

May 13, 1960 San Francisco City Hall Rotunda

HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Police Rout Students ● Students Rout HUAC



**A Commemoration of Black Friday**

May 13, 2010

Noon in the Rotunda

# The 1960 San Francisco Anti- HUAC Demonstrations

## 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Fifty years ago, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) announced public hearings in San Francisco for May 12, 13, and 14, 1960. Students from Bay Area colleges and high schools joined members of the general public in a protest. On May 12th a rally was held at Union Square and protesters then marched to City Hall to picket the hearings.

People who wanted to see the Committee in action were stunned to learn that HUAC had issued white passes to supporters in an effort to stack the audience. A vocal protest began under the City Hall rotunda and continued into the next day. On the afternoon of Friday, May 13th, San Francisco police turned high-pressure fire hoses on singing demonstrators who were seated on the floor of the rotunda. The protesters were washed down the marble staircase and 64 were arrested.

The police, the Committee, and J. Edgar Hoover issued false accounts of the events. Representatives from the protesting group travelled the country to counter the propaganda with the truth.

The protest and its aftermath helped to launch the activist sixties.

The silent fifties were over. HUAC never left Washington again. It was abolished in 1975.

## The Program

Irving Hall, Master of Ceremonies

Becky Jenkins

Marty Hittelman

Burton White

Marshall Krause

Nancy Schimmel will sing *Bobby Boy* by Malvina Reynolds

Bob Meisenbach and Evelyn Einstein

Irving Hall

Barbara Dane will sing and lead *We Shall Not Be Moved*

## The Speakers

**Irving Wesley Hall**, Arrestee who debated Congressmen and William F. Buckley on *Operation Abolition*.

**Becky Jenkins**, Arrestee and San Francisco State University student leader.

**Marty Hittelman**, Participant and now President of the California Federation of Teachers

**Burton White**, Arrestee who participated in the national campaign to counter the government's false narrative.

**Marshall Krause**, the only attorney arrested, subsequently long-time ACLU attorney.

**Nancy Schimmel**, singer, songwriter, activist, writer, and storyteller, is the daughter of Malvina Reynolds.

**Bob Meisenbach**, the only student to go to trial. His famous acquittal rocked SF and exposed HUAC lies.

**Evelyn Einstein**, Arrestee.

**Barbara Dane** is a folk, blues, and jazz singer, songwriter, and lifetime peace and justice activist.

## The Website

[www.notinkansas.us](http://www.notinkansas.us)

# Endorsing Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern CA  
American Federation of Teachers Local 2121  
California Federation of Teachers  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
Friends Committee on Legislation of California

International Longshore and Warehouse Union  
Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10  
National Lawyers Guild  
San Francisco Labor Council  
Dennis Kelley, President,  
United Educators of San Francisco

## Donors

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Judy Gumbo Albert  
*for the many friends of Steve Hamilton*  
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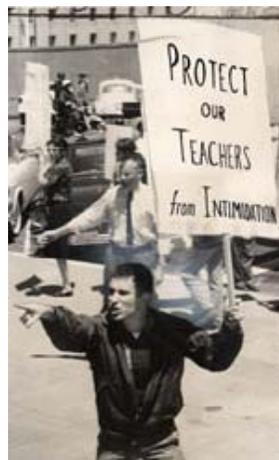
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Anne Weills & Dan Siegel  
Burton White  
Malcolm Zaretsky  
Maurice Zeitlin

## Special Thanks

**SLATE** was a campus political party at Berkeley. It started in 1957 and heralded the reemergence of campus activism after the deadly silence of the red scare and McCarthysim of the early 1950s. The slate archives project documents and makes available to scholars and current activists the full history of Slate. [www.slatearchives.org](http://www.slatearchives.org)

The **Free Speech Movement Archives** collects, interprets and makes available documents, images and stories from the 1964 Free Speech Movement at Berkeley, as well as from precursor and successor movements. [www.FSM-A.org](http://www.FSM-A.org)

**The Committee:** Irving Wesley Hall, Bob Meisenbach, Becky Jenkins, Burton White, and Barbara Stack



# Billy Boy

Notes: words and music by Malvina Reynolds; copyright 1963 Schroder Music Company, renewed 1991. Bob Meisenbach, the only student arrested on My 13 who went to trial, and who was later acquitted, remembers when Malvina sang this song in Sacramento as "Bobby Boy."

Did they wash you down the stair, Billy Boy, Billy Boy,  
Did they wash you down the stair, charming Billy?  
Yes, they washed me down the stair  
And they rearranged my hair  
With a club in the City Hall rotunda.

Was the House Committee there, Billy Boy, Billy Boy,  
Was the House Committee there, charming Billy?  
The Committee it was there,  
Spreading slander everywhere,  
While we sang in the City Hall rotunda.

Were there pigeons in the square, Billy Boy, Billy Boy,  
Were there pigeons in the square, charming Billy?  
There were pigeons in the square,  
And stool pigeons on the air,  
And they fouled up the City Hall rotunda.

Did the people think it fair, Billy Boy, Billy Boy,  
Did the people think it fair, charming Billy?  
No, they didn't think it fair,  
And they notified the Mayor,  
And he wept, and he wept, and he wept and he wept,  
While they mopped up the City Hall Rotunda.

Did they set for you a chair, Billy Boy, Billy Boy,  
Did they set for you a chair, charming Billy?  
No, the D.A.R. was there,  
And there wasn't room to spare,  
So we stood in the City Hall rotunda.

## We Shall Not Be Moved

"We Shall Not Be Moved" had its origins in slavery days, was taken up by textile mill workers, then by people working for justice in their communities, and finally spread throughout the world into many languages. This song served to give courage to the people in the rotunda on May 13, 1960 and helped them remember that they were part of a world-wide and centuries-long struggle for peace and justice. --Barbara Dane

We shall not, we shall not be moved (2x)  
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,  
We shall not be moved.

We're not afraid of HUAC, etc.

