

COPWATCH REPORT

BERKELEY, CA

RELEASED JUNE 7, 1991 (FOR APRIL AND MA



BERKELEY'S SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT

As COPWATCH grows, we are expanding our interests much beyond the Southside area of campus, and into larger questions of law enforcement and the priorities of the police in Berkeley. One of the areas that is of great interest is Berkeley's Special Enforcement Unit (SEU). It was established by former Police Chief Ronald Nelson, aimed at "bringing the war on drugs to Berkeley."

The SEU is comprised of 24 officers and divided into the Drug Task Force (DTF) and a mobile police station. The mobile station was an AC Transit bus that was painted black and white, and nicknamed Orca, after the killer whale.

When the SEU was established, many officers were removed from their regular duty to staff it. They felt justified in this action because they claim that 40% of crimes such as assaults, robberies, and burglaries are drug related. If this is the case, even the police department recognizes that other, non-drug related crimes are being given less attention, and that fewer cases are being solved.

In the beginning stages, current BPD Chief Dash Butler was the head of the DTF. In examining the success of DTF, Butler recognizes a trend when the DTF focuses on crack houses, the dealers move to the streets, and when the focus is on the streets, the dealers move to the crack houses. It is interesting to COPWATCH that this trend doesn't cause

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UCPD ARRESTS FOR POSTING ON CAMPUS

Towards the end of the semester at UC Berkeley, a minority of students found themselves trying to protest the increase in fees of \$200. In their organizing, as with any other group they were posting flyers to give other students information about the fees, where the money is going, who is going to suffer... When they were posting on Sather Gate, one student was given a ticket, because Officers Dillard and Thiel claimed the gate was an illegal surface to post on. The irony is that not more than five feet away another group had a large poster across the gate, for which they received no ticket. Later that day, another student was ticketed. The following day, one of the students was arrested for the same offense and put in the jail cell. And the next day that same student was chased up the steps of Boalt Hall by an officer on a motorcycle. The response by these officers to the protestors appears to be purely selective enforcement. Police Chief Victoria Harrison vehemently denied this, claiming that her officers were only enforcing the University regulations. She said that they were more actively enforcing this regulation because of all the money spent by the University on taking down flyers. If this is true, COPWATCH would appreciate hearing from any students ticketed for flyers other than those on the fee hikes.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION

911 IS A JOKE

911 - These three numbers have come to symbolize spectacular deliverance from evil. The correlation has protruded even into prime time TV, where every seven days, millions of Americans tune into "Rescue 911" to watch emergency calls portrayed with the last word in theatrical technique, thus creating the ambiance of documentary realism. Oh so reasonable cops, neighbors, and police dispatchers become holy warriors in the battle against the evil forces out there, somewhere. What audiences don't see is...reality.

"Officials estimate that only a fraction of the nearly one million 911 calls Houston police answered last year--10 to 30 percent-- were life threatening emergencies." "Los Angeles police estimate that only 30 percent of the 2.3 million calls they answered in 1989 were top-priority emergencies. Of the 900,000 calls to Boston's 911 lines last year, less than 10 percent were life threatening crises." (Newsweek, November 5, 1990)

The sad fact is that in many big cities, emergency-response schemes are a farce designed to make people feel safe without substantially preventing "crimes in progress." Devised about two decades ago at the behest of a presidential commission, 911 was supposed to be a marriage (of convenience?) of advanced technology and public demand for quick response to life threatening crises. But 911 was "over sold" to the public by various con artists (read politicians) who want police to have a monopoly on violence. They attempted to systematically implant into the insured when the police have helicopters, armed personnel carriers, teams of crazed thugs in ski masks, etc., and now the people have 911...gun control legislation. Now don't you feel safe?

"But experts argue that 911's central assumption -- that fast police action can actually curb crime-- is a myth. A study of the Washington based Police Executive Research Forum shows that rapid police response leads to an immediate arrest less than three percent of the time... (911) turns out to be not at all that effective in dealing with or solving crime," says Harvard criminal-justice professor Mark Moore, coauthor of a new book on innovations in policing."

