

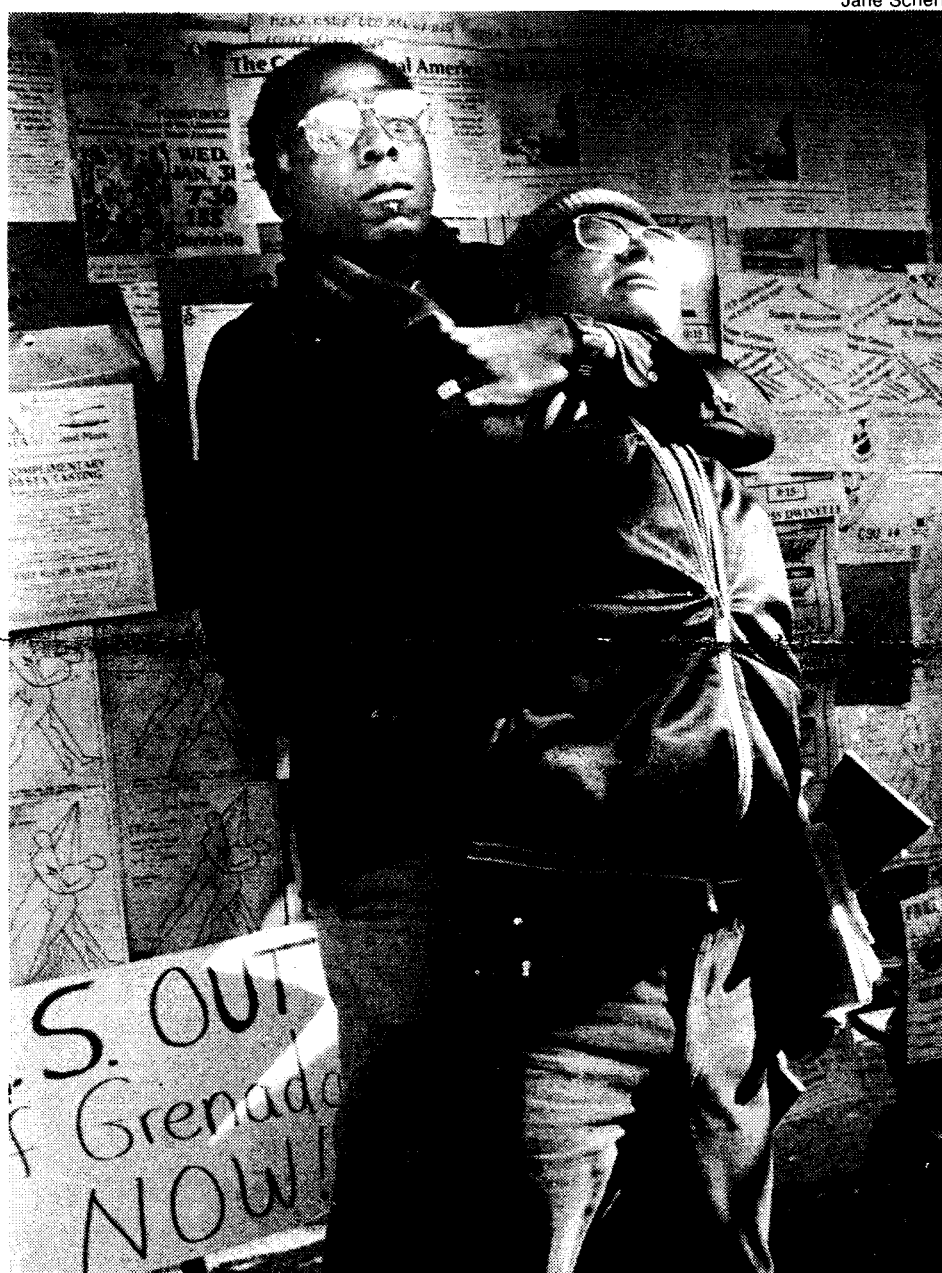
## UC Berkeley: Free Speech Under Cop/Administration Attack

