

# Black Women's United Front— Forward With The Struggle!



Held its 2nd National Assembly meeting October 25th, in Atlanta, where over 200 women and men discussed the principles of unity of the BWUF - anti-racism, anti-capitalism and anti-imperialism, and saw the adoption of national programs such as the sponsoring of a multi-national Women's Conference March 6th, in New York City to discuss the formation of a Revolutionary Multi-National Women's Front.

October 25, Saturday the Black Women's United Front (BWUF) held its 2nd National Assembly meeting with a representation of 205 people.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the principles of unity of the BWUF. The principles of unity adopted at the Detroit meeting May 3, 1975 meeting of the BWUF National Assembly are Anti-Racism, Anti-Imperialism and Anti-Capitalism.

### **Brief Summary of the Ideological Discussion**

The ideological discussion around anti-racism was generally discussed in the framework of the growth & development of Capitalism in the United States. Racism was discussed as National Oppression for Black people, particularly in the Black Belt South. National Oppression was further discussed as a question of power. The power of Black

people obtained thru the right of Self-determination up to and including secession.

Anti-Imperialism was mainly discussed as a struggle against a worldwide system of exploitation. It was also discussed how Imperialism affected people and Black women in particular in the United States.

Around Anti-Capitalism, a Marxist analysis of Capitalism was very briefly spoken to and how the discussion of Imperialism had served to discuss the present era of Capitalism i.e., monopoly capitalism/Imperialism.

The general ideological discussion and struggle at the meeting is to be summed-up by the National Steering Committee and brought back in a organized draft to be ratified at the next National mtg. of the BWUF, and from

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## Listen To The People!!

QUESTION: What do you think about the BWUF meeting?

Odessa Grant, St. Louis - I like the way the steering committee handled some obviously tough questions - questions meant genuinely and those meant to provoke. They're a lot better than most organizations I've seen. Serious. All people trying to get to one common cause from every conceivable ideology & background. No one got mad, but the points were still made.



Sharon F. Berkeley - St. Louis, BWUF is starting to be the most cohesive Black woman's organization I've seen. This is my first meeting, but in form, in policies, BWUF looks good. I especially like the idea of the platform being anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist! Something has got to be done on all the fronts mentioned. All have to be worked on. Like the Nationally elected members - they are beautiful - very good in their responses. I like their control, too. I think I could be committed to such an organization.



Janet Wheat, Atlanta The principles of unity are vital to this organization because they are some of the main problems that have to be eliminated before Black Women or Black people can think about freedom. I would like to see anti-sexism included because of the triple oppression we face as Black women and BWUF is suppose to speak to the special oppression.



Melvin Beasley, Indianapolis - I was impressed at this group of sisters, although it's small in number, they are dedicated to the struggle. The principles of unity of the BWUF they have adopted reveal a special type of oppression that not only women face but Black women face on a day to day basis and I think it's ironic that more sisters aren't participating.



### NYC CITY GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO DESTROY LINCOLN DETOX

Approximately 150 Blacks and Puerto Ricans joined in a 3-hour demonstration outside the Health and Hospitals Corporation on Worth St. in N.Y.C. while others took over the 5th floor of the building demanding a negotiation with the Hospital Board. The demonstration was called because community workers in the Lincoln Detox program had been fired or are facing being fired and replaced with city hired workers.

At approximately noon, (the demonstration began around 11:30) the board agreed to negotiate. Around this same time, scores of police began arriving on the scene and harrasing demonstrators. The police came in busses, vans, cars and on foot. As soon as they arrived on the scene, they began talking abusively to the demonstrators,

The People's Program has totally opposed Methadone maintenance. Methadone is ten times as addicting as heroin. Methadone oversede deaths outnumber heroin overdose deaths by 5-1. 50,000 people in N.Y. City have been lured and forced on to Methadone maintenance by doctors, hospitals, welfare agencies and parole boards. Lincoln Detox is the only place in the city where sisters and brothers addicted to Methadone can be detoxed whenever they want to. More than 200 people come to the program every month to kick Methadone habits. Hundreds of others come for heroin detoxification.

#### ACUPUNCTURE USED ALSO!!

The program has been using acupuncture for the past year-and-a-half so people can withdraw from the physical habit of narcotics comfortably.

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this, the BWUF will then publish its statement of principles in a full written document.

