

Oct. 8 Demo

The nineteenth victim of STRESS is a woman. We find this murder as reprehensible as the eighteen others. The Detroit Police Department terror-squad has decided to kill, not only "diminutive drunk men," but has now begun to kill women, also.

In a country and city where sexism is rampant—where women are under-paid, last hired and first fired; where the jobs most Black women must do are not even covered by minimum wage laws and most white women are told they've "come a long way, baby," no matter what their occupation; where victims of rape become the defendants in the courts—we find the murder of Joan Davis, a woman accused of a crime for which she was never tried, further proof of the criminal nature of the Felony Prevention Section (STRESS).

We ask Jerry Tannian, the new Commissioner, former FBI agent, and member of the law-enforcement power axis, composed of Cahalan, Gribbs, Brickley, and Lucas: "Is the essence of Felony Prevention the murder of persons accused of committing felonies? Is this the Police Department's approach to solving the docket-overload in Recorder's Court?"

We understand that police officers are to use minimum force in the apprehension of fleeing felons. It would appear that "minimum force" to STRESS consistently means "shoot-to-kill." We demand that Commissioner Tannian clarify the meaning and limitations of the use of minimum force.

In addition, we view this murder as a further manifestation of the same mentality that is presently attempting to frame Hayward Brown on charges of carrying a concealed weapon and violation of the State Narcotics Act, in order to cover-up the severe beating police gave him.

We further state that we are unalterably opposed to crimes against people, whether they are committed by the persistence of unsafe working conditions in the plants, or the legal negligence which allows narcotics trafficking to profit, while victims pay. Although street crime, rape, and murder cannot be tolerated in our city, we maintain that the conditions which create crime must be solved before crime will stop. This requires a dismantling of the police state in the city of Detroit, and cessation of the periodic murders produced by its terroristic operation.

We demand, therefore,

- (1) that the candidates for Mayor and Common Council state a position on this latest murder, and state specifically their programs for stopping crime and police murder in the city
- (2) that the STRESS officers responsible for this murder be fired
- (3) that STRESS be abolished immediately.

We, as women concerned about our city, are outraged at this murder. We will not tolerate being women under STRESS. Further, we will organize the entire community, male and female, black and white, young and old, to defend ourselves against becoming individual victims of the social system which produces police terror, while building a new social order which will produce a new and gentle world.

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