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JUNE 1991

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ANN ARBOR'S ALTERNATIVE NEWSMONTHLY

Anatomy of a Grassroots Victory

People 1, Cars 0

Score one for people! And score one for people-power too! The Kline's lot parking structure is dead and the people of Ann Arbor can thank the Homeless Action Committee (HAC) for its demise. "Just when it looked as if we had totally failed, we had our greatest success," HAC-member Jeff Gearhart told AGENDA.

HAC's greatest success came last month when city council voted 6-5 to squelch financing for the proposed \$8.7 million parking structure on the corner of William St. and S. Ashley (behind Kline's Department Store). The vote caps a three-year struggle by HAC to kill the project and make the city redirect its money to the housing needs of low-income and no-income people. If the city could find millions of dollars to build a parking structure downtown, HAC argued, it could find money to build low-income housing and take better care of its homeless citizens.

HAC's message was a powerful one. So powerful that when former Mayor Jerry Jernigan asked voters to make the April city elections a referendum on the Kline's parking structure, they responded by voting Jernigan out of office. Not only did the mayor get the boot, but pro-Kline's parking structure councilmembers Jerry Schleicher, R-Fourth Ward, and Joe Borda, R-Fifth Ward, lost their seats as well.

The Democrats, led by longtime HAC supporter and then-Third Ward councilmember Liz Brater, won five of six council races in the April 1 showdown and now control city council with an 8-3 majority. Mayor Brater publicly credited opposition to the Kline's parking structure as a major factor in her win. And many people credit the "historic" landslide of the Democrats in the election directly to the actions of HAC.

HAC's persistence and creativity in pursuit of a needed change in public policy is a portrait of courage, and selfless sacrifice and dedication. Since its founding in November 1987, HAC has consistently and aggressively—some would say militantly—brought the issue of low-income housing and the plight of the homeless to the public's attention.

HAC protested. HAC lobbied city council week after week. HAC took over two city-owned houses and occupied them for over a year. HAC marched and picketed. HAC took over city council. HAC held rallies and vig-



PHOTO: GREGORY FOX

Homeless Action Committee members at their April 22 press conference at the vacant Ann Arbor Inn.

ils. HAC had teach-ins and workshops. HAC shut down parking at the current Kline's lot—three times. HAC built coalitions and co-sponsored events with other groups. HAC networked. HAC raised money with benefits and bucket drives. HAC worked and they worked hard.

HAC's membership is a loose coalition of permanent Ann Arbor residents, students, and homeless or formerly-homeless people. The group became interested in the proposed parking structure in January 1989 when it learned that the city, through its Downtown Development Authority (DDA), planned an \$8.7 million bond sale to finance the project.

"HAC plans to begin continuous actions at the parking lot to demonstrate against this misuse of city funds," writes HAC-member N. Renuka Uthappa in the February 1989 AGENDA. "HAC hopes to convince the city government to open up the DDA fund and make allocations for low-income housing. HAC will disrupt business as usual until they do so. If necessary, HAC will block the construction of the parking structure."

HAC's first major action, building a

shantytown in the parking lot where the planned parking structure will stand, is set for a Saturday, when many shoppers come downtown. Nearly 100 people attend the rally which includes speakers from the homeless shelter and the community.

"On April 15, 1989 we arrive at the lot at 7:00 am, with large cardboard boxes to 'park' in the lot," HAC-member Laura Dresser writes in a recently reconstructed diary of events. "The boxes are a visual reminder of the living conditions of homeless people in the city. While people sleep in the cold, the city plans for an unneeded and expensive parking structure. Our blockades in front of the entrances to the lot remind people of the many empty parking spaces in parking structures only two blocks away. We spend the morning painting slogans and art on boxes that fill the lot wondering how the merchants will respond.

"Though we are prepared for possible arrest by attending a four-hour civil disobedience training the week before, the police do not interrupt the takeover. City merchants near the lot are upset and come out often to

look at the protest and exchange a few angry words. The takeover ends victoriously at 4:00 pm when HAC takes down the boxes and opens up the lot. A front-page color photo and story in the Sunday Ann Arbor News covers the protest."