We're fighting for our freedom, etc.

We'll stand and fight together, etc.

Don't ask me for my papers, etc.

All your jails can't hold us, etc.

Bye, bye HUAC, you have been removed (2x)  
Just like the garbage standing in the ally,  
You have been removed

We're runnin' on to vict'ry, etc.



In my 1960s misspent San Francisco youth, I was addicted to the rally du jour. Saturday afternoon was for picketing Woolworth over racially segregated southern lunch counters and then locating that night's party, while the occasional anti-House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) gathering was a godsend for picking up girls (an activity guaranteed to cloud sound judgment).

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/05/demonstrations\\_and\\_dependency.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/05/demonstrations_and_dependency.html)

American Thinker

May 23, 2010

Demonstrations and Dependency

By Robert Weissberg

Recent riot-like street demonstrations in Greece reflect more than comeuppance for profligacy; these outbursts illustrate today's flight from personal responsibility. It is as if Greeks are saying "let's assemble sufficient numbers of agitated people to 'make our voices heard,' and government will surely make us healthy, wealthy, and wise."

In the final analysis, these rioters accomplish nothing positive beyond beseeching a largely powerless government for top-down rescues from thousands of ill-advised personal choices. And, of the utmost importance, such beseeching has become the norm in the West, a response that harkens back to when the desperate populace prayed for divine rescues.

Raucous public protests are hardly new, but their celebration, at least in the U.S., is traceable to the 1960s anti-Vietnam War student activism and the civil rights movement. Marching and chanting "for justice" soon infused civics textbooks and documentary films, not to mention the liberal-dominated mass media. As a result, almost anything became possible, from the unqualified obtaining of a college degree to saving the planet, if the public demands were sufficiently loud and strident. In this simple-minded morality play, the club-wielding cops were evil, the uncontrollable, tear-gassed rioters the good guys. This style soon spread, and similar protests addressed the environment, keeping abortion legal, "take-back-the-night" anti-rape rallies, curing AIDS with "die-ins," celebrations of gay pride, even demanding high school diplomas for those failing exit exams, and most recently, rallies to keep borders porous.

Unfortunately for activists fixated on street theatre, this is often the triumph of therapy over achievement. In a nutshell, since taking to the streets is just so much easier and gratifying than alternatives, it soon pushes aside potentially more effective options, especially non-political solutions. So what might a worried Greek do other than smash bank windows or pelt the police with rocks to sustain government largess? Rival options exist but are hardly appetizing: Pay one's existing taxes, agree to new taxes, cease insisting on economically foolish pay hikes, slim down the nation's business-killing bureaucracy, delay retirement, save more and invest in job-creating ventures, live frugally, learn modern market-relevant skills instead of gossiping over coffee, take fewer vacations, and for those deeply committed to future prosperity vital to sustain social welfare systems, procreate.

What makes taking to the streets so alluring is its ease. As the Greeks can tell you, joining a rally far outshines paying taxes or any other personal remedy. Instant messaging and e-mail lists make assembling a group a snap, while electronic social networking means that all the old-fashioned chores of political planning can be done comfortably online. Another version is the text-messaged "flash mob," where youngsters spontaneously agree to meet and wreak havoc.

Direct action, the old anarchist term, is also stupidity-friendly. A body is a body, and the news media reporting attendance can't tell the difference. There are no practical constraints on what can be demanded, no matter how harmful. Want to save lives in Africa? No problem. Just pressure Pfizer to hand out free drugs to sick Africans by trashing its headquarters while shouting "people not profits." Protesters need not worry about being quizzed on how "free" drugs discourage future research, how "free" medicine bankrupts local pharmacies, or how these "free" drugs are easily stolen by corrupt leaders and profitably resold outside of Africa. Mob action is even less demanding than voting -- there's no prior registration, age or residency requirement, or citizenship question. You don't even have to decide among multiple candidates -- just show up and scream. This is Politics for Dummies.

And now for the secret appeal seldom told to non-participants: The street demonstration can be great fun, even therapy for those whose lives lack moral purpose. **In my 1960s misspent San Francisco youth, I was addicted to the rally du jour. Saturday afternoon was for picketing Woolworth over racially segregated southern lunch counters and then locating that night's party, while the occasional anti-House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) gathering was a godsend for picking up girls (an activity guaranteed to cloud sound judgment).** In between were feel-good demonstrations against nukes and rallies for world peace. Where else can one dress up in bizarre costumes, carry attention-getting placards, shout obscenities in public with impunity, vandalize private property to "smash the machine," and otherwise participate in Mardi Gras-like activities while boosting one's a sense of noble purpose? Who wants to spend lonely evenings reading about the IMF and debt?

Finally, one need not fret over any bottom line. Almost nobody will ask about policy details, getting anybody elected, crafting sound legislation, or defeating a bad bill, let alone the rally's long-term consequences. Recall the example about haranguing Pfizer. Everything is personal indulgence, doing good by just being there settles the matter. Indeed, in today's kinder, gentler political street theatre, tough police tactics may heighten feelings of combating injustice since arrestees typically go scot-free lest officials be condemned for hampering progress. Being arrested for standing up for "social justice" becomes a badge of honor, a Silver Star in progressive circles. I recall a New York City demonstration where well-known black activists vied for the honor of being arrested to burnish reputations as "authentic" defenders of the community.

To repeat, politics-by-demonstration is one of many political options to achieve one's political aims and often one of the least effective. Consider the drawbacks. Who would want to invest in such volatile places with an obviously unruly, greedy workforce, or visit Greece and risk unpredictable disruptive strikes? It is no accident that hard-working, thrifty Germans grow increasingly reluctant to bail out people whose idea of "fiscal reform" it to fire-bomb a bank.