# HANDS OFF GUILLERMO!

BERKELEY—The University of California and its rampaging cops have declared that student protest on this campus is *verboten*. Students' illusions in the "democracy" of this society and its institutions—including the birthplace of the 1960s Free Speech Movement—are being more than challenged by the blows of the business end of police truncheons, deadly choke holds, days in maximum-security cells for the "crime" of exercising supposedly constitutionally guaranteed rights to free speech and assembly. The photo at right was carried on the front page of the *Daily Californian*. It shows quite clearly a vicious cop assault on Guillermo Bermúdez—a 22-year-old Hispanic Berkeley student and member of the Spartacus Youth League (SYL). While UCPD cop "Choke Hold" Johnson (6'3") held comrade Guillermo (5'5", 129 lbs.) in this potentially lethal "pain control restraint," Guillermo was able to land a kick to a recruiting table set up by the U.S. Marines. It was for his leading role in protest against the Marines, U.S. imperialism's Number One strike force, that Guillermo was attacked and arrested. He was dragged away in a hammer lock which broke his arm, and as he recounts in his speech to a March 28 rally on campus (see page 4), "The intent—and the effect—was to cause me such extreme pain as to silence me."

Such police violence against even the tamest expressions of student opposition to U.S. government policy in South Africa and Central America have become the order of the day here. The campus cops act as if they're auditioning for Salvadoran death squads. They are a brutal, dangerous, extralegal marauding gang of licensed, armed criminals. But Guillermo Bermúdez was not only brutally attacked, he also now faces nearly *three years* in jail on trumped-up charges, including "battery" on the cop who choked him. UC and its cops want to make a Nazi-style "example" of this young Marxist, hoping to intimidate the entire campus. This vindictive campaign is clearly being directed from on high.

It is no accident that the UCPD rampage coincides with stepped-up U.S. aggression against the Nicaraguan Sandinistas, and new horrors perpetrated by the U.S.-backed apartheid butchers ruling South Africa. Reagan & Co.'s policies are not overwhelmingly popular—particularly among some student youth, who face becoming cannon fodder for Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive. The rulers want to impose discipline and ideological conformity for their "Cold War II" and are more than willing to break some heads and arms to do so. Those who recall Kent State will remember that they're also willing to *kill*—something the UCPD has stopped short of, but is quite prepared for on the basis of their performance to date.



The picture worth a thousand words: UC's cop "Choke Hold" Johnson assaults Berkeley student and SYLer Guillermo Bermúdez.

"You drop dead, or I will kill you." That's how Nicaragua's foreign minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman accurately summed up Reagan's latest "peace" offer. The U.S. rulers are itching to "draw the line against Communism" and overcome the "Vietnam syndrome" in Central America. Knowing it will take more than the mercenary "contra" losers to do the job, the Pentagon is rehearsing a Yankee invasion of Nicaragua every day in Fort Honduras. And war is being waged on the home front. Economic and social attacks on the working class, blacks, the poor are in full swing and on the campuses maximum force is brought to bear against all who would oppose U.S. policy and the resurgent military presence. The campus gestapo at UC Berkeley has written Reagan's diktat in blood: "Drop dead or we'll kill you."

Berkeley students are rapidly learning what every inhabitant of a black ghetto or impoverished Latin barrio knows: cops are pigs. The infamous cop

choke hold has become synonymous with racist cop terror. The notorious paramilitary sadists of the LAPD have killed many blacks and minorities with the "bar arm" choke

hold inflicted on Guillermo. The *Daily Cal* photo of Guillermo's victimization shocked the campus and prompted the Berkeley City Council to finally ban the use of choke holds by any police force in the city. But the UCPD arrogantly insists on their "independence" in the face of generalized outrage—and they are backed up by the UC Regents and their masters in Washington.

Recall that former California governor Reagan and his underlings have long considered Berkeley as "enemy territory" and a haven for "subversives." Attorney General Edwin Meese and top Justice Department official Jensen earned their spurs in the Alameda County District Attorney's office by prosecution of Free Speech Movement activists and destruction of the Black Panther Party. The National Guard was brought in to smash the "People's Park" protests. Regarding People's Park, Meese openly declared that anyone attending a political demonstration deserved to be shot.

This *Young Spartacus* Special Feature includes testimony given at the March 18 hearing of the Berkeley Police Review Commission (PRC)—a meeting which drew some 48 victims, opponents and witnesses of UCPD terror. In addition to the testimony reprinted on pages 2-3, the following elucidating examples of Berkeley campus cop violence came to light:

- On December 7, 1984 38 anti-apartheid protesters were clubbed, choked and hauled away for staging a sit-in for divestment at University Hall. Seventeen of these students were sent to jail for three days, some in maximum-security cells in Santa Rita. Five protesters, dubbed the "UC 5," still face prosecution for the "crime" of protesting South African apartheid.