Regional porkbarrel politics is the basis for a lot of 911's popularity among various cities "fathers:" "Mayors and police chiefs across the country boosted their popularity by promising rapid emergency response. Aggressive community consciousness. The system also allows police, fire and emergency medical departments to vie for prodigious -- though ultimately meaningless-- numerical totals. 'Whoever gets the most responses gets the most money in the next budget.' says Robert Panzarella, a professor of police science at John Jay College in New York. Many city newspapers publish police response times, reinforcing the public's misconception that speed is the best measure of a good police department."

"Now wait just one minute!," interjects Mr. I.B. Leevied. "That's not what they told us when they sold us this bill of goods. In pursuit of base self-interest would American officials so cynically exploit the public's fear of crime?" To ask the question is to answer it.

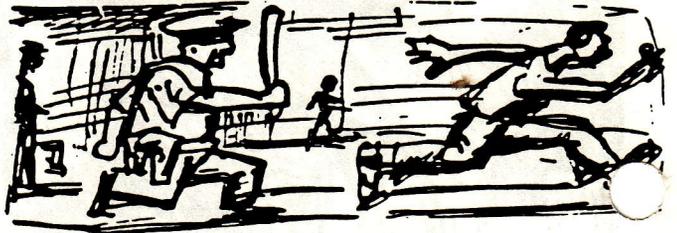
g.Blood

***Berkeley's PRC passed a motion to send a letter to Mayor Tom Bradley and the LA City Council requesting the resignation of Police Chief Daryl Gates.

***On the home front, the Berkeley Police Department has a new Crowd Control Team. According to Chief Dash But they will look like the "Sears utility man." If the Chief has his way, the BPD will soon be sporting new guns. The hair trigger "Glock" will be replaced with 40 and 45 caliber semi-automatic Smith and Wessons. Costs are estimated at \$100,000.

*** A PRC subcommittee is looking at BPD videotaping policy.

***At the May 8 PRC meeting, Commissioner Neumann introduced a motion asking the City Manager to solicit the cooperation of UCPD in PRC investigations that arise out of joint operations with the UCPD. The motion passed 5 to 0 (with Commissioner Power abstaining). It remains to be seen whether or not UCPD will cooperate. Perhaps the City Council will recognize the importance of this issue to our community. (Mayor Loni Hancock 644-6484, City Manager Michael Brown 644-6480, PRC 644-6716) Coming Soon... the PRC may hear complaints about Parking Enforcement.



Historical Note:

The Free Clinic's Roots in Police Brutality

The Berkeley Free Clinic was created in 1968 and people soon found that the clinic's services were vitally needed by victims of police brutality. Especially in 1969, during efforts to create People's Park, people who were assaulted by the police found that if they went to Highland Hospital for medical treatment, "they might be turned away or they might be arrested," said Scott W. who has been working at the Free Clinic since 1970. Generally these people were charged with assaulting an officer. As a result the Free Clinic organized itself, with the help of Vietnam War Veteran Medics, as an emergency medical service to treat People's Park protectors.

PINK BERETS PATROL THE CASTRO

The Pink Berets have been patrolling the streets of the Castro trying to stop the rash of gay bashings. They are members of the community who are taking action themselves because they know that the violence against the gay community has not been seriously addressed by the police or anyone else. The members of the Street Patrol carry no weapons and try to intervene to stop the violence if they see it. They have been positively recognized by the SFPD for "doing what good citizens do," meaning preventing crime. Other groups similar to the Pink Berets have been formed in Sacramento, Seattle, and New York.

4/4 Haste and Telegraph: Four men were stopped for drinking in public. Police officers, in an effort to give the men "a break" decided just to pour out the beer without ticketing them. As the officer poured out the beer it fell from his hands and broke on the ground. He told the one black man in the group to pick up the broken glass. The man did so.

Shattuck and Kitteredge: Officer Bachman (BPD # 127) was frustrated because he thought he had seen a homeless man drink from a can, but he couldn't find the can. After an unsuccessful search of the area and the man's female companion, the officer cited the man for drinking in public anyway.