This is not an argument against this strategy per se. It has its place, as the Tea Party movement so well illustrates, especially if employed judiciously. The issue is choosing among rival tactics, and we submit that the slide toward demonstrations über alles favors empty-calorie political highs. It is also a tactic that will inevitably grow stale and thus ineffective. At some point, the world will become bored with Greece's childish violence. Out of desperation, riot-weary but publicity-hungry, Greeks might be forced to start paying their taxes to attract media attention -- perfect man-bites-dog stuff.

The extent to which "let's demonstrate" has become mind-clouding for many of today's youngsters can be illustrated by an exercise I regularly conducted when lecturing on political activism. I described the Kenilworth Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, that in the 1950s featured a front desk sign, "No Jews and Dogs Allowed." I asked the students for comments, and they all responded with "demonstrate!" They were absolutely convinced that with ample parading and hollering, the walls of the Kenilworth would come tumbling down, and Hebrews would triumphantly march in. The more sophisticated called for harassing the legislature to pass an anti-discrimination law which, I'd explained, would be extremely unlikely in Florida during the 1950s. After about fifteen minutes of guessing, they gave up.

Here's what actually happened: a Jewish investor bought the hotel, demolished it, and built several non-discriminating luxury apartment buildings on the site. He made a fortune. Students were flabbergasted. At that point, I was tempted to see if my students had learned anything by asking them what disadvantaged students should do if unable to enter college due to poor grades. The correct answer, of course, is that they should study harder and improve grades. Alas, I never asked, since I suspected that they would once more say "demonstrate" -- though one or two might have suggested buying the college, tearing it down, and building a better college. Better to quit while ahead.

Robert Weissberg is Professor of Political Science-Emeritus, University of Illinois-Urbana. His latest book is *Bad Students Not Bad Schools*. [badstudentsnotbadschools.com](http://badstudentsnotbadschools.com)

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<http://search.davisenterprise.com/display.php?id=66935>

The Davis Enterprise  
May 18, 2010

Black Friday ignited activism  
a reminiscence by  
Ken Wagstaff

Walking on the Cal campus in early May, 1960, I received a leaflet about a student demonstration planned against hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities at the San Francisco City Hall. As a freshman considering a major in political science, I was interested. What, I thought, was an un-American activity? My roommate and I decided to go to the hearing.

HUAC was part of the nation's anti-communist hysteria of the 1950s. It is difficult today to imagine what this was like. Even the California Legislature had such a committee. The effort had its roots in the US Senate, led by the infamous Joe McCarthy, who thought the reason China became communist was that the US Army and the State Dept. were full of communists.

The only thing I knew about communists was that the Russians were communist. In elementary school we practiced ducking under our desks in case the Russian communists dropped atomic bombs on Marin County. These things were in my thoughts as we took our bus to SF. At the City Hall the hearing was underway, but only people who had passes issued by the Committee were being admitted. Over loudspeakers in the rotunda one could hear the Committee grilling local teachers and labor activists about their "un-American activities". Most of the exchanges involved speeches by right-wing congressmen like the chairman, Ed Willis of Louisiana, as witnesses cited the 5th amendment and refused to cooperate.

A student near me said, isn't this supposed to be an open public meeting? Students began to chant "let us in" and "Mr. Willis, we're still here." Another student, who had been involved in early civil rights demonstrations in the South, explained what a "sit-in" was. We sat down on the cold marble floor of the rotunda. The sheriff came out and said this was an unlawful assembly. The police put up a big barricade. I was amazed to see plain clothes police incoil a fire hose.

We kept sitting and chanting. Suddenly we were sprayed with water, full and hard. I backed up and didn't get too wet. The SF riot police arrived, running up the steps. They seemed to be clubbing anybody who appeared to be wet. They ran past me. Other cops pushed me and my roommate outside. We went to the street and watched as over 60 drenched students were pushed into paddy wagons, some bleeding from their club wounds. We had never before seen police act in this way. It made a deep impression.

The next day 10 times as many students turned out to protest the Committee. The SF Chronicle's entire front page was a huge photo of young people being washed down the City Hall steps, with a headline that said: "Students Riot". My parents were angry that I was among these trouble-makers. But all charges against the demonstrators were dismissed.

This was HUAC's last hurrah. The demonstrations and the controversial police response got more press than the committee's "investigations" into subversive teaching, etc. Congress disbanded HUAC soon after. On campus we began to call this event "Black Friday". It was the beginning of a new student political awareness that grew into the 1964 Free Speech Movement, and energized the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War efforts of the late '60s and early 70's.

Last week was the 50th anniversary of the HUAC demonstrations. There was a commemorative gathering on the City Hall steps. I could not attend, but I did find my old "No on HUAC" button. The memory is still clear. Its meaning is even clearer.

— Ken Wagstaff, a longtime Davis resident, is a former • mayor of Davis.

Subject: Re: Mail back books  
Date: 5/17/2010 3:46:52 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
From: beckyjenkinssf@gmail.com  
To: BTStack@aol.com  
CC: bruceh7@bellsouth.net

By the way a friend told me they saw something on CNN?

<http://www.kqed.org/epArchive/R201005131704>

Thu, May 13, 2010 -- 5:04 PM

Commemorating 'Black Friday' Protest

A half-century ago today, San Francisco police confronted a crowd of college students in a protest that some say spelled the end of the McCarthy Era and the birth of 1960s radicalism. We report on a City Hall commemoration of the event.

Host: Cy Musiker

Reporters:  
Tara Siler

Photos from the 1960 protest : (via Google Search)

Video: One Protester Remembers "Black Friday" : (on YouTube.com)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BRrbXYK33U>

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Sent to list:

Thursday news: I saw the report on SF Channel 5. I heard that there were reports on 4 and 7.

Barbara

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Demonstrators-commemorate-50th-anniversary-of-historic-protest-93742909.html>

San Francisco Examiner

May 14, 2010

Demonstrators commemorate 50th anniversary of historic protest  
Bay City News

Exactly fifty years after police turned high-pressure fire hoses on a group of singing demonstrators seated on San Francisco City Hall's rotunda floor, singing echoed once more Thursday under the high domed ceiling as participants in what is now known as "Black Friday" gathered to commemorate the historic incident.

"My life changed as a result of May 13, 1960," said Burton White, an activist who was arrested at the demonstration against the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The House Committee had been conducting anti-communist investigations around the country, specifically targeting teachers, journalists, salespeople, writers and others to question them about their loyalty to the U.S.

When the House Committee announced public hearings at San Francisco's City Hall, local student demonstrators planned to rally at Union Square and march to City Hall to picket the hearings.

On the second day of the hearings, police turned high-pressure fire hoses on protesters in the rotunda, washing some of them down the staircase and dragging them out of the building.

Thursday, White and a few others of the 64 demonstrators who were arrested that day spoke about what it was like to take part in an event that is recognized as launching the protest movement of the 1960s.

"My kids sometimes ask me what I did during the '60s," said Bob Meisenbach, who was the only demonstrator who went to trial after the incident. "I tell them I started the '60s."

A white-bearded Meisenbach described the events of the day in vivid detail, recalling that demonstrators had been sitting on the rotunda floor and singing "We Shall Not Be Moved" when police began spraying them with hoses. He said that after that there was a lot of screaming, slipping and sliding.

"Kind of like a hockey game," he joked.

Meisenbach also talked about what it was like to go to jail with Albert Einstein's granddaughter, Evelyn Einstein, who was also arrested at the protest and was in attendance at Thursday's event.

Meisenbach went to trial for felony assault on a police officer, and was later acquitted of all charges.

The demonstration and its aftermath are recognized as contributing to the protest movement of the 1960s and prompting the demise of the House Committee, which was abolished in 1975.

In 1990, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission recognized May 13 as the anniversary of the incident, and then-Mayor Art Agnos issued an official apology to the demonstrators.

Many of Thursday's speakers, although perhaps a bit older now, described still being just as politically active as they were 50 years ago.

Read more at the San Francisco Examiner: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Demonstrators-commemorate-50th-anniversary-of-historic-protest-93742909.html#ixzz0nv93w000>

<http://xpress.sfsu.edu/archives/news/015016.html>

Golden Gate Express  
May 13, 2010 5:28 PM

SF State alum looks back on Black Friday  
by Ryan Fisher, staff writer

Fifty years ago at the foot of inside San Francisco City Hall's stairs, 64 students were arrested and hosed down by high-pressure fire hoses for protesting hearings held by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

At noon today, some of those original protesters, including SF State alumni Becky Jenkins, stood once again on that unforgettable platform not to protest but celebrate the 50th anniversary of these Anti-HUAC demonstrations, infamously known as Black Friday.

Irving Wesley Hall, an arrestee from the protest in 1960 and a contender of Congressmen William F. Buckley, faced the crowd below and admitted that he once thought that Black Friday was forgotten. But with some encouragement and Hall decided to officially put on the memorial.

"In many ways, we were accidental victims of history," he said.

Jenkins, the ceremony's first official speaker, delivered an emotional background as a Red Diaper baby and of her family's discrimination as being a part of the Communist Party. On the verge of tears, Jenkins spoke of her personal experience as an SF State student protester that memorable day and the long lasting impact it has had on her life.

"The demonstration of 1960 represented light after dark," Jenkins said to the crowd. "It represented the Sixties as opposed to the Fifties. I was surrounded by many who were not Red Diaper babies, but who were filled with righteous indignation without doubt that the righteousness and justice of their cause will be rewarded. Besides the 14 irreplaceable friendships, it changed my life and my view about what was possible."

Black Friday changed the fate of the HUAC. The committee never travelled out of Washington again to hold hearings and was eventually abolished in 1975. The event also marked what is arguably the first mass demonstration of the 1960's.

For many in attendance, the Black Friday demonstrations mirror current protests over the California budget crisis.

Fellow guest speaker Marty Hittelman, president of the California Federation of Teachers, recently finished a 48-day march from Bakersfield to Sacramento to protest the crisis in California.

"We're still fighting," Hittelman reiterated to the crowd. "Our main objective is to fight for the California dream, but first, to bring back education to the high level it once was."

Many of those attending found the commemoration and speeches inspiring and far from reliving an old painful memory.

"I thought it was really nice to see progressive activists that were heavily involved and to see them do such meaningful things with their lives," audience member Vicky Degoff said.

Twice during the ceremony, singer songwriter Nancy Schimmel, daughter of Malvina Reynolds, led the audience with protest songs, "Billy Boy" and "We Shall Not Be Moved." Afterwards, Schimmel admitted that the current budget crisis will only ignite a similar movement.

"As usual, the police overreact and don't realize they're re-energizing a new generation of activists," Schimmel said. "They don't seem to learn. "

Although the current wave of SF State protests are following the footsteps of their brave predecessors and alumni, Jenkins advised activist students to continue voicing their dissent.

"The situation is desperate," Jenkins said, "and the objective is to be creative."

» E-mail Ryan Fisher @ [rafisher@sfsu.edu](mailto:rafisher@sfsu.edu)

<http://www.kcbs.com/bayareanews/Commemorating--Black-Friday-/7043561>

KCBS

Posted: Thursday, 13 May 2010 4:46PM

Commemorating "Black Friday"

SAN FRANCISCO (KCBS) -- Activists from the 50's and 60's gathered at San Francisco City Hall on Thursday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the protests against hearings by the House Un-American Activities Committee. 50 years ago, they were young college students who wanted to speak out against the hearings at City Hall being held by Congress to root out and blacklist suspected communists.

Police with fire hoses and clubs sent protestors flying down the grand staircase.

KCBS' Barbara Taylor Reports

[http://www.kcbs.com/topic/play\\_window.php?audioType=Episode&audioId=4654213&tag=Box\\_73006101\\_Inner\\_Div;blurb\\_body](http://www.kcbs.com/topic/play_window.php?audioType=Episode&audioId=4654213&tag=Box_73006101_Inner_Div;blurb_body)

Marshall Krause, now an ACLU attorney, was one of the 64 people arrested.

"I am totally proud of what I did and said 50 years ago," Krause said. "It was right to tell the police that they were acting illegally."

Krause and others who were arrested were back at City Hall to claim victory in their free speech effort five decades ago, one that many of these activists are still fighting.

(kmi)

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<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2010/05/13/18647805.php>

San Francisco | Labor & Workers | Police State and Prisons  
50 yrs since HUAC witchhunt in San Francisco  
by Labor Picketline  
Thursday May 13th, 2010 7:19 AM

Friday, May 13, 1960 was the final gasp of the anti-Communist witchhunts of the House Unamerican Activities Committee (HUAC) in San Francisco. When college students and others demanded to be let into this congressional hearing as was their right, they were denied entrance, and instead the SF fire department sprayed them with water from high pressure fire hoses inside the City Hall Rotunda where the hearings were held and the SF police threw young and old down the marble stairs, leaving blood stains for decades.

Some photos of that terrible day may be found at:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/13/MNM61DDGP0.DTL>

Here are more from KPFA which is commemorating the event at 94.1 FM:

<http://kpfa.org/50th-anniversary-huac-protests>

and

<http://www.notinkansas.us/>

Saturday, May 14, 1960, we came from around the Bay Area to form a solid double pickeline around City Hall, 4 blocks long, 1 line going clockwise and 1 counterclockwise. We were literally shoulder to shoulder so that we 10-year-olds could play "choo-choo train" in the line. We were also old enough to understand the importance of solidarity in defeating fascism. As we passed the Polk Street side, when the Chairperson stepped onto the balcony, we gave him a

mock fascist salute and shouted "Sieg Heil." The adults in the pickeline were mostly World War 2 veterans, Holocaust survivors, and labor organizers, or some combination thereof. Despite the horrifying anti-Communist witchhunts of the 1940s and 1950s, with the primary purpose of destroying the labor movement, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) continued to prevail in San Francisco and thus San Francisco remained a strong union town, capable of turning out a labor picketline that put an end to HUAC's appearances outside Washington, DC.

It is that kind of mass picketline that we need at all demonstrations and on all labor picketlines to defeat capitalism and its profit motive, which is literally killing humanity and Planet Earth.

Here is another description:

[http://www.fsm-a.org/stacks/AP\\_files/APHUAC60.html](http://www.fsm-a.org/stacks/AP_files/APHUAC60.html)

Perhaps the most famous "hostile witness" was William Mandel, who was a commentator on KPFA on the Soviet Union and world politics generally. His autobiography, "Saying No to Power," describes the scene as he saw it, and his website has more at:

<http://www.williammandel.com/>

<http://kpfa.org/50th-anniversary-huac-prot...>

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/13/MNM61DDGP0.DTL>

San Francisco Chronicle  
Thursday, May 13, 2010

'Black Friday,' birth of U.S. protest movement  
Carl Nolte, Chronicle Staff Writer

A couple of dozen graying men and women will gather at noon today in the ornate rotunda of San Francisco's City Hall to remember the day the police turned fire hoses on them, clubbed them and drove them down the building's grand marble staircase.

It is the 50th anniversary of "Black Friday," May 13, 1960, when a demonstration against the House Subcommittee on Un-American Activities turned into a so-called riot.

The protesters are senior citizens now, but in 1960 most of them were college students; 64 of them were arrested and one was tried for hitting a police officer with his own club. But nobody was convicted of anything, and the "riot" may well have changed history.

"It was the first major mass student demonstration in decades. It led directly to the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley in 1964," said Irving Hall, who was a 24-year-old UC Berkeley teaching assistant who had come across the bay for the protest. "It made possible the 1960s in all its variations."

"It was the end of the '50s," said Becky Jenkins, who was a 23-year-old San Francisco State College student then.

The events that day put San Francisco and Berkeley on the map as a center for dissent; it was a major step in the development of what some people call "The Left Coast."

They wanted in

Black Friday was actually the second day of hearings by the House subcommittee, which had been going around the country holding public investigations into Communist infiltration of unions, the film industry and the teaching profession.

Protesters disrupted the first day's hearings, held in the second-floor supervisors City Hall chambers Thursday, May 12. On Friday, the House probers allowed only their supporters into the hearing, pretty much excluding the general public - especially the students, who had come from college campuses around the Bay Area.

The students wanted in. They sat down outside the chambers. They chanted and sang, "We Shall Not Be Moved," an anthem of the civil rights movement.

"It was disruptive," said Hall. Then without warning, Hall said, the police turned on the fire hoses and aimed them at the protesters who were inside at the top of the staircase. "There was no order to move, no reading of the riot act," he said.

Police Inspector Michael Maguire, who was in charge, later said a demonstrator spit on him. Another knocked him down. "Until I got the hoses going it was pretty rough," he said.

"I thought the cops panicked," said Jenkins.

The protesters held their positions at the top of the staircase, standing against the high pressure stream of water "like trees in a hurricane," The Chronicle reported. Then they were washed down the marble staircase, and the police followed, "clubbing demonstrators at will," The Chronicle said.

Marshall Krause, an attorney, who was watching the demonstration, yelled at the police: "Turn that goddamn fire hose off." He was thrown in a patrol wagon and hauled off to jail.

'Wet and bedraggled'

The prisoners were taken to the old Hall of Justice on Kearny Street across from Portsmouth Square.

"And there we were, looking kind of wet and bedraggled," Jenkins remembered. To the authorities, they looked like Communist dupes, but on television and in the newspapers they looked like college kids.

The riot made the front pages of newspapers across the country, and the immediate reaction was shock. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the riot was incited by Communists who got the students to follow the Communist Party line.

Supporters of the House un-American activities subcommittee made a film called "Operation Abolition" that used television footage to show the events were the work of "well-trained and high-profile Communist agents" and the students were "Red dupes."