- On February 27 the UC cops staged a full-scale riot at Moffitt Library on the UC campus against students protesting U.S. war moves against Nicaragua. A UCPD prowl car was used as a "cattle

*continued on page 2*



Hundreds rallied against apartheid butchery and UC cop rampage at "Charter Day" protest, March 22.

Young Spartacus Photo

## Guillermo...

(continued from page 1)

prod"—ramming into the back of protesters' legs. Students were clubbed with batons and one cop reportedly drew a gun in the midst of the demonstration.

• Cop surveillance is now standard operating procedure for all student protests—videotaping rallies and presumably maintaining files on all "dissidents." During the PRC hearing Guillermo Bermúdez' attorney Valerie West exposed an "off duty" UC cop tape-recording testimony at the meeting.

The overall conclusion of the liberal PRC, backed up by the none-too-radical Associated Students (ASUC) and *Daily Californian*, is that the UC cops are "out of control." No wonder UC Reichschancellor Ira Heyman deemed the PRC hearing "decidedly not helpful." Heyman's preference is for internal whitewash commissions to redeem his swine force. The minutes of the Police Chiefs Advisory Board (1 March) clearly reflect the mentality of the right-wing cabal running the campus: it bears no small resemblance to the führer's bunker. An unnamed participant asked, according to these minutes, "Was the Spartacus Youth League in the group of demonstrators?" referring to the February 27 "BART Alert" demonstration at which the UCPD cops rioted.

UCPD chief Derry Bowles replied: "a sense of something being wrong was felt on the part of the officers at the scene" ...there's a spectre haunting Berkeley! Bowles went on to suggest that the victims of his cops' terror at Moffitt "staged" the "incident" to "generate support" for their causes.

This conspiratorial fantasy is both projection and pretext: it is the cops and their masters who live in the underworld of conspiracies, spies, informers, public lies and private deals. In Cold War II, a little "red scare" can be used as an excuse for depriving opponents of the government of their supposed rights to protest. At Berkeley, the administration and cops hope to wave Guillermo Bermúdez' scalp before a restless student population as a warning. They must not get away with this shameless frame-up.

The same methods of terror and destruction by which U.S. imperialism is known worldwide—from backing the racist apartheid butchers in South Africa to counterrevolutionary genocide in Central America—are what UC is using on a modest scale against student protest. Twenty years ago, the fight for black equality, to smash Jim Crow segregation in the South, spawned the Free Speech Movement and challenged McCarthyite "law and order." The ruling class is determined that this

will never happen again, that no domestic unrest will grind the gears of the U.S. war machine.

But the campus has not been turned into the docile, mindless mass the administration longs for. On February 19, over 150 students turned out for an SYL-initiated rally demanding charges be dropped against Guillermo and the anti-apartheid protesters. On March 22, hundreds of students participated in the traditional "Charter Day" protest where the upcoming hearings of Guillermo and the anti-apartheid protesters were announced from the podium. Speaking at the March 28 rally, veteran militant and ILWU Executive Board member Stan Gow pointed to the necessary ally of leftist student struggle—the organized labor movement:

"Labor has a lot to lose in the general strangling of academic freedom and of student protest.... They had a lot to lose in the '50s, in McCarthyism, and they do now. And I lived through both eras.... I'm a longshoreman now, but I went to UC back in the days of the post-World War II GI Bill.... Then Rule 17 ruled the campus. That meant no student politics allowed on campus. That was the time of McCarthyism triumphant, of the special University of California professors' loyalty oath.... The only way these special acts were overthrown was by the militant student struggle."

A mass, united-front mobilization of



UC cops drag Guillermo away from anti-Marine

students. Bay Area labor and black organizations is needed now to stop the cop rampage and the regimentation of youth. Drop the charges against Guillermo and the anti-apartheid protesters! ■

## March 28 Rally: "Drop the Charges Against UC Student Protesters!"

On March 28, members of the Campaign Against Apartheid (CAA) joined SYL spokesmen in a rally protesting the UC cop Sturm und Drang. Steve Rosing is a victim of choke hold violence by the UCPD and is still facing charges from the December 7 protest; CAA activist Andrea Pritchett spent three days in maximum-security detention at Santa Rita prison for participating in a peaceful anti-apartheid sit-in on December 7.

