

Roz Payne (Editor), *What We Want, What We Believe: The Black Panther Party Library DVD* (Oakland: AK Press, 2006).

What We Want: We Believe: The Black Panther Party Library is a ground breaking collection of film footage, videographies of the top BPP leaders and video oral histories of the members of the News Reel who worked to publicize and support the work of the Black Panther Party, movement organizations and individuals in general. This collection of four DVDs is unsurpassed in its breadth and knowledge of those most closely associated with the inner workings, growth, development, and decline of the BPP. It is a welcome addition to the rapidly growing research on civil rights and black power now being conducted by scholars throughout the US and around the globe. Roz Payne's thoroughly researched and well-edited video collection is one that will be indispensable to those seeking to understand the phenomenon J. Edgar Hoover chose to dub the "greatest threat to the internal security of the United States."

Included in this collection are well-known short documentary films like *Off the Pig!*, *May Day* and *Repression*. These short films, often less than twenty minutes in length, cover the early history of Black Panther Party and the major events that brought it headlines in the late sixties and early seventies. One sees footage where an imprisoned Huey Newton speaks candidly about why there was a need for the BPP. Viewers witness party co-founder Bobby Seale read Executive Mandate number one on the steps of the Sacramento Capital where he called for blacks nationwide to take note of the "racist California legislature" that was preparing to pass a law to "disarm" blacks and take away their second amendment rights to bear arms. This spectacle swelled the group's numbers from thirty to nearly 4,000 in a few months time. Minister of Information and infamous author Eldridge Cleaver chimes in with a few choice four-letter words and explains why it is important to blacks and their white, brown, red, and yellow allies to make the police feel the same fear that blacks had grown to know over the centuries. While all of this is classic footage that makes for excellent teaching tools, the newsreel team made it clear that their task was not only to document and preserve the history of this radical organization but also to use their films to educate "the people" and to recruit new members into party. In other words, they were scholar activists long before the term became popular in the late twentieth century.

Newsreel's role in the life of the BPP is the part of the collection that makes it so unique. The stories that the newsreel film team and the lawyers who fought for and supported the party through uncounted legal battles tell are at the same time heartbreaking and courageous. The members of the newsreel family from New York to California lay bare their hearts in an attempt to tell their individual stories of how they came to know, love, work with, and finally to leave the BPP and carry on with the rest of their lives. Movement lawyers follow suit with stories of intrigue, betrayal, innovative and new defenses, and plain old good luck.

Bob Blume, Bob Boyle, and Jesse Burman paint a picture of this radical organization that most have never seen.

Never before seen video interviews with Panther Field Marshal Don Cox in his home in France round out the collection. Living in exile for the better part of forty years has left this movement stalwart worn but not defeated and certainly not bitter. His exposition on the Panther's foibles, defeats, and victories provide a fresh inside view of the party that one rarely sees from those on this side of the pond. His counterpart, FBI special agent William A. Cohendet is juxtaposed with Panther leaders to show how the powers that be saw the Panthers, and more importantly, how they saw themselves and their roles as keepers of the status quo. Despite hard hitting questions and candid comments from Roz Payne who interviewed Agent "WAC," one still comes away feeling that there had to have been more to the overkill in strategy and tactics the FBI used to destroy the BPP. Nevertheless, the collection is useful because it allows the viewer to make up his or her own mind about the Panthers, the movement, and the work of local, state, and federal government agencies that participated in this dance of death and doom with this radical group. This in itself would have been sufficient to carry us into the next millennium, but Payne had the foresight to realize that no collection of this caliber could have been fully complete without a photo gallery that carried the viewer through the short life of an organization whose legacy continues to be manifested in free breakfast programs, access to healthcare for the poor, and charter schools that do much better jobs at educating the young than do most of the nation's public schools.

Scholars, students, and lay people will find something of value in this collection. Community people who were "there" will be taken on an unforgettable trip down memory lane and would-be revolutionaries and future activists can learn a lot from those who have already been there and done that. They might start by watching the amazing footage of the first ever conference (at Wheelock College in Boston) held solely on the subject of the Black Panther Party. They might get even more clarity by analyzing the footage from the BPP's 35th Reunion, which took place in Washington, DC and marked the first time in thirty years that East Coast and West Coast Panthers sat down as a group to discuss the legacy of the party and what went wrong along the way. *What We Want What We Believe* is going to be used for years by high school teachers and college professors who want to share with their students the tragic but grand story of radical change in the 1960s. For this reason, this collection is recommended for all who seek to know why the United States is the way it is in terms of race relations and social stratification. They will find in it the answers they seek to know about America's tragic past. More importantly, they will be forced to ask those questions that most of us are afraid to ask: Where do we go from here? And what do we do after we get there?

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