Even by today's standards, the film was one-sided and so shrill as to be ludicrous. It was shown all over the country to college students, at military installations and American Legion posts. Rep. Francis Walter, D-Pa., chairman of the House committee, estimated that 10 million people had seen "Operation Abolition."

The film had the exact opposite effect of what the filmmakers had in mind.

"It backfired gigantically," Hall said.

It was clear that the demonstrators had a point and the police had overreacted. At their court hearing, San Francisco Judge Albert Axelrod called the protesters "clean-cut American students."

Destination Berkeley

"For a lot of students it was a turning point," said Marty Hittelman, who was in the hearing room that day and is now the president of the California Federation of Teachers. "People saw that film, and said, 'I'm going to Berkeley! I want to be a part of this movement. I want to be a part of change.' "

Black Friday was also a death blow to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It never held hearings out of Washington, D.C., again.

"We won," said Hall. "We beat the suckers."

The incident wrecked the career of police Inspector Maguire, who ordered the fire hoses turned on. He retired on a disability pension in 1962 after he told the city Retirement Board that the aftermath of the riot had ruined his life.

"They said it was a horrible thing I did," he said. He said he developed what he called a "nervous condition," he got crank calls and obscene letters, and lost all his friends.

He died in 1986 at the age of 69.

'Black Friday' remembered

Commemoration: Noon today at San Francisco's City Hall Rotunda with speakers who were among those arrested on May 13, 1960.

Film: "Operation Abolition" will be shown today at 7:30 p.m. at UC Hastings College of the Law, 198 McAllister St., San Francisco.

E-mail Carl Nolte at [cnolte@sfchronicle.com](mailto:cnolte@sfchronicle.com).

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/13/MNM61DDGP0.DTL>

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[http://www.dane101.com/breakfast\\_links/2010/05/13/breakfast\\_links\\_may\\_13\\_2010](http://www.dane101.com/breakfast_links/2010/05/13/breakfast_links_may_13_2010)

dane101

Breakfast Links: May 13, 2010

Post by dane101 on 5/13/2010 7:30am

Today is May 13, 2010. Fifty years ago, on this date in 1960, 31 Berkeley students were arrested at a protest of the House Un-American Activities Committee, unofficially marking the start of the Free Speech Movement

<http://www.dailybruin.com/articles/2010/5/13/1960s-uc-berkeley-free-speech-movement-inspires-cu/>

Daily Bruin

May 13, 2010 at 1:19 a.m.

1960s UC Berkeley Free Speech Movement inspires current change  
UCLA Students for a Democratic Society evokes radical images to encourage on-campus activism

By Nicholas Greitzer

**On May 13, 1960, a group of UC Berkeley students unofficially started the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s, as they protested a meeting of the House Un-American Activities Committee taking place at San Francisco City Hall.**

The movement at Berkeley quickly escalated, confronting civil rights, the Vietnam War and the Kerr Directives, which prohibited political action and speech on campus.

Courtesy of Kenneth Cloke

Berkeley plans to celebrate the unofficial start of the Free Speech Movement, a sit-in at Sproul Hall that occurred over 40 years ago.

“It was mass dissent, a refusal to go along with the status quo on a massive scale,” said Eric Gardner, publications coordinator for the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History and co-founder of UCLA Students for a Democratic Society.

UCLA Students for a Democratic Society aims to point out those aspects of society considered undemocratic and to find ways to change them, said Brad Rodgers, second-year graduate student and chapter co-founder.

“The main message, though, is to think for yourself,” Rodgers said.

Thus, in an attempt to raise awareness for the organization, which exists nationwide but had disappeared at UCLA, the new Students for a Democratic Society chapter held a screening of the film “Berkeley in the Sixties” on May 3.

The event also sought to draw parallels between the activism witnessed in the film and that which takes place on UCLA's campus today.

For Gardner, while the activism of the 1960s died down considerably in the 1980s and '90s, there appears to be a definite trend in student activism that resembles the upsurge that took place at Berkeley, as witnessed by the work of UCLA Fights Back and the events of the November fee increase protests and the March 4 Day of Action.

"There is a long road ahead to change this place to where we think it needs to be changed, but there has been involvement and a desire for change where it hasn't been for years," Gardner said. "My hope is that one day people will point back to the student movement of 2010, 2011, 2012 in California as a point where history was made."

The need for student activism today was a sentiment also held by Kenneth Cloke, former professor at the UCLA School of Law, and an alumnus of UC Berkeley.

Elected president of the Associated Students of UC Berkeley in the early 1960s under the activist student political party SLATE, Cloke recalled an attempt to distribute activist literature which led to students blockading a police car, the Sproul Hall sit-in at Berkeley that led to the arrests of hundreds of students, and the meeting called by the administration that ultimately served as the turning point for the movement.

"We were losing all the way along the line, and there wasn't much that we could do," Cloke said. "Then a series of events occurred, the culmination of which was the meeting at the Greek Theater, in which the administration explained why they would not grant us our liberties."

As the meeting progressed, Mario Savio, the unofficial leader of the Berkeley protests, walked to the microphone and attempted to speak, but was prevented by police from doing so.

Following the prevention of Savio from speaking, a series of strikes and increased faculty support finally led to the withdrawal of the Kerr Directives on the UC Berkeley campus.

Savio's call to action on December 2, 1964, on the steps of Sproul Hall, has since become the iconic scene of the Free Speech Movement, garnering hundreds of thousands of views on YouTube and has been replicated in popular television shows and movies.

"Any student on a UC campus deserves to see Mario Savio's 'bodies upon the gears' address at some point before they graduate," Rodgers said.

"It was a beginning of a consciousness among large numbers of students that they could participate in their own education and have a say in how the university functions, rather than just passively accept the limited role prescribed for them by managers of the state and industry," Rodgers added.

Looking forward, Cloke, Gardner and Rodgers said they hope protesting over university budget issues will evolve into a focus on other prevalent issues of today, such as war, sexism and racism, especially following the passage last month of Arizona's anti-immigration law, Senate Bill 1070. Cloke also sees environmentalism as an area that deserves student attention.