We print below the speeches of Stefan

Arnold and Guillermo Bermúdez (see page 4), Berkeley SYL members, and CAA members Rosing and Pritchett.

### Stefan Arnold

We are here today to protest cop attacks against leftist students. The cops think they are a law unto themselves. They want to decide who speaks and who doesn't. They want to pick off reds and other activists and smash dissent. We are here today to show our defiance. We will speak. We will organize.

We are also here to defend those already victimized by these cop attacks. Namely Guillermo Bermúdez, a 22-year-old Marxist student who faces two years and nine months in prison from a lying cop frame-up, and also the remaining five anti-apartheid protesters: Steve Rosing, Oliver Nicholson, Michel Brode, Eric Seebass and John Day. All these people are facing jail terms. We need to show our solidarity with these people. We need to mobilize and coordinate our defense efforts and demand that these charges be dropped....

So if you have been attacked by these cops you should tell your story here today. I welcome representatives of organizations or individuals who want

Montague/Grassroots



to speak, tell their story and give their views. So please come forward and put these police on trial.

If you value your democratic rights you better defend Guillermo Bermúdez and the anti-apartheid protesters for what is at stake is the right to fight Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive without being labeled a terrorist or a criminal.... The Reaganites want to criminalize political activity.

And if you think I'm exaggerating—when was the last time you heard about a police car driving into a crowd of protesters?... On February 27 the campus thugs rioted against students protesting Reagan's war in Nicaragua. One cop was so intent on killing dissent he drew a gun and aimed it at a student. For what, I ask you? For being at a demonstration. For being political. For opposing Reagan's war drive. That's what for. And of a piece with these vile attacks, a cop demanded my student ID while I was on Sproul Plaza passing out Marxist literature. What was my crime? I was being a political activist. In the eyes of these cops that's a crime. This campus is quickly turning into a South African bantustan with an enforced pass law system. This—make no mistake—is

Steve Rosing in choke hold at December 7 anti-apartheid sit-in (left); UC cops riot at February 27 protest of U.S. threats against Nicaragua (below).



Digby/Daily Californian

## What's Next—Grenades Against Students?

Below we print the remarks of attorney John Soffer to the Police Review Commission hearing, March 18.

I had specialized, over the last three years, in legal support for people arrested in demonstrations. I participated in legal support in demonstrations totaling about approximately 10,000 arrests over the last five years. When I heard this hearing was going to happen I procured a copy of the mutual aid agreement between the UC police and the Berkeley police officers. Initially my interest in this arose because of the demonstration against apartheid at University Hall, at which there were no arrests, which I believe occurred on February 14. On that date Berkeley police department officers were called in for mutual aid and did form part of the Tactical Squad line, with the UC police. I might add that the conduct of the Berkeley officers was relaxed, their body posture was not stiff and was in marked contrast to the conduct of the UC police....

There are two main mutual aid agreements between the city of Berkeley and UC. One of them is the general statewide emergency mutual aid agreement which is for natural disaster or civil disturbance, including political demonstrations, I might

add. They have a nice list of arms that are available in Sacramento for such events, including grenade launchers. (Voice: grenade launchers?) Yes.

More to the point is a departmental order, I believe a joint departmental order of the UC and Berkeley departments issued 10/1/82 and in its twelfth revision, so I guess it's been rather controversial.... By this agreement the UC police and the Berkeley police have primary responsibility, the UC police on the campus and the Berkeley police in the city. I would suggest three rather radical solutions that could arise if this agreement were to be abrogated.

One would be for the Berkeley police to abrogate the agreement, for the Berkeley police to patrol the campus, particularly during demonstrations and to prevent excessive force by the UC police, at least in the case of what are essentially the commission of felonies, felony use of excessive force, such as I believe was used against Mr. Bermúdez, and to report the commission of such felonies to the grand jury. It would be interesting to see if they were pursued with the same vigor that Mr. Horner, the D.A., used in making this the only community in America where anti-apartheid protesters were prosecuted.



# Police Rampage Must Be Stopped!

Jane Scherr



the protest in "hammer lock"—breaking his arm.

the work of the dictatorship of the capitalist class in this country gearing up for imperialist war...

