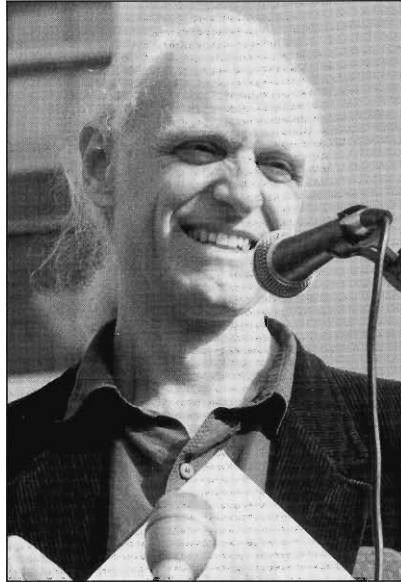


In Honor and Memory of Mario Savio



Mario Savio on the steps of Sproul Plaza at the 30th anniversary of the FSM in 1994

On November 6, 1996, Mario Savio died before his time at the age of 53. Mario was one of the most passionate and eloquent voices of the sea change that swept America in the 1960s.

Best known for his leadership in the Free Speech Movement (FSM) at the University of California at Berkeley in the fall of 1964, for which he served four months in jail at Santa Rita, Mario was deeply committed to the Civil Rights Movement. He had gone to Mississippi as a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) activist in 1963 and 1964 and was arrested in the Sheraton Palace sit-ins in San Francisco demand-

ing desegregation of the hotel's workforce, in the spring of 1964. He liked to remind people that it was the UC Berkeley administration's banning and removal of a CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) table from Sproul Plaza that sparked the FSM. Mario was also one of the early leaders of the mass movement against the Vietnam War.

In the last two years of his life, Mario was a leader in the struggle to defend affirmative action and defeat the racist initiative Proposition 209.

Mario Savio embodied a great sense of justice and a deep, authentic compassion for humanity. Those of us who knew him, worked with him and loved him will miss him dearly. The world is truly different, and better, for the struggle he waged.

This memorial was written by Hari Dilllon.

It will appear in the annual publication of the Vanguard Public Foundation.