

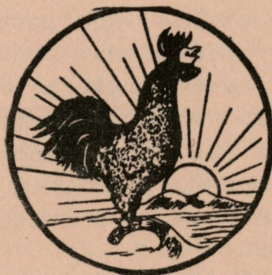
# HARAMBEE

Vol. 2, No. 3

Harambee, Oakland, CA

Spring/Summer 1980

## JONGWE! Zimbabwe Savors Freedom



By now, the shout of freedom, independence, and self-determination for Zimbabwe has been heard around the world. ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) has been victorious in its 17 year struggle for freedom for the over 2.7 million Black population of Zimbabwe. Robert Mugabe has been elected to the post of Prime Minister and his party, ZANU, holds 57 out of 100 seats in the first free and fair election ever to be held in the once British colony. The other seats in parliament are held by ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union), the Rhodesian Front (the white minority representatives as a result of earlier elections), and the discredited United African National Council (led by

the disgraced Bishop Abel Muzorewa) at 20-20-3 respectively.

The history of ZANU has been a long and glorious one. Formed in 1963 with Mugabe as secretary general, ZANU was the first nationalist organization in Zimbabwe to choose armed struggle as a chief method to combat the racist white regime of that country. This armed struggle, which began in April 1966, led to the building of a 20,000 member guerrilla army and the joining of ZAPU with its forces to form the Patriotic Front in October of 1976.

The future of Zimbabwe is now under the control of its true people. However, P.M. Mugabe has assured other parties, both Black and white, that there will be a place for everyone in the new Zimbabwe.

He has declared a non-alignment policy with either of the super-power blocs internationally, and domestically the new government will eliminate the inequalities that made Rhodesia's name synonymous with the infamous  
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## Develop the Struggle

With the coming of summer and schools closing, Black people can expect an upsurge in attacks on our educational programs and community services as well as a stepped up program to draft our youth into the U.S. military to fight wars of aggression around the world.

The people in California recently won a victory when Proposition 9 was defeated. However, attacks on our basic services are still not over. Prop 9 meant the sure destruction of Ethnic Studies, and general education programs. Most agencies prepared two budgets - one if Prop 9 passed, one if it failed. Both budgets cut the heart out of key programs. For example, Peralta College District is a case in point with cuts of up to 30% slated with the passage of 9. At Laney College projected funding cuts range from \$700,000 to \$100,000 without 9 - including the laying off of more than half the hourly instructors.

The Carter regime is threatening to begin draft registration of youth after mid-June while services such as social security benefits, food stamps and Medicaid are under constant attack. Meanwhile, Ted Kennedy is still pushing Senate Bill 1722, which requires jail terms for people who tell others not to register for war, for workers who strike and for organizing against unsafe nuclear facilities.

The Black community is already in a depression. Unemployment for Black youth in Oakland alone is running at 65% and rising.

It is time to organize. Black people in Wrightsville, GA and Miami, FL have shown us the way to defend and expand our rights. We have to take to the streets again.

### Role of Black Students

It is not accidental that all these attacks are intensifying over the summer. The U.S. is in a severe political and economic crisis. The racist rulers of Wall Street are intent upon making Blacks and other third world peoples bear the brunt of their crisis.

It is imperative that Black students organizations continue to organize this summer and link up with progressive forces in the Black community and continue the fight. Student organizations should watch school boards and mobilize the community to fight cuts in our education and help mobilize demonstrations at Post Offices when registration starts.

Students can also unite with other organizations in the Black community to develop a program for Black power and survival.

In areas where Black United Fronts are forming, students should participate and form convergents with other students and youth to develop a program of struggle.

## Baraka Shabazz

All our lives we have heard nothing but half-truths and lies from the white man and promises that are never kept. We are made to compromise our beliefs and our way of life. But what happens when these broken promises and half-truths come from our own brothers and sisters?

Prominent Black leaders and citizens are always commenting on our youth, whether it be good or bad. They emphasize the fact that our young people must be encouraged to pursue their goals, that they need to be exposed to positive role models. These are only words and in most cases, empty words.

Baraka Shabazz, fourteen-year old chess prodigy, knows about broken promises and empty words as do her parents, Abdullah and Raqiba, yet this has not crushed their determination or discouraged them in any way. One day Baraka will enter the U.S. Women's Chess Championship and the World Championship, and win.

