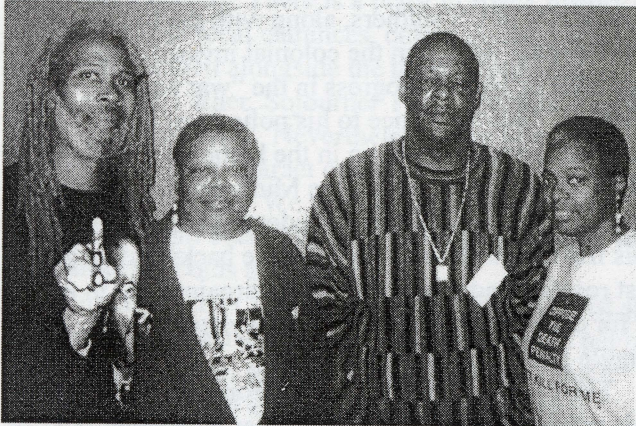


Organization for Black Struggle

AMKA - RISE UP!

Fall 2003

Vol. 22 No. 2



OBS welcomes Joe Amrine to the Rowan Community Center. Joining Joe are Kalimu Endesha, Tumaini Meta and Jamala Rogers.

No Police Oversight, No Convention \$\$

As promised, the Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression kicked off the St. Louis summer convention season with a boycott when Board Bill 47 stalled in the Board of Alderperson back in the Spring. BB47 seeks to establish a civilian review board. Selected conventions were met with disruptions and protests as CAPCR members were arrested for their actions.

Currently, all 12 African-American alderpeople support BB47. Surprise! All the white alderpeople oppose it. The stalemate led the Coalition to target four wards where the demographics are changing from predominantly white to a little more color. These elected officials may have to be taught a lesson at the ballot box next election day. Door to door canvassing in Wards 15, 17, 20 and 28 have produced overwhelming support for the bill. Simultaneous town hall meetings on October 14 were held to continue the education process on the need for police oversight.

The summer heat escalated to the burning in effigy of the 'white power structure' to mark the National Day Against Police Brutality on October 22. Hundreds came out in the traditional black to observe the day and raise their voices under the slogan, "End the white racist conspiracy! The continued blocking of a legitimate solution to a persistently deadly problem is more proof that mayor frances slay is not concerned about the lives of black and poor people in this city. The struggle continues for police accountability!

Missouri Abolitionists Score Big Time

Although all proposed death penalty bills died in the Missouri legislative session, abolitionists soon would have some good news to cheer us up thanks to the Missouri Supreme Court. On July 28, 2003 Joe Amrine walked out of Potosi Prison a "free" man. Joe had spent nearly 17 years on death row, wrongfully convicted of a prison murder. The State's High Court also overturned the death sentence of Christopher Simmons to Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP).

Joe Amrine is the 3rd person in Missouri and the 111th in the nation to be exonerated from death row. Joe is an African-American whose murder conviction rested upon inmates who had been beaten and bribed into confessing they were eyewitnesses. Another human reason that the death penalty is flawed and unfixable! St. Louis welcomed Joe in a celebration last summer and Joe's being on the move every since. He was back in the Louie in October to greet Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, one of few candidates opposing the death penalty. In October, Joe was an honoree at the annual conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He's been busy catching up with the happenin's of his ten brothers and sisters and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Joe is committed to bring the death penalty to its knees and has been taking his passionate message on the road. He plans to attend school for paralegal training, but meanwhile is getting immersed in death penalty cases at the legal clinic where his former attorney, Sean O'Brien and others, work diligently against the odds.

The Missouri Supreme Court also spared three more lives of men who had been given their death sentences by a judge instead of a jury. These and other pending death (continued on p. 3)

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"Black People on the M-o-v-e!"

Ask the Attorney

Where St. Louis' finest African American attorneys give back to the community.

Free Legal Clinic

Every 3rd Saturday from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Rowan Community Center – 1401 Rowan Ave.

Getting to the African Solution

The above topic was the centerpiece for the recent OBS Pamoja Session community forum. Military conflict, environmental disasters and fragile economies are plaguing the African continent. The role of Pan Africanism and the negative impact of globalism were reoccurring themes by the panel of speakers.

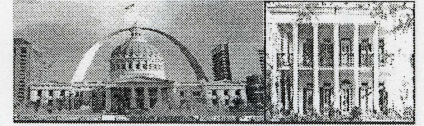
Jamala Rogers of the Black Radical Congress (BRC) talked about the situation in Zimbabwe. She referenced an open letter to President Robert Mugabe by the BRC that opened up heated debated within the U.S. Black Liberation Movement. Rogers felt that the discussion helped to focus Africans in the Diaspora on the continent and her leaders to more fully understand their politics and policies.

Anoba Annorbah-Sarpei from Ghana gave a historical overview of that country from the 15th century invasion by Europeans up to its current struggles against neocolonialism, multi-lateralism and globalization. Pan African consciousness must be an instrument for African unification. Brother Sarpei emphasized that “the independence of the continent is meaningless until it is linked with the psychological and economic emancipation of black people all over the world.”

Kuumba Chi Nia represented the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) and presented views on Liberia. Brother Nia cited examples of the plunder of Liberia's natural resources by multi-national corporations. He highlighted the ugly contradiction of 80% of Liberians living off less than \$1 a day while cattle of the world live off \$2. The total liberation and unification of African, he stated, lies in scientific socialism “so that the resources can be used for basic needs and not greed”.

