

NORTHERN, S FREEDOM SCHOOL

Detroit, Michigan

"When 2300 students walked out of Northern High School in Detroit on April 7, 1966 they were protesting two injustices: first, grossly inferior educational opportunities for Negroes in all our inner-city schools, and second, a partidulary repressive high school administration at Northern." These were the intolerable conditions in 1966, and these are still the intolerable conditions three years later in 1969.

Student unrest began at Northern High School in April of 1966 when Charles Colding, a Northern High Senior, wrote an editorial for the school newspaper, the "Northern Light". In the editorial, he asked why Black Students were still being taught "White is right;" and why black students were receiving inferior education. He compared what was being offered at Northern with the education of students at Redford High, an outlying white school. The English Department head, backed up by the then racist principal Carty, refused to allow the editorial to be published. This act sparked the student revolt in 1966.

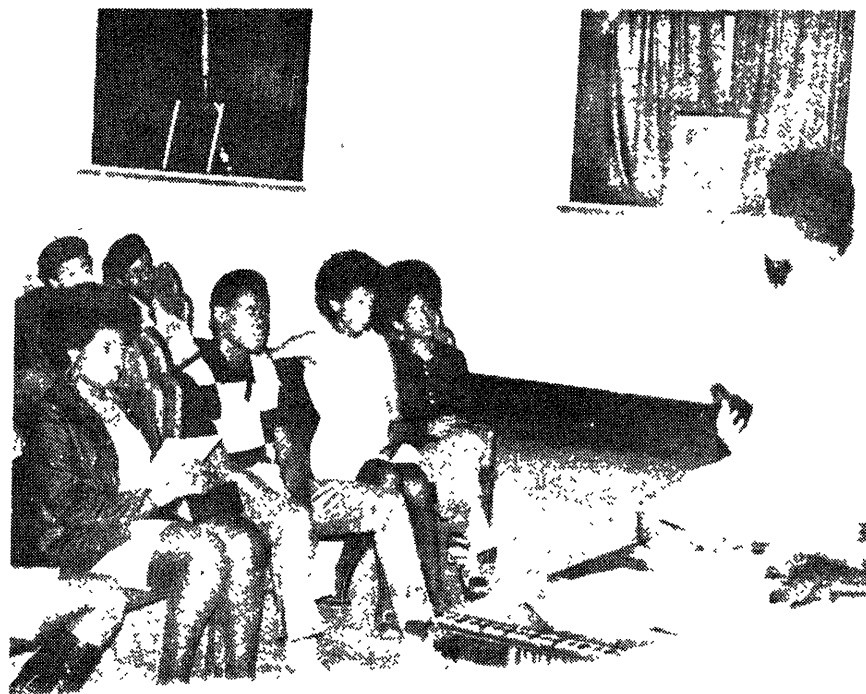
After a massive student walkout the Brothers and Sisters presented the then Superintendent of schools Brownell with a set of demands. Some of these were: 1) Principal Carty was to be removed and not replaced by Assistant Principal Donaldson; 2) Police Officer Lucas was to be removed from his assignment at Northern 3) Teachers who wished to stay at Northern should not be forced to move at the end of three years. (This referred to the rule which transferred new teachers after three years to a different school in a different environment. The students believed that their hope laid with the young teachers, and did not want them to be forced to leave.) 4) Comparative information about education at inner-and outer-city schools should be prepared and made public. 5) A student-faculty council should be created at Northern. (Students believed that the existing student council was completely unrepresented and powerless.) 6) A school-community agent should be appointed for Northern.

Let us examine these demands one by one. The white racist Principal Carty was removed, but he was replaced by his racist assistant Principal Donaldson. This was just the opposite of what the students called for. After a great deal of "slipping and sliding" Northern now has a so-called "Black, so-called "man" McGivens as Principal. Under the McGivens administration (which is practicing neo-Carty-sim) Black Students have seen no meaningful changes at Northern.

The negro "rent-a-cop" (Police officer) Lucas was removed, but he was replaced by another negro "rent-a-cop". Today Northern High School is beginning to look like the new Nazi Germany (the Fourth Reich) armed police are everywhere.

Teachers who wish to stay at Northern after teaching for three years can still be forced out of their position when the "powers that be" so desire.

The comparative information about education at inner-and outer-city schools was prepared and made public. So What!!! Individual white "studies" cannot and will not solve collective Black problems.



The "student-faculty council" has never become a reality.

As we can see none of the Students just demands have been meaningfully met as of September 1969. At Northern "the game is the same only the players have changed."

Things are changing in America for the worse. Black students, Black workers, Black people period, are beginning to see that our people are the victims of a white power conspiracy. Everyone is beginning to see that, if we don't Unite we will Perish.

Since April of 1966 when students walked out of Northern our struggle has gone through many changes. In the summer of 1967 in the city of Detroit hundreds of our people were murdered and thousands injured. In April of 1968, we saw the apostle of "love and non-violence" violently shot down by white america in broad day light. The reaction was that "he was an innocent Christian preacher if they did this to him, you know what they'll do to you and men." In March of 1969, again in Detroit, we saw foaming-at-the-mouth" white nationalists fanatics" (police) attack Blackmen women, and children at the New Bethel Church.

Black students faced with racist oppression in the streets and "mental genocide" in the schools decided to unite and fight against these injustices.

On September 19th Black Students at Northern closed ranks behind Bro. Ahmed Evans (a revolutionary freedom-fighter from Cleveland)

Once again Black Students were set back by Black men with white minds (McGivens and company) and racist police.

Here are the words of the victims themselves:

WE, THE UHURU ASSOCIATION, AND ALL OTHER BLACK STUDENTS OF NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL MAKE THESE DEMANDS ON THE ADMINISTRATION AT NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IF AND WHERE NECESSARY.

WE DEMAND:

1. That Principal McGivens and assistant principals Leach and Russel make an unconditional effort to bring the police who brutalized, beat and molested our black soul sisters and brothers to court.
2. That in order to discontinue the educational crisis that exists at Northern (high drop out rate, low academic achievement and reading levels, general unconcern for education by black students etc.) That a black studies curriculum be instituted.
3. That all pictures of whites be removed from Northern High School and be replaced with pictures of our own heroes such as, Robert F. Williams, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, H. Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael, Huey Newton and others.
4. a. That the library of Northern High School be restocked with an abundance of books dealing with the Black experience and true black history.
b. That the Ludington reading room be renamed the Malcolm X reading room and all supplies be oriented to black students.
5. That there be days set aside in honor of each of our martyred black heroes Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

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KITCHEN IN THE FREEDOM SCHOOL

6. That the Nationalist Flag of Unity (Red, Green, Black) be raised each morning on one of the flagpoles of Northern High School.
7. That a Student-Community Review Board be created with the power to act, intervene and decide on all matters concerning and affecting both students and school.
8. Removal of all police from the premises of Northern High School and be replaced with a trained and disciplined student security patrol.
9. That an overall modernization (fixing-up) of Northern High School i.e. Lunchroom facilities must be improved immediately.
10. That total amnesty be given to all black students who become involved in any actions that may arise from the presentation of these demands, and amnesty for those students involved in the revolt of September 19, 1969.

After three days of worthless "lip service" on the part of the administration, Black students decided to take the struggle to a higher level.

On Tues., Sept. 30, 1969, the students of Northern staged a walkout and marched to the School Center Bldg. where we presented our demands only to met with the same lies, tricks, and empty promises.

We, as Black students have peacefully marched, picketed, begged, and humbly implored for an equal education and a relevant education for our survival as Black captives in a racist white society, striped of our proud and beautiful culture and heritage."

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THE YOUNG ONES AT FREEDOM SCHOOL