The problem, unfortunately, is lack of support. In order for her to reach her goal she needs sponsors. She needs the cooperation of the community. Cooperation she is not receiving, yet she so justly deserves.

Upon their arrival to the Bay Area, the Shabazz's contacted certain Black officials and members of our community that they were told had some influence and who could or would be of assistance to them. Nothing happened. They were put off and given the run around. One official was conveniently unavailable whenever they tried to reach him on numerous occasions. Finally they left the information with his aide. They never saw this official; and he never ac-

knowledged the achievement of this young woman. It was frustrating. This man could have at least sent a letter of encouragement. Even if he himself could not have helped her, he could have at least responded.

If Baraka was a juvenile delinquent, a teenage prostitute, a potential athlete, or white, she and her parents would not be going through what they are. Think about it. If you think this is sick, you're damn right. It's a shame when the only thing recognized by the community is negative.

We condemn our youth for their involvement with drugs and sex yet aren't we condoning it when we turn our backs on the youth that show promise or have something to offer? We are so tuned to the physical body that we forget about the mind. It is time for young people to be aware that the mind is a powerful weapon. Baraka could be the catalyst to promote the image needed for our youth. Baraka started playing chess two years ago in Alaska. Today she is the thirty-ninth rated woman in the country.

It is time for the community to come to grips with itself. If it is necessary for our leaders to put their butts on the line, so be it. The time has come for the promises to be kept, and the words fulfilled.

In spite of the hardships, personal and otherwise, Baraka and her parents will see their dream come true.

It is imperative that Baraka Shabazz get the full support of the community. For she could be the answer that so many young people are searching for.

For more information contact CCSF B.S.U., San Francisco.



African Liberation Day was held May 24, 1980 in Oakland, California. One of the two largest events in the country, it drew over four thousand enthusiastic people from the Black community. This ALD was especially significant since it was the first unified ALD event in over five years. This event was the first publically sponsored activity of the newly formed Black United Front.

Struggle and determination was needed for the Black United Front to pull off this successful event. Black students played a key role in the BUF as students from the Northern California Black students network, Laney BSU, CCSF BSU, San Francisco State Pan African Student Union and Merrit Black Student Union all played important roles in building the Black United front and the ALD. The students played a strong role in recognizing that the BUF is an important strategic tool for the national liberation of Black people in the U.S.

Black students have historically played a strong revolutionary role in Black Liberation struggles from Orangeburg, South Carolina, the scene of one of the first sit-ins, to San Francisco State College where the BSU led the first

## African Liberation Day--opinion

successful strike for an ethnic studies department. Black students have militantly fought for the liberation of Black people.

Historically Black students have also played a key role in other United Front formations, such as the African Liberation Support Committee (before it was taken over by opportunists), in building both their work as Black students in organizations such as the Youth Organization for Black Unity (YOBU) and building ties to the total Black Liberation movement by participating in community struggles directly as well as in United Front organizations. This is important to remember so that students keep strong ties with the community to which we must return. The Oakland Black United Front is composed of over 15 organizations including many student groups, community organizations such as the National Black Human Rights Coalition-SF Chapter, the Afro-American Association and the Melvin Black Human Rights Coalition. Revolutionary Marxist groups such as the League of Revolutionary Struggle and many revolutionary nationalist organizations such as the Pan African Secretariat and the African Peoples' Alliance. This initial broadness helps revolutionary

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# New Dimensions?

Anticipation runs very high when you are expecting positive results. All the way to the WRCBAA Conference, via muni, bart, and AC transit, I was over-excited. I couldn't wait to take part in this educational format. This typical sunny spring day enhanced my outlook of affirmative action that would be shared by the Black educators and students at this important future planning conference.

But a funny thing happened when I arrived at the prodigious Airport Hilton Inn. Opposition hit me hard at the registration table. I had my six dollars, student fee, and was anxious to meet all of our leaders in education and fellow students when I was informed that

the total fee was twenty-four dollars: six dollars registration, six dollars membership, and twelve dollars for the Conference Banquet, which of course I was unable to attend.

