The Pride of the Panther: A Night with David Hilliard

Sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. EWU Chapter and the African American Education Department

Coordinators:
Tekldet Andeberhan
Nicholas Russ
David Hilliard

As chief of staff of the Black Panther Party, David Hilliard was actively involved in every major activity of the best recognized and most feared African-American organization of the 1960's and 70's.

The Panthers occupy a unique place in the Civil Rights movement. Their goal was to politically organize the inner city poor, the underclass, "the lumpen" whose swollen numbers now present such a profound challenge to American society. David Hilliard speaks for these people.

Hilliard is author of the book, This Side of Glory, a compelling personal narrative and an eyewitness account of the Black Panthers that reclaims a piece of history long obscured and now almost lost. David Hilliard's candid life story illuminates this revolutionary movement and sheds light on America's present racial and political troubles.

By the early 1970's, the Black Panthers were a nation-wide organization providing free food and medical and legal services to the poor. David Hilliard breaks twenty years of silence to provide firsthand accounts of Huey Newton's
shoot-out, the killing of Fred Hampton, how money was raised and spent, the sexual mores of the Panthers, how illegal activities erupted and were controlled.

Whatever their accomplishments and failings, the Panthers, "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country," according to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, began to dissolve as police raids, gun battles, IRS investigations, trials, and prison terms decimated their ranks. Covert tactics including infiltrators, provocateurs, and a disinformation campaign turned Panthers against one another. Whatever the government had not destroyed, the Panthers finished themselves.

David Hilliard, a vibrant voice from our recent history, speaks eloquently to the racial divisions in America today

David Hilliard would be discussing:

- The Black Panther Party and the Hip-Hop Generation
- The Black Panther Party and the Politics of Gender
- The Black Panther Party and the Law
Purpose

The struggle continues. This is what we must realize as we continue the long road to social inequality. It is sometimes easy to become complacent with our advancements but we must never become stagnant in our intellectual pursuits. This is why we feel it is beneficial to create platforms for intellectual warriors to enrich us with their social testimony. Our perspectives must be challenged if we are to garner the necessary lessons that a college education should provide.

We believe that a night with David Hilliard will accomplish these goals. As a prominent leader in the Black Panther Party Hilliard’s words are soaked in revolutionary action. It is sometimes easy to become infatuated with theory on college campuses but we must learn the importance of practice. David Hilliard is a powerful social critic who we feel will open eyes to the true nature of what it takes to create true change. Eastern Washington University is a perfect environment for vital social discourse on the urgency of social change.

Eastern Washington University is a college campus that has suffered from cultural apathy in the past but this campus is a season of change. This change can only be furthered by our ability to challenge ourselves to painful self-examination that derives from a challenge to our conventional ways of thinking.
We believe that David Hilliard will spark the match that will ignite communal examination and set the stage for true change.

It is vital that we continue our pledge to diversity. However, we must be cognizant that diversity is not restricted to color, it encompasses opinions. We must allow for opinions that may differ from ours the chance to be heard. If we seek to silence these voices then we rob the institution of higher learning of the ability to truly change the lives of its constituents. The impact of a Night with David Hilliard will forever change the environmental make-up of this campus.

In closing we would like to say that we have a passion to change the environment we live in. It is sometimes easy to critique but difficult to plan. We do not want this to be our contribution to this campus. We seek to be actively involved in the struggle to create new plateaus of community discourse. We feel the first step is allowing for this community to be invigorated by a night with David Hilliard.
# Budget for David Hilliard

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