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30 November 1971

My Brothers and sisters,

SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING - Tuesday, November 30, 1971

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BLACK WARRIORS SPEAKS

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was Christmas eve. dorden Marah as he pecped in the therivity section and as the in helluage. "Fuck A Much OF Wish Mew" he wrote on the window of mpo mes noestna the atreets endlessly writhing on wells, windows and breparing for bed, everyone, that is, except l2-year-old foel Wilson fifths and belf-gallons of boose. Children all over the city were arage chert these tem brosents mutto others more broking the chert abute nego guintamer wel edt ia duo erew elgoeg emol .alaam-gaitud lo comput gean greefl and the otty was duteting after almost two months CHEISTARS SUCKE AND SANTA CLAUS IS A FACCOT. The snow was

prk geer tor 1001. In toch, he had hoped the the day worldn't come kiq in the projects who didn't even heve a tree. Christmas was no vitro and saw on that year old but but but but but about the but alth the call s lisered aboy bas qu eda bah . Teer dadd galdielv ed d'abluow atas Mickey Mouse comic book and the time that his mother explained how or proceed the contraction of the first procedure of the Mosd as tee Leot not gainsem "faloega" a bad ayawia bad aamdaludo

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Back at the third floor apartment in the projects that Joel called home, Ruby Wilson was busy trying to apply make-up, spray her afro wig, and get dressed at the same time. She was a waitress down at the Moon Glow Cafe and Christmas eve was no excuse for a night off, not that she would have thought about taking it off anyway. Working at the Moon Glow was a way of life XEM her. "Joel honey," she said as the boy entered the door, "I hope you understand why Santa wor! "be coming again this year. If that no good father of yours would just send us some money once in a while we could celebrate Christmas and you could have the new clothes you need. And I wouldn't have to work every deem day of the year. But you just wait, we gonna be on our feet pretty soon and momma will buy you the shiniest pair of shoes and the biggest set of trains you ever seen."

Shit, Joel thought to himself, she made those same fucking promises last year and the year before and the year before that. Always blaming things on the father he never knew. Always complaining how she worked so hard to support the son she let walk the snowy streets in sneakers while she wore expensive-looking clothes and fancy leather boots. I seen those checks he sends her and the ones from the welfare office. If she didn't drink and dops it up so much we'd probably have enough money for a bunch of Christmases. "You know Joel honey," she said interrupting his thoughts, "I been thinking. You're almost old enough to start selling papers and shining shoes. You'll be 13 in January and as big as you are it would be so easy. And maybe we could really have A Christmas next year. How 'bout that, honey?" "O.K. momma."

T.H.E. Purnell w -