PANTHER AMBUSH



ABOVE IS JACKET of Mark Comfort's latest 45 (not pistol) record on sale locally at Shakespeare's. It was issued frankly to raise bail for Mark. That's a good cause.

Oakland ghetto leader Mark Comfort told BARB where it's at when a Black man takes the Second Amendment seriously in California's capital.

Comfort was the first man arrested when Sacramento cops retaliated for the appearance of armed representatives of Oakland's Black Panther Party for Self-Defense at the Capitol Building on Tuesday.

The Black Panthers' side of the story has not been told, Comfort said.

"We were at the filling station, on our way home, when they swarmed in on us like a drove of bees, with their shotguns out and everything," Comfort said.

"I was standing by my car and one of them walked up to me and said, 'Arrest him for violating the fish and game law." They grabbed me and then snatched my gun and placed me under arrest." Comfort said the gun was not loaded. Fish and game laws prohibit carrying loaded rifles in cars.

"They arrested two black people who were just watching. They weren't with us. All the police could see was that they were black, so they arrested them."

Bobby Seale is head of the Oakland Black Panthers.

"Bobby was the second one they arrested," Comfort informed BARB. "A detective said, 'This man is carrying a concealed weapon." He was carrying the gun in a holster. Everyone could see it.

"When I was inside the police station, I saw them bring the (Seale) gun in, and the policeman said, ' I found this gun in the trunk of the car.'

"Assemblyman Mulford -- he's from Oakland, you know, -- was trying to push this racist law to prevent people from bearing arms to defend themselves. We figured the Second Amendment had something to say about that.

"So we went up to Sacramento to exercise our constitutional rights, and to read a statement we'd draw up. That's all we wanted to do, and when we'd done it we were satisfied and just wanted to come back home.

"We know the law. A man'd be a fool to walk around carrying a gun not knowing the law."

"When we got to the capitol, a policeman stopped us at the door and said he realized we had a right to bear arms, that we weren't breaking the law, and that he could let us enter the building only if we didn't try to break up the session (of the Assembly), and that, if we did, they would use any means necessary to stop us.

"We said we weren't there for that, so he said let 'em in."

Comfort described how Bobby Seale began to read the Black Panther statement just inside the Assembly chamber door, amid a

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DR. FORT BLAMES NARKS

The grounds used for ousting Dr. Joel Fort from his post as Director of the Center for Special Problems are phony.

The real cause of his dismissal is that federal and local narcotics agents exerted pressure to have him booted out.

Those are the two major contentions of a case being developed by Dr. Fort and his attorneys, Albert Bendich and Victor Van Bourg. They intend to show that the people of San Francisco have been bamboozled.

A nine-page letter, from his attorneys to the SF Civil Service Commission details these allegations. The May 3 letter asks the Commission to reconsider its decision to end Dr. Fort's employment at the Center.

Under Dr. Fort's guidance, the Center for Special Problems became a treatment center for drug addicts, homosexuals, prosititues, and others who feel the pinch of punitive morality laws.

"My approach is that drug use and abuse is a public health matter, not a police matter," Dr. Fort told BARB.

"I think our whole effort should be directed toward looking at why so many Americans are turning to drugs, at what's wrong with society that creates these problems."

BARB asked him now he knew that San Francisco and federal narcotics agencies exerted pressures to have him removed.

"For one think, I was told by the people who dismissed me," Dr. Fort replied.

"For another, I was told by people in the San Francisco police community relations unit. They rechecked this and verified it."

The attorneys' letter to the Civil Service Commission states, "Dr. Stubblebine (one of Fort's superiors) told Dr. Fort, in the presence of Rev. Cecil Williams and Dr. Adrienne Applegarth that he did not know the whole story, but that 'outside' pressures were responsible for the request to Dr. Fort that he resign; that the pressure came in part from the City Police and the Federal narcotics bureau; that Dr. Stubblebine was in fear of his own job; and that Dr. Fort had 'stepped on too many toes.' "

Dr. Fort told BARB he also has "circunstantial evidence" that the Federal narcotics bureau is involved, "Since they attempted to get me in the past.

"I have in my possession a letter from them to a United Nations agency concerned with drug problems. In the letter, they suggest that the UN agency should not employme."

In their letter to the Commission, Dr. Fort's attorneys argue that none of the three grounds for terminating his employment constitute good cause for the action.

"The uncontradicted evidence shows that each specific charge is baseless and unsupported by a shred of evidence," the letter from Bendich and Van Bourg says.

After detailed arguments against the charges, the letter states, "The spurious charges suggest the existence of other motives." The handling of Dr. Fort's case "is suggestive of the existence of a situation which has not been made public but which may contain the true explanation," the letter says.