Taken from the Brief History of the Council on Black American Affairs (CBAA), a recognized council of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC), is a reassuring aspect of self-determination; "...the resounding relevancy and affect community college education has on the lives of Black professionals and students suggests the continued need for knowledgeable assessments and concerted efforts by Blacks to structure, design,

con't. on page 9

## 1980 — An Election Year

themselves.

1980 — an election year. Black people will be virtually ignored once again. Perhaps a few token promises may be made but in the long run we will once again be ignored . . . unless we take some decisive steps to insure we will be recognized.

Black people have the power to decide any election in this country, but very seldom has this fact been dealt with in a serious vein. Granted, it was briefly mentioned by an observant few during the 1976 election of Jimmy Carter, but still the true impact of what the Black vote can mean has never been fully realized — particularly by Black people

There are those who will insist voting is useless — that it can do no good. This can be true, but so also can the opposite. If Black people will actively become involved in the voting process — from working the polls, to voting, to running for office — then a positive effect can be achieved. The American political system is designed to work according to how it is administered by those in charge, and if we become the administrators, then it can be used to achieve our goals.

I am not an advocate of the American system. However, I do believe in taking advan-

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## Spotlight On:

### Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones and His Two Books

"Every action that we are involved in is political, whether it is religious, artistic, cultural, athletic, governmental, educational, economic, or personal. There is no separation between church and state, art and politics, or politics and individual beliefs. Everything is inherently political.

The only division occurs around the question of whose political interest one will serve."

— H. "Rap" Brown

If ever there was a perfect description of a man and his literary work, the preceding by H. "Rap" Brown fits multi-talented Amiri Baraka, also known as LeRoi Jones, perfectly. The evidence is a volume of poetry by him entitled *Selected Poetry of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones* and a volume of three previously unpublished plays entitled *The Motion of History & Other Plays*. Both books are published by William Morrow and Co. of New York.

Amiri Baraka, who has been writing and publishing many outstanding works of poetry, fiction, plays, social criticism, music criticism, and literary essays for more than twenty years, first as LeRoi Jones and now under his present name, is no new voice on the literary scene. His work has been published in numerous magazines and the major poetry and play anthologies which contain work by Black artists. He is also recognized as an important factor in the development of the Black Arts Movement since the early 1960's. His books of poetry include *Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note* (1961), *The Dead Lecturer* (1964), *Black Magic* (*Collected Poetry: 1961-1967*) (1969), *In*



*Our Terribleness* (1970), and *Spirit, Reach* (1972). He is author of *Dutchman*, *The Slave*, and other plays which have been produced in New York and around the world. His prose works include *Blues People* (1963), *The System of Dante's Hell* (1965), and two books of essays, *Home* (1966) and *Raise Race Rays Raze* (1971). He is the author of a book of short stories, *Tales* (1967), and co-editor with Larry Neal, of *Black Fire* (1968), an anthology of Afro-American literature. Both the *Selected Poetry of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones* and *The Motion of History & Other Plays* continues to add to his tremendous legacy.

*Selected Poetry*, has been termed his most comprehensive collection ever, for it contains those poems which Baraka most wants to preserve as of the 1979 copyright date. In this book, some 340 pages in length, is material from *Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note*, *Black Magic*, *Spirit Reach*, as well as from *Black Art*, *It's Nation Time*, *Tenzi Ya Imamu*, *Afrikan Revolution*, and the more recent *Hard Facts and Poetry For The Advanced*. The most recent poems, collected here under the title *Poetry For The Advanced*, are published for the first time.

If Gwendolyn Brooks is the living "Ebony Queen" of Black poetry, then Amiri Baraka

(who had been called by some "the father of modern Black poetry") is the living "Sepia King," and *Selected Poetry* which summarizes the career to date of this man shows us why. If you get this book and read it, you will find out what I already know. When it comes to writing overtly political orientated or overtly political manifested poetry, there are few writers who can come close to Baraka.

Baraka to our benefit isn't and has never been a one dimensional literary artist because the writing of plays is his thing also. Over the years he has consistently demonstrated his considerable talent as a writer of plays to also earn the title as "America's leading Black playwright." *The Motion of History & Other Plays* contains three previously unpublished plays called *The Motion of History*, *Slave Ship*, and *S-I*, which he uses to portray in a most poignant manner the very nature of white, capitalist society through the eyes of one heavy Black Man.