"Countries have kept the United Nations weak, so the U.S. Senate and the U.N. cannot solve these problems," Cloke said. "Who is left? The citizenry. These issues are critical and with no solutions on the horizon. Only if students become politically active again can we see these changes take place."

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime/CRIME-HISTORY---68-arrested-at-HUAC-hearings-93591304.html>

The Washington Examiner  
May 13, 2010

CRIME HISTORY - 68 arrested at HUAC hearings  
By: Scott McCabe  
Examiner Staff Writer

On this day, May 13, 1960, 68 people, mostly college students, were arrested in the first day of protest against a visit by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The investigative committee, denounced by former President Truman as the "most un-American thing in the country today," set up at the San Francisco City Hall for loyalty hearings.

Hundreds of students sat down in the hallways after they were barred from the hearings. Police fire-hosed them and dragged them down the marble steps.

The next day, thousands of people arrived. HUAC ended the hearings, calling the demonstrators communist dupes.

Charges were dropped against all but one demonstrator. He was acquitted in a jury trial.

- Scott McCabe

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/07/PKLE1CVEVQ.DTL>

San Francisco Chronicle  
Friday, May 7, 2010

The Wayback Machine  
Arsonist burns Bill Graham's offices  
Johnny Miller, Special to The Chronicle

Here is a look at the past. Items have been culled from The Chronicle's archives of 25, 50, 75 and 100 years ago.

1960

May 10: "This is Gov. Edmund G. Brown. Our military authorities are expecting an attack by enemy forces. Public warning devices have been sounded. This is not a test." California's chief executive has recorded this

message. Copies of it are in the racks of 104 radio stations in the state, ready to go on the air upon orders from the civil defense authorities. When the normal radio programs are interrupted by this announcement, the city's 53 sirens also will begin to blow. It will be the signal either for evacuation (a steady whine of four minutes) or to take cover immediately (a warbling moan for three minutes).

May 14: A riot raged in San Francisco's City Hall Rotunda. A crowd of 200 people demanding entrance to a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Un-American Activities was dispersed with police clubs and fire hoses after a policeman had been clubbed with his own billy. The battle sent 12 people to the hospital - eight of them police officers - and put 48 men and 16 women in jail for participating in a riot, disturbing the peace and resisting an officer. The great domed rotunda rang with shouts of defiance as the demonstrators, most of them young students, were drenched with fire hoses and dragged from the scene. By the time the riot ended, 400 policemen on the scene, seven ambulances, the city's nine patrol wagons and all three-wheeled motorcycles in the department. The grand stairway was a cascade of water that flooded the main floor of City Hall and burst out into Polk Street.

E-mail Johnny Miller at [pinkletters@sfchronicle.com](mailto:pinkletters@sfchronicle.com).

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<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/03/DDIV1D5PBI.DTL>

San Francisco Chronicle  
Monday, May 3, 2010

Return to the scene of the protest  
Leah Garchik

May 13 is the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco City Hall protests against the House Un-American Activities Committee, which had issued subpoenas for loyalty hearings taking place in the supervisors' chambers. Eventually, police used fire hoses in attempts to sweep demonstrators down the marble stairs; demonstrations lasted for several days. Veterans of that protest are marking the anniversary by gathering under the Rotunda at noon on May 13. But renting the Rotunda is expensive, and the HUAC Resistance Commemoration is trying to raise money to cover it.

On the 30th anniversary of the protests, Mayor Art Agnos issued an official city apology to the group that nowadays laughingly identifies itself by the old charge, Communist Dupes. Isn't that 20-year-old apology worth a break on that Rotunda rental price?

P.S.: Dick Fine noticed that The Chronicle's weather chart is credited to the Weather Underground. Power to the people.

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<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/03/DDIV1D5PBI.DTL>

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<http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2010-04-15/article/35037?headline=The-Day-Our-Sixties-Started>

Berkeley Daily Planet  
Thursday April 15, 2010

Editorials:  
The Day Our Sixties Started  
By Becky O'Malley

Somehow I seem to have become an honorary member of the Free Speech Movement, on their mailing list and invited to their reunions. In all honesty, I must admit that when the FSM was making waves in 1964 I was in Ann Arbor making babies. But before that, four years before that, I was present at the creation, so to speak. I was one of the five thousand Bay Area citizens who rose in protest against the House Un-American Activities Committee (commonly known as HUAC), the trailing edge of ugly '50s McCarthyism which finally got its deserved comeuppance during the merry month of May in the newly minted 1960s.

Last week I got an email which was sent to the 738 people on the Free Speech Movement Archives list, a forwarded letter from one Irving Wesley Hall addressed to "Dear Fellow Traveler". (For those of you too young to remember, fellow travelers included anyone in the '50s who didn't believe that members of the Communist Party should be summarily drawn, quartered and thrown to the wolves.)

He reminded us that the 50th anniversary of "Black Friday", May 13, 1960, is coming right up. He and unnamed co-conspirators have set up a website [www.notinkansas.us](http://www.notinkansas.us) in order to "rescue 'Black Friday'" from historical obscurity, to proclaim its relevance today, and--above all--to celebrate its heroes and heroines" and "insure that the alternative and corporate media remember Black Friday during the coming week of May 10-16."

Well, I remember it. It was the second day of hearings that HUAC was holding in the supervisors' chambers at San Francisco City Hall with the stated purpose of investigating the international Communist conspiracy and the obvious real purpose of intimidating political activists, CPUSA members among them. People subpoenaed by the committee often lost their jobs, and frequently received death threats and other forms of harassment.

I was finishing my junior year at Cal, and like a fair number of my fellow students had learned about planned picketing of the committee from stories in the Daily Cal. I didn't know a whole lot about politics in those days, but I had taken a look at the U.S. constitution in my government course sophomore year, and had gotten the general idea that the First Amendment was supposed to guarantee freedom of speech and association.