"This should certainly be investigated," the letter continues, "For, in addition to demonstrating the lack of basis for terminating Dr. Fort, it demonstrates that the Civil Service Commission may itself have been the unwitting tool of forces operating behind the scenes to change important social policies in wholly undemocratic and improper ways."

Dr. Fort gave BARB his view of the nature of such forces.

"Besides the fact that these problems rub against certain social taboos, it is the concern of reactionary elements in the community to oppose any meaningful change."

To get a Hip Job

If you're looking for a hip job, your best bet is to try the HIP Job Co-op, but you won't find them in the back of the Print Mint any more.

The Co-op, pushed out of the Mint by the construction of a new coffeehouse, has moved to the back of Wild Colors at 1418 Haight.

TEACHERS STRIKE AT CAMP PARKS

The American Federation of Teachers began a strike at Camp Parks Job Corps Center at 5 AM Thursday. An AFL-CIO picket line is on the scene, as BARB goes to press.

The strike was called to protest the firing of four officers of the union Wednesday morning, including the president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer.

The strike has been sanctioned by the Central Labor Council, so the picket line will be honored by the plumber, engineers, culinary workers, building service workers and teamsters who work for or supply the Center.

"This culminates a long period of harrassment of the union," said Abe Newman, Executive Secretary of the Bay Area Council of the AFT.

Among other things (see BARB, Mar 31, Apr 14, Apr 21) the union has not been allowed to meet at the Center by Litton Industries, The corporation which runs Camp Parks. The union claims violation of the National Labor Relations Act and Economic Opportunity Organization regulations.

The AFT's lawyer, attorney, Victor VanBourg, filed an unfair labor practices suit against Litton Wednesday afternoon.

In a previous BARB article, Newman said that Litton has also failed to provide adequate facilities and staff to educate the youth who come to the camp.

The demands of the union are immediate reinstatement of the fired workers, no reprisals for those participating in the strike, and an interim grievance committee.

Two OEO officials are flying

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DeBonis Left Panting With Hardly a Bone

Councilman John DeBonis lashed into Telly's hippies with radical fervor in several impromptu speeches at Tuesday's city council meeting.

"We can't continually shove this under the rug," he proclaimed. "We've got to do something and there are a lot of people ready to do Something about it."

Other council members and people in the audience shamelessly smirked and tittered at DeBonis' appeals for reform, which usually deviated from the business at hand.

His first peroration occurred when a rotuine complaint concerning a zone violation (a two-family dwelling in a one-family zone) was brought before the council.

"I don't see why we should persecute an old lady (the landlady) when hippie joints are housing eight to ten people on mattresses in one room," he declared. "There are many cases where regulations are broken right up on Telegraph Avenue.

"Why don't we go in there and clear those people out," he proposed.

The City Manager answered that the city had been doing just that, and that there were recently "eight or ten examples" of such action.

"But what happens is that they go into another place," he complained. "One group moved five times. They finally moved out of Berkeley."

DeBonis then proposed "$5000 or $8000 fine" to punish the malefactors. Other council members gently led him back to the original topic.

The next juicy item was a letter complaining about "health problems" in restaurants on the Block.

The City Manager tried to say there were no problems, but DeBonis slyly caught him up.

"I can't believe what you say," said our hero, who confidently

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ANNALS OF SEX EXPAND

Splinters are still causing a pain in the annals of the Sexual Freedom League. The three - person group that incorporated the SFL without the knowledge of the majority of the Executive Committee splintered again late last week.

William Cory, treasurer of the new SFL Inc., quite the corporation, over a dispute with Dan and Erleen Patchin, who now are the entire Board of Directors of the new organization.

A further complication arose when the attorney for the original East Bay Sexual Freedom League (unincorporated) Executive Committee wrote to the bank where the SFL accounts were kept, to explain the situation. The bank sent him the a certified check for the moneys, and closed the account.

Previously, the three who incorporated the League had removed

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GREGORY's UC DEBUT

Comedian Dick Gregory and the Jefferson Airplane combine their talents this Saturday night, May 6 in a joint concert at 8:30 in the Greek Theatre on the UC campus.

Famous for his biting humor on current social problems, Gregory is now even better known for his work for civil rights.

He has appeared at many demonstrations in the South and in northern cities, and was a candidate for mayor of Chicago in the recent election there. Saturday will mark his first UC appearance.

The Airplane has been playing in the Bay Area for some time, and has recently achieved national attention through radio and TV ads and two successful LP albums.

Tickets for the conert, sponsored by the UC Sophomore Class, are available at ASUC, Record City, the Downtown Center Box Office in SF and Sherman-Clay in Oakland. Prices start at $2.00 general and $1.50 student.

Half of the proceeds of the event will go to help support Cal Camp, a summer camp for underprivileged Bay Area kids that is entirely staffed and managed by Cal students.