In the introduction to this wonderful book Baraka states: "The plays in this book are part of the recent history of this country, but they try to talk about the origins of this society, state, nation, its internal contradiction, development, what it has turned into, and what it will turn into, as the capitalist system streaks on its way out!"

Amiri Baraka, who has received critical acclaim as a poet, playwright, novelist, and music critic, is definitely an expert on putting words on paper and he realizes that they are important and that they can sometimes kill, him or somebody else. Baraka, a very people oriented person of actions based on relevancy, and the possessor of a highly developed social consciousness, goes beyond just putting words on paper. He has gone so beyond that, that he has committed himself to doing things which aid people in their understanding of themselves and their environment. In the early 1960's he founded the Black Arts

Repertory Theater in Harlem, New York, and was instrumental in directing the Spirit House in Newark, New Jersey. He has also served as Chairman of the Congress of Afrikan Peoples.

Recently Baraka, along with his wife Amina and four of their children were attacked on the streets of New York City by four policemen. All of us who are Black and willing to acknowledge reality know how ugly policemen can get sometimes. They got ugly on the man and his family on June 8, 1979, and out of this has come Baraka's having to face serious charges. Perhaps it is in the best interest of those who care to not let happen to him that which has already happened to John B. Russwurm, Paul Robeson Sr., and others in the past. The least you can do is to get both of these books and see where he is coming from.

He is presently not only a college professor in New York, but also a member of the League of Revolutionary Struggle and espousing a mode of thought which he believes can help liberate people from oppression and exploitation. Say what you will or feel what you feel about his position, however, it is in our best interest to not let what happened to Russwurm and Robeson happen to him. I repeat, the least you can do is to get these two books and find out where he is coming from.

For more information about his situation concerning the beating, you can contact representatives of the West Coast branch of the Peoples Justice Committee by phone at (415) 532-3656 and through the mail by addressing it to, Peoples Justice Committee c/o Laney Black Student Union, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94619.

*Selected Poetry of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones and The Motion of History & Other Plays*

## Prop. 9 — More Harm Than Good

The backers of Proposition 9 are waging a multimillion dollar campaign trying to convince California taxpayers that they can get something for nothing. We were fooled once by Prop. 13, let's not fall into the same trick bag again!

Prop. 9 is really a giant tax giveaway to a small number of people who are already well-off. Prop. 9 doesn't close any loopholes, and less than 20% of the taxpayers will get more than 60% of the tax reduction. It would exempt business inventories from property taxation, which is already a state law through passage of AB66 by Assemblyman Bill Lockyer.

Higher sales and consumer taxes would result in an attempt to recoup some of the

## Election

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range of situations which can be used to one's advantage. This is what Black people can and *must* do unless they wish to be completely ignored and propelled toward annihilation in the coming decade. *We are* here and that is something we should force this country to be well aware of. And furthermore, not only are we here, but we are a force to be reckoned with — or rather we will be, once we take steps to make our presence felt.

So, we must start this very election. We must examine the issues so that we can vote intelligently on the issues which will have a direct affect on our lives. We must not let ourselves be caught up in meaningless rituals, such as voting automatically a straight Democratic or Republican ticket, or voting for what will make our friends, business associates, or loved ones happy, or voting without having examined the issues. We must become involved in every aspect of

\$4.2 billion in the following year. The legislative analyst indicated that assistance to local governments and schools will decline by 32%. More than 80% of the state budget is currently returned to local government for such programs as police, fire, public education, health service and property tax relief. People will receive little or no services or tax relief under Prop. 9.

Prop. 9 would severely damage our public school system — from kindergarten to graduate school. Education in California has already suffered due to recent cutbacks and Prop. 9 could hardly be expected to make things better. Community colleges and universities will further limit enrollment and charge even higher tuition. Merritt's tuition will go from a \$2.00 registration fee to a \$400.00 tuition fee.

**Register to vote!  
Vote NO on Proposition 9!**

the voting process, and we must encourage other Black people to do likewise. For example, how often do you see Black faces working the polls? Yet these people not only monitor the voting — checking to see that people are actually registered, and following proper voting procedures — they also make from \$30-\$50 a day. But you must be a registered voter. This information should be passed along so that Black people can not only be involved in this instrumental phase of the voting process, but can also take advantage of the monetary benefits.

We already know that this country isn't going to give us anything, and if we want to make decisions about issues affecting our lives, we must make the effort. Because if we don't, others will — and the chances are better than good that we will not like their decisions.

## WRCBAA

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determine and implement programs that will impact their destiny." Also, "The CBAA was established to provide a national body where by faculty, students, administrators, and non-teaching personnel could affiliate and identify in the interest of the more effective education and employment of Black people. CBAA has been an official AACJC affiliate since 1972 and operates under Association guidelines."

The time is come for us students to exercise our rights as stated above. At the four day conference, only one student represented us, Ms. Kathryn Clarke, Student Body President, Laney College. There was not one student on the Conference Planning Committee. I will mention just a few of the sessions during this four-day conference:

- 1) Dressing for Power and Success(!)
- 2) Upward Mobility for Classified Personnel(!)
- 3) Job Burnout(!)

I attended four sessions:

- 1) Black Students' I.Q.: Environmental Influence on Educational/Social Experiences (informative discussion and perceptive corrections)
- 2) Declining Enrollment-Staff Reduction (very tensed and rhetorical)

- 3) African Film Series (the best session), and
- 4) the Presidents' Forum (with only three presidents and one vice-chancellor as moderator).

Some good resolutions came out of the session on Declining Enrollment-Staff Reduction, mostly from the four students who attended:

- 1) Accountability of Black Educators, of so-called Black Leaders, and of Successful Black Entrepreneurs
- 2) All future conferences and affairs held within the Black community.
- 3) More students' input on all future affairs.
- 4) Follow-up of resolutions, activities and progress.

I feel that the twelve dollars was the price for educating us to the real issue that is confronting us: what role are we to play in deciding what is best for us and our community? I was disillusioned with this conference. We as concerned, capable students must UNITE in the struggle for continuing education for ourselves and our families. The other brothers and sister who attended the conference should contact us (BSU-CCSF) immediately for future planning.

UMOJA (The Center for African-American Unity)

BSU-CCSF  
50 Phelan Ave.  
San Francisco, CA  
415/239-3356

## Merritt on the Move!

The BSU at Merritt College has gotten off to a good start. The BSU held an open election and the Black student participation was high. The BSU is mobilizing students around Prop. 9, the draft, and the teacher's strike. The BSU held a forum on these issues which turned out to be quite informational and educational.

With the victory of the elections in Zimbabwe, the BSU sponsored a speaker who spoke to recent events in Zimbabwe along

with a brother from South Africa.

Future plans of the BSU will include holding a forum in the Black community around the effects of Prop. 9, its impact on the poor and students in particular. There will also be a forum on African Culture, May 29th in the lounge.

The BSU holds their board meeting on Tuesdays from 11 to 12, and membership meetings on Thursday from 11 to 12. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

## ALD

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minded students build the Black student movement as a component part of the overall Black Liberation Movement.

African Liberation Day in Oakland showed the potential for both building of revolutionary Black United Fronts and the key role Black students can play in building these fronts. The Northern California Black Students Network calls on Black students everywhere to participate in the building of Black United Front formations locally and nationally. In particular, we would like to discuss Black student work with other Black students at the national Black United Front conference in Brooklyn, New York, June 26, 27, 28 and 29th. As Jitu Weusi of the New York Black United Front stated at ALD, we must build a Black United Front of all forces in the Black community dedicated to building Black Liberation.

Students need to be part of this initial thrust because as Pili Humphrey of the League of Revolutionary Struggle stated and Miami demonstrated to the world, "we must build and organize a Black movement that is capable of shaking this country to its very foundations."

**Build the Black Student Movement!**

**Build the Black United Front  
Locally and Nationally!**

Brother T.

## Zimbabwe

con't. from page 1  
South Africa.

We wish the people of Zimbabwe the best of all in its coming struggles against imperialism from without and within.

**SUPPORT REVOLUTIONARY  
RECONSTRUCTION IN ZIMBABWE!!**

## The Draft

Late last year, President Carter asked for authority to institute the draft "registration" for all 19- and 20-year old Americans. He asked Congress to allocate the money, implement registration at local post offices and gear up the machinery for actual induction. Although he tried to pass it off as a "precautionary measure" against future conflict in the Persian Gulf, the draft — in no uncertain terms — means war. Black and other Third World students should unite with others in resisting the draft and other war preparations.