HAC spends the next several months picketing the Kline's lot each Saturday, distributing fliers at the popular summer movie series, "Top of the Park," and painting slogans on sidewalks around the city. During this time HAC members regularly attend city council meetings to speak during audience participation time, criticizing the city's continuing commitment to the Kline's parking structure.

"Audience participation time speakers from HAC address different issues regarding city development and housing," the HAC diary reads. "We use this time to establish and project our analysis of city actions and plans to both the council and the larger public through the Community Access TV channel which broadcasts all council meetings live. Topics range from the 'need' for parking structures to the treatment of homeless people to the misuse of taxpayers money. Different people are encouraged to speak each week which develops our core of speakers and broadens our strength in the eyes of council members.

"Also during this period other individuals and groups begin to speak out in support of HAC and our demands (specifically the Grey Panthers send one speaker to each meeting)."

HAC's next move is perhaps its boldest of the entire anti-parking structure campaign. On Nov. 13, 1989, members of HAC begin an illegal squat of the house at 337 S. Ashley, one of three houses on the northeast corner of W. William and S. Ashley scheduled for demolition by the city to make way for the project.

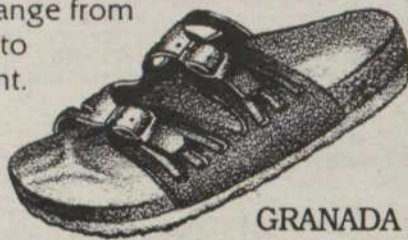
"We will open the deserted house and use it as a home for HAC members and homeless people and as a center for our organizing," the HAC diary reads. "Not only will the house provide a home for people who need it, and an office for HAC, but it will also directly confront the city's plans to destroy housing for the parking structure.

"We have a rally at city hall which is followed by a march to the house and an 'open house' party inside. Arrangements for

(see HAC, page 7)

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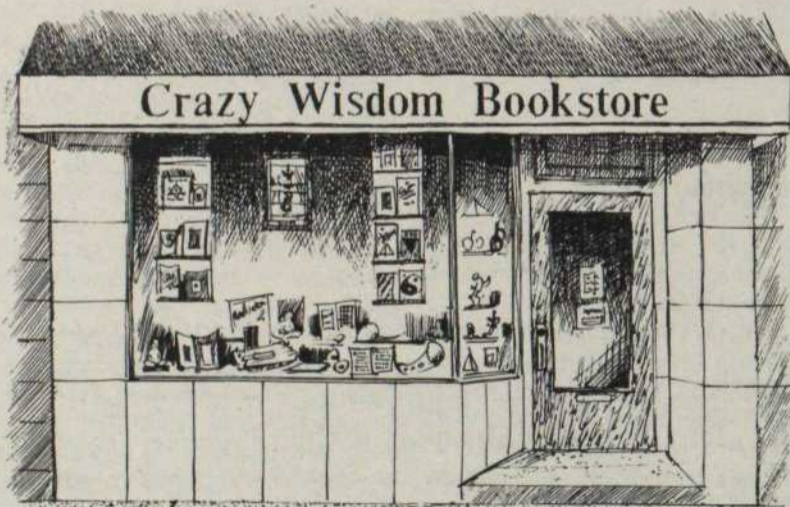


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AGENDA Doing Better!

Everywhere we go these days people ask us what the status of AGENDA is. In answer we shrug our collective shoulders declaring, "We still don't know." Assessing AGENDA's health and its ability to function financially is a month-to-month proposition for now. Our guiding principle is to stay clear of further significant debt. At the same time we are still struggling to keep AGENDA afloat.

Your response has been heartwarmingly supportive. Thank you to all of you who have bought subscriptions and given donations and to all those people who have swung a fundraising bucket or passed a jar for us. With your help we have raised a good deal of money in the past two months and we plan to continue our fundraising efforts until the paper is healthy or the well runs dry!

This month we are feeling quite optimistic about the future of the paper. In the past two months AGENDA has received around \$3,000 in subscriptions and donations. The Latin American Solidarity Committee and AGENDA raised another \$1,100 in a three-day bucket drive at the end of May. And Rackham Student Government awarded Friends of AGENDA (our student liaison organization) a \$600 grant to launch an intense mail campaign for new subscribers in June.

AGENDA is still in deep debt to our printer. We are still in need of short-term economic aid from you, AGENDA's readers. Many of you have responded generously, but we still need at least \$5,000 more to get out of this hole. We're counting on those of you who have hesitated to give to reconsider.

