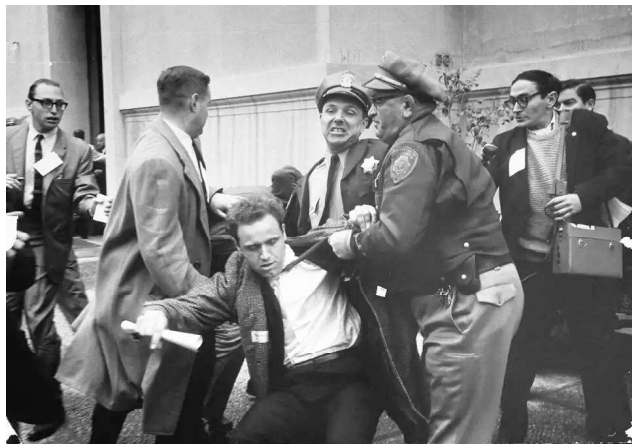


60th Anniversary of the Free Speech Movement: “standing against injustice... with largeness of mind and generosity of spirit”



UC Berkeley 1964



University of Texas 2024

6pm Friday October 18
Revolution Books 2444 Durant Avenue

Speakers: Waldo Martin, Professor, UC Berkeley Department of History, author *Black Against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party*

David S., Revcom Corps for the Emancipation of Humanity, Bay Area

Sponsored by Revolution Books, revolutionbooks.org and

The Bob Avakian Institute, thebobavakianinstitute.org

The Free Speech Movement (FSM) shook Berkeley, college campuses across the country, and impacted the broader society, sixty years ago in the fall of 1964. We call for people to join with Revolution Books, Berkeley, in a program to commemorate the FSM. We need to uphold key lessons from what students at Berkeley did to change history then, so that students – and everyone – can step to the fore to make meaningful and positive change in this crazy and dangerous world.

In his famous speech, Mario Savio said:

There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!

Here is an irony which stands out on the Berkeley campus: what Mario actually said and fought for is right now under attack in a wave of repressive measures on campuses all over the country, including the UC system and Berkeley itself. And among those driving that attack are people who claim to uphold (but actually distort) the legacy of the FSM and Mario Savio.

In a further twist, Bob Avakian, one of the students brought forward through participating in that historic movement, has become the foremost revolutionary communist in the world today, developing a new communism. In stark contrast to anti-communist slanders and the “common wisdom” in academia that communism and socialist society led by communists could only be based on brutal suppression and lack of rights, Avakian has developed a scientifically grounded vision of communism and socialist society that fosters dissent, critical thinking, and creativity in all of society. How ironic that the FSM, and the principles and spirit of that movement, are incorporated into the guiding principles of the new communism more fully than in the political views of any of his “democratic” critics. Here Avakian speaks forcefully in his social media to key principles from the FSM:

“...the bedrock stand of refusing to go along with injustice and putting yourself on the line to oppose it, without being derailed by the hypocritical maneuvers, or shrinking in the face of the repressive measures, of those wielding unjust power; the largeness of mind and generosity of spirit that leads to uniting all who can be united in the fight against injustice, with the orientation of valuing and encouraging critical thinking, with open-minded debate over the road forward and the biggest questions related to changing the world.”

The Faculty 'Revolts'

UC's WAR SPREADING



We live in a society that is tearing apart and in which things that may have once seemed unthinkable are today the stock in trade of mainstream political parties. Never has the possibility of emancipating change been greater – and never has the danger of terrible horrors loomed larger. Will there be more powerful rebellion against injustice and oppression on the campuses resonating throughout society? There are high stakes over whether there will be an atmosphere of valuing and encouraging critical thinking and open-minded debate over the road forward.

Join with us to commemorate the FSM. We will bring out Bob Avakian and his unique views on the FSM and on revolution in these times, and feature other voices and perspectives on the FSM and its great significance for today. There will be time for discussion after the presentations.

UCLA 2024

