

The Black Panther Party

Kendall Palmatier

Dr. Ellie Fulmer

One of the main reasons The Black Panther Party was established, was because of the police brutality against Black people that has been going on for hundreds of years, and is still a problem today. One example of this police brutality was the shooting of Bobby Hutton, an unarmed 17-year-old who was gunned down by police after coming out of his house which had caught on fire. He was the first member of The Black Panther Party to be murdered by police. This happened just two days after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

Throughout the years of their involvement in the communities, The Black Panther Party wasn't shown in the media often unless it was something that made them look bad. Jane Rhodes (2007) explains in *Framing the Black Panthers*, "The nation's newsrooms were virtually all white, and reporters relied almost exclusively on official government sources, paying little or no attention to the concerns of minority communities" (p. 62). This meant that because of the White dominance in the media the stations only wanted to show national news like politics instead of events that are happening in different communities, specifically minority communities. Any stories of civil rights activism that were produced had the same "good and evil" premise which has been a popular pattern to repeat throughout history.

In the past couple of years there has been an increase of police brutality acts caught on camera which has risen another activist group called Black Lives Matter. Black Lives Matter "centers those that have been marginalized within Black liberation movements. It is a tactic to (re)build the Black liberation movement." They advocate for all Black people no matter their gender, legality, or ability.

The Black Panther Party's actions did not happen because of hatred towards police, they wanted civil rights and were prepared to do anything in order to get them. They wanted to help the Black community and bring them together to stop the oppression. Their message has been sent out and is now being relayed through today's society.

References

Rhodes, J. (2007). Framing the Black Panthers: The spectacular rise of a black power icon.

About #BlackLivesMatter. Retrieved from <http://blacklivesmatter.com/>.