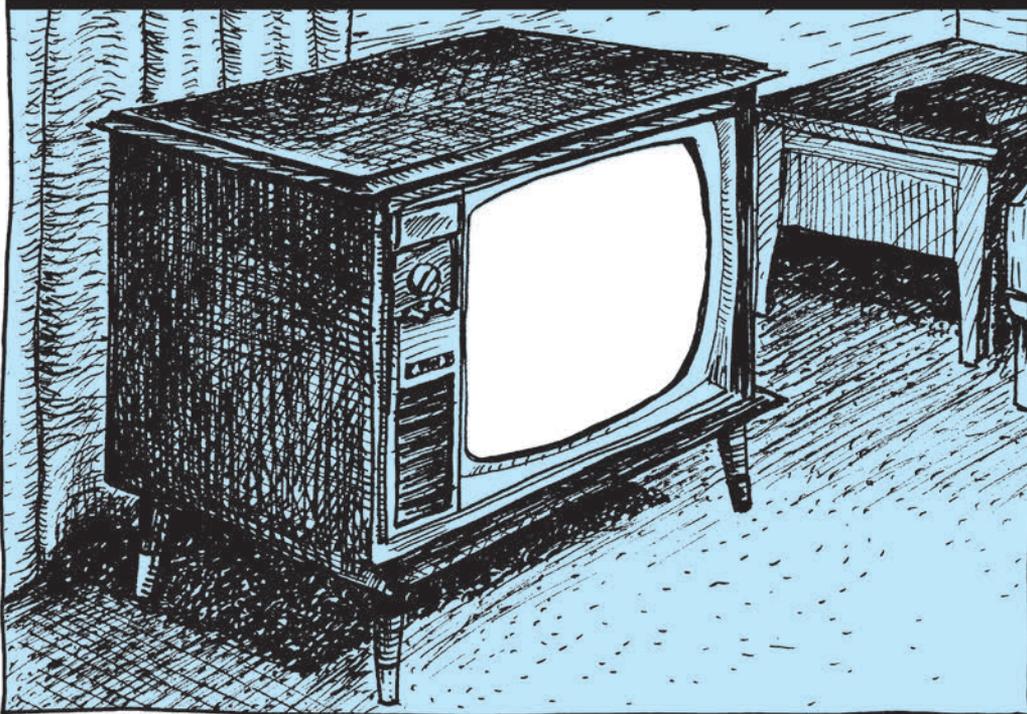




# A PLACE IN TIME

TWO PATHS TO A TELEVISION BROADCAST



**THIS BOOK IS A PRODUCT OF URBANA, ILLINOIS**  
AND CREATED FOR RESIDENTS OF URBANA AND CHAMPAIGN.

THE AUTHOR'S RESEARCH DEPENDED HEAVILY ON THE GENEROUS RESOURCES AND STAFF AT THE *CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES* AT THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY, AS WELL AS THE *UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ARCHIVES*. THE KIND FOLKS AT THE *ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER* HELPED WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIG GROVE.

I ALSO LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM JOY ANN WILLIAMSON'S BOOK *BLACK POWER ON CAMPUS: THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS 1965-75*, AS WELL AS MONIKA BROECKER'S BIOGRAPHY OF HEINZ VON FOERSTER, *PART OF THE WORLD*.

GREAT THANKS ALSO GO TO *JAMIE HUTCHINSON* FOR INTRODUCING ME TO VON FOERSTER'S STORY, AND TO *CAROL AUGSPURGER* FOR INTRODUCING ME TO TRELEASE WOODS.

JACK BRIGHTON SHARED AN IMAGE FROM WILL-TV'S HISTORY, AND I ALSO BORROWED AN IMAGE FROM DOUG QUICK'S GREAT ONLINE HISTORY OF TELEVISION IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

THIS PROJECT WAS PAID FOR IN PART BY A *CITY OF URBANA ARTS GRANT*.

THIS WORK IS LICENSED UNDER A *CREATIVE COMMONS* ATTRIBUTION-SHAREALIKE 3.0 UNPORTED LICENSE.

*KEVIN HAMILTON*  
COMPLEXFIELDS -AT- GMAIL -DOT- COM

DECEMBER 2012

# WHAT HAPPENED HERE

BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG?

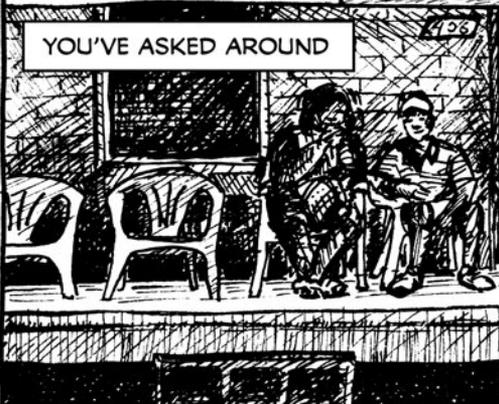
BY BIRTH



BY TRAIN, PLANE, OR BUS?