Reagan, the Democrats and the cops want a consensus behind the war drive. So they are bent on harassing, intimidating and repressing anyone who opposes that consensus. Well, luckily there are a lot of people out there who are not ready to go to war for U.S. imperialism. That's why Jeane Kirkpatrick got driven off campus two years ago. And all the crocodile tears shed for Kirkpatrick's "free speech" were really shed because it showed that the youth were not ready to go to war. That's why all this repression, harassment and intimidation. Kirkpatrick got a taste of what she deserved, but the Reaganites were embarrassed and want to make sure that no one else gets the Kirkpatrick treatment. They want the youth ready for war, ready for a draft, and they are willing to break some arms and some heads to do it.

This anti-Soviet war drive is bipartisan. The Democrats have voted for every Reagan war measure, including the MX missile. This doves vs. hawks is bullshit. Birds of a feather bomb together. So never forget—I say never forget that it was the Democrats that nuked Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Democrats that invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, and the Democrats that tried to bomb Vietnam back into the Stone Age. The Democrats only disagree about where and when the U.S. war machine should be let loose.

So now more than ever Reagan wants the Soviet Union destroyed... Reagan wants to destroy the victories of the working class, from trade unions to the Soviet Union. He wants capitalism to reconquer what it has lost. And we stand for the unconditional defense of the gains of the working class, for defense of the Soviet Union. What we like about the Soviet Union is just what Reagan

hates: there is no capitalism there. In spite of the 1917 revolution's degeneration it still embodies its most important gain: a planned economy. We say defend the gains of the Russian Revolution.

So that's why we Marxists want to fight this war drive. But that fight is inseparable from the democratic rights of dissent and protest... And I say unite, because the cops don't care whether you're for divestment or workers revolution. We cannot let our differences divide us in the face of these vicious and deadly cop attacks. The cops want to set a precedent, to use Guillermo as a scalp to frighten would-be militants. Well, as long as we are divided the cops have won half their battle. It is desperately necessary to answer these cop attacks with a maximum show of strength.

## Steve Rosing

Good almost-overcast afternoon. I'm not here today to scream about human rights violations in South Africa or any other remote part of the world. I'm here to bitch about the blatant repression of our First Amendment rights at the very plot of land on which we stand. Now first of all, I'm not a Spart, and never thought I'd speak at anything organized by the Sparts. I don't agree with their ideology or their general tactics. And I expect many others here present today feel in a similar way. But I feel I must stand behind Guillermo Bermúdez... against attempts by the university to make a big example of him, as well as the UC 5, bringing him on charges that he supposedly committed violence toward the police officer back here, one of our big brothers, "Choke Hold" Johnson. ~~Shit, people have big brothers of their own. Why must our university maintain a position as our enemy rather than work with us as a friend in harmony toward higher education? Do you want to know why? It's because it is not our university, a "public institution," with which we must try to deal. It is the firm corporate hand of the swine regents we are forced to face. And as to justice for the political protesters currently being railroaded by UC, they now~~

face even expulsion plus criminal charges or even jail time. This very moment every word I'm saying is being scrutinized. And I'm a bit nervous with my big brother looking over my shoulder here. So I think I'll call up on Oliver Nicholson, a good friend of mine and co-defendant, to give me a little support. Please support Guillermo Bermúdez and the UC 5 tomorrow morning and on May 1st when the trial of the apartheid protesters begins.

## Andrea Pritchett

My name is Andrea Pritchett, I'm with the Campaign Against Apartheid. While we disagree with the Spartacus Youth League on many points, very strongly disagree on a number of issues, I think the one thing that is clear and

Daily Californian



Berkeley 1964: Free Speech Movement protesters surround cop car holding arrested civil rights worker; turn it into podium for 32-hour-long rally.

that we can unite on is the fact that the police have gone too far on this campus, and it is not a matter of isolated incidents, of the Moffitt Library incident, it's not the December 7 protest. It's coming down to a daily conflict with the police over where we have our tables, over where we're hanging our banners, over what kind of banners we're hanging... They're intimidating people. They're trying to keep people out of the movement. I think the most absurd example of this is Guillermo Bermúdez'

case, and I just want to stress that if we're going to protect any kind of semblance of free speech, or free exchange of ideas, excuse the cliché, but if we're going to continue the dialogue, we have to stand in defense of Guillermo because these trumped-up charges, you know, this is an example case. If they can bring Guillermo down, then they'll be coming after us next. They'll be coming after you next. And it won't be a matter of, "Well, were you involved with the Marine recruiters table?" They'll be taking people off to jail for hanging a damn banner. So I think we have to stand together on this one. I think everybody ought to go down to the courthouse tomorrow to defend Guillermo, and also to defend the UC 5.