5/2 Tremont and Ashby: Officer from BPD systematically ticketed individuals for living in their vehicles. He claimed that people in their cars were "inflicting their presence" on neighbors and that it was unacceptable.

5/18 Tower Video: An African American man went to exchange an album. When he was unable to exchange it he moved to leave the store. As he left, store security attempted to stop him by grabbing him around the neck from behind. The two men struggled until police arrived. Police questioned the victim until a store employee confirmed that the man owned the album he was holding in his hands. At last he was allowed to leave the area with a sore neck and his old album.

5/25 Durant and Telegraph: A homeless man accused of jaywalking was walking back and forth on Durant in a very agitated manner. UCPD Officer Pang (#58) radioed for back-up. Before back-up arrived, Pang drove his car diagonally across the street with the door open and his leg hanging out of the car. He stopped quickly, jumped from the car, grabbed the victim from behind and kicked him to the ground. At this point, two back-up units arrived and the man was arrested for jaywalking.

5/25 Bancroft and Telegraph: An older model car was stopped for expired registration. The driver did not have her license with her. UCPD Officer Lechmanik (#82) told the African Americans to get out of the car because it was going to be towed. None of the occupants had a driver's license, but when they found a man willing to drive the car for them, the officer decided that only one of the cars occupants was eligible to drive the car. The car was searched thoroughly and towed.

5/28 UC Campus near Bancroft: Officer Thiel (#89) and Sgt. Dillard (S-23) arrested the Hate Man for trespassing on UC property because he had his shopping cart with him. Officer Thiel informed the victim the , "The rule in People's Park apply to all UC property, No shopping carts."

5/28 Durant and Telegraph: Two African American males were stopped by police and forced to identify themselves. With three units on the scene, the men were eager to persuade the police that they were not selling drugs. They allowed the police to search them and when nothing was found on them they were released. Police claim they saw them "pass something" between them. The men remembered passing a book of matches.

5/31 Durant and Telegraph: A BPD officer physically lifted a homeless man sleeping on the sidewalk to his feet. He was forced to bend over backwards on the hood of the police car and handcuffed. When he refused to cooperate with his arrest, two officers forced him into the car.

6/2 People's Park: UC Police responded to an attempted suicide by an older homeless man with a razor blade. Police response was prompt and the man was taken without resistance to a Bates. Witnesses said that he had been robbed of \$500 two days earlier. Other homeless witnesses said that "He knew exactly what he was doing."

COPWATCH MEETING

MONDAYS AT 8:00 PM
2022 BLAKE ST (NEAR SHATTUCK)
548-0425



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Everyone can watch the cops!

COPWATCH encourages everyone to stop and watch the police. Often the cops on the street will tell you to move along, or tell you that an incident is none of your business; but remember, the street is a public area and the police are supposed to be civil servants - everyone has the right to observe the police at work. Police must identify themselves to you. Write down police names and badge numbers and a description of the incident; also collect names and phone numbers of witnesses in the area. Report your observations to COPWATCH, or make a direct complaint to the police department involved.

Get the word out: Publicize police crimes!

Besides walking the streets on actual COPWATCH shifts, the organization keeps tabs on U.C. and the city council affairs, and Police Review Commission meetings. We also take on individual cases of police harassment or brutality, help people through PRC hearings and legal proceedings, and publish our findings in this report.

We need volunteer and interns for research on the police, graphics, videotaping, office work, media relations, Copwatching, casework, and community outreach. If you are interested in any of these areas, please call us, or come to our weekly meeting.

VIDEO CAMERA?

COPWATCH would like to borrow a video camera; a 8mm camcorder that shoots under low light with a directional mike would be ideal. Please loan us your camera! Call 548-0425.

ILL A POLICE REVIEW BOARD IN S.F. DO THE JOB?

Following nationally televised recordings of violence and brutality by the Los Angeles police, a city wide coalition against police brutality in San Francisco, led by the New Alliance Party and the Peace and Freedom Party, held a press conference at the Hall of Justice in San Francisco to announce the drafting of an initiative to be placed on the November ballot mandating the Board of Supervisors to amend the City Charter and establish a Citizens' Police Review Board, elected by the people. The initiative is the first step in a series of actions designed to stem the tide of police brutality which has beset San Francisco over the last few years. The coalition, which is called the "Committee to stop the violence" recently sponsored a march against violence in Bayview/Hunters Point which was led by the Rev. Al Sharpton and Dr. Leonora Fulani and drew hundreds of marchers and major media coverage.