YOU'VE ASKED AROUND



AND LEARNED FROM PEOPLE

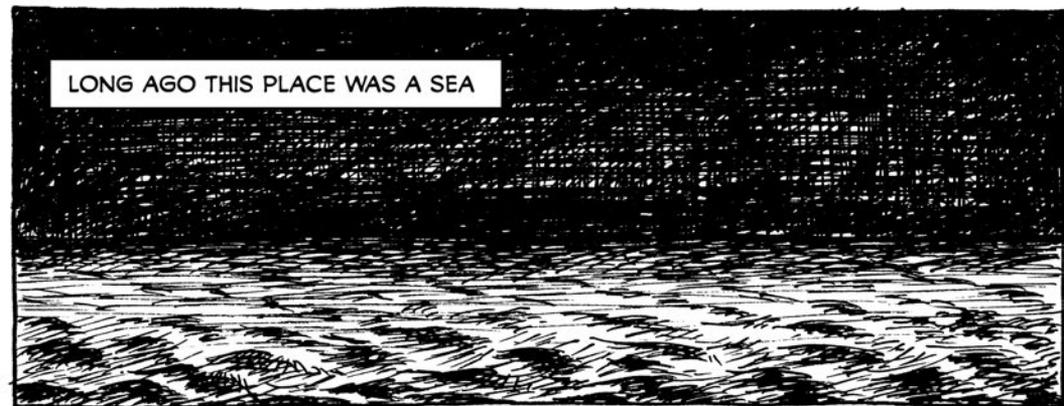


BUT YOU CAN ALSO LEARN  
FROM RECORDS AND BOOKS



HERE'S ONE STORY I FOUND  
THAT WAY...

LONG AGO THIS PLACE WAS A SEA



THEN A MARSH



AND THEN ICE



THEN A MARSH AGAIN



THEN A FOREST





EVENTUALLY, PEOPLE CAME AND WENT





THEIR STORIES TAKE  
MANY FORMS

MEANWHILE...



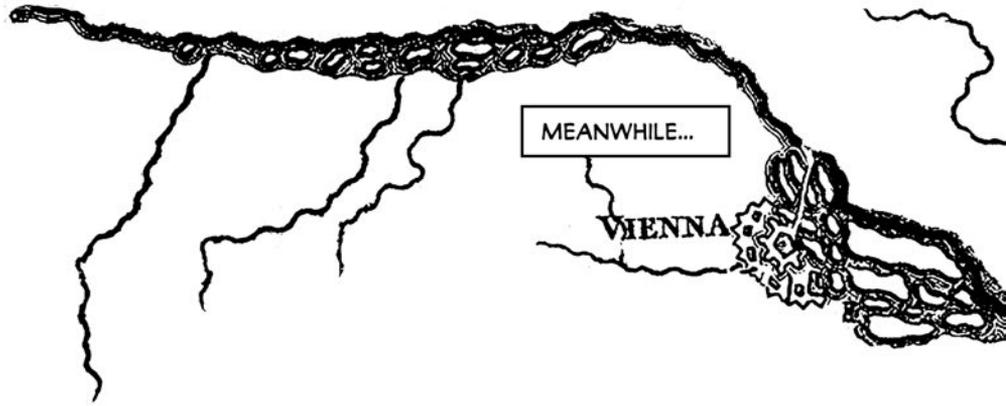
THEN SOME CAME FROM EUROPE



AND STAYED.



MEANWHILE...

