

## Cleaver Plans His Defense

Former Black Panther Party leader Eldridge Cleaver, charged with six felony counts stemming from the April 6, 1968 shootout between Panthers and Oakland police officers, will use "materials in possession of the CIA, FBI, DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency,) Treasury Department, Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce in his defense, according to chief defense counsel George Higgins.

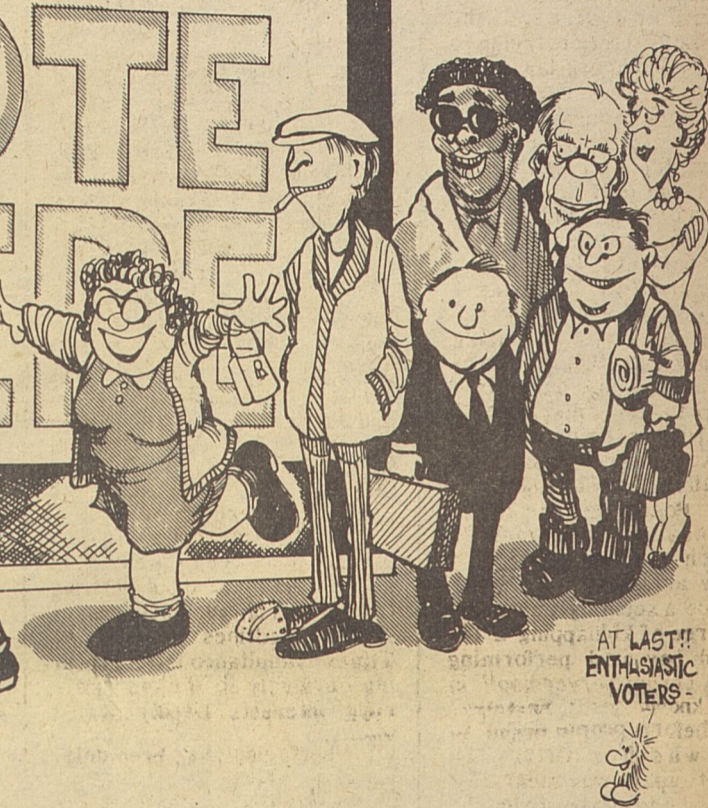
tional services in the city's gay bars and bath houses. For the first time, backers of the project say, suspicion of the city's gays was being overcome and their special health needs were being treated.

Not that the project was without critics. "The biggest problem was that it was essentially aimed at white males," said Andy Seal of the Committee to Save the Gay Health Project.

Nevertheless there was hope that the project would be funded for a second year and broadened to provide services for gay women as well as members of the Third World gay community. Instead this January the five staff workers at the Gay Health Project were fired and plans for renewed funding lapsed.

The elections will be aimed at creating a board to lobby for gay health projects at the City Department of Public Health. On it will sit Third World gays (three each, male and female,) white gays (three each, male and

"OUR FEET IN THIS COUNTRY." --REAGAN



Speaking in Alameda County Superior Court this week, Higgins said that the political climate would also be used in Cleaver's defense. "The climate in the community at the time was extremely tense and extremely affected by the assassination of Martin Luther King two days before," he said.

Higgins said that he would apply for the government documents under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act. "I understand that the volume of these materials is tremendous," he said. "Mr. Cleaver's defense will be intent and self-defense," Higgins continued. "Any act that he might have committed on the night of April 6, 1968 was an act of self-defense."

In other developments, Zodiac News Service reports that a New York-based group of civil rights activists and politicians, including the unlikely combination of Georgia State Senator Julian Bond and American Federation of Teachers President Albert Shanker, has announced the formation of an "Eldridge Cleaver Defense Fund."

-- Ray Riegert

## Gay Health Board Vote

Elections are being held next weekend in San Francisco to name a 13-member panel to fight for expanded health care projects for city gays. The drive to elect the panel came after cutbacks in the city's federally funded Gay Health Project which had been strikingly effective in curbing VD among S.F. gays.

The one-of-a-kind project provided screenings and educa-

female) and one transsexual.

Voting is open to all S.F. residents. It will take place in the Lurie Room at the main branch of the S.F. Public Library on Sunday March 7, from 1-5:30 p.m. For more information call 826-4165.

-- David Johnston

## Sign Up For Food Store

A new community food store, for people, not for profit, will open in mid-March at 2710 Park Blvd. in the Lake Merritt area of Oakland. Volunteers are needed now to work on opening the store. For further information, Call Marc and Bob at 832-4570, or Bert and Jim at 654-8390.

--A.P.

## City Aid For Mind Crises

Have you ever had a close friend who threatened suicide or had to deal with someone too depressed or upset to go for help? A mobile team of workers from the Mental Health Division of the Berkeley Health Dept. has been set up to respond to these types of emotional crises.

The Berkeley-Albany Reach-out Team (BART) is a free service for people in emotional (non-medical) crisis situations. Two staff members respond immediately to calls for help. The individual must want to accept their help; otherwise, BART will work with his/her family and friends.

BART is located at 2344 Sixth St., Berkeley, phone number 549-2303; hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday.