

# Police "Gestapo" Afraid Of What Will Be Found?

The police department and the power structure are frightened of the proposed "panther patrols" because they know what will be found believes Al Harrison, coordinator of the Afro-American Unity Movement, 9211 Kercheval, who announced the patrols recently.

"We got coverage of the fact we were going to 'police the police' and we wouldn't be armed," Harrison noted, "but no one told the people why we believe the patrols are necessary, the validity of the charges we raised against the police department and the prosecutor's office, particularly Samuel Olsen.

"If the police department and prosecutor's office are acting fairly, then they should have no fear of being watched. But if they actually are utilizing gestapo techniques then they have reason to be afraid, and they are afraid," he continued.

Harrison said that although a date has been set for the start of operations of the patrols, no specific information will be released at this time. "I can say that it will be very soon," he said.

He said that anyone who is interested in joining the patrols or who had information on injustices by the police or prosecutor's office should call 822-9318, a special number at the AAUM office, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

At the time of announcement of the "panther patrols," Harrison also called for an investigation by the Wayne County Grand Jury, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the Senate Judiciary Committee and the U.S. Justice Department into specific instances of recent unjust treatment.

The Justice department was asked into the investigation because two soldiers, Willie Stevenson and Tommie Carroll, had been jailed "with no reason" from Aug. 5 until recently "and it took Action Line to get them out," Harrison said.

Other examples of the way the police and the prosecutor's office "arrest or shoot black people at whim," Harrison said, were Mrs. Willie Vester and her son, Clarence, who were beaten this year, Howard King who was beaten this summer and in the fall, 1965; Carrie Sanders and Barbara Jackson in 1965; James Sabra who was killed in 1965; Clifton Allen, Nathaniel Williams and Julius Malone in 1964; and Cynthia Scott, killed in 1963.

From 1958 to 1961, "23 black people were murdered by whites in this city," Harrison stated. "Of these, 15 were ruled justifiable, and 12 were by white police officers. These examples are not the only ones. I'm sure our research has just begun to scratch the surface. We hope that everyone with any other examples will call us. We will conduct our own open hearings if our requests are not granted."

He also pointed to the 118 arrests in the Kercheval incidents in August. "Most of these charges have been found to be unwarranted. Of the 45 which have come to court, 29 have been dropped on insufficient grounds. There was never any basis for the arrests and warrants, and the courts are finding this out. This doesn't speak too well of the police or the prosecutor's office, which had no grounds for issuing all those

warrants on insufficient grounds."

However, he also blamed Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh, Police Commissioner Ray Girardin, the Citizens' Complaint Bureau and "so called Negro leaders -- they are equally responsible for allowing this situation to exist."

Mrs. Ruth Wallace, 2102 Halleck, who was at the press conference, told of an incident that happened Aug. 8. Her son, William, 17, was tampering with a car and when police came, they shot him, although she noted he is very slight and looks about 13. The bullet went through his back and came out into his arm.

He was not given medical attention promptly, and her husband or no one else, in the family was notified for some time, she said. He was in serious condition in the hospital. In court, he was given six months probation.

She didn't notify the Civil Rights Commission or the Complaint Bureau because she "hadn't seen the use," she said. "People just don't feel they have the right to protest," Harrison commented.

"They have been mistreated for so long they think it is their fate to get shot or insulted by the police. We have got to change that. We have got to make black people see that it is their responsibility to stand up against unfair treatment. That is why we are starting the panther patrols."

He said he was calling only for black volunteers, "because it is the responsibility of the black community to come to its own defense," but whites who shared their sympathies could "aid in any way they felt appropriate."