Sister Erica was part of the youth delegation to Southern African sponsored by the African Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The group attended intense leadership training with other African youth, visited youth groups and dialogued about the role of young people in the building of their respective country's future. Erica and others from the U.S. made it clear that after the visit to Mother Africa, there's a lot of work that must be done to raise the consciousness of young people in the belly of the beast.

Plantation Revisited



The bush II regime has the audacity to proclaim the slaughter and wounding of the untold thousands of Iraqis, the hundreds of dead and the 6,000 wounded, physically and mentally ill US soldiers, along with the billions of our tax dollars wasted in the colonial invasion and occupation of Iraq as progress in the “war against terrorism”. Our resistance to his policies of state sponsored terrorism goes on in the homeland, the belly of the U.S. beast. In Missouri, the Midwestern conservative bellwether state coveted by presidential hopefuls, St. Louis freedom fighters are giving the backward agents of racist reaction more hell than they bargained for in the war for control of the Public school system. **Only struggle makes change!**

The endemic lack of support from white south St. Louis politicians, especially Alderman President shewsbury and mayor slay, has only stalled the establishment of an elected Civilian Oversight Board with subpoena power. What many of these white elected conspirators fail to grasp is that their constituency includes many Blacks and also whites who are tired of being silent victims of police crimes. They will be made to pay with their political lives for arrogantly going against the interests of the St. Louis Black majority. The more the white racist powers-that-be protect the corrupt and out-of-control police, the harder we will fight.

We cannot become bought-again and sold-again house kneegrows for a few more dollars or positions from the rich white mastuhs of Civic Progress. We are clear about who our friends are and who our enemies are. **There is no middle ground** to straddle the great racial divide in St. Louis city life, where the white minority in addition to its coloured agents, uses the police, city hall, the media, the school board, the courts, the board of elections & co. to hold down and gang rape the Black majority.

The mastuhs try to convince us that there has been “progress” since the Dred Scott decision in St. Louis (1857) and slavery (1865). We are a disenfranchised people **still today** as we speak. Except for a few of us, white folk got the jobs, the homes, the businesses and institutions that we never get the chance to compete for in this city of “opportunity and freedom”. Reparations **must** be a part of the solution to ending Black powerlessness and inequality in St. Louis Misery. We are poor and powerless because the elite white minority live (cont. on page 3)

“Black People on the *M-o-v-e*!”

Plantation cont.

in extreme luxury out there in suburbs of Ladue, Clayton, etc.

We will not lose sight of that fact no matter how many confused, misguided coloured middle class wannabees get in our way. Their job is to sing about how good it is too be oppressed by good ole rich white folk. Shame on them for trying to make Black victims and their leaders into troublemakers. There is a place in Black history for their ilk. These local clarences, colons & condalices will be harshly judged alongside the toms of old who betrayed Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, Demark Vessey, Marcus Garvey & co. Nevertheless, their obnoxious squealing will not distract our struggle for freedom, justice and equality. We will continue to organize, agitate and fight back **"by any means necessary"** to dismantle St. Louis apartheid.

Long live "The Community" in the fight against slay, his \$\$\$ raiders, gang of 4 collaborators, greased palms in the clergy coalition & black leadership roundtable! Community control and quality education now!!! Forward still, CAPCR, in the fight for civilian oversight of the St. Louis Police. Keep up the fight, EMCADP, to Ban Youth Executions & establish a moratorium on the death penalty. Cast away all illusions, BLM warriors and white progressives. Prepare to struggle, prepare to win against all the racist white forces of oppression! Down with Bush II, Slay & their coloureds too in 2004!

Connect with OBS...

By phone at (314) 367-5959 or by fax (314) 367-5899

By email at obs_onthemove@yahoo.com or
the internet at www.obs-onthemove.com

Upcoming OBS Events

November 16

Membership Retreat

November 29

Reggae Nites Record Spin

December 21

Kwanzaa Karamu

December 31

Dread Out Show & Dance

Join! Join! Join! Join!
"Black People on the Move!"

OBS
24th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, January 31, 2004
4-6 p.m.

Stay tuned for more details!

OBS Thon—It's Not Too Late

We are counting the last checks coming in for our 2003 Phone-a-Thon. Thanks to our loyal supporters, it looks like we'll surpass our goal. If you haven't sent your donation in yet, don't wait another minute. All 2003 contributors will be printed in the souvenir ad book for 24th Anniversary Celebration.

Death Sentences cont.

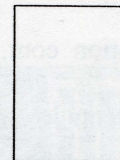
sentences are being reviewed and overturned because of the summer blockbuster decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Ring v Arizona case. The High Court ruled that it is the responsibility of a jury to hand down capital punishment sentences in murder cases—NOT the judge. This will be a future battleground between the lil court and the big court since there are about a half dozen cases in Missouri that were judge-imposed.

Don't forget Mumia Abu Jamal. He has exhausted all court appeals and the State of Pennsylvania are frothing at the mouth that the road is clear to executing Mumia. He needs us now more than ever. Please get your letters of protest to the Penn governor. Visit Mumia's website for updates at www.mumia.org.



"Black People on the M-o-v-e!"

“Black People on the *Move*!”



Sponsored by Jobs with Justice



Janey Archey (CAPCR) and JuJu Jacobs (OBS) get handcuffed at scene of convention boycott protest (see story on front page)

Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Celebration
of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sunday, December 7 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 Highlander Lounge
 Forest Park Community College

Winning Essay Contests read and Unsung Human Rights S/Heroes honored

*Sponsored by the
St. Louis Coalition for Human Rights*