



**PEOPLES  
COLLEGE**

1972 HANDBOOK  
BLACK LIBERATION MONTH

January 1, 1972

BLACK LIBERATION MONTH 1972 HANDBOOK

1           This is a general ideological formulation for Black  
Liberation Month (BLM). This document is the basis for all  
participation on the staff of BLM, so that everybody who  
gets involved will have a full understanding of what it is  
5           we are doing and why. BLM is a mass action and must allow  
for the full participation of as many people as possible,  
as long as they meet the responsibilities involved; staff  
folks must know what is going on and be able to run it to  
anyone who asks. In a mass action everyone on the staff  
10           must be fully able to give a ten minute rap on Peoples Col-  
lege and BLM at a moments notice. (Maybe everyone ought to  
have a set of rap-note-cards in their pocket or purse at  
all times!) The contents of this memo must be discussed line  
by line, paragraph by paragraph so that everybody involved  
15           has got it down, because only with ~~full~~ participation in  
this P.E. will it be a democratic process. Then following  
this democratic discussion there must be discipline and  
productivity. After democratic discussions comes making  
the plan work, following the plan, doing your job in an ex-  
20           cellent manner. Everybody is expected to get down and get  
this shit on. We all have the energy. We all have some  
level of political development. So all we need is the prac-  
tice to be correct. This is the time of year most of us got  
into P.E. and the Peoples College only one year later. We've  
25           got to get it on for our final exams after one years prepara-



tion. The people are going to grade our work. If we love the people and want to see them survive this monster of imperialism and racism then we will be given honors in the form of PEOPLES College being full of people.

### 1. Basic Explanation of BLM:

(a) Origin: A major breakthrough against the colonialist lie that we as a people had no history was made when Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week in 1926 in honor of the birth of Frederick Douglass. Brother Woodson got his BA from the University of Chicago and his PhD from Harvard. He went to teach at Howard and promote the study of history among the people. He founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and the Journal of Negro History, the Negro History Bulletin, Associated Publishers (for all his over 20 books), and Negro History Week in 1926. He, like DuBois his contemporary, comes after the accomodating leadership of Booker T. Washington. ~~Imperialism~~

Imperialism reached its height. Blacks were disenfranchised in the South, now the USA controls Cuba, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, and the WAR of colonial Plunder had been waged. "... following WWI there was a demand for unskilled labor in the heavy industries of the North, masses of Southern Negroes migrated to Northern industrial centers from the cotton plantations ravaged by the boll weevil." A post war boom, the Garvey movement, the Harlem Renaissance, and a Pan-African movement: one a messianic petty bourgeoisie nationalist that was a tremendous success, second one of elitist petty bourgeoisie cultural pluralism, and third, intellectual petty bourgeoisie reform. The historical importance of Wood-

55 son's work like Negro History Week is that it institutionalized the correct relationship between historical truth and a positive self image. He understood that "a people who does not know its own history is like a tree without roots." He was a teacher who used historical action to teach the people  
60 history, because he founded an annual observance, Negro History Week; and, as it has been institutionalized, many of us got turned on for the first time through programs associated with it.

Through the depressions to more migrations to the North  
65 and not to the West. Black workers become ~~key~~ sector of industrial work at the point of production, and a new element of the working class is developed with the white collar clerk who was needed to staff the growing bureaucracy. On the international scene imperialism is being beaten by third world  
70 countries as the military extension of the post war independence movements. Vietnam (1954) Cuba (1959) Algeria (1962). The Brown decision in 1954, Little Rock, Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Sit-ins, the Civil Rights movement, nationalism, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X. Flowing into the streets of  
75 Watts, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Birmingham were those born almost in response to Margaret Walker's appeal in 1942:

80 Let a new earth rise. Let another world be born.  
Let a bloody piece be written in the sky. Let a second generation full of courage issue forth;  
let a people loving freedom come to growth. Let a beauty full of healing and a strength of final  
85 clenching be the pulsing in our spirits and our blood. Let the martial songs be written, let the dirges disappear. Let a race of men now rise and take control.

Margaret Walker in For My People

(George Jackson 1941, Huey 1942, Bobby Seale 1936, Rap 1943, Eldridge 1935, Featherstone 1940, Angela 19 )



90 This new stage of historical struggle requires us to  
 further our analysis and move to a higher level of program.  
 We are joining with the Malik Shabazz Communiversity of Chi-  
 cago in promoting the support for Black Liberation Month.

