

# COPS HATE POETRY

## POLICE RIOT AT BARRINGTON

On March 1, 1990 the University Students Co-op Association—USCA—received a temporary injunction prohibiting public gatherings that Barrington Hall. On Friday, March 2, a poetry reading was scheduled to happen in the downstairs area. The USCA, at 4:30 p.m., replaced unarmed Burns security guards with the elite force the Phoenix guards, who are off-duty San Francisco police officers and armed with clubs and automatic pistols. We had a party the weekend before with the more peaceful Burns security guards completely without incident.

The poetry reading began around 8:30. There were around 40 people in the downstairs peacefully reading poetry. At some point the Phoenix guards, acting on USDA general manager George Proper's orders, decided the poetry reading was no longer a small private gathering and that it was a party. They first called the Berkeley police and then Proper. When he arrived, there were already more than a dozen police cars outside of the building. This was between 9:30 and 10 p.m.

### Police Arrive—Violence Begins

A resident from Barrington, Pete Ibrahim, had gone outside to peacefully negotiate with the police. Without provocation, a Phoenix security guard told the police to arrest him. He was placed under arrest, handcuffed and placed in the back of the squad car.

From Home Video  
Police Sweeping Halls