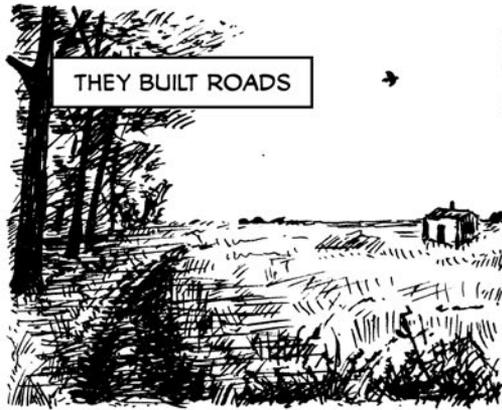


WHILE COPPER VEINS  
REMAINED DEEP IN THE EARTH





SLAVE SHIPS CHURNED WEST FROM AFRICA



THEY BUILT ROADS



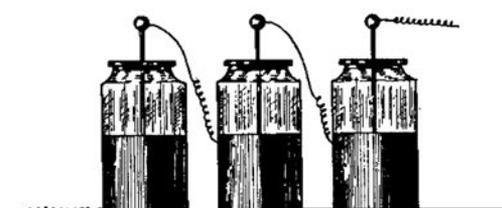
AND THEN RAILROADS



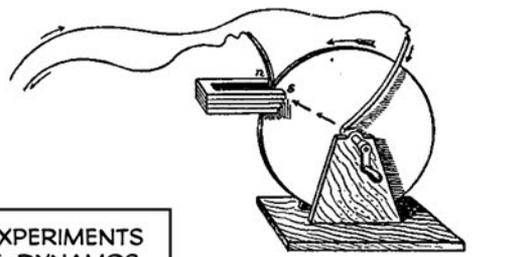
JEWS IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA GAINED STATUS AS CITIZENS



IN COFFEE SHOPS & SALONS NEW ART AND IDEAS EMERGED



EARLY ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTS LED TO BATTERIES & DYNAMOS



FREED SLAVES MOVED TO PLACES LIKE CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS



THE RAILROAD BROUGHT  
A UNIVERSITY

THE ARMY BUILT  
AN AIRBASE

MARIE LANG, MARRIED TO A JEW,  
LED A SALON OF FEMINISTS & ARTISTS

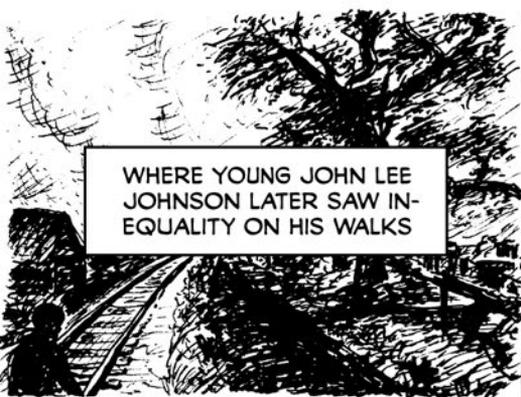
HER GRANDSON HEINZ WOULD  
LISTEN FROM BENEATH A PIANO



RADIO TOOK SOUND  
TO THE AIRWAVES



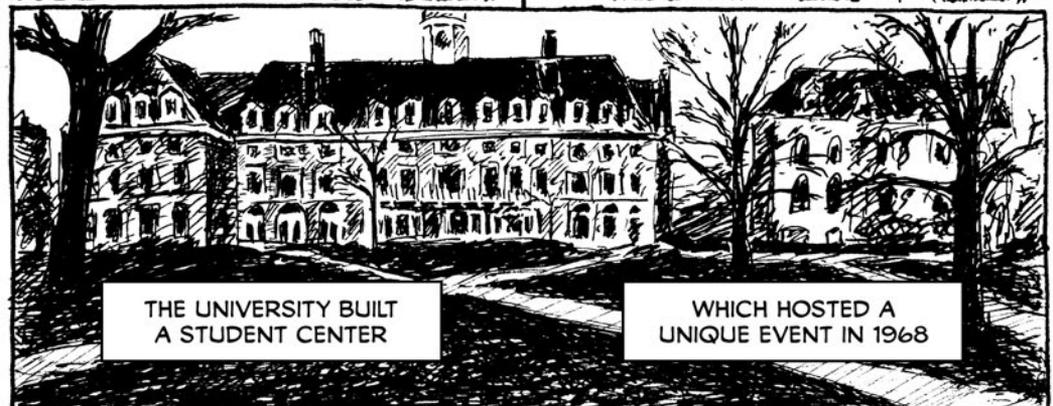
AND IMAGES WEREN'T  
FAR BEHIND



WHERE YOUNG JOHN LEE JOHNSON LATER SAW INEQUALITY ON HIS WALKS



AND THEN HELPED ORGANIZE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS IT



