

Black Panther Party History Month

Organization's Leaders Gather In Sacramento For Book Fair And Celebration

There have been numerous accounts of the Black Panther Party's activities and legacy but historians urge folks to get the story from those who lived it.

Several former members of the Black Panther Party were in

by GENOA BARROW
OBSERVER Senior Staff Writer

Sacramento last week for a special Book Fair. The Black Panther Book Fair was held at the Pangea Café and featured current and former members and others who have written books about the Panther experience.



Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale attended the local event.

The event was hosted by the It's About Time Committee which is led by the Black Panther Party's official historian, Sacramento's Billy Jennings.

Participants got a rare treat in being able to hear from leaders like Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale and others. Among those discussing their books in person were Elbert "Big Man" Howard, Robert H. King, Skip Shockley, Orissa Arend and Dr. Curtis Austin.

Howard, an original member of the Black Panther Party, has a book titled "Panther on the Prowl."

King, also known as Robert King Wilkerson, spent 29 years of a 31-year prison sentence in solitary confinement in Louisiana's Angola Prison. His award-winning autobiography is titled "From The Bottom of the Heap."

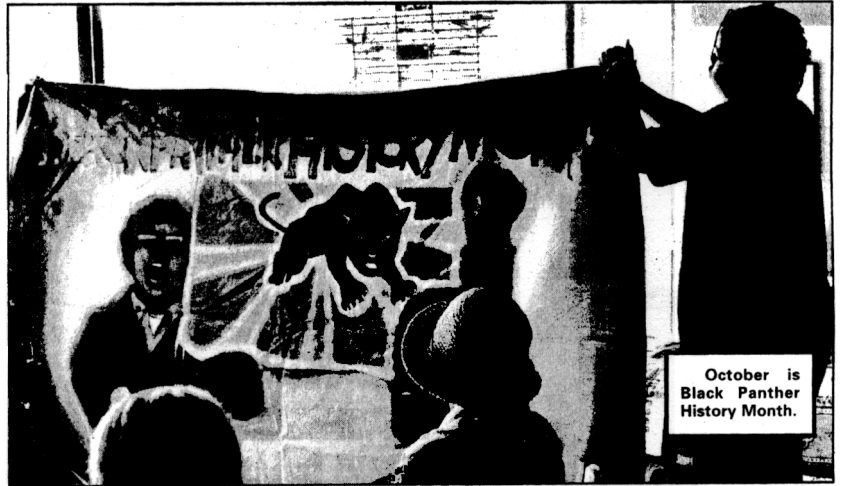
King is featured in the book of another Book Fair author, Ms. Arend. Her book, "Showdown in Desire: Black Panthers Take A Stand In New Orleans," is about the New Orleans chapter of the Black Panther Party and the police raids on their office.

Dr. Austin, who wrote the forward to Ms. Arend's book, was also on hand.

He led a discussion about the 10 years of research he conducted for his book, "Up Against The Wall: Violence in the Making and Unmaking of the Black Panther Party."

The Book Fair gathering was a part of a larger observance and celebration.

October, Jennings said, is Black Panther History Month. Except for the

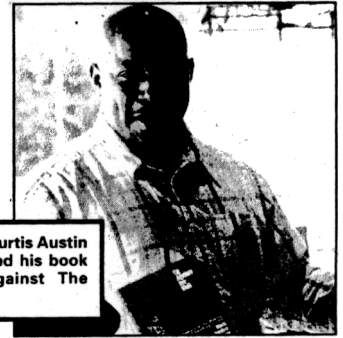


October is Black Panther History Month.

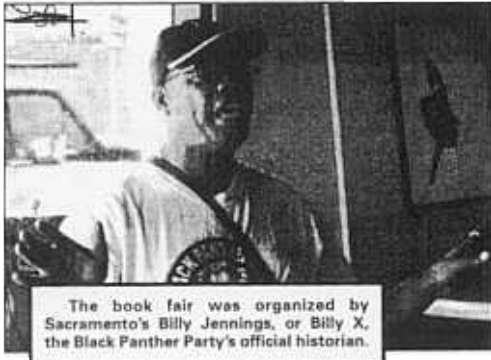
Sacramento Book Fair, all other activities centered around the Oakland area, the birthplace of the Panthers.

Activities included an Underground Newspaper Exhibit at the West Oakland Library and Laney College, a BPP Film Festival, a photo exhibit: "Women of the BPP and Beyond" at the Oakland Library, and also a Book Fair and Teach-In at Laney College.

The Sacramento event also allowed those in attendance to celebrate the birthday for Party co-founder Bobby Seale.



Dr. Curtis Austin discussed his book "Up Against The Wall."



The book fair was organized by Sacramento's Billy Jennings, or Billy X, the Black Panther Party's official historian.



The event was held at the Pangea Café, giving locals the chance to hear about the Black Panther Party and its legacy.

OBSERVER Photos by RAY JOHNSON

FEATURED THIS WEEK:

■ PAGE A-6 SELLOUT

Community Rallies Around Effort To Sell Kings Tickets

■ PAGE B-1 DEBUTANTES

AKA's Host Mother/Daughter Luncheon Before Debutante Ball

■ PAGE C-5 RELIGION

Shiloh Holds Annual Christian Women's Conference

■ PAGE E-4 CONCERT

Vocalist Natalie Cole Scheduled To Perform In Sacramento



Special Tribute

Alice Huffman, President of the California NAACP, left, honored Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger during the NAACP State Conference. See Page G-1.