

A Juror Salutes In Sympathy

By James A. Finefrock

Examiner News Staff

SAN JOSE—As the Angela Davis jury emerged from the court room here, one of them responded to cheers with a clenched fist salute.

"I did it," explained Ralph A. DeLange, a 39 year old electrician, "because I wanted to show I felt an identity with the oppressed people in the crowd."

"All through the trial they thought we were just a white middle class jury. I wanted to express my sympathy with their struggle."

The salute fit the mood of the jubilant, largely black crowd which massed outside the press gate of the San Jose court house where Angela Davis was acquitted yesterday.

The news of the jury's verdict broke wordlessly through the crowd of 300 people with a wave of shouts and cries.

Immediately clenched fists went up into the air and

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the chant "Angela's free — Free Ruchell" started up.

The theme — repeated often throughout the hot, sunny afternoon — "The power of the people set Angela free," soon replaced it.

"There is no end to miracles," was the way one white San Jose housewife expressed it. "This is a lesson never to give up faith in the power of the people."

Good Signs

The signs pointing to acquittal for Miss Davis were good: the early verdict and the lack of beefed-up security. Most in the crowd expected it.

About 40 National Guard troops showed up, but they were unarmed. "We just came over from our meeting across the street to see what was really happening," said Pvt. Ramiro Perez.

His buddy, Army Spec. 5 Tom Costa added, "Yeah, I'll tell you how I feel and you can quote me."

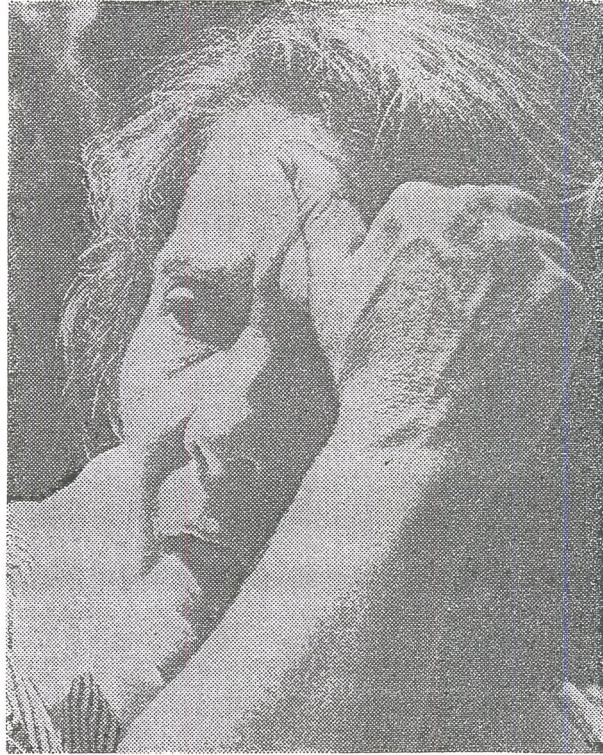
"It's a shame this trial happened at all," he said. "It wasted two years of Angela's life and a million bucks. The prosecution case was a sham based entirely on speculation. We all knew what the verdict was going to be."

Angela's Team

Suddenly Angela's defense team appeared and there was a crush of people and cameras.

Two women fainted in the excitement.

"This was a victory of the people," Franklin Alexander, co-chairman of the



MARY A. TIMOTHY, FOREWOMAN

"We put it together, piece by piece"

—Examiner photo by Fran Ortiz

National Committee to Free Angela Davis, told the crowd. "That's why we came to the people first before going to the press conference."

Then Angela Davis herself emerged and was mobbed. "Starting this day," she told her supporters, "we're going to work to free every political prisoner and every oppressed person in the world." She said there would be many more "victories for the people."

She embraced her mother while an inner circle of 20 supporters linked arms to protect her from the crowd which pressed in from all sides.

Glide Memorial pastor Cecil Williams led the crowd in singing: "Before I be a slave I'll be buried in my grave. . ."



The jury that freed Angela Davis. Seated: Anne B. Wade, Stephanie Ryon, foreman Mary M. Timothy. Standing: Nicholas Gaetani,

James S. Messer, Michelle Savage, Robert Seidel, Luis Franco, Ruthann J. Charlton, Winona Walker, Ralph DeLange, Rosalie Freserick.
—Examiner Photo