A San Francisco Chronicle study published last May showed that San Francisco had the highest rate of police brutality in the nation and the lowest number of cases of investigation and prosecution of complaints lodged against police officers.

"It is violently obvious that the Office of Citizen Complaints, whose members are appointed by the Mayor, have failed to address this growing problem," stated Jim Langia, San Francisco County Chair of the Peace and Freedom Party. "We need a democratically elected and citizen-controlled police review board so that the response to the vicious forms of police brutality and violence we suffer every day at the hands of the city police, is not subject to the political whims and patronage of the Mayor!"

The Office of Citizen Complaints recently refused to bring charges against police officers involved in the October 1989 "police sweep" of the Castro district, in which dozens of peaceful protestors and innocent bystanders were beaten by police. Another recent brutality case resulted in a suit against the city by labor leader Dolores Huerta, who lost her spleen as a result of a police attack at a peaceful demonstration.

The initiative reads as follows:

This measure is a declaration of policy. It would make it City policy for the Board of Supervisors to submit to the voters a charter amendment establishing a Citizen's Police Review Board ("Review Board") that would replace the Office of Citizen Complaints. The members of the Review Board would be elected by the voters from seven districts.

The Review Board would also have exclusive jurisdiction over all police officer misconduct relating to abuse of authority, acts of violence, or alleged violations of civil rights. It would have the authority to initiate investigations, issue its own complaints and impose penalties on police officers found guilty of misconduct, which the police officers could appeal. The Review Board would forward to the District Attorney the complete records of any case where there has been a finding of guilt, along with a recommendation for criminal prosecution. The Chief of Police would be required to execute all orders of the Review Board.

Each member of the Review Board would be required to convene in his or her district, at least once each month, a Community Assembly for the purpose of receiving and hearing complaints relating to the Review Board.

THE HEADFIXING INDUSTRY AND THE MYSTIFICATION OF THE POLICE

The videotaped beating of Rodney King forced the issue of racist police brutality to the center of national attention. On the heels of the stinging attacks by the alternative press exposing the fact that the "mainstream media" functioned as an organ of the State Department during the US government's war against Iraq, the newspaper barons felt compelled to shore up their sagging credibility. The media was falling over itself to come out with stories about incidents of police brutality and what was ostensibly being done about it, in order to "restore public confidence" in the police. In vain! The genie is out of the bottle.

Gore Vidal once said something to the effect that the American public had a collective memory of about 72 hours. The big city newspaper editors are well aware of this and have actually been quietly attempting to remove the issue of police brutality from the agenda. One of the reasons we publish this report is to make our modest contribution to preventing that from happening.

If you compare the number of articles that were published in the "official" media BEFORE the Rodney King incident to the outpouring of articles after this despicable act, it is obvious how much information about police brutality is withheld from the public by big media corporations. They are also notoriously inaccurate and one-sided when they do print material on this subject.

Little wonder that confusion exists in the minds of most Americans on the actual function of the police in this society. The over used term "protect and serve" is manipulated to describe what the police do for the populace. Is this true? We say "yes" and "no."

The elite in Berkeley is doing all that it can to make it illegal for "both rich and poor" to sleep in public. Who is actually arrested for this "crime?" According to the Los Angeles Times, 80% of the cocaine bought in the United States is consumed by whites. The overwhelming majority of those arrested for dealing cocaine are minority youth, mostly small time traffickers.

Contrast the cops treatment of Zsa Zsa Gabor (who slapped a cop in LA) to the cops "treatment of Elenor Bumpers (who was killed by the NYPD) or Eula Love (killed by LAPD). The comparison of the cops "handling" of the Greensboro Massacre perpetrated by the Klan et al versus the COINTELPRO actions against the Black Panther Party also reveal the true function of the cops.

