

BLAKE, J. HERMAN.
J. Herman Blake Black Panther Party collection, 1966-2010

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Blake, J. Herman.
Title: J. Herman Blake Black Panther Party collection, 1966-2010
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1357
Extent: 4 linear feet (8 boxes), AV Masters: .5 linear feet (1 box), and Born digital material: 1.44 megabytes (MB)
Abstract: Collection of materials relating to the publication of Huey Newton's autobiography *Revolutionary Suicide*, including research materials, publication files, and interviews between J. Herman Blake and Newton.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Special restrictions apply: Sound recordings of the Ideological Institute are closed to researchers until 10 years after the death of J. Herman Blake or Emily L. Moore, whichever is later.

Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact MARBL at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder MARBL's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.

Use of the original digital media is restricted.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation collection](#), Stanford University Libraries

Related Materials in This Repository

[Black Panther Party collection](#)

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Source

Purchase, 2016

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], J. Herman Blake Black Panther Party collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Arranged and described at the folder level by Sarah Quigley, May 2016.

Born digital materials were processed by Sarah Quigley and Dorothy Waugh in 2017. Born digital materials included one floppy disk containing two Word Perfect files. The two files were extracted from forensic images of the disk and were scanned for viruses using McAfee's anti-virus software. Both files were migrated to PDF to create access copies. Files have been screened for private information. File names have been maintained.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

John Herman Blake was born in Mount Vernon, New York, on March 15, 1934, one of seven children raised by single mother Lylace E. Blake. He is married to Dr. Emily Moore. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War, then attended college on the G.I. Bill, studying sociology at New York University. He received his master's degree and Ph.D., both in sociology, from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1966, he began work at the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) as Assistant Professor of Sociology; he was the first African American on the university's faculty. He was an expert witness for the defense during Huey P. Newton's 1968 trial for the killing of Oakland, California, police officer John Frey. In 1972, Blake was founding provost of Oakes College, a residential college on the campus of UCSC focusing on diversity and social justice education. From 1984-1987, he was President of Tougaloo College (Tougaloo, Mississippi) and has held teaching and administrative positions at such institutions as Swarthmore College (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania), Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana), and Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa). In addition to his scholarship on Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party, Blake is an expert on the Gullah culture of South Carolina and Georgia and has served as Scholar in Residence and Director of the Sea Island Institute at the University of South Carolina.

The Black Panther Party was founded in October 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. It was a black nationalist and socialist offshoot of the Black Power Movement. Originally called The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, it advocated armed citizen patrols of black neighborhoods and resistance to police brutality and misconduct in those communities. The Party also organized numerous "survival programs" including the Free Breakfast for Children program, medical clinics and testing, classes on politics and economics, and transportation programs. A philosophical rift between Newton and Eldridge Cleaver in 1971 divided the party and led to numerous chapter closures in 1972. Throughout the late 1970s, continuing legal troubles and violence within the organization caused additional fractures and loss of members, and the party formally disbanded in 1982.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of materials about the Black Panther Party from 1966-2010, primarily compiled by J. Herman Blake while co-writing Huey P. Newton's autobiography, *Revolutionary Suicide*. The collection is predominately interviews between Newton and Blake in which they discuss Newton's childhood, education, political awakening, personal philosophies and ethos of the Black Panther Party, and his trial for the killing of police officer John Frey. There are also interviews with Newton's family, including his parents Armelia and Walter, his brothers Melvin and Lee Edward, and his sisters Leola and Doris; Black Panthers James Carr, David Hilliard, Bobby Seale (interviewed by Don Freed), and John Seale; reporter Alex Hoffman; and college classmates Tommy and Tamara Reed. Unless otherwise noted, all interviews were conducted by Blake. There are additional recordings of Newton during press conferences, at speaking engagements at Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut) and Merritt College (Oakland, California), and on the radio. Many tapes also include recordings of Blake summarizing interviews that were not recorded or reflecting on his experiences during interviews. The earliest interviews between Newton and Blake were conducted while Newton was still in prison at California's Men's Colony and could not be recorded; the collection includes Blake's notes, made afterward and verified by Newton at subsequent meetings.

Research and other files contain correspondence, printed material about Newton and the Black Panther Party, photographs, materials relating to the lawsuits *The People v. Huey P. Newton* and *J. Herman Blake v. Stronghold Consolidated Productions*, writings by Newton and others about the Panthers, and other articles by Blake about Newton and the Black Panthers. Correspondence relates to Blake's work on *Revolutionary Suicide*, requesting interviews, editing the manuscript, and initial efforts to find a publisher for the book. There are additional letters to Huey P. Newton from Blake and others following Newton's release from prison. *J. Herman Blake v. Stronghold Consolidated Productions* was a breach of contract suit brought by Blake against Newton seeking payment of royalties following publication of *Revolutionary Suicide* and those materials include correspondence between Blake and his lawyers as well as court documents. Publishing files are comprised of correspondence between Blake and Harcourt, Brace, and World; drafts of the manuscript; notes and outlines; and other materials specifically related to writing and publishing *Revolutionary Suicide*.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type, then in chronological or alphabetical order.