Now, just some testimony aside. I spent three days in a maximum-security cell at Santa Rita for having blocked the sidewalk, and I had to ask myself, was I there because I blocked the sidewalk? They don't put people in jail for

blocking sidewalks. What I'm supposed to believe is that they put people in jail for protesting, and I think that is a clear indication that we have to go down to that courthouse tomorrow and make a stand. We have to have a lot of public outcry about this stuff, because the longer we wait, the greater degree of suppression of our rights to speaking are going to be made. So go down to the courthouse and let 'em know we're not going to take this anymore. Thanks. (applause) ■

## Down with Deadly Cop Choke Holds!

In May 1982 Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates "explained" the disproportionate number of blacks who had died at the hands of the LAPD, victims of the choke hold: "We may be finding that in some blacks when it is applied the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do on normal people" (*L.A. Times*, 8 May 1982). Such is the swine mentality of the cops run amok at Berkeley. Racist thugs in uniform are not restricted to the ghettos—they now roam the UC campus. We print below the remarks to the Berkeley PRC meeting of Steve Becker, M.D., a Spartacist supporter, on the deadly effects of the choke hold, a tool for racist murder.

My name is Stephen Becker and I'm a physician in San Francisco, and a member of the faculty of the University of California in San Francisco, and I'd like to speak about the choke hold, because of the recent outrageous behavior of the California campus police. I think in order to understand the significance of the choke hold one only has to remember the vital structures that are located in the neck. The carotid arteries deliver oxygenated blood to the brain. The entire respiratory apparatus is located in the larynx and the trachea, and obstructing that, of course, prevents respiratory exchange, breathing. Compression or

disruption of any of these structures has very serious consequences. When the choke hold, the carotid restraint as it's called, is applied, it will lead to unconsciousness within a fairly short period of time. If that's continued, it can lead to death, of course. The type of choke hold that Guillermo Bermúdez was subjected to, and I believe you've all seen the photograph of this, has more dire consequences in many respects. It can lead to fracturing or disruption of the trachea or the larynx. Several things can happen then. If the trachea or larynx is fractured, you are unable to inspire air. That obviously is bad. You die. You also can have bleeding, and you can bleed directly into the lungs, and drown in your own blood. You also can have the formation of a hematoma, or a blood clot. While that doesn't occur initially, over the subsequent minutes to hours, can totally obstruct the airway and lead to asphyxiation.

There are other consequences of this as well, and the photograph of Guillermo makes this clear. That choke hold, as applied to Guillermo, runs a significant risk of compromising the cervical spine, the spinal column and the spinal cord in the neck. If that's stretched to capacity the vertebra can break and can lead to paralysis. In addition there are somewhat less spectacular consequences of fracture of the larynx,

disruption of the vocal apparatus, damage to the thyroid gland and blockage to blood draining the head.

So the consequences of this are very significant and I think it's been made clear that people need to expose this, this is why I'm here, to expose this, it needs to be fought, and it needs to be stopped. (applause)

**Question:** In the other photograph we saw, with them using their fingers, I'd like to ask how important after this hold has been applied to someone, is it that these people be checked by a physician? One of the people said that after this was applied they were just left there, there was nothing done, and do they not need to check right after they have had this hold applied?

**Becker:** Well, given that the carotid restraint can lead to death, the answer would be yes, of course. It is a maneuver that is potentially fatal. If applied for too long, it can lead to death. If applied for something shorter than that, it can lead to syndromes such as a stroke, where there's deprivation of blood supplied to the brain and permanent loss of brain tissue, and therefore function... And I think it only underscores the point about the very bonapartist nature of the University of California police, that they have seen [fit] to continue this practice. (applause)

### Spartacist League/ Spartacus Youth League Public Offices

#### Bay Area

Fri: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Sat: 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
1634 Telegraph, 3rd Floor (near 17th Street)  
Oakland, California  
Phone: (415) 835-1535

#### Chicago

Tues: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Sat: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
161 W. Harrison St., 10th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois  
Phone: (312) 663-0715