It is clear that the police "serve and protect" a part of this society against the overwhelming majority. Joseph Lohman, former Dean of the University Criminology School had the following to say about the function of the police: "The police function is to support and enforce the interests of the dominant political, social, and economic interests of the town and only incidentally to enforce the law."

Why then don't the majority of Americans "see" this? Because of one of America's most important industries: The Head-Fixing Industry. Failure to understand that the police are

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DON JACKSON CASE OUTRAGE!

In what was an almost unbelievable example of racist "justice" the criminal charges against the two Long Beach officers that were videotaped brutalizing Don Jackson were dismissed after the jury deadlocked 11-1 for acquittal.

On January 14, 1989, Don Jackson's head was forced through a plate glass window by the police after he was pulled over in a "routine" traffic stop. He was on a "sting" operation to gather evidence to substantiate reports of the pervasive brutality in the LA area.

This case, against Long Beach's "finest," focused national attention to the use of police brutality against black people. For some reason it will not be retried according to prosecutor Herb Lapin.

What makes this jury decision so ugly is that the police were caught dead to right. It is as if the cop's lawyer said to the jury, "Who are you going to believe, the police or your lying eyes?!"

Apparently the 11 members of the jury, who happened to be white, declined to be "confused" by the video. The "experts" on police tactics who, not surprisingly testified that the conduct of the officers was justified, supposedly know better. Charles Woolery, the sole black juror, voted the two cops Dickey and Ramsey, guilty.

Glen Evans, the jury foreman, on the Opinion/Editorial page of the LA Times 5-20-91, inadvertently gives us a clue as to how this travesty of justice happened. Declaring himself an "honest man" he says, "My only knowledge of Jackson and his of me came in the courtroom." This is very dubious. Jackson's video was repeatedly played on nation wide television and was all over the press of Southern California. Either Mr. Evans doesn't have a television and doesn't read the newspapers, or this "honest man" isn't so honest. He thinks that his "hopes for change in society coincide" with Jackson's. "Only our methods would differ." Evans ends his statement with the following words: "It's far simpler to teach, and defend, than to take the rocky path that Jackson seems to have chosen to walk."

So Jackson has chosen, and thereby inspired others, to take a "rocky" or difficult road. Evans thinks that Jackson's "methods" caused the events of 1-14-89 to occur, not the racist police policy. We think this case needs a change of venue. Retry Dickey and Ramsey in South-Central LA!

g. Blood

WHAT YOU GONNA DO ELIHU?

The Mayor of Oakland, Elihu Harris, asked the City Manager Henry Gardener, to investigate an incident of police brutality by an officer against a jaywalker. In Oakland, as in many other cities, the City Manager not the Mayor supervises the police.

Marguerite Martin, 30 years old, a doctoral student at West Virginia University, and a friend of the Mayor's aide, Sherry Harris, said that she was "thrown to the floor" of the Lakeshore Natural Foods, handcuffed and arrested by officer Ingas Winkle subsequent to her refusal to sign a jaywalking ticket. Martin had admitted that she jaywalked but claimed, "I didn't know I had to sign the ticket." Martin, a black woman, declared that the "treatment" she received from Winkle, who is white, was racially inspired.

The Oakland cop said comparisons to Rodney King in Los Angeles are "unfortunate and unfair" and that she "resented" the allegation by Martin that the incident was racially motivated. The Police Officer Association blamed Martin for the incident.

"The officers said Martin was treated like anyone else who refuses to sign a citation and who does not cooperate with an officer." (S.F. Chronicle, May 25, 1991) Finally, a true statement by the cops!

There are a few things about this case that make it especially interesting to Copwatchers. Martin is not a poor or homeless black person with no access to the resources to fight police brutality. John Burris, her lawyer, is preparing a civil claim against the city. We hope they get every dime they are filing for. Martin is a well-educated, well-connected member of the community. It just goes to show, the police do not discriminate when it comes to meting out their violence in the black community - they dog any black person that gives them the most infinitesimal "excuse," regardless of "status." The cops seem to be hardlining, it and the newly elected mayor is upset that his buddy was roughed up and "treated like anyone else."