THE UNIVERSITY BUILT A STUDENT CENTER

WHICH HOSTED A UNIQUE EVENT IN 1968



AND LATER WATCHED THE LAST GERMAN TANKS LEAVE AUSTRIA



BEFORE MOVING TO ILLINOIS FOR A JOB AS PROFESSOR



CHAMPAIGN SAW ITS FIRST TV STATION



SOON THE UNIVERSITY STARTED ITS OWN





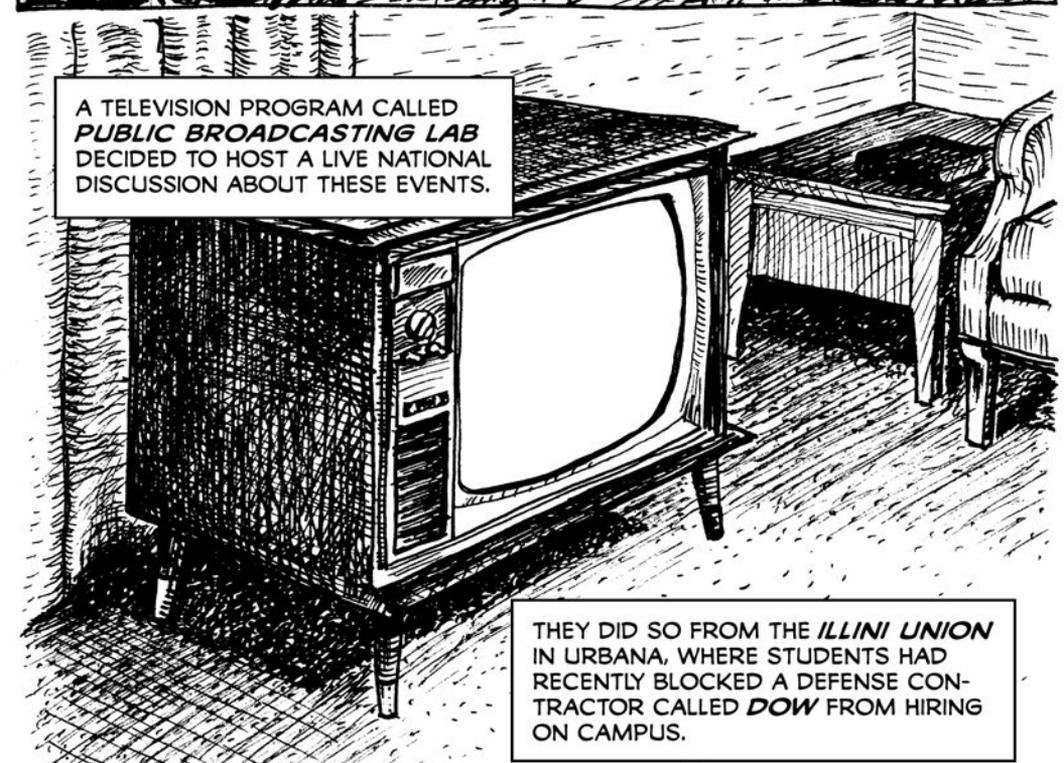
TRELEASE WOODS  
URBANA, ILLINOIS



IN FALL OF 1967, COLLEGE CAMPUSES WERE GETTING *HEATED*.



STRIFE AND BLOODSHED OVER WAR AND RACIAL INJUSTICES WERE GROWING.



A TELEVISION PROGRAM CALLED *PUBLIC BROADCASTING LAB* DECIDED TO HOST A LIVE NATIONAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THESE EVENTS.

THEY DID SO FROM THE *ILLINI UNION* IN URBANA, WHERE STUDENTS HAD RECENTLY BLOCKED A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR CALLED *DOW* FROM HIRING ON CAMPUS.



DID YOUR *SIT-IN*  
AGAINST DOW VIOLATE  
OTHER STUDENTS' RIGHT  
TO *FREE SPEECH* ?

*YES* BUT I SEE  
THEIR RIGHTS AS LESS  
IMPORTANT THAN THOSE  
OF THE VIETNAMESE  
*TO LIVE.*



WELL *THAT'S*  
A RECIPE FOR  
DISASTER.



*NO* DEAN  
MILLET. CAMPUSES MAKE  
DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN  
RELATIVE RIGHTS *EVERY*  
*SINGLE DAY !*



WHAT ABOUT ALL  
THE *PSYCHOLOGICAL*  
*NAPALM* WHITES DROP  
ON BLACKS EVERY DAY  
AROUND HERE?



SCHOOLS SAY  
THEY WANT TO KEEP  
*NEUTRAL*. WHAT'S  
NEUTRAL ABOUT  
*DOW* ?

IS ANYONE  
GONNA ANSWER *MY*  
QUESTION?

\*JOHN LEE JOHNSON



WE'RE TALKING ABOUT *STUDENT* POWER HERE, NOT *BLACK* POWER.

DID STOKELY TELL YOU TO *SIT-IN* ON *DOW*?

*STOKELY CARMICHAEL* SAID THAT WHITES SHOULD GO BACK TO THEIR OWN GHETTOS. SO WE *DID*.

LOOK, *OUR* WORK SUPPORTS *YOURS*!