Container List

Interviews and other recordings

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Undated, inventory of tapes
AV1	-	1968 August 12, Huey P. Newton interviewed by Blake, Jerome Skolnick and Charles Garry in Alameda County Jail (RS-11 side one) [original: open reel] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxdq][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz19]
1	2	1968 August 12, Huey P. Newton interviews by Blake, Jerome Skolnick and Charles Garry in Alameda County Jail, transcript [1 of 2]
1	3	1968 August 12, Huey P. Newton interviews by Blake, Jerome Skolnick and Charles Garry in Alameda County Jail, transcript [2 of 2]
1	4	1968 October 17, Huey P. Newton interview on KPFA, transcript
1	5	1969 March-November, Huey P. Newton at the California Men's Colony (San Luis Obispo), J. Herman Blake typed notes
1	6	1970 February-July, Huey P. Newton at the California Men's Colony (San Luis Obispo), J. Herman Blake handwritten notes
AV1	-	1970 July 5, Melvin Newton (RS-2) [original: open reel] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxqz][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz5v]
1	7	1970 July 5, Melvin Newton, transcript
1	8	1970 July 15, Leola Carr, transcript
AV1	-	1970 July 29, James Carr, first reactions and thoughts on release from prison [original: open reel] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxxs][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxmj]
1	9	1970 July 29, James Carr, first reactions and thoughts on release from prison, transcript Includes release form and letter from prison, December 4, 1971.
AV1	-	1970 August 12, Huey P. Newton, "Message to the National Liberation Front," "Proportional Representation in a Socialist Framework," "Attack on American Nationalism," (RS-3 side one) [original: open reel] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxvh]
1	10	1970 August 12, Huey P. Newton, "Message to the National Liberation Front," transcript
1	11	1970 August 12, Huey P. Newton, "Proportional Representation in a Socialist Framework," transcript
AV1	-	1970 August 17, Huey P. Newton, release from prison (RS-4 side one and two) [original: open reel] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxg0][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrx99]

- 2 1 1970 August 17, Huey P. Newton, release from prison, transcript
AV1 - 1970 August 17, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file: On the
Ministry" (RS-3 side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxvh]
- 2 2 1970 August 17, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file: On the Ministry,"
transcript
AV1 - 1970 August 17, John Seale (RS-4 side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrx99]
- 2 3 1970 August 17, John Seale, transcript
AV1 - 1970 August 26, Huey P. Newton press conference (RS-5 side one) [original:
open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxbf]
- 2 4 1970 August 26, Huey P. Newton press conference, transcript
AV1 - 1970 September 13, Huey P. Newton (RS-6 side one and two) [original: open
reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz05][Digital/digitized
copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxh4]
- 2 5 1970 September 13, Huey P. Newton, transcript
AV1 - 1970 September 14, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file: On the
Ministry" (RS-6 side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxh4]
- 2 6 1970 September 14, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file: On the
Ministry," transcript
AV1 - 1970 September 15, Huey P. Newton (RS-7 side one and two) [original: open
reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxtc][Digital/digitized
copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz4q]
- 2 7 1970 September 15, Huey P. Newton, transcript
AV1 - 1970 September 15, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file" (RS-7 side two)
[original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz4q]
- 2 8 1970 September 15, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file," transcript
- 2 9 1970 September 30, J. Herman Blake reporting on first interview with Armelia
and Walter Newton, Sr., transcript
AV1 - 1970 October 3, Alex Hoffman (RS-5 side one and two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxbf][Digital/digitized
copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxfv]
- 2 10 1970 October 3, Alex Hoffman, transcript
AV1 - 1970 October 9, David Hilliard (RS-8 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxs7]
- 2 11 1970 October 9, David Hilliard, transcript
AV1 - 1970 October 11, Huey P. Newton (RS-8 side one and two) [original: open reel]