#### New York City

Tues: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sat: 12:00-4:00 p.m.  
41 Warren St. (one block below  
Chambers St. near Church St.)  
New York, NY  
Phone: (212) 267-1025

## Partial List of Endorsers

### Guillermo Bermúdez Defense Committee

R.M. "Aaron" Aarons, Alameda County Central Committee, Peace and Freedom Party\*  
 Franklin Alexander, Commissioner, Berkeley Police Review Commission\*  
 Stephanie Allan, Member, Berkeley Police Review Commission\*  
 Joan Alsop, Commissioner, Berkeley Police Review Commission\*  
 Amado Cabezas, Visiting Lecturer, Asian American Studies Program  
 Gerald Cavanaugh, Visiting Lecturer, UC Berkeley (UCB)  
 Chicanos in Health Education, UCB  
 E.C. Ezera, Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science,\* UCB  
 Pete Farruggio, Executive Board member, ILWU Local 6\*  
 Esther Freeman, volunteer, Emergency Response Network\*  
 Steering Committee of Gay & Lesbian Union, UCB  
 John George, County Supervisor, Alameda County Board of Supervisors\*  
 June Gow, Library Assistant IV, UCB  
 Stanley Gow, Executive Board member, ILWU Local 10\*  
 Grassroots Newspaper Collective  
 Herbert Greenberg, Professor, University of Denver  
 Bruce Haldane, Commissioner, Police Review Commission\*  
 Theresa Halula, Gallery Director/Lecturer, Cal State University, Hayward

Ross Hammond, Senator, ASUC Senate\*  
 Nathan Hare, Lecturer, San Francisco State University  
 Arlene Irlando, Chair, Berkeley Police Review Commission\*  
 Labor Black League for Social Defense  
 Ramsey W. Miller, Commissioner, Berkeley Planning Commission\*  
 Kathleen Moran, Lecturer, UCB  
 Osha Neumann, Commissioner, Berkeley Police Review Commission\*  
 Pedro Noguera, Chairman, Graduate Assembly\*  
 Father William J. O'Donnell, Pastor, St. Joseph the Workman, Berkeley  
 Partisan Defense Committee  
 Glenn Rice, student, victim of police assault at UC Davis  
 Robert A. Rice, Co-chair, External Affairs, Graduate Assembly,\* UCB  
 Ann Robertson, Faculty member, San Francisco State University  
 Richard J. Salvucci, Assistant Professor, UCB  
 Greg Schultz, Executive Board member, AGSE,\* UCB  
 Gary Soto, Associate Professor, English Department, UCB  
 Spartacist League  
 Spartacus Youth League  
 Stan Steiner, author of *La Raza*  
 N.H. Tucker, Regional Organizer, AZAPO\*  
 Lloyd K. Vandever, President, UE Local 1412\*  
 Themisa M. Waetjen, Campus Representative, People in Support of Azania\*  
 Sam Wellbaum, Faculty member, San Francisco State University  
 Tony Zamacona, Executive Board member, ILWU Local 10,\* San Francisco

\*Organization listed for identification purposes only.

## Here's How You Can Help!

What you can do: Contribute! It will take thousands of dollars to beat these charges in court. Make checks payable to the Guillermo Bermúdez Defense Fund. Mail to: Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5555, San Francisco, CA 94101. Send letters/telegrams demanding all charges against Guillermo Bermúdez be dropped to: John J. Meehan, Alameda County District Attorney, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA 94612; UC Chancellor Ira M. Heyman, Office of the Chancellor, 200 California Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720; and copies to the Partisan Defense Committee. Publicize the case and fundraise—in your union, your classes, your workplace or your organization. Endorse the demands to defend Guillermo Bermúdez: Drop the Charges Against Guillermo Bermúdez! Down with Cop/Administration Attacks on Student Protest! No Administration Action Against Guillermo or Any Other Protesters!

# Drop the Charges Against Guillermo Bermúdez!

We print below an edited version of Guillermo's speech at the March 28 rally, which reiterates the testimony he delivered to the Berkeley Police Review Commission.

My name is Guillermo Bermúdez. I am a junior at UC Berkeley and I am a member of the Spartacus Youth League chapter on campus. On January 29, the Marines set up a recruitment table on Sproul Plaza. Aware of the bloody terror the Marines have spread around the world, from the Philippines to Nicaragua. I and other members of the Spartacus Youth League approached other student groups and proposed a joint protest of the Marines' presence. A crowd of 75 to 100 students gathered around the Marines' table, chanting and calling for "Marines Off Campus!"

