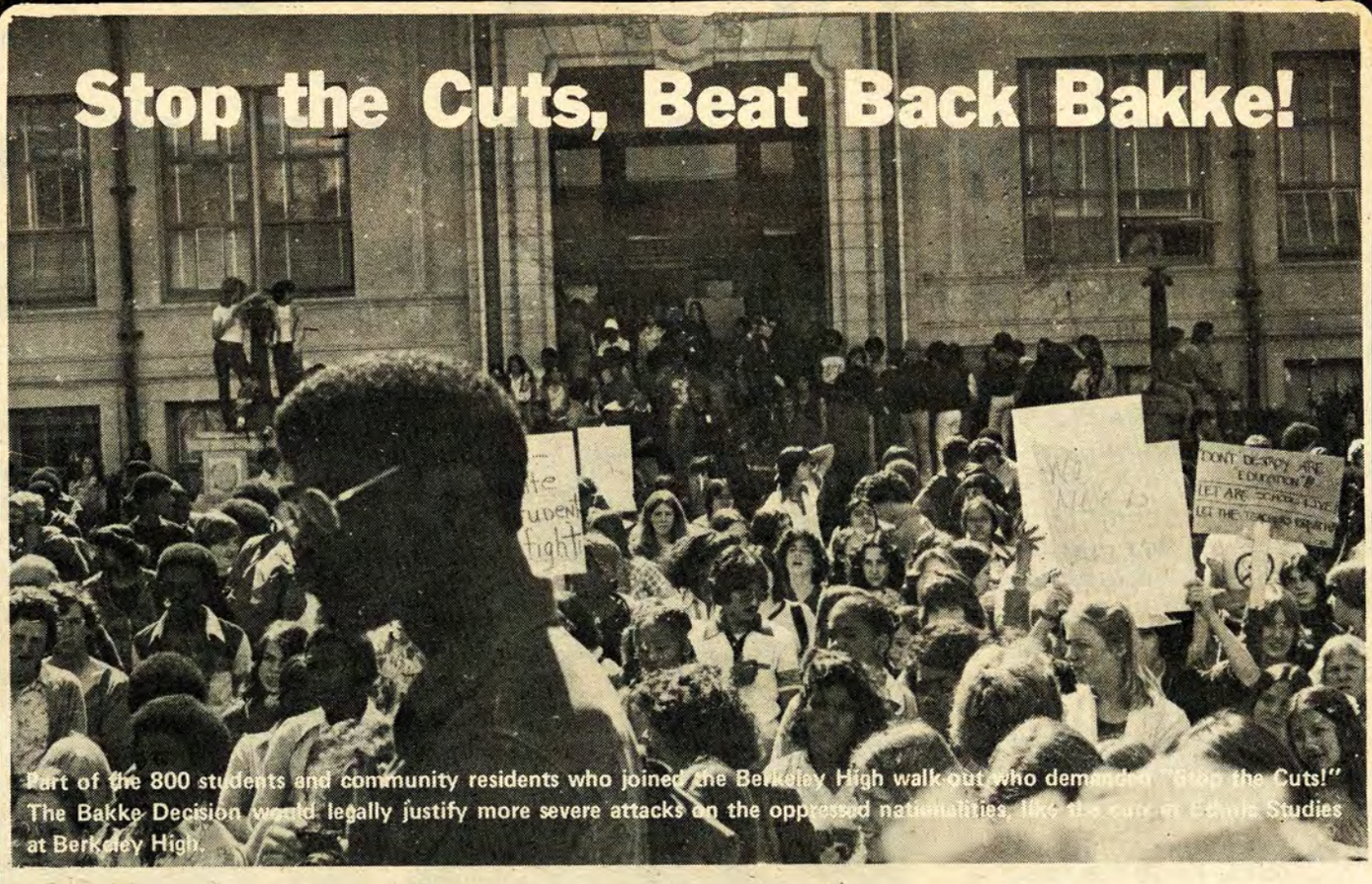
Stop the Cuts, Beat Back Bakke!



Part of the 800 students and community residents who joined the Berkeley High walk-out who demanded "Stop the Cuts!" The Bakke Decision would legally justify more severe attacks on the oppressed nationalities, like the cuts in Ethnic Studies at Berkeley High.

With the deepening economic crisis of capitalism, drastic cuts face campuses and communities from coast to coast. Their survival threatened, thousands of students, minorities and working people have taken up struggle against the cutbacks. These concrete attacks, which came before the Bakke decision–and the grass roots resistance to each of them–show the urgent need to be able to link up the various struggles in order to effectively fight each and every attack as they come down, united.

The fight to beat back the Bakke decision, which represents a political attack by the U.S. government, is one way to rally together and unify, and one way to broaden and raise the political level of the forces already in the middle of intense battles around their own particular, local issue.

At the same time, the only way to truly defeat the Bakke decision is to rely, in words and in deeds, upon the grass roots forces and the masses of oppressed people who have emerged from struggle, and not anti-Bakke legal, legislative, or lobbying efforts alone.

That is why, for example, in New York and other places, many of those currently in the forefront of struggling against the attacks will be marching together in Washington, D.C., in order to help build a basis to continue the struggle to both fight the cuts and to beat back Bakke.

EVERYONE KNOWS New York City is lying on a death-bed crisis. As the banks continue to rip-off millions from loan-shark interest rates to the city, everybody knows who suffers from the crisis:

- **tuition fees imposed and increased across CUNY at state and private colleges like LIU, already forcing out of school over 50,000 students citywide.**
- **cutbacks against Ethnic Studies such as at Brooklyn College, and the attacks against bilingual education at Hostos Community College.**
- **tightening the criteria for SEEK eligibility, part of the plan to tear down the SEEK program.**
- **Schemes to screen out up to ¼ of the current student population through "proficiency exams" and "2 year tests."**
- **communities falling apart, unemployment among balck, Latin and Asians, such that up to 6 out of 7 can't find a job.**

And on top of all this, there's the BAKKE DECISION. Bakke could destroy *any* chance for minority, poor and working people to get an education. Like an axe about to fall, the U.S. Supreme Court could provide the legal ammunition for the wholesale slaughter of Open Admissions, Ethnic Studies, SEEK, community programs and job openings, all hard-won gains which were paid for *in blood.*

Already many of us know about and are going to Washington, D.C. on April 15th to show our protest of the Bakke decision, recognizing Bakke to be just another form of the attacks we're all too familiar with. And already many of us have been fighting the cuts. Whether at Brooklyn College, LIU, Hostos, CCNY, Medger Evers, or many other schools–each of us have been facing our own particular battles.

But in order to defend our survival, we have to unite, to rally support for each other so that an attack on one is an attack on all. In order to protect and further our cause, we must be ready to stand as one whenever and wherever an attack comes down.

That's why the NY GRASS ROOTS TASK FORCE AGAINST THE CUTS AND BAKKE was formed by a group of students, community organizations, and workers.

Because we are aware that our battles will continue long after April 15th, and because we understand that the way to defeat Bakke cannot be by relying on politicians or just legislative pressure but only by drawing strength from each other and the masses of oppressed people, the NY GRASS ROOTS TASK FORCE calls upon those of us fighting the cutbacks in New York City to UNITE on April 15th under one banner, as one contingent with one aim–to STOP THE CUTS AND BEAT BACK BAKKE. That we must build our unity to further our struggles after Washington, D.C. is clear. Let us take that first step by marching together on April 15th.

MARCH TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON TO STOP THE CUTS
BEAT BACK BAKKE

The people are now actively build... the community; ... tactic ... put on the ... at the ... communities and ...