- [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxs7][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxkd]
- 2 12 1970 October 11, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 12, Huey P. Newton Swedish press conference (RS-8 side two)
[original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxkd]
- 2 13 1970 October 12, Huey P. Newton Swedish press conference, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 13, Huey P. Newton at Merritt College; 1970 October 14, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum: On Richard Aoki"; 1970 October 14, Huey P. Newton [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rqrn3]
- 2 14 1970 October 13, Huey P. Newton at Merritt College, transcript
Includes memo from Blake regarding altercation with man in audience.
- 2 15 1970 October 14, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum: On Richard Aoki," transcript
- 2 16 1970 October 14, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 16, Huey P. Newton; 1970 October 16, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum: On Doris Godfrey" (RS-9 side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rqrp7]
- 2 17 1970 October 16, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum: On Doris Godfrey," transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 17, Huey P. Newton (RS-9 side two) [original: open reel]
- AV1 - 1970 October 17, Huey P. Newton (RS-12 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz3k]
- 2 18 1970 October 17, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 17, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file: On Interviewing Huey" (RS-12 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz3k]
- 3 1 1970 October 17, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum to the file: On Interviewing Huey," transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 17, Tommy and Tamara Reed (RS-12 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz3k]
- 3 2 1970 October 17, Tommy and Tamara Reed, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 17, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum reporting on a brief visit with Mrs. Armelia Newton," (RS-12 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz3k]
- 3 3 1970 October 17, J. Herman Blake, "Memorandum reporting on a brief visit with Mrs. Armelia Newton," transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 18, Huey P. Newton (RS-12 side one and two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz3k][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxnp]
- 3 4 1970 October 18, Huey P. Newton, transcript

- AV1 - 1970 October 20, Huey P. Newton (RS-12 side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxnp]
- 3 5 1970 October 20, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 October 29, Huey P. Newton (RS-10 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxj8]
- 3 6 1970 October 29, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 November 1, Lee Edward Newton (RS-10 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxj8]
- 3 7 1970 November 1, Lee Edward Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1970 November 13, Huey P. Newton on prisons and intercommunalism (RS-10
side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrx6w]
- 3 8 1970 November 13, Huey P. Newton on prisons and intercommunalism,
transcript
- AV1 - 1971 January 12, Huey P. Newton (RS-15 side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrx85]
- 3 9 1971 January 12, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1971 February 2, Huey P. Newton and Erik Erikson at Yale University (RS-18
side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rqrhj]
- AV1 - 1971 February 3, Huey P. Newton and Erik Erikson at Yale University (RS-18
side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rqrgd]
- AV1 - 1971 February 4, Huey P. Newton and Erik Erikson at Yale University (RS-19
side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rqrf8][Digital/digitized
copy available in the Reading Room: id qrkt]
- 3 10 1971 February 24, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- 3 11 1971 March 4-7, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- RRL - 1971 March 28, Sam Gadsen, transcript
- AV1 - 1971 March 31, Huey P. Newton, J. Herman Blake, Erik Erikson, and Kai
Erikson; 1971 April 1, Huey P. Newton, J. Herman Blake, Erik Erikson and
Kai Erikson [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id qrdsn]
- AV1 - 1971 April 1, Huey P. Newton, J. Herman Blake, Erik Erikson, and Kai Erikson
(RS-23 tape one, side two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id qrhrh]
- AV1 - 1971 April 1, Huey P. Newton (RS-23 tape two) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id qrzmz][Digital/
digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id qrjrp]
- 3 12 1971 April 1, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1971 May 1, Huey P. Newton (RS-15 side two) [original: open reel]

- [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxpt]
- 3 13 1971 May 1, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1971 June 12, Bobby Seale interviewed by Don Freed [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxr3][Digital/digitized
copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxck]
- 3 14 1971 June 13, Bobby Seale interviewed by Don Freed, transcript
- AV1 - 1971 July 10, Huey P. Newton [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxwn]
- 3 15 1971 July 10, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1971 August 7, revolutionary memorial service for Jonathan Jackson, James
McClain, and William Christmas (side one) [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrz2f]
- AV1 - 1971 August 28, revolutionary memorial service for George Jackson (side two)
[original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrx71]
- 4 1 1971 November 21, Huey P. Newton, transcript
- AV1 - 1972 May 6, Huey P. Newton [original: open reel]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id rrxzx]
- 4 2 1972 May 6, Huey P. Newton, transcript

Research and other files

- 4 3 American Anthropological Association meeting, session on Blake's response to
Valentine article, transcript, 1971 November 21
- 4 4 "The Black Panther Party," publication, 1966
- 4 5 Black Panther Party, open letter to Roy Wilkins [from Huey Newton], 1970
- 4 6 Black Panther Party for Self Defense, "Ministry of Information Black Papers,"
1968
- 4 7 Blake, J. Herman, "The Black Panther Party Revisited: A Scholar's Reflections,"
Midwest Sociological Association keynote address, 2002
- 4 8 Blake, J. Herman, "The Caged Panther: The Prison Years of Huey P. Newton,"
Journal of African American Studies, 2010 June
- 4 9 Blake, J. Herman, "Is the Black Panther Party Suicidal," 1970 [Review of
Valentine article]
- RRL - Blake, J. Herman, "Is the Black Panther Party Suicidal," digital file, 1970
[Review of Valentine article]
- 4 10 California Men's Colony, Communicator, 1970 March-July
- 4 11 California Men's Colony, "Summary of Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Mail
and Visits," 1968
- 4 12 Clippings about Blake, 1968
- 4 13 Clippings in preparation of manuscript, 1970-1971
- 4 14 Committee to Defend the Panther 21, 1970
- 4 15 The Community of Concern for David Hilliard, undated

