

# 'Black Unity' signs Un-American

OCEANSIDE, Calif. (LNS)--Cliff Mansker, a Black marine active in the Black Unity Party, is currently being held in maximum security with diminished rations of 1300 calories per day in the Camp Pendleton Brig.

Cliff was picked up in Oceanside recently for distributing the underground paper Black Unity. Since being taken into custody he has been attacked several times by MPs and brig guards who repeatedly rip off his Black unity band. Each time Cliff is beaten they add new charges.

Black unity bands are made of braided black shoelaces and are worn on the wrist, like identity bracelets. They originated in Vietnam, where Black GIs used them as a symbol of Black identity. They have since spread to the States and the majority of Black marines at Camp Pendleton wear them. Many Black marines have organized themselves into the Black Unity Party.

The brass at Pendleton permit confederate flags to be flown and worn on uniforms and welcome other symbols of racism to be prominently displayed. They are waging war against the Black unity band and against the Black consciousness which it represents. They correctly see it as a threat to their power. The brig commander recently ordered a dozen Black prisoners at Pendleton to remove their bands. When they refused he had them beaten and the bands forcibly removed -- the commander declared they were "un-American."

Cliff was originally charged with refusing an order to remove his unity band. He intended to fight the legality of that order at his court-martial but the pigs were afraid he would win so they have trumped up charges through provocation and harassment to insure Cliff's conviction. His court-martial will be soon, but every day Cliff remains in the brig he faces brutality and possible new charges.