Each 12-page AGENDA costs about \$1,100 to print. It is very expensive to publish an alternative newspaper. Although we have not heard the official word on why the Ann Arbor Metro Times folded in May, we suspect it had something to do with finances. That paper had significant financial backing, yet it still went under. Knowing that, perhaps you can now comprehend how costly it is to publish a newspaper and what a miracle it is that AGENDA has survived for five years.

While advertising pays 70% of the bills, the other 30% must come from our readers. The long-term health of the paper does, and always will, depend on strong financial support from the progressive community. AGENDA needs your long-term commitment to subscribe and

take an interest in the health of the paper.

AGENDA is made for and by the people of the Ann Arbor area. The bulk of AGENDA's news and feature articles are written by local people, voices that would otherwise go unheard. The people most involved in the issues do the writing or are the protagonists of our stories so AGENDA's readers hear what happens straight from the source. AGENDA is a bulletin board for community members who want to share their knowledge and vision with their community.

AGENDA is also a voice for opposition to many of the actions our government takes. When other media sources were cheering the Persian Gulf War AGENDA's articles systematically examined our country's hidden agenda. This willingness to question U.S. government policy, even when it is painful and unpopular, is AGENDA's idea of responsible journalism.

The editors of AGENDA choose stories and regular features based upon their importance to our readership regardless of the possible effect on advertising revenues. This is what makes AGENDA the only true alternative source of news and information in town. Our publishing philosophy, and subsequently our editorial policy, is not held hostage to a greater economic interest. We are beholden only to the public interest.

AGENDA's Calendar is the place where Ann Arborites find out what meetings, events, and protests are happening. Entertainment is also a big part of the Calendar because we know you like to have fun and Ann Arbor has plenty of cultural activities to brag about.

Grassroots organizations are given subsidized space in The Community Resource Directory (CRD). In the CRD their current news and events enjoy wide exposure. The CRD has been utilized by over 100 grassroots political and human service organizations since 1986.

The role AGENDA plays by systematically publishing grassroots news and perspectives on current issues needs to be compensated. At your next meeting ask your group what they can do to get involved in keeping AGENDA healthy. Also make sure that you and your compatriots have up-to-date subscriptions. It is not enough just to complain about what a horrible job the commercial press does. By contributing to AGENDA you are investing in the future of your community and its media.

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BARBARA
RANSBY

At the end of June I will pack up the kid, the husband, the cat and a million memories and move to Chicago. I will leave behind treasured friends, valued comrades, and a few people, who will be, I'm sure, glad to see me go. As I reflect on my past seven years in Ann Arbor my feelings are mixed, but overall the positive has outweighed the negative. Despite the racism, elitism, and artificiality which often permeate college towns like Ann Arbor, I have felt, for a brief time, a special sense of community here. And for those of you who helped to create and nurture that sense of community, I want to say thank you.

We arrived in Ann Arbor when my son, Jason, was only six weeks old. He learned to crawl on the floor of the CAAS (Center for AfroAmerican and African Studies) lounge while attending Free South Africa Coordinating Committee meetings. Most recently, he and I celebrated our 7th and 34th birthdays at the Mother's Day Peace rally in West Park. The interim seven years here have been filled with too many meetings, rallies, picket lines and sit-ins to remember. In surveying the last seven years of Jason's young life, I can see the evolution of the progressive political community we have been a part of and it makes me feel less cynical about how far we've come and where we're headed. Jason's first playhouse was the original anti-Apartheid shanty on the Diag. He heard Nelson Mandela's name so much while growing up that I think he must have thought Mandela was a member of our family who simply lived too far away to visit.

Political prisoners, police brutality, racism, homelessness and homophobia are subjects that many parents go to great lengths to shelter their children from. While Peter and I have tried not to confront Jason with confusing issues he can't fully understand, we have, in order to justify our lives had some rather lengthy, and at times humorous, discussions with him about all of these things over the past seven years, discussions that often mirrored activities we were involved in.