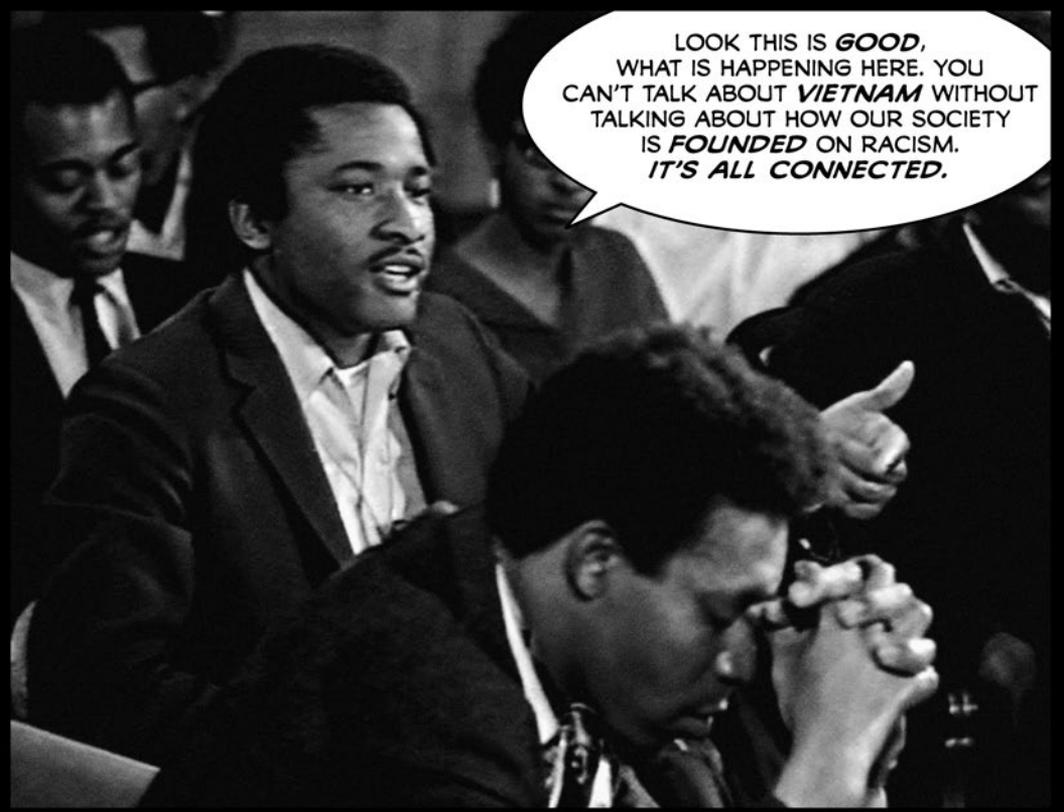
YES, BUT AFTER YOU GRADUATE, YOU JUST GO GET *WHITE MIDDLE CLASS* JOBS AND *FORGET* ABOUT US.



ARE WHITE STUDENTS READY TO DO *VIOLENCE* ON BEHALF OF THE BLACK MAN?

SURE, LOOK AT *OAKLAND*!

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT *OAKLAND*, I'M TALKING ABOUT *NORTH CHAMPAIGN*!



LOOK THIS IS *GOOD*,  
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE. YOU  
CAN'T TALK ABOUT *VIETNAM* WITHOUT  
TALKING ABOUT HOW OUR SOCIETY  
IS *FOUNDED* ON RACISM.  
*IT'S ALL CONNECTED.*



WE'RE TRYING TO  
*HELP* BY HELPING WHITE  
STUDENTS TO *SEE THE*  
*PROBLEMS.*



BUT YOU HAVEN'T  
TOLD THEM TO *STOP*  
*BEING RACISTS!*



WE'RE TRYING TO HELP  
KIDS LEARN TO **STOP**  
**THIS SYSTEM.**



OK THEN - HOW CAN  
WE HELP YOU WITH THAT?  
WHAT DO YOU **NEED?**



WELL ONE THING  
WE **DON'T** NEED IS A BUNCH  
OF **MILITANT BLACKS** COMING  
IN AND COMPLAINING ABOUT  
**THEIR PROBLEMS!**



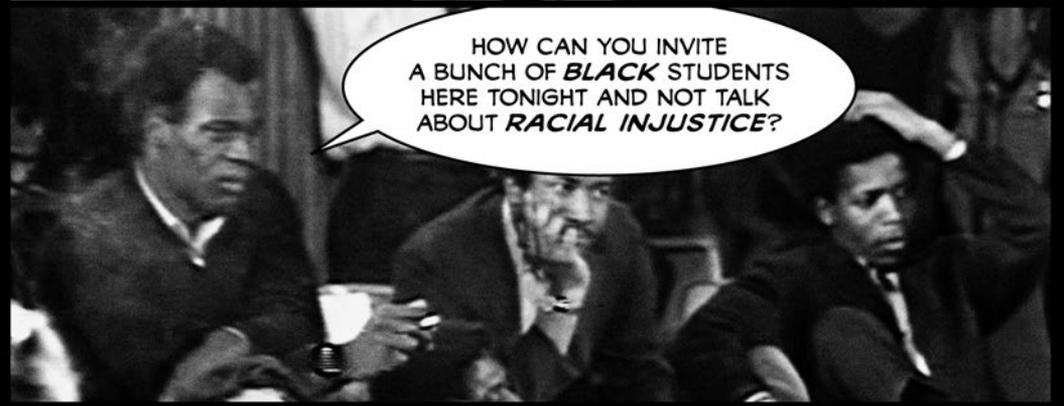
WELL RACISTS  
LIKE **YOU** DON'T KNOW  
NOTHING ABOUT **WHITES**  
OR **BLACKS!**