Everyone knows that if Martin was not one of Mayor Harris' privileged pals this case never would have never seen the light of day. Nevertheless, opponents of police brutality, in order to remain consistent with our principles, must side with Martin against the cops. The outcome of this case could effect all of Oakland.

g. Blood



(Cont. from pg. 1)

the department, or the city council, or anyone to realize that there may be other solutions to the drug problem. Berkeley's participation in the war on drugs follows with the entire country's ignorance about the reasons for drug use and sales. It shows a lack of understanding of the social and economic roots of this epidemic and calls for jailing, ticketing and abusing people that fall through the cracks of the system, people that are in the wrong place at the wrong time. It results in civil rights abuses on a systematic scale.

All of the SEU officers have been trained as experts in drug recognition. This means they have specific criteria to look for including, "unexplained violence, bizarre behavior, demeanor, speech, unique odors, and dress." All of these are subjective judgements, made by officers using their discretion. It is easy to see how they can be manipulated to target people of color, poor and homeless people. The police always claim to have valid reasons for stopping a person. They have the power, using their discretion, to stop anyone with reasonable suspicion, even without probable cause. This opens up a huge possibility for abuse.

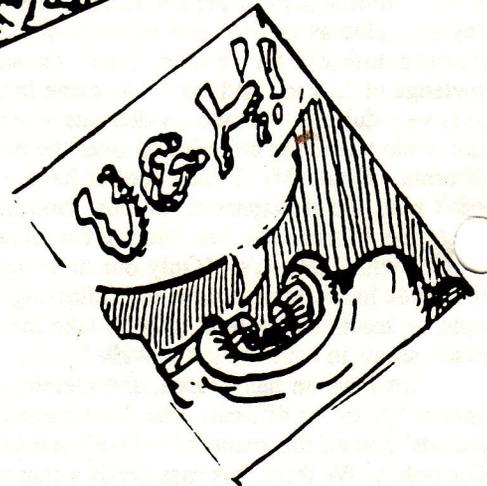
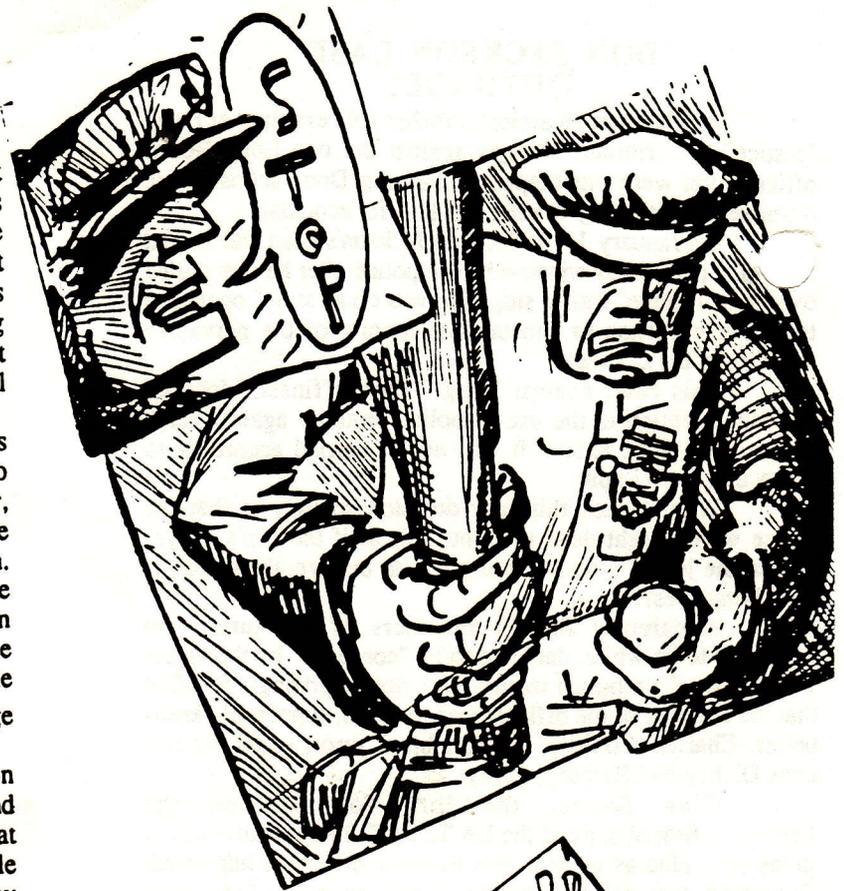
Additionally the SEU evaluates its success on numbers of warrants served, leading to arrests, convictions, and time served. These numbers exclude the human factor, what actually happens to people. Are there still reasons for people to be using and dealing drugs? They don't indicate any improvement in the overall situation.