From Negro to Black:

Physical: hair, skin color,

95 Culture: clothes, rituals (like  
 marriage), names, reli-  
 gion, diet

Consciousness: American Negro Re-  
 form to Black Revolution

100 From History to Liberation:

Theory: We've moved from the strug-  
 gle for democratic rights,  
 equal respect under the  
 law to a struggle for a  
 basic social revolution

because

105 Practice: US capital is no longer  
 on top, growing competi-  
 tion, also Vietnam War,  
 Blacks are a vanguard and  
 have been especially since  
 110 WWII and mass agitation  
 with police brutality con-  
 tinues, prison revolts

From Week to Month:

115 Commitment: We believe that this  
 is best measured by the  
 concrete reality of how  
 time is used, so we've  
 moved up to a higher le-  
 vel of commitment.

120 Struggle: Since many people have  
 become used to setting  
 aside one week, it is now  
 necessary to raise the de-  
 mand to a month in order  
 125 to have a contradiction  
 to resolve in struggle.

(b) Program: The major program is to expand Peoples Col-  
 lege to a conference form for each of the four week ends in  
 February, 1972.

	<u>DATES</u>	<u>CONFERENCE THEMES</u>
130	1. Feb. 4-6	Black Culture
	2. Feb. 11-13	Black Youth
	3. Feb. 18-20	Black Labor
	4. Feb. 25-27	Black Politics

There are three program considerations: mass mobilization for BLM, continuations activities that come out of BLM and the building of Peoples College (SAU, Timbuktu, etc.).

Mass mobilization:

1. Class Picture of the Black Community:  
     PETTY BOURGEOIS: High Officials  
                     Professionals  
                     Entrepreneurs

PROLETARIAT: Clerical  
                  Industrial  
                  Service

DECLASSED: Petty Bourgeoise  
                  Proletariat

2. Institutions we are concerned with:  
     Schools (Where people go to school)  
     Churches (Where people go to worship)  
     Plants (Where people go to work)

3. Associations:  
     Community Centers (Recreational activities, socials)  
     Electronic media (Radio, TV, Tape Recorders)  
     Print media (leaflets, pamphlets, books, newspapers)  
     Organizations-Clubs

4. We are going to mobilize the Black proletariat.  
     But also in this context, we will include professional groups to get them in a "class defec-  
     tion" like context. e.g., at the Black labor conference will hopefully be fraternal delegations from medical students organizations, Black social workers, etc. The end result we hope is height-



ened consciousness, some continuations program,  
and basic data for a class analysis of Nashville.

5. We are going to mobilize the Black student-youth.  
This will be done through organizations and schools.

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#### Continuations Activities:

1. Each conference will select a continuations committee, based on delegations who will meet on Sunday morning to finalize plans and release a press statement to Black and movement media.
2. Peoples College will offer staff for all continuations committee decisions to be implemented until such time that the indigenous personnel of the committee takes over.

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#### Peoples College:

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1. This is the work (practice) context for including the invited list of 15 members into the staff of the Peoples College. Now we can have P E on something that we are doing, how we're mobilizing the masses of people.

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2. This is the mass build up for the next basic college cycle beginning March 1st.
3. This is the start of turning the college over to the people to be molded by their interests and put to their immediate service.

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#### 2. What Was BLM in 1971?

- a. We received funds from the student government at Fisk to have a large calendar printed that had a combination of historical dates and local dates for that month,  
-- also a description of the Black flag, four part philo-

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sophy of the Peoples College, a Fanon quote, a picture and the schedule of the Peoples College.

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- b. We approached WJOL with the calendar to have the information used for spot announcements.
- c. We got over 500 people to come through the college meeting at 28th Street Hadley Park field house.
- d. The format was a panel every Saturday morning dealing with a different topic (community survival, education, art, and panafricanism) and a movie, and open discussion. The first exposure was in an orientation session given to groups of 5-15 people as they arrived, 10 minutes, a basic introduction to Peoples College and BLM.

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### 3. Criticism of BLM 1971

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- a. There was no overall plan and much was learned by spontaneous trial and error, like getting leaflets run off at the last minute and not having a set crew to pass them out and doing it Friday night rather than within a plan for mobilization.

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- b. Work fell on too few people consequently not much was really learned except for a few people, like the calendar.

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- c. As usual the concentration was on Fisk which should be avoided. We have got that covered. We need State, the high schools, and most important of all, the Black Labor conference.
- d. There was no clear idea of continuation activities, the only major new one was political education and that drew most of the people who really never before



a part of the basic college.

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e. The results and proceedings were never published so the masses were never informed of what we accomplished or didn't.

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f. The Black community was never really informed through mass propaganda work and certainly not in a manner guided by a Marxist-Leninist class analysis.