### New Developments of the BWUF

1. National Newsletter was proposed and discussed at length and finally adopted by the assembly. Each local BWUF is to have a propaganda person who will be responsible for articles being submitted from each local. The propaganda person will also be a part of a national board of the Newsletter. This National board will meet at the national meetings of the BWUF. But in the interim the elected Propaganda and political education persons on the national steering committee will be responsible for receiving all the local news articles and putting the Newsletter together. The first edition of the Newsletter will be out March 8th, 1976 in solidarity with International Working Women's Day.

2. Each BWUF is to develop a local organizing brochure - (a sample that had been developed by propaganda was brought to the mtg. as an example)

3. Reproduction of the BWUF organizing button to be sold on a National scale was voted.

4. A National Political Education Committee was put together that will include the person from each local that will meet at National meetings to discuss political education and how to develop political education both locally and nationally.

5. Anti-Sexism is to be added as a 4th principle of unity of the BWUF. The Detroit BWUF is to draw-up the line on anti-sexism. There was long and tense discussion around how to clearly define anti-sexism **within** the bounds of Imperialism to clearly draw a sharp and clear distinction between the bourgeois Feminist movement and the growing revolutionary organization of the BWUF.

The anti-sexist line will be a part of the items to be ratified at the next National Assembly Meeting.

### National Programs

1. The BWUF will sponsor a multinational Women's Conference in New York City March 6th to discuss the formation of a Revolutionary Multi-

national Women's Front. There was much discussion both sharp and critical on this question of a Multi-National Women's Conference. Though there was sharp struggle on this question it was finally passed as a National project and a volunteer steering committee was put together to begin to deal with the logistics of the Conference. It is CAP's view the struggle that was raised around the conference was and is a good thing because it is only through principled, no matter how tense struggle that the correct line can be developed, and the correct program put forth.

2. The October League put forth a proposal that the BWUF endorse their National Fight Back Conference that will be held December 27th-28th in Chicago, Illinois. Question was raised as to whether this was an October League program or a BWUF program. After it was made clear that it was an O.L. program and that the BWUF was being asked to endorse it with concrete support that is mobilizing for the conference. The assembly then voted in favor of supporting the National Fight Back Conference.

3. The Defense Committee for Dessie X Woods and Cheryl S. Todd asked that the BWUF take this case up as a national program to raise funds. A member from the defense committee spoke and briefly explained the present situation of the case. On hearing what could be summed-up as another racist attempt to keep Black Women from the right of self-defense against rape, women in the assembly voted to take this case up as a national program. For further information on the case you can contact at present: the Dessie X Woods and Cheryl S. Todd Defense Committee P.O. Box 1935, Atlanta Georgia, 30314.

The local BWUF's will have further information on this case for distribution as well as further work to be done by us all.

### Criticism

At the End of the meeting a member of the BWUF asked to have a criticism session which the BWUF assembly agreed to. The criticisms put forward were the following:

1. Agenda for the next meeting should be more realistic in terms of time or the

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meeting should be more than one day.

2. Attempt to have workshops at next national meeting.

3. Was moved that the chair would recognize people for the mike, but this was violated throughout the meeting. In future meetings try to tighten this up.

4. Discussion was allowed to run on at times and tended to lose the key thing being discussed. In future should tighten this up.

The criticisms rendered were just criticisms and the BWUF accepted it not only as words but to put it forward in practice, and at the next BWUF national meeting these suggestions and criticisms will be struggled with and changed to advance the whole BWUF.

The next National Meeting of the BWUF was voted to be held in Baltimore Maryland, September 4, 1976.

In the main, the Black Women's United Front, though it is a young

organization with much to learn on all fronts of struggle, is making great leaps forward.

It is clear that the struggles in between the national meetings to keep the fronts together, to organize new fronts, to fight for the correct line, and primarily the struggle to study for ideological clarity that all these struggles are a good thing and the BWUF is headed through struggle to progress.

Black Working Women take the lead, Black women of all social strata join in with us!

**FORWARD WITH THE STRUGGLE!**

## Who Is The Enemy?

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investments. Though virtually an unknown before election JFK put together a powerful coalition between the Dallas group (LBJ) and Morgan money, which successfully opposed the Rockefeller-L.A. interest represented by Nixon. The closeness of the election