THE SYSTEM KEEPS  
US **ALL** DOWN! IT TELLS  
**ME** THAT I HAVE TO WEAR  
**SHOES** ALL THE TIME!

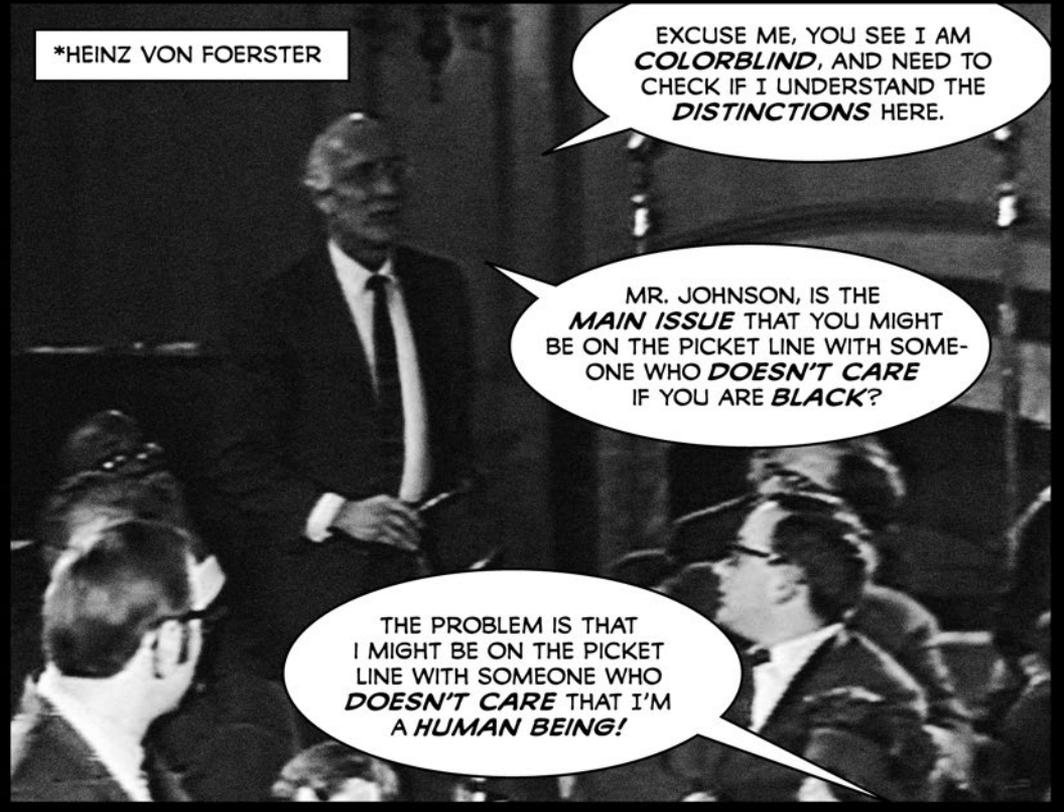


CAN WE PLEASE GET **BACK ON TOPIC**? I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT PROBLEMS IN THE **NORTH END OF CHAMPAIGN**.



HOW CAN YOU INVITE A BUNCH OF **BLACK** STUDENTS HERE TONIGHT AND NOT TALK ABOUT **RACIAL INJUSTICE**?

\*HEINZ VON FOERSTER



EXCUSE ME, YOU SEE I AM **COLORBLIND**, AND NEED TO CHECK IF I UNDERSTAND THE **DISTINCTIONS** HERE.

MR. JOHNSON, IS THE **MAIN ISSUE** THAT YOU MIGHT BE ON THE PICKET LINE WITH SOMEONE WHO **DOESN'T CARE** IF YOU ARE **BLACK**?

THE PROBLEM IS THAT I MIGHT BE ON THE PICKET LINE WITH SOMEONE WHO **DOESN'T CARE** THAT I'M A **HUMAN BEING!**



OK LET'S TALK ABOUT THE **PROBLEMS**. DEAN MILLETT, WHY ISN'T THERE A **SINGLE BLACK JANITOR** ON THIS CAMPUS?



