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Revolution for Breakfast

The Black Panther party began in 1966 as a response to the oppression of the black community via police brutality. Founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale and initially named the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, the group began with armed demonstrations outside public offices to protest legislation, and by following police cars which harassed the community. Later their activism included survival programs aimed at meeting the needs of the community.

In this podcast I explore one of the parties most popular survival programs, the Free Breakfast program, which served the dual function of feeding children before school and organizing support for more political action. The Black Panther's larger philosophy was unpopular in the mainstream American consciousness because they actively stood against the power structure of American capitalism. Media coverage of the Party generally emphasized their militancy, guns, and tough stance on self-defense. For the community however this program was received well because it addressed the people's needs.

Utilizing historical analysis and first-person interviews with Party members and community members, this investigation seeks to elevate the voices of those directly impacted by the party and reframe its public image. Focusing on the Panther Party's survival programs reveals how their community activism both fed a revolution and had lasting impact on National Politics.

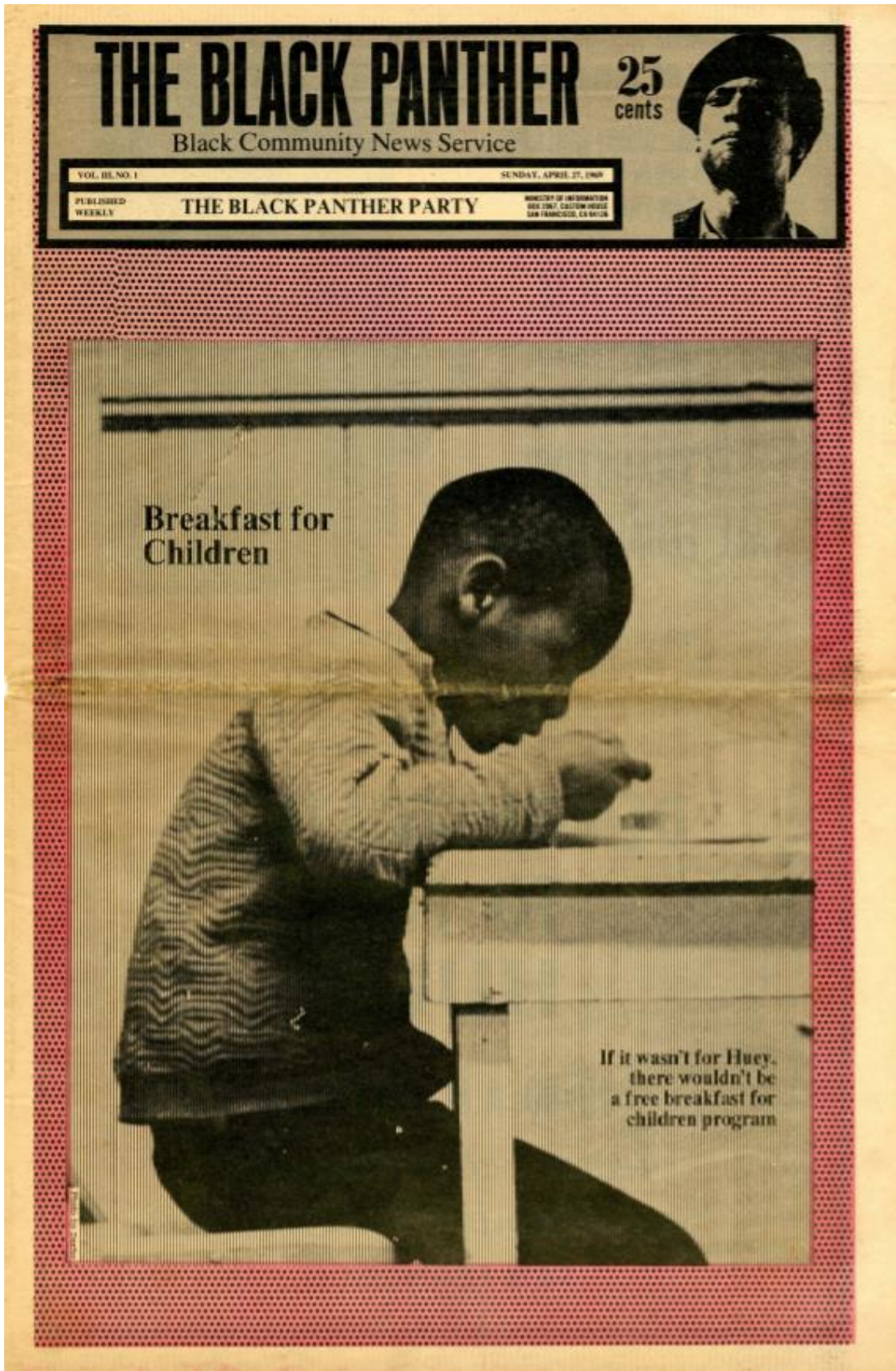


Figure 1 "Black Panther Black Community News Service." The Black Panther Party. 1969, sec. Breakfast For Children



Figure 2 Emory Douglas, poster from *The Black Panther*, May 27, 1972 (copyright 2013 Emory Douglas/Artists Rights Society [ARS], New York; image courtesy of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics)

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