

# BLACK PANTHERS PICKET A SCHOOL

Anti-Integration Party Would  
Boycott P.S. 139 in Harlem

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Harlem's recently formed Black Panther party, an anti-integration group of articulate young militants, staged its first direct-action demonstration yesterday—picketing a local school. Twelve of its members were promptly arrested. The charges included disorderly conduct.

Representing what appears to be one of the most enthusiastic of Harlem's youth-oriented "black power" organizations, the Black Panther members are attempting to organize a boycott of the old and decrepit Public School 139, on 139th Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenues.

"Many of the brothers [party members] went to this school," a party official said as he watched a picket line of 15 in the afternoon that replaced the demonstrators arrested during the morning.

Officials said 80 per cent of the school's 1,200 pupils attended, and said most of the absences were normal for the first day of school.

Their boycott demands include the placing of more Negro educators in supervisory positions, the teaching of African and Negro history and the promotion of the neighborhood-school concept so that "the administrative structure reflects the ethnic composition" of the neighborhood.

## Parents' Position

The local Parents Association has long advocated similar reforms, but it does not back the Black Panthers, although some parents do. Also, pro-integration parents who are in a dispute with the Board of Education at Intermediate School 201 nearby do not want the new party's support.

Black Panther officers refuse to discuss the number of members, but observers estimate their hard-core enthusiasts at about 30, with almost 100 members in all. They say the group is popular among Harlem's young ultra-militants.

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They look to the chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, 25-year-old Stokely Carmichael, as their "elder statesman." They took their name from the black panther symbol of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization that Mr. Carmichael founded in Alabama in 1965.

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#### Leaders Write for Magazines

Like several of the party's leaders, Mr. Ellis is a freelance writer. He and Ted Wilson, 24, and Larry Neal, 27, also party leaders, have contributed to such organs of militant Negro thought as *The Liberator* and they plan to write for a similar magazine now in preparation called *Pride*.

Other leaders include Donald Washington, 30, a former aide to the late Malcolm X, and Walter Ricks, 27, an organizer for Haryou's Neighborhood Boards.

The party organizers sought to put together a visible entity "that will get something done in Harlem," one official said. It plans to run candidates for elections "eventually, and to influence all local elections from now on," he said.

The leaders declare that "organization brings strength, strength brings unity, unity brings power and power brings freedom."

The party gives tacit support to the Black Panther Corps, a black-shirted paramilitary unit that wears the shoulder insignia of a leaping panther.