WHAT IS THE **UNIVERSITY'S ROLE** IN ALL THIS?



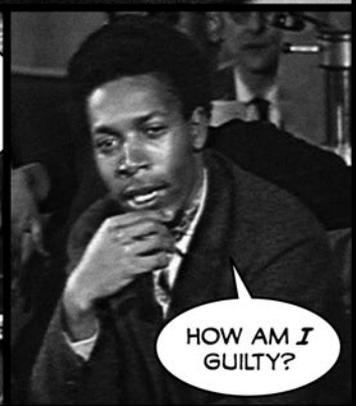
YOUR ROLE IS TO HELP STUDENTS CONNECT THE CLASSROOM TO **REAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS**, AND TO **FEEL** THE ISSUES.



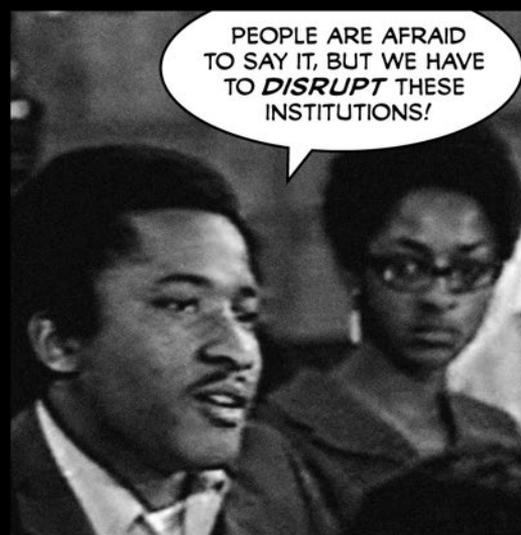
THE STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR **THEMSELVES**. MOSTLY THEY JUST WANT US TO ALLOW **GIRLS** IN THEIR **DORM ROOMS**.



WE SHOULD JUST ADMIT THAT WE ARE **ALL GUILTY** HERE - GUILTY OF NOT CREATING A **JUST SOCIETY**.



HOW AM *I* GUILTY?



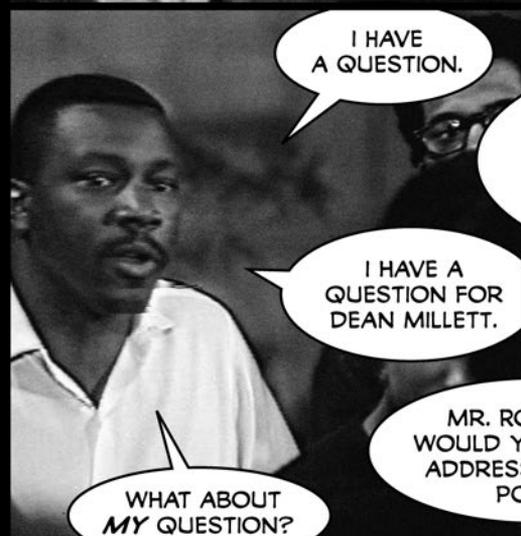
PEOPLE ARE AFRAID  
TO SAY IT, BUT WE HAVE  
TO **DISRUPT** THESE  
INSTITUTIONS!



BUT IS THERE  
ANY ALTERNATIVE  
TO **TEARING THEM  
DOWN?**



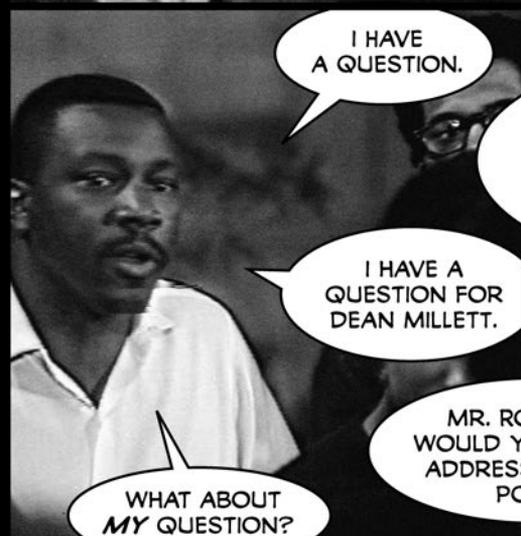
**NO.**



I HAVE  
A QUESTION.



