugs (heroin, etc.). This action is also deplored not only because of the destruction of brothers and sisters that these drugs portend but because these activities while going on here at Staten Island Community College are bringing this institution more and more to the eyes of that very same government which is bent on destroying all forms of real dissent in this nation.

Personal gain cannot be placed before the welfare of the people at large.

**NEVER
AGAIN!!**

Checkmate

By Ted Malino

In the game of Chess, there is an opening move which is titled the "Danish Gambit" in which two pawns are used against a relatively weak opponent to gain control of the center of the Board.

As we all know, pawns do not have feelings; unless the pawns are human. Presently, it appears that the pawns here at S.I.C.C. (students) have been manipulated between two separate factions in a struggle which seems to have at stake certain Faculty and Administration powers and prerogatives.

Regardless of the personalities involved, the student body will apparently end up in the same position it presently is in, that is, powerless to determine curriculum changes and without effective control over the bulk of finances which come into this institution; and relatively no say in Administrative procedures such as Registration.

As matters stand now the students are sharply divided on whether or not to stand with the Faculty in its struggle to curb the Executive powers of the President of Staten Island Community College or whether to support the Executive and Administrative Branch.

This is not a simple matter. In the Administrative Branch there are a greater number of Black people than has ever been at Staten Island at one time since its inception. To a great many Black students these individuals represent hope for a future life which the student will have an opportunity to use the skills developed in the college to benefit themselves and hopefully their communities. For many even this "image" of hope was not afforded the Black high school or college student. Every Black student in the past spent many agonizing hours of frustration and worry as to whether or not the skills developed in College will ever be used; as opposed to the general student concern of how well these skills will be used.

For this reason, there is a natural inclination on the part of Black students to think of the Administration with a favorable bias.

On the other hand, we are aware of the dangers inherent in following a path laid out for us by friend or foe.

A realistic and intelligent direction for all students to take is to attempt to gain some real student power, so that our interests can be protected by ourselves.

**BLACK
AWAKENING
STAFF
MEETING
12:35
THURSDAYS
C-132**

Fit For Niggers

Shannon Jones

The housing situation in Brownsville is the worst in the city of New York. The area looks like the aftermath of World War II. The avaricious landlords can never be found. They don't show up to collect their rentals for fear of being subpoenaed. They persist in refusing the minimal services for the tenants who are forced to live in these conditions because of the current housing shortage in New York City, because of poverty and because of racial discrimination in the real estate industry.

When the people on welfare refuse to pay their rental because of the conditions, these housing pimps make deals with the welfare so that the checks will be sent directly to them. The corrupt housing officials and welfare officials are quickly swayed to report that there are no violations on the landlord's buildings, usually through the use of bribes. The people are lied to constantly by the demagogic politicians in City Hall and Albany. The people have been told that if they put pressure on the landlords and the city, the city will reduce the rentals and take over the building. This is just one of the contradictions that lies within the power structure because what the politicians are doing is trying to rip off the land as cheaply as they can get it. After obtaining the land, middle income housing will go up in place of the tenements and the poor become nomads again at the mercy of landlords and bureaucracies to again be placed in the same conditions they had just left.

The people are slowly becoming hip and the people are tired of this method of soul murder by which their children's and their lives are being destroyed. In the upper east side, the Young Lords Organization is struggling to uplift the health of the people in their community by going house to house with equipment to check for the possibility of lead poisoning in children. Tenants groups have formed throughout the city to fight proposals by the landlords for increased rentals without any guarantee that services will improve or even be instituted. The people are tired of the bull shit and it's about time.

**PEACE
GIVES WORTH
TO THE LIVES
OF SONS AND
DAUGHTERS
FALLEN**