Carter maintains that Western survival depends on Persian Gulf oil. He drapes himself in the flag and "the cause of the free world" to back up this contention and raises the specter of Russian domination as a reason to spill American blood on foreign soil. We heard all this before about Viet Nam. Blacks and Chicanos who are undisputed victims of racism and repression in the United States, bore a disproportionate burden of the deaths and casualties in Southeast Asia. They died for American corporate profits. They died for oil properties. They died for greed. And, when Muhammad Ali said last year that "the United States and Russia are the two baddest white men in the world," he knew that they are playing the same dangerous game with the lives of every person on this planet. The standard of living that Americans now "enjoy" was gained at a horrible cost. Our "freedom" was bought at the expense of lives and liberty in Viet Nam; in Iran; in Chile; in South Africa; in this country's ghettos. Afghanistan is eloquent proof of how well Moscow has marked that lesson. Unless we stop them both we can all bet on a

taste of nuclear terror.

Black people are saying no more nor less than what we were saying in the 1960's and still say today: the time of the master and the slave must die. That is the root cause of inflation. The refusal of third world countries to be bullied and bossed into selling themselves cheap is hitting the bullies and bosses here at home. The cost, as always, is being passed along to us. The choices for Amerika are clear: make better use of what it's got or go out and steal it. When we look at the demands for even more weapons of death and destruction; see the steady slide of Black people into Depression (we've been in a recession for years); witness the resurgence of Klan and Nazi activity — it becomes plain that Amerika is going to risk our lives in an attempt to steal lives, liberty and property just as it has in the past.

Why should we now oppose the draft? because third world countries have proved that they can determine their own destinies and defeat oppression no matter what the odds (witness the recent victory in Zimbabwe) . . . because conditions here at home don't warrant Black people fighting and dying for the "freedom" of people in other lands . . . because the world is changing and dreams of an empire have become just that — sick, power-mad dreams.

Set up informational meetings on the consequences of the draft. Participate in activities aimed against the draft. Set up draft counselors in your Black student organizations, promote community meetings that offer alternatives to registration. Raise the cry "Hell no, we won't go!" at every opportunity. We can't afford not to.

## Creative Corner . . .

### Are You Ready for the '80s

People all over the earth  
are beginning to understand their worth  
Revolution is in Panama  
as the government is hiding the  
outlaw Shah!!!  
While the police are  
picking & choosing through selective  
and random cruising and bruising !!!  
With Prop 13 I and II what the  
hell will I do? We have to organize  
to survive — yes me and you.  
I'd like to thank the masses of Iran  
for taking a revolutionary stand  
against Peanut Head  
and his fascist band.  
I won't stand for nothing  
that won't stand  
for me. If I talk too much or too loud,  
the state will send a cloud  
The same cloud of darkness is temporary  
by taking out the revolutionary,  
but not the revolution.  
Oppressed people across Malcolm's  
beautiful land  
that is why the struggle must be  
for "Blood, People and Land" cease

Self Determination is the  
question at hand!!!  
These sharply directed questions  
are long overdue  
cause the task of change  
is on me and you.  
I no longer want to sing  
the oppression blues. Haven't  
you heard the news? I am tired  
of supporting capitalism  
and paying dues.  
Are you ready for the '80s?  
In the '70s the Watergate break-in  
was the beginning of the end of Richard  
Nixon and crew. Bro. Frank Will  
protected us by making that bust, he  
didn't sell out for a funky dollar bill.  
Don't ask me why? but  
before this bullshit is over many  
will die Please don't ask me why?  
We must attain the direction,  
power and unity of the 1960's; but  
for the '80s we will have to surpass  
the heights of past struggles, cause  
all we got is each other.  
Now that we have love  
what we are gonna do we got to show.

HARAMBEE is published by the northern California  
Black Students Organization Network. Submit all  
inquiries and articles c/o Black Student Union,  
Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland, Cal.  
Phone: (415) 834-5740, extension 233. Subscrip-  
tions: \$4.00 per year institutions, 10 cents,  
single copy.