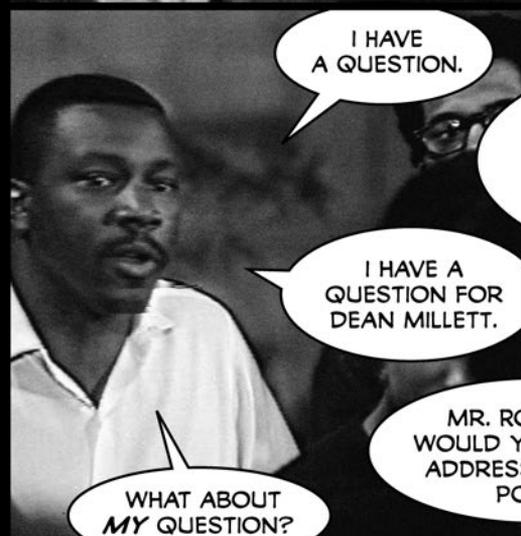
WE NEED TO GET  
BACK TO THE **CORE** OF  
THIS UNIVERSITY - EXPERT  
PROFESSORS **IMPARTING  
KNOWLEDGE** TO  
STUDENTS.



I HAVE A  
QUESTION FOR  
DEAN MILLETT.



MR. ROSSMAN,  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
ADDRESS MILLETT'S  
POINT?



WHAT ABOUT  
**MY QUESTION?**



HEY THIS GUY HERE'S  
BEEN TRYING TO GET IN  
FOR AWHILE.



I'LL GET  
TO HIM NEXT.



YOU'VE BEEN  
TALKING FOR **HALF  
THE PROGRAM!**

[ SHUFFLE , SCUFFLE ]



MR. JOHNSON,  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE  
LEAVING?



WE CAN'T MAKE  
ANY ***SENSE*** OUT OF  
THIS THING HERE.



DON'T YOU *GET* IT DEAN MILLETT? YOUR WAY *ISN'T WORKING!*



LOOK, WE CAN *DEAL* WITH THIS. WE JUST NEED TO *STOP THE WAR.*



YOU GOTTA *UNDERSTAND.* THOSE KIDS THAT WALKED OUT LOOK AT OUR SITUATION AND IT'S *BAD.*



SPEAKING FOR *SORORITIES,* THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION MATTERS ABOUT *THIS MUCH.*



*LOOK* I LIVED THROUGH NAZI GERMANY. I CAN TELL YOU THAT THINGS HERE ARE NOT *THAT BAD.*

BUT THEY COULD *BECOME* SO. SO I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A *SUGGESTION...*



IT IS *VITAL* THAT  
YOU EACH DEVELOP  
YOUR OWN POWERS  
OF *COGNITION*...

SO THAT YOU  
CAN TRULY *SEE* THE  
PROBLEMS...

AND TRULY SEE  
WHO WILL BE *YOUR*  
*MAN* IN HELPING  
SOLVE THEM.

[ APPLAUSE , FADE OUT ]

*JOHN LEE JOHNSON* WOULD GO  
ON TO A LONG CAREER OF SUCCESS-  
FUL SERVICE AND ADVOCACY FOR  
RACIAL EQUALITY.

*HEINZ VON FOERSTER* WOULD  
LATER TEACH A SERIES OF INFLU-  
ENTIAL CLASSES ON SCIENCE, ART,  
AND ACTIVISM.



AND THEN, AT SOME POINT, *YOU CAME IN*...

# OTHER PATHS



**PUBLIC BROADCASTING LAB (PBL)** ONLY LASTED ONE SEASON. ITS MAKERS WENT ON TO START ONE OF TELEVISION'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWS PROGRAMS - THE CBS WEEKLY CALLED *60 MINUTES*.



**HOWARD SPENCER** WAS A STUDENT AND ACTIVIST AT TOUGALOO COLLEGE IN MISSISSIPPI. PBL INVITED HIM TO THE CONVERSATION AS A LEADER IN ANTI-WAR AND CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS ACROSS THE AMERICAN SOUTH.



**THE KASKASKIA, PEORIA, CAHOKIA,** AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CALLED URBANA HOME FOR MANY CENTURIES BEFORE WHITE SETTLERS MOVED THEM WEST TO RESERVATIONS, OR KILLED THEM.



**JILL HULTIN** WAS ANOTHER VOCAL GUEST OF PBL THAT NIGHT, AND A NATIONAL LEADER IN EARLY STUDENT MOVEMENTS FOR WOMENS' RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS. AT THE TIME SHE WAS A STUDENT AT UCLA.



**TRELEASE WOODS** ARE ONE THE LAST REMNANTS OF THE ORIGINAL GROVE OF TREES THAT LED PEOPLE TO SETTLE IN URBANA FOR SHORT OR LONG TERM IN THE YEARS SINCE THE LAST ICE AGE.



**MIKE ROSSMAN** WAS A LEADER IN THE FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT AS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY. PBL INVITED HIM TO URBANA AS A GUEST PARTICIPANT FOR THE BROADCAST.

*KEVIN HAMILTON*

2012