4. BLM Program Goals for 1972:

a. Materials to be produced:

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1. Brochure like art and liberation to promote BLM.
2. BLM community calendar based on a total inventory of Black community activities as well as those we are able to help set up.
3. At least 100 posters for each of the four conferences to be silk-screened by Peoples College Press.

b. General program goals:

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1. Some WVOL cooperation especially for the conferences by the DJs and the historical spots.
2. At least 10 Timbuktu displays
3. At least 10 public school programs:
  - a. A speaker with or without a slide show on Black people here and in Africa.
  - b. An assembly program based on a combination of the cultural conference and Peoples College basic format.
4. Distribution of 5000 leaflets per conference ( $\frac{1}{4}$  of typing sheet) (total of 20 reams of paper needed).
  - a. For the workers this means at the plants, bus stations, bars, churches, etc.

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255 ~~mouth~~: community centers, schools, churches,  
etc.

c. General: some working class communities or  
apartment complexes

260 d. something on this must be done every day or  
we work because this is the most basic work  
everyone must be involved in, getting the news  
to the people.

5. Average attendance of 150 per weekend conference,  
with the ~~majority~~ being actual participants and  
the rest observers.

265 6. Revolutionary Film Festival on each Sunday after-  
noon, at least one hour per session.

c. Basic Conference Outline

1. Friday Night

Opening Session  
Purpose of Conference  
Historical Rap  
Get Acquainted

2. Saturday

9:00  
10:00  
  
Noon  
2:00  
3:30  
6:00  
7:30  
11:30

National  
Local (issue oriented  
workshops)  
Caucas over lunch  
Regional and State  
Local (Workshops con'd)  
Caucas over dinner  
Final plenary session  
Final social

280 3. Sunday

Morning

Meeting of Continua-  
tions Committee

Afternoon

A. Staff meeting for  
criticism - self  
criticism session  
and prepare for the  
next conference.

B. Revolutionary Film  
Festival

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## d. Documentation

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1. Everything will be taped.

2. We need to have at least two still photographers.

3. Johnny Simmons will need a film crew to shoot a super-8 documentary of Jan.-Feb. BLM as a propaganda tool for Peoples College.

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4. Each workshop and session will have at least one official recorder responsible for a summary of all discussion. The Staff will serve in this capacity.

5. Method for BLM:

## a. January:

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1. Division of Labor
  - a. Timbuktu
  - b. BLM Secretariat
  - c. BLM Propaganda
  - d. Peoples College

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## 2. Conferences Preparation

a. Make huge banners to hang during the conferences e.g., BLACK WORKERS UNITE!, YOUTH MAKES REVOLUTION!

b. Put up all posters and distribute all leaflets.

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c. Teams should go to a different church in trying to pull people to the conference.

d. BLM office in back room at Timbuktu.

e. Leaflet some where everyday beginning the third week in January.

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f. Have daily morning meetings with written reports turned in to the secretariat even if only one paragraph long.

## g. REQUIRED READING: (The basis for Staff P.E.)

1. Mao-Tse Tung, On Literature and Art

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2. Robert Allen, Black Awakening in Capitalist

America

3. Harold Barton, Political Economy of Black Labor

4. E. Franklin Frazier, Black Bourgeoisie

5. Abdul, Unpublished Collection of Papers on Education

h. State and Regional Trips (Contact)

1. Atlanta (Ebon)

2. Memphis (CEC)

3. Knoxville (Muhammad)

4. Chattanooga

5. Greensboro (Howard Fuller and Nelson Johnson)

b. February:

1. Conferences:

a. Hopefully we'll have luck in getting Bethlehem Center, if not then the Panther's place.

b. Rent a typewriter with large type for name tags for all participants.

c. Have tables on the conference floor so everyone will be able to sit with his/her delegation and take good notes and keep reference material handy.

d. We should have 100 conference packet each time with background material, position papers, maps, etc.

e. Try to have notebooks silk-screened especially for the conferences.

f. Have a booth area with at least Timbuktu display and a Peoples College table for students



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also an SAU table.

## 2. General-

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This two month project is going to be full of activity and will require full concentration and cooperation. We are calling for an offensive where all our political commitment and skill becomes apparent. The contradiction is not internal now, but external - at least in terms of what we are trying to do. We have been turned in for a long time. It is now time to turn outward. Get your rap together. Study this handbook so that you can run it down in a moments notice. The harder we work the stronger we'll get and the more the people will respond. We know the Nixon contradictions are escalating so the objective condition for movement is there. Our mobilization and propaganda will determine whether we can get to the subjective conditions and get them to change.

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CONCLUSION

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1. Go and reread the student struggle pamphlet and analyse how this handbook fits in that scheme and your development.
2. Analyse your attitude and the way you carry yourself to determine what changes will be necessary to make a positive impression on people.
3. Reread this handbook, then begin to make it real.

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WINCEBROS!

**1971**

**Peoples College**

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Nashville, Tennessee  
USA**