My roommate for my first two years of college, at a women's school in the East, was the daughter and sister of distinguished academics who were fired and blacklisted for refusing to testify in front of HUAC-her brother eventually went to jail for six months for relying on the First Amendment when he declined to be interrogated about his beliefs. Dimly, I perceived an inconsistency that needed to be addressed.

So along with many other students from Berkeley I took the F bus into San Francisco on Thursday, May 12, and joined the picket line. My next door neighbor on Ellsworth Street went too. She was a cute girl who had

been raised on a chicken farm in Petaluma, in what I learned much later was a hotbed of radicalism, but she looked like she belonged in a sorority. She didn't talk much about politics.

Did we really wear high heels, hats and gloves? I think we did, but in any event we were advised to dress respectably, and we complied.

The turnout was pretty good, but not huge. The room where the hearings were held was much too small to hold everyone who wanted to witness the proceedings, so most of us just walked the picket line outside. Those who were lucky enough to get inside City Hall chanted "let us in", but they weren't admitted.

The next day I had a mid-term, so I stayed in Berkeley. Big mistake. That was the famous Black Friday, the day that San Francisco police turned fire hoses on chanting protesters, washing them down a long flight of marble stairs, and loaded them into paddy wagons as they sang "We Shall Not Be Moved", a tune they'd just learned from the nascent civil rights movement.

Thanks to the miracle of the internet, you can see the whole thing on-line today, courtesy of the Media Resources Center at the Moffit Library of UC Berkeley, in Operation Abolition, a propaganda film HUAC put together from news footage that was intended to damn the protesters forever. From today's vantage point it's difficult to believe that they thought it would help their cause.

There are stirring shots of defiant longshoremen (Archie Brown in particular) invoking their constitutional rights, along shots of other figures who became familiar to me later, among them KPFA's Bill Mandel and attorney Vin Hallinan, father of our own Conn and his rowdy band of activist brothers.

Seeing the earnest horn-rimmed young men in suits and ties and the fresh-faced young things in crinoline petticoats (demurely pulling down their skirts to cover their knees) being dragged down the marble stairway is nothing if not stirring, even today.

And that's the effect the film had at the time. Operation Abolition was shown on campuses everywhere (I saw it first in the basement of the old Newman Hall on Northside) and everywhere it inspired students to new frontiers of political activism. An answering film, Operation Correction, was created, but it wasn't really needed.

Here's how Irving Hall tells it on his website:

"Youngsters in their teens and twenties passionately committed to the Bill of Rights dealt the committee a mortal blow. HUAC's well-funded cinematic counterattack backfired. Newly politicized students from across the nation cheered the spunky kids in Operation Abolition and flocked to Berkeley, eager to change the world.

Much to our surprise, our spontaneous, spirited and courageous defense of civil liberties changed America forever. Our political baptism changed our lives forever...."

After Black Friday, opposition to HUAC was big news. Since I'd missed the main event, I resolved to get a ringside seat on Saturday, May 14. My friend Frank had a car, so we took our sleeping bags and drove into San Francisco late Friday night so we could be first in line when City Hall opened in the morning.

This was my first lesson in never trusting the newsies. We did indeed get in line outside the door at 5 a.m., and we were interviewed by the Hearst Examiner reporter assigned to talk to the first people in the queue. I wouldn't tell him my name or anything else, but Frank said he was a UC maintenance man (true, though also a past and future student). The story next day said that "Frank \_\_\_\_, a Cal student, spent the night with his girlfriend in a parked car on Polk Street"-scandalous stuff in those days, and he wasn't even my boyfriend. Fortunately my actual boyfriend didn't object.

Hall continues:

"Because of May 13, I became an activist for life. It was a blessing to have been arrested, to experience youthful righteous solidarity, to plead a just cause against mass media lies, to challenge the FBI and Congress-and win...

Had we not skipped classes that day, protested in the City Hall rotunda against our exclusion from the hearings, and had we not spontaneously responded with non-violence when the police attacked, my life would have taken a completely different course. What if I had stayed at home? Or not participated in the empowering national writing and speaking campaign that disgraced the most powerful man in America, J. Edgar Hoover, and placed under permanent house arrest the most tyrannical committee of Congress?"

I myself clearly remember watching student leader Michael Rossman (may he rest in peace), the recording secretary for the Bay Area Student Committee for the Abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee, being interviewed on television (Sixty Minutes?) in about 1964 as I sat on the couch in Ann Arbor nursing the latest baby. The interviewer's spin was that the student movement was over, that things were soon going to get back to normal. How wrong that turned out to be.

I'd been working in the local civil rights movement and was starting to organize against what would become the war in Vietnam. I knew that there was still a lot of work to be done, and I was confident we could do it. We did eventually accomplish many exciting things in those years, though it took a little longer than we'd expected.

When you're young you believe that you can do what needs to be done, and so you just do it. Seeing all the earnest young people last night who insisted on being present at the ASUC meeting, trying to shed some light from their personal perspectives on the Israel-Palestine imbroglio, reminded me of our youthful selves. Regardless of which side they were on, their passion was impressive.

The ASUC students who insisted on bringing these problems into the public discourse are brave, whether you agree with them or not. The people who have been trying to stifle the debate about what's wrong in the Middle East in Berkeley and elsewhere look more and more like the House Un-American Activities Committee. They've won a few battles-they may even win this little skirmish at UC Berkeley--but eventually truth will prevail, and they will lose their war to prevent free and open public discussion of a crucial situation that increasingly affects the whole world.

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Irving Wesley Hall emailed yesterday:

Guess where we're celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the 1960 "riot" against HUAC? At the scene of the crime! Communist Dupes will occupy San Francisco City Hall rotunda once again between noon and 1:30 on May 13. Join riot ringleader Bob Meisenbach, his co-conspirators and the survivors of the cast of thousands mobilized in San Francisco in May 1960!

For more information, check his website: [notinkansas.us](http://notinkansas.us).