But more important than the reality of suffering and oppression, Ann Arbor has also given our son a deep sense of the importance of standing up in the face of injustice, and fighting against it; of not looking the other way; of making personal sacrifices for the ideas you believe in; of helping other people. And to the degree that Peter and I have been able to reinforce these values, we are proud, but that alone would not have been enough. We owe a great debt to people who have, directly and indirectly, through their examples of courage, principle and fortitude touched our lives and Jason's life and inspired us all to be better, stronger people.

When I think of Ann Arbor I will always think of Al and Emma Wheeler, proud and determined Black folks who have been a fighting team for nearly 50 years and remain tireless and unrelenting to this day. I will remember the cultural vitality of Elise Bryant; the low-key and dogged persistence of Larry Fox; the generosity and compassion of Ruth and Andy Zwiefler; the fearless defiance of the women in Unity Organization; the long-term activism of Roderick Linzie; and the vision and hard work of Ted Sylvester and Laurie Wechter who, through AGENDA, have given a greater focus and cohesion to the local progressive movement. I will also remember, with great fondness, my extended UCAR family, past and present, for

A Luta Continua

the innumerable gifts of faith they have given me, and for their having put up with me during many difficult times. Finally, I will remember those who have worked so hard and given so much to give birth to the Ella Baker-Nelson Mandela Center for Anti-Racist Education—Tracye Matthews, Pam Nadasen, Emery Smith, Kim Smith and Charles Moody. The Center is an important outgrowth of the anti-racist movement here and has served as a catalyst for dialogue and coalition-building as well as a space for reflection and re-assessment. It will hopefully continue to serve as a permanent resource for future generations of student and community activists who strive to make this campus and community a fairer and more humane place.

Without Ann Arbor's progressive community, particularly the African American progressive community, my past seven years here would have been a lonely and isolating experience. The list of people is too long to name individually, but you know who you are. Thank you for making me proud to be a part of this community. I feel a special need, at this historical juncture, to celebrate the anti-racist and progressive work that has taken place in Ann Arbor and to applaud the people who have kept that work alive, because the integrity of our movement is now so heavily under assault. As ill-informed conservative ideologues in "black-face" run around the country belittling our accomplishments and maligning our efforts with pejorative labels, it is more important than ever that wherever we are we forge a greater sense of community and reaffirm our confidence in the importance of the political work we do. It is important that we continue to force the doors of the university to open even wider; that we not tolerate racism, sexism or homophobia anywhere in any form; that we push for a more equitable distribution of resources for the poor and the homeless; and that we lend moral and material support to our brothers and sisters fighting for self-determination in other parts of the world. From now on I will be struggling in tandem with you on another front, but will always be with you in spirit. Please keep AGENDA and the Baker Mandela Center alive. They are powerful reservoirs of strength in this community. A Luta Continua.

AGENDA

Ann Arbor's Alternative Newsmonthly

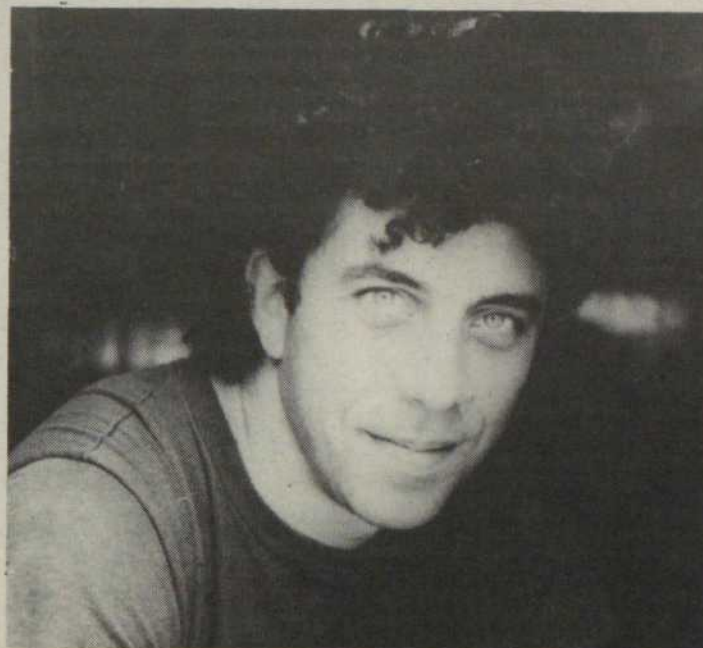
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TALK RADIO

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A shrewd and powerfully funny look at the phony, the self-serving, the amoral and the damned, this Off-Broadway work received Drama Desk and Obie Awards, and was named by Time Magazine as one of the best theatre events of 1990. Portraying 11 different characters, Bogosian confronts an array of contemporary issues - consumerism, commercialism, sex, violence. Come see what the critics have been raving about... July 11 & 12, 8p.m. Power Center. \$18, \$15, \$11.