I was among the most vocal of the protesters and was singled out. A big burly undercover police officer named Joseph Johnson, well over six feet tall, came from behind me and seized me around the throat in a choke hold. You may have seen the picture on the front [page] of the *Daily Cal*. I was jerked up in the air, off my feet, and carried by the neck for about 30 feet. I was breathing only with extreme difficulty. And I can only remember thinking to myself, "Am I still breathing?"

Finally Johnson put me down and two other officers grabbed me as well. One of them, by the name of Finger, twisted my left arm behind my back, and as I tried yelling against the Marines' presence he twisted it more and more, pushing my arm up higher between my shoulder blades. I could also feel one of the cops grinding his knuckles into my shoulder. The intent and the effect was to cause me such extreme pain as to silence me. They were finally successful in doing this. Subsequent medical examination revealed that my throat had been internally bruised, ligaments in my left elbow were torn and the radius

bone in my arm had been fractured.

I have been charged with four separate crimes: battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, vandalism and disturbing the peace on the campus. If convicted of these charges, I face up to two years and nine months in prison. This is the classic cop tactic: beat somebody up—particularly if they are black or Hispanic—and then charge them with assault to cover it up.

I ask everyone here for their support in beating this frame-up. The label



Nicaraguans prepare to fight U.S. war moves.

of being a "cop attacker" can have very dangerous, indeed deadly consequences. As a Hispanic, my life would be in jeopardy if I'm stopped by the police and their computer reports that I have a record as a "cop attacker." Many black and Hispanic youth have been murdered by the police for less.

The job of the campus police is supposedly to protect students from crime, to make sure coeds get to their dorms okay and to regulate traffic flow. But this is not the case. The cops have become a law unto themselves, an out-of-control killer elite SWAT squad. We

know they have batons, pistols and repeater shotguns in their squad cars. We want to know: what kinds of reserve arms do the UC police have? Do they have M-16s? Tear gas generators? Sniper rifles with night scopes? Submachine guns? And what are the police "contingency plans" to use these arms? Clearly the intent of the campus police is to kill students in the event of a new major student upsurge.

The mentality of the police was captured in a recent statement by UC police chief Bowles after the Moffitt Library police riot. Referring to his cops he said, "They've had training, but they've never really been there under fire." *Under fire!* This outrageous remark is intended to serve the same purpose as the "anti-terrorist" barriers now surrounding Reagan's White House: to create a "State of Siege" mentality to justify repression of political protest. They want to bludgeon public opinion to facilitate their bloody counterrevolutionary policies in Central America and South Africa.

When 38 students were arrested last December for a protest against apartheid, the university and district attorney were the only ones to prosecute those charged among the over 1,000 anti-apartheid arrests nationally in the recent past.

Everyone knows that there is massive surveillance of student protests, yet in court, in response to discovery motions filed by my attorney, the police said they had no files on me, the Spartacus Youth League or the Spartacist League. This is stonewalling. What is the extent of this surveillance and other intelligence op-

erations? And who has access to these files? Do the campus cops share their information with other police agencies, the FBI, the CIA, or military intelligence agencies? What is the extent of their infiltration of student groups? These are questions that need to be answered.

As Marxists, we understand that the UC police are part of the state apparatus whose job is repression on behalf of the capitalists. We do not believe the police can be fundamentally reformed under capitalist rule. But the UC police—whose job on campus is clearly not to protect students but to attack them with deadly force—should be dismantled. At the minimum, they should not be allowed to carry guns. The choke hold should be banned.

The cops who assaulted me, the cops who rioted and beat students in front of Moffitt Library, the cop who pulled his gun on the demonstrators in front of Moffitt, the cops who repeatedly ran their patrol car into the crowd that night should be fired. We urge the students who were hit by that car to file charges. There are savage hit-and-run laws in California—the cops in that car are guilty of assault with a deadly weapon.

The UC police are a bonapartist hit squad. They more and more resemble the crazed Manson family. All the victims of the vicious UC police attacks should unite. There should be maximum coordination between our defense efforts. And all who are opposed to these beasts run amok, the students and citizens of Berkeley should join together in massive protest against UC police violence. Thank you. ■

### Spartacus Youth League Directory

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