

Former members keep Black Panther ideology intact

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Thirty years ago, defiant young black men and women raised their fists and spirits to unite against racism. They took a name and a cause — the Black Panther Party.

Some escaped those tumultuous times and had careers in education and politics. Others were jailed, exiled or died, including Kwame Ture, the former Stokely Carmichael who was buried Sunday. Here is a brief look at where some of the more notable people associated with the Black Panthers are now:

— Huey Newton. A cofounder of the Black Panther Party in October 1966, he was charged with the murder of an Oakland policeman after a gun battle a year later. He was convicted of manslaughter, but the conviction was set aside and he was freed in 1970. In 1974, Newton went into self-imposed exile in Cuba. He later abused drugs and alcohol and was shot to death in a drug-plagued area of west Oakland in 1989.

— Eldridge Cleaver. The party's minister of information, he went to prison for assault and wrote "Soul on Ice," a series of powerful essays decrying prejudice and racism. Published in 1968, it became required reading for the Black Power movement. Cleaver ran unsuccessfully for president in 1968 on the Peace and Freedom ticket, and later denounced his past and joined the Republican Party. He worked as a diversity consultant at the University of LaVerne near Los Angeles, and died in May at age 62.

— Bobby Seale. Chairman of the party and Newton's second-in-command, Seale went on to do community work in Philadelphia. He is active on the lecture circuit. Recently finished a soul-food cookbook, "Barbeque'n with Bobby Seale."

— David Hilliard. Chief of staff of the Panthers, he became a union representative for Oakland health care workers and helped create the Huey P.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Black Panther ideology stirred protests like this 1968 gathering at Howard University.

Newton Foundation in Oakland. Hilliard now teaches the history of the Black Panthers at the New College in San Francisco, conducts a Black Panther bus tour in Oakland. Hilliard plans to run for an Oakland city council seat in 2000.

— Elaine Brown. She joined the Party in April 1968 and led the party through the 70s after Newton left for Cuba. Now the vice president of the Newton Foundation, she published her

autobiography, "A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story," in 1992. She now divides her time between France and the San Francisco Bay area, does community work in Atlanta and is finishing a book about black youths and the legal system.

— Kathleen Cleaver. Cleaver's ex-wife had been the Panthers' communications secretary. Now a visiting law professor at the Cardozo School of Law in New York, she worked on Geronimo Pratt's murder case as part of his legal team.

— Bobby Rush. A member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee from 1966 to 1968 and a co-founder of the Illinois Black Panther Party in 1968, he operated the party's Free Breakfast for Children program. This month, he was re-elected to Congress in Illinois' 1st Congressional District and has expressed interest in running for mayor of Chicago.

former member of the Communist Party, she was charged in 1971 with plotting a bloody courthouse shootout during the trial of three black prisoners accused of killing a prison guard. The allegations landed her on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. She was acquitted and now lives in the Oakland hills. Since 1991, she has taught in the UC Santa Cruz History of Consciousness Department.

— Joanne Chesimard. New Jersey's most wanted fugitive, was a leading figure in the Black Panther movement and later joined the Black Liberation Army. Convicted in 1977 of killing a state trooper in a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike, she broke out of her maximum security cell and wound up in Cuba, where Fidel Castro granted her political asylum. She now goes by the name Assata Shakur.

— Afeni Shakur. One of the infamous New York 21, a group of Black Panther Party members arrested on conspiracy charges. She now runs a record company named after her late son, rap artist Tupac Shakur.

Cochran

(Continued from Page 1) has also done graduate work at the University of Southern California.

Cochran began his professional career in 1963 as deputy city attorney for Los Angeles and later founded the law firm of Cochran, Atkins & Evans in 1966.

From 1978 to 1980, he served as the assistant district attorney of Los Angeles County, returning in 1981 to a private practice with the firm name Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., Inc.

His autobiography, "Journey to Justice" topped best seller lists in 1996. Through his career, he has earned various honors, including Los Angeles' Criminal Courts Bar Association's Criminal Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in 1977 and the Progressive National Baptist Convention's President's Award in 1997. A New Jersey school is also being named after him.

Cochran's present is as varied as his history. Besides his lawyer's workload, he's consolidating a project in Michigan with the Atwater Group which plans to build a major, black-owned casino in Detroit.

When asked if he thought building a casino would bring crime, Cochran said, "No, I don't think so. Initially, we encountered resistance from local religious leaders. So, we went into all the churches

and explained the economic revitalization that would take place."

His weekly television show, "Cochran and Company" is also slated to begin airing weeknights this coming season.

Cochran is currently arguing the case for Abner Louima, a Haitian immigrant who has accused New York police officers of assaulting and sodomizing him with a plunger. The U.S. Attorneys' Office recently indicted 3 police officers for trying to cover up the crime.

Cochran also plans to publish another book called "The Last Man Standing", a chronicling of the Geronimo Pratt story. He called the Pratt case, "the most important" in his career. He is also opening a national law firm.

Cochran has had to deal with tragedy. Last month, his brother was found shot to death. A 20-year-old man is awaiting arraignment for the crime which Cochran called a "random act of violence" that speaks to American society.

"The climate in this country is very disturbing. We are living in troubled times. The beheading in Virginia, James Byrd's murder in Texas, Matthew Sheridan's brutal murder, these events are frightening," Cochran said, blaming the increase in brutality on "extremists who do not understand the workings of democracy."

Hate Mail

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It's more than Sandpoint's image that's at stake, Sawyer said.

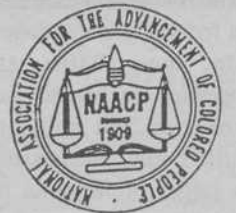
"It's the quality of the atmosphere of this town that's going to be called into question. I don't like having people in our Community Hall dressed like Nazi soldiers."

Also supporting the task force are Frederic

and Cynthia Wiedemann, who run Unifying Fields Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a sense of connectedness in communities.

"It's easy for our community to hate the haters," Frederic Wiedemann said. "How do we have a community that in some way has compassion for that, but not stand for it?"

Las Vegas NAACP



General Membership Meeting Friday, Dec. 4, 1998 • 6:00 p.m.

The Las Vegas NAACP Branch will be conducting a Nominating Meeting to accept nominations for its upcoming Biennial Branch Election. The following list are available candidacies:

OFFICERS:

1. President
2. First Vice President
3. Second Vice President
4. Third Vice President
5. Secretary
6. Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24 At-Large-Members

In order to be nominated to be a candidate in the Election, you have to have been a member 180-days prior to the December 4th Meeting. All nominees will have to submit a written consent form, at this meeting. Additionally, nominees must submit a written petition, signed by three members in good standing (members whose membership is effective 30-days prior to the December 4th meeting).

If your membership has expired or you would like to register as a member, please send a postcard (or handwritten note) with your name, address and telephone number, along with your check or money order (in the amount of \$10.00; \$15.00; \$20.00; \$25.00) to: NAACP LAS VEGAS BRANCH, P.O. Box 4887, Las Vegas, Nevada 89127.

To receive additional information regarding NAACP Branch Election Procedure, please phone 641-7315.

Branch Office: 912 W. Owens Avenue