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Frank Rich, New York Times

Tickets available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office in Ann Arbor and at all TicketMaster outlets, including Hudson's and Harmony House locations. To charge tickets by phone, call (313) 763-TKTS

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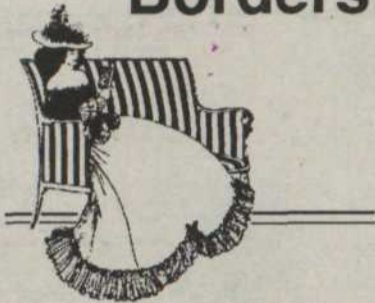
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Prison Bans Dictionary

by Eric Jackson

Ahmad Abdur-Rahman is a political prisoner in the Michigan prison system, a Muslim religious leader and former member of the Black Panther Party serving life with no parole for a murder that he did not commit, under a law which has been struck down by the courts. He has a bachelor's degree and has done work toward his master's. He has also written for AGENDA.

For his May 13 birthday, some Ann Arbor activists sent Ahmad a dictionary. In accord with Michigan prison regulations, they sent it through Borders Books. However, the Coldwater prisoncrats banned it. Books can only be bought by prisoners with their own meager funds, only through the prison administration, they said. Only approved books may be ordered, only from approved outlets. Prisoners may only receive one book per month. This arbitrary (and probably illegal) new policy is a disaster for a highly cultured, literate man like Ahmad.

Write to Governor Engler to protest. Send greetings and support to Ahmad Abdur-Rahman #130539, 141 First St., Coldwater, MI 49036



PHOTO: GREGORY FOX

As President Bush's motorcade left Michigan Stadium, police and secret service agents beat and arrested protester Greg Stabler. About 300 demonstrators gathered on May 12 to protest Bush's appearance at the U-M's class of '91 graduation.

Pro-Choice Lobbyists Target Medical Misinformation Bill

Choice Lobby Day Report

by Ann Dowley

"The Supreme Court has invalidated so-called "informed consent" and "waiting period" laws...on the grounds that much of the information required is designed not to inform the woman's consent, but rather to persuade her to withhold it altogether"

Over 200 representatives of pro-choice groups across Michigan visited the offices of state legislators in Lansing on May 8 to oppose state Senate Bill 141, the "Informed Consent Abortion Bill." The objective of the Michigan Alliance for Choice Lobby Day was to demonstrate to state legislators that the constituents for choice are a large body of voters committed to the protection of abortion rights and who believe that Senate Bill 141 will not benefit women.

The bill, proposed by Sen. Jack Welborn (R), chairman of the Family Law, Criminal Law and Corrections Committee, requires physicians to give certain information to all women seeking an abortion. The physician must also secure the patient's signature on a standardized consent form 24-hours prior to when the surgical procedure is to be performed. Pro-choice lobbyists say they do not oppose true informed consent, the practice followed by the Michigan medical community, but they do oppose mandated "selective" information for women seeking an abortion. In addition, the mandatory waiting period, inserted in the bill to afford "a woman, in light of the information provided by the physician, an opportunity to reflect on her decision and to seek counsel of family and friends in making her decision" (S.B. 141, Legislative intent section (H) ii), is opposed because it is seen as a barrier to women who accrue other costs, (travel, absence from employment, child care) contingent on time when seeking an abortion.

The Supreme Court has invalidated so-called "informed consent" and "waiting period" laws passed in both Ohio and Pennsylvania (1983, 1986) on the grounds that much of the information required is designed not to inform the woman's consent, but rather to persuade her to withhold it altogether" (Thornburgh v American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AMCOG), 1986). S.B. 141 provides women with a list of adverse effects of abortion, yet it does not offer any such list about the risks of pregnancy and

childbirth. In addition, the Court found that the law would "compound the problem of medical