



monthly report

THE INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD
87 Chestnut Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

IBW Summer '74

Summer has always been a time for thoughtful debate at the Institute, and this summer promises to be an especially fertile one. Our activities this year will include three distinct though related programs: (i) a public lecture series; (ii) a six-week research project; and (iii) a summer's-end symposium. All three are geared to exploring aspects of the present condition and future prospects of the black freedom struggle, and will feature Dr. Walter Rodney, professor of history at the University of Guyana, author of How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, and this summer's visiting IBW research fellow.

(i) LECTURE SERIES: BLACK STRUGGLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS: TOWARDS THE NEXT STAGE
Brother Rodney will open the series on Wednesday, July 31st, with a lecture on the current status of the black freedom struggle in Africa. Vincent Harding and Bill Strickland will discuss the American scene on succeeding Wednesdays (August 7th and 14th, respectively), while Robert Hill will conclude the series on August 21st with an overview of the Caribbean. All lectures will be held in the Interdenominational Center auditorium, 671 Beckwith Street, S.W., Atlanta, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and all are invited.

(ii) SIX-WEEK RESEARCH PROJECT: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND BLACK STRUGGLE
Rodney and Strickland will also be acting as co-directors of IBW's summer research project. The research effort focuses on three central areas: (1) the political economy of black and white America; (2) social structure and black struggle; and (3) the history of race relations between black and white America. In the course of the exploration, the project will test the applicability to the American scene of the frames of reference used in Rodney's book (above) and Cabral's Revolution in Guinea and Return to the Source. Harding, Hill and Lerone Bennett, Jr. will act as research consultants while a team of graduate research assistants will carry out the research. Lectures, discussions and papers will be recorded and disseminated later in the fall.

(iii) SUMMER'S-END SYMPOSIUM: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We will close out the summer with a three-day symposium that opens on August 28th and will run through August 30th. Lectures, panel discussions and workshops featuring Rodney, Strickland, Hill, Harding and a number of IBW associates will attempt to tackle some of the many as yet unanswered questions plaguing the black future. All sessions will be held in the ITC auditorium in Atlanta. They will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. each night and a ten dollar (\$10.00) registration fee is being requested of all participants in the symposium. All of IBW's friends are invited to attend what we expect to be a very stimulating forum.

To register for the symposium, or for more information, please write Sister Adisa Douglas, c/o IBW. We look forward to seeing you.

Update

THE RESPONSE TO OUR FUND APPEAL

Very soon after our last Report went out with a fund appeal, we began receiving small envelopes bearing welcome gifts. To date we have received fifty-five answers to the appeal, contributing over \$1,000. We want to stop and warmly thank all those who took their time and resources to assist us with our expenses.

Many of these recent contributors were folks who had given contributions back in 1971, 1972, and hadn't been heard from since. Those sort of chickens we like coming home to roost.

For those who have been intending to send something, the message is still "Please do contribute to IBW." It's never too late.

WHAT WE CAN DO (IF WE TRY)

Nikki Giovanni was heard to say, "Kids my age don't really know who Mary McCleod Bethune was," on the occasion of the commemoration of a statue of the famous black woman. Therefore, for kids of 31 and under, we'd like to jot down a few facts that we should all hold on to about a woman who so powerfully personified black determination.

In a period of special struggle for Southern Blacks (1904-1955), Mrs. Bethune founded and headed Bethune-Cookman College, the National Association of Colored Womens' Clubs, and the National Council of Negro Women; and was a source of inspiration to politicians, diplomats, black artists and scholars.

Although we doubt that Mrs. Bethune herself would have approved of the \$500,000 spent on erecting the monument (the first to a black person and an American woman in a national park), we find it encouraging that the sum was raised by black people's efforts. For this we praise the National Council of Negro Women and look forward to hearing of other such successful cooperative efforts among black people.

EDUCATION AND BLACK STRUGGLE AND PRISONERS

Some of our readers will remember that we offered a prisoner exchange program some months ago. Readers could contribute \$2.80 to send a free copy of our new publication, *EDUCATION AND BLACK STRUGGLE*, to a black prisoner. We want to thank all those who sent contributions. So far we have 231 books paid for and 165 prisoners who have received, and we'll be using up the rest of the gift books as we add new prisoners to our mailing list. We would welcome any more contributions. Again, thanks.

As one of our prisoner-recipients wrote:

...I received the book EDUCATION AND BLACK STRUGGLE yesterday...Already there are many brothers awaiting the opportunity to read it. Which is to say that they, just like myself, feel it is a beautiful book and that you should continue to publish books such as this. We only hope that the brothers and sisters in the outside world will come into contact with such materials...

Again, thanks to all contributors. We look forward to other donations.

LOOK OUT FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER!!

We'd like to alert you to the coming issue of the Monthly Report. As many of you know, IBW has long had relationships with black prisoners, ranging from correspondence to collaborating on Black Studies programs. We have always been aware of the black talent that lies, well guarded, behind prison bars, and have almost continually received poems, short stories and articles from prisoners.

Next month we will be mailing you a summer feature, instead of the usual Report, that will take the form of a provocative essay by a brother in the Missouri State Pen...an essay we know will penetrate deep into your minds and consciences as it did into ours.

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IBW Summer Calendar

Lecture Series: BLACK STRUGGLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

Wed. July 31st:	WALTER RODNEY	"The Crisis in Africa"
Wed. Aug. 7th:	VINCENT HARDING	"The Crisis in America"
Wed. Aug. 14th:	BILL STRICKLAND	"The Crisis in America"
Wed. Aug. 21st:	ROBERT HILL	"The Crisis in the Caribbean"

Summer's-End Symposium: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Wed. Aug. 28th - Fri. Aug. 30th
Registration fee: \$10.00

INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER, 671 Beckwith Street, Atlanta; 7:30 p.m.
(for all lectures and workshops)

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