Some big questions remain unanswered. How economically feasible is the SEU? Is it bringing more law suits on the department? Is there any indication of an improvement in the drug situation in Berkeley? Are people at the mercy of the SEU, or do they have any means of recourse if they feel they've been treated unjustly? The PRC and the City Council receive monthly reports on SEU activity, which do not address these questions. These questions appear to be on the back burner for now.

The SEU is planning to hire five new traffic cops who will bring in enough money in tickets to support themselves and to replace four officers who removed from regular duty when the SEU was formed. While the Supreme Court decided that it is illegal to give quotas to police officers on numbers of tickets, the departments confidence that the traffic cops will bring in so much money is questionable. The department is including money from parking and traffic tickets in their budget, instead of considering the money a bonus. They are effectively using tickets as a retroactive tax.

The economic feasibility of the SEU is questionable. There is a concern that the number of law suits against the department for unwarranted shootings, unreasonable search and seizure is increasing. One of the fears of people in the community, and of COPWATCH, is that these officers take their part in the SEU to mean that they are "special" in the way they interpret and carry out the law. They are praised by the department and officials in the city for being "front line in the war on drugs." COPWATCH feels strongly that they need to be held accountable to the community that they are supposed to be protecting. If you observe or hear anything questionable that Berkeley's SEU is involved in, please contact COPWATCH. We will continue to keep you informed as we get more information.

S.P.



COPWATCH FORUM: STOP COP VIOLENCE

On April 19, COPWATCH held a community forum aimed at bringing people together to discuss possible solutions to police violence. We listened to the testimony of many victims of brutality, and their experiences with many different police forces. Among the possible solutions, there was talk of filing more law suits and complaints against the cops, more patrolling of the police, a complete reshaping of the police departments. Obviously these solutions were addressing different levels of the problem, and no final one was reached. The forum was attended by about 130 people, many who offered their own opinions about how to stop cop violence.

COPWATCH plans to follow up the forum with a conference in the fall to train people to COPWATCH, help people from other communities start their own groups, and to further address solutions to cop violence. If you are interested, please call the office.

The Head-Fixing Industry

(Cont. from pg. 4)

a coercive military outfit that protect the interest of the rich and powerful, which can be deadly, is a product of false consciousness. False consciousness may be defined as a systemically distorted understanding of and resistance to corrective learning from experience, i.e., from every day life. The reproduction and reinforcement of false consciousness is the primary function of the Head-Fixing Industry. Here's how they do it in relation to their coverage of police brutality.

Crime reportage, including police crimes against humanity, sells a lot of newspapers. But although the communication corporations are in the business of making money, the media are more than merely business enterprises. They are purveyors of bourgeois class culture.

Journalists in the commercial media often find it inconceivable that they may be writing anything but the obvious truth. By conforming to professional practices, called "industry standards," they work within the confines of the guild of understandings which tend to serve the definitions of reality the ruling class.

These journalists while not monolithic, due to the environment in which they operate, normally and regularly select certain versions of reality over others, eg. "Our way of life." Day by day, normal organizational procedures define 'the story,' identify the protagonists and the issues, and suggest appropriate attitudes towards them. In this quiet fashion, not deliberately, and without calling attention to this spotlighting process, the mass media divide events into legitimate main acts and illegitimate sideshows, so that these distinctions appear 'natural' or 'common sense.' Get the picture?

