

POWER
TO THE
GRASSROOTS
By RICK HOPTON
BEWARE OF THE CYCLE OF SELF-DESTRUCTION

Yeh! Thats right! We are all on this "Cycle of self-destruction", and unless we move now to remove the carbon-monoxide in our minds it will be hopeless to administer any oxygen to 20 million dead black people; who could, if the cycle were reversed, see their children grow up in American cities that were free of ignorance and social strife.

We must realize that our problem is our own, and not white America's; and that, the answer to our problems cannot be found in status-quo public schools. We must however stay in school and seek answers to the problems that confront our social survival in a racist country. The answer to our problem can only come from within our own people, our own identity, and our own value system; for we must be the elite in America.

If you keep running after an imaginary "pie in the sky" you won't even know what it is you are looking for until it slaps you in the face.

I always see a lot of people jumping on the "black power" bandwagon, and out of all those followers and leaders I wonder how many are really committed, and how many are just doing it because they don't wish to be left out of the social happenings!

We must seek out and expose these so-called leaders who are in reality nothing more than insecure opportunists.

You know the ones I'm talking about! The ones who talk black power and awareness, but never live it; one day, in one particular type of social setting, he's talking about how black people must come together, and the next day, in a different social setting, he runs around stealing a "material" object they call a stereo tape player-from the same brother he was preaching to about black unity.

Or the ones who say, "We must respect our black women and put them up on a pedestal above white woman"; and then the next day, because his old lady doesn't agree with a particular aspect of his social front, that he calls "black power", he begins to curse and beat her up in a public place; in practice he will soon find, I hope, that he is just as much of a hypocrite as white America.

These contradictions do not lead to "black power" I'm afraid - these contradictions however can and will put you where white America wants you to be - within your own "Cycle for self-destruction".

We can't expect to have black power unless we first develop an untouchable black pride about ourselves and toward other black people.

Do our values fall in the same caste with those of white America? I hope not! What always keeps us talking big, but never doing what we say?

Is not our race mightier than the law of submission and hypocrisy? Sometimes I wonder!

If anyone would like to hear what I sound like reading my columns on the radio, you can tune in on KPFK Watts Bureau, 90.7 FM, hosted by, Ron Dhanifu, who is also from Pasadena, Calif. We will be on this Saturday from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM. I will be doing my thing every-other Saturday, and you can look for Ronnie blow'in everything from Sly & the Family Stones to John Coltrane every week at this time.