

BY SOMER DIRT

ACTIONS AND REPRESSION

The White Panthers engaged in a range of activities to support Black liberation and challenge systemic oppression. These actions, which reflected the BPP's demands, drew significant government attention and repression, demonstrating the state's fear of movements.

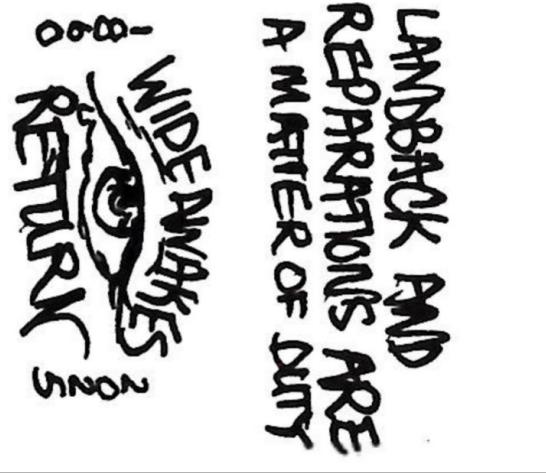
VOICES AND MILESTONES OF THE REVOLUTION

Sinclair, a photographer, documented the movement with her powerful photography, capturing the energy of the protests and the spirit of the counterculture. Pun Plamondon was another key activist in the WPP.

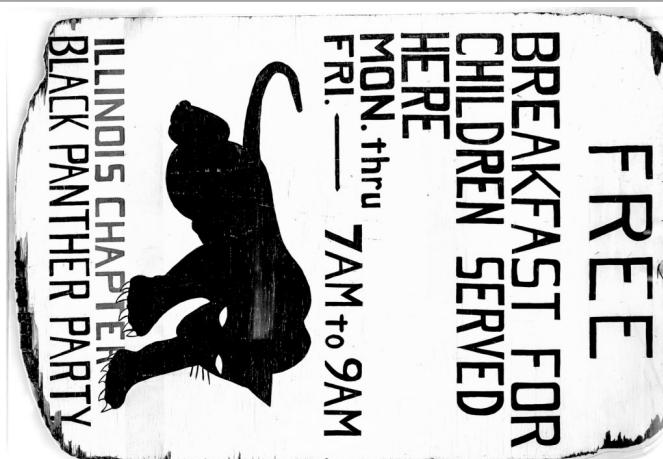
John Sinclair, a poet, writer, and activist, was a driving force behind the White Panthers. His raw, high-energy rock and roll became a vehicle for this effort. As Sinclair saw it, "Rock and roll was a weapon of cultural revolution." Lee Sinclair, a poet, writer, and activist, was a vehicle for this effort. As Sinclair saw it, "Rock and roll was a weapon of cultural revolution." Lee

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Cover Print



THE TEN-POINT PROGRAMS

To understand the context of the White Panther Party's activism, it's essential to examine the Ten-Point Programs of both the Black Panther Party and the White Panther Party.

The Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Program

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.
2. We want full employment for our people.
3. We want all end to the robbery of our Black Community by the White Man.
4. We want decent housing, fit for the shelter of human beings.
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.
6. We want all Black men to be exempt from military service.
7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and the MURDER of Black people.
8. We want freedom for all Black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.
9. We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in a court of law by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black communities, as defined by the Constitution 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, for the purpose of determining the will of Black people as to their national destiny.

THE BLACK PANTHERS

The Black Panther Party (BPP), founded in Oakland, California, in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, was a revolutionary organization that dared to challenge the deep-seated racism and oppression faced by Black people in America. The Panthers were not merely reacting to injustice; they were building a movement that demanded power, self-determination, and a fundamental restructuring of society. As Bobby Seale stated, "You have to start with the people. That's where power is." The BPP's ideology was rooted in Black nationalism, socialism, and a rejection of systemic racism.

- Violence and Raids: WPP faced violent raids and confrontations with law enforcement. A raid on a White Panther residence in San Francisco resulted in a shootout and the imprisonment of several members.

- Wiretapping: The government used warrantless wiretaps against the White Panthers, violating their constitutional rights.

These actions, particularly their vocal support of the Black Panthers and their challenge to white supremacist ideology, led to significant government repression:

- COINTELPRO Targeting: The FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) targeted the White Panthers, as it did the Black Panthers, for surveillance, infiltration, and disruption.
- Legal Harassment: WPP members, including John Sinclair, faced arrests and prosecutions on charges that were often politically motivated. Sinclair's lengthy prison sentence for marijuana possession is a notable example.
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