The process by which the world beyond the reader's direct experience is made to look natural could be defined as communication frames. Communication frames are, therefore, principles of selection, emphasis, presentation, conclusion, compose of tacit little theories about what exists, what happens, and what matters. And most dangerous of all, unstated conclusions. For example: It is sometimes nauseating to read the unrelenting propaganda barrage concerning the ostensibly unlimited "danger" police face. Another version of the Big Lie. For instance in initial TV, radio, and newspaper accounts of police beating of Rodney King reporters routinely passed on the police-inspired bold face lie that King was "under the influence of PCP." Tests later revealed no PCP in King's body, thus betraying the fact that Sergeant Koon lied (as police often do). But the enormous potential for damage was already done. Everybody "knows" that people "under the influence of PCP" acquire superhuman strength. At least that is what they say on the news.

Add to this the "common sense" fallacy that police don't lie and the LAPD dastardly deed can seem justifiable. It is alarming how many people have, without careful consideration accepted this base fallacy. This is extremely dangerous because the Big Lie of the unquestioned "high moral standards" of the police is hidden as often unstated conclusion, "if indeed the police don't lie then why did the media "blow up" the beating all out of proportion?" The unstated conclusion: the media is just picking on our good policemen. Due to their lack of principle, snatching at anything to lend them the impression of having the "inside scoop," these editors and



reporters discredit themselves when later their stories are directly contradicted by the facts. Not to worry these people don't get paid off to produce the facts, only some of the facts, some of the time.

Under the guise of "objective journalism" the Head-Fixing Industry shrinks from clearly pointing out the root cause of the King incident, the deeply ingrained racist nature of this society in general and the police in particular. This can lead to the less conscious elements among the oppressed, to blame themselves. Some say, "It was just meant to be;" others lament "He must have done SOMETHING." This in turn lays the psychological basis for the internalization of oppression, the most effective mechanism of capitalist control.

One of the most contested practices in communications framing is the empirical notion of objectivity. Empiricism holds that the test of true knowledge lies in observation, experience of the collection of facts, and ignores the personality and cultural milieu of the journalist and the social context of the writer.

The process of the reinforcement and reproduction of false consciousness is not just technical. These practices are both professional and cultural blinders which tend to narrow the circumference of the journalist's vision. They "see" the police carrying out a "difficult but necessary job" and report accordingly. Just as a Daily Californian reporter in an article on the Jimmy Lindstrom case entitled, "Dispute Arises Over Drug/Suicide Scuffle," simply rewrote the police report and presented it as fact. This is a standard procedure for the police.

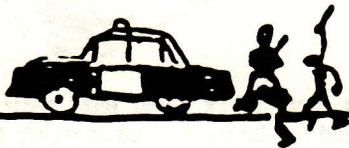
The way that people act towards police brutality depends, in part on how the situations in which they act are defined. The interpretation of events by the Headfixing Industry, including incidents of police brutality, are not natural phenomena, they are a social production.

J. Bloch

Jungular Grooves

COPWATCH BENEFIT

Please join on on June 13 at 9:00pm at the Ashkenaz (1317 San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley) for our benefit. It will be featuring Jungular Grooves, an Afro-Caribbean band. We will also show the video of our forum, "Stop Cop Violence." There will be a sliding scale, \$5-10. We need your help in continuing our work!



\$ 5.-10.⁰⁰ sliding scale.



It's your right to watch the cops

Thurs. June 13, 9: p.m.

Also ⇒ A video of the 'Stop Cop Violence' forum will be played.

for more information call COPWATCH at 548-0425

WE NEED YOUR HELP

COPWATCH is a grassroots organization located in Berkeley. We are a independent group of students and community residents concerned about our community. We are solely supported by the community that we serve. Please help us pay for our costs for publishing, mailing, and rent. You can make a one-time donation or help us on a regular basis. Make checks payable to: COPWATCH @ 2022 Blake St. Berkeley, Ca. 94704.

COPWATCH OFFICE

The office is now open from 1:00 to 5:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Please come in if you have had a problem with the cops, or just want to help out. The office committee meets on Thursdays at 7:00pm. If you need help another time please call and leave a message. We will get to you.