- 4 16 Correspondence, 1968-1972
- 4 17 Correspondence (significant), 1966-2002
Correspondence marked as important by Blake. Includes letters to and from Eldridge Cleaver, Alex Haley, Huey Newton, Betty Shabazz and others. The letter from Cleaver discusses his release from Soledad prison, the prison's African history and culture class, his job with *Ramparts*, and plans for publication of his book *Soul on Ice*. Correspondence with Alex Haley relates to Blake's request for advice on writing a biography. Other letters document requests for interviews or other information about Black Panther Party activities and experiences. Some letters originally in this file have been moved to the folder of publication correspondence as they relate directly to negotiating the publishing contract for *Revolutionary Suicide*.
- 4 18 "The Genius of Huey P. Newton," 1970
- 4 19 "Greater Love Hath No Man: The Panther," undated
- 4 20 Ideological Institute, 1970-1971
- 4 21 Ideological Institute, 1971 March 13
- 4 22 Intercommunal Youth Institute planning documents, 1971
- 5 1 *J. Herman Blake v. Stronghold Consolidated Productions*, correspondence and financial records, 1972-1978
- 5 2 *J. Herman Blake v. Stronghold Consolidated Productions*, court documents, 1973-1977 [1]
- 5 3 *J. Herman Blake v. Stronghold Consolidated Productions*, court documents, 1973-1977 [2]
- 5 4 Magazines, 1971
- 5 5 National Lawyers Guild invitation to reception honoring Charles R. Garry, 1970
- 5 6 Newton Cleaver Defense Committee, letter, undated
- 5 7 Newton, Huey P., "Essays from the Minister of Defense," circa 1968
- 5 8 Newton, Huey P., obituaries, 1989
- 5 9 Newton, Huey P., "On Jealousy," undated
- 5 10 Newton, Huey P., "On the Party, the Family, the Society, and the Commune," undated
- 5 11 Newton, Huey P., "Prison Where Is Thy Victory?" undated
- 5 12 Newton, Huey P., speech at Boston College, 1970 November 18
- 5 13 Newton, Huey P., speech at New York Community College, 1970 November 19
- 5 14 Newton, Huey P., University of California, Santa Cruz application essay, undated
- 5 15 Newton, Huey, et al., "The Black Panthers, Jews, and Israel," 1971
- 5 16 Panther day care center, planning documents, undated
- 6 1 *People v. Huey P. Newton*, appellant's opening brief, undated
- 6 2 *People v. Huey P. Newton*, reporter's transcript, 1968 September 27
- 6 3 *People v. Huey P. Newton*, transcript, 1968 [1 of 3]
- 6 4 *People v. Huey P. Newton*, transcript, 1968 [2 of 3]

- 6 5 *People v. Huey P. Newton*, transcript, 1968 [3 of 3]
 6 6 Photographs, circa 1970-1972
 6 7 Revolutionary memorial services programs, George Jackson and Jonathan P. Jackson, James McClain and William Christmas, 1971
 Originally inside box with audio recording of memorial services.
 6 8 Valentine, Charles A. and Betty Lou Valentine, "The Man and the Panthers: Explaining Away Revolutionaries with Suicide Theories," 1970
 6 9 "Zenowich on Panthers," 1970

Publication files

- 6 10 Book jacket, circa 1973
 6 11 Correspondence, 1969-1972
 6 12 Financial records, 1970-1971
 7 1 Galley, corrected, circa 1973 [1 of 2]
 7 2 Galley, corrected, circa 1973 [2 of 2]
 7 3 "Manuscript concepts," 1970-1972 [1]
 7 4 "Manuscript concepts," 1970-1972 [2]
 7 5 "Manuscript concepts," 1970-1972 [3]
 7 6 Memorandum to the file: The biography of Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party, 1970 October 8
 7 7 Notes and outlines
 7 8 Proposal, 1969
 7 9 Publishing contract, 1970
 7 10 Reviews of *Revolutionary Suicide* and other clippings about Newton, 1971-1990
 8 1 Typescript draft, chapters 1-3 as sent to publisher [1 of 2]
 8 2 Typescript draft, chapters 1-3 as sent to publisher [2 of 2]
 8 3 Typescript draft, complete [1 of 3]
 8 4 Typescript draft, complete [2 of 3]
 8 5 Typescript draft, complete [3 of 3]
 8 6 Typescript draft, corrected chapters 1-2 [photocopy]
 8 7 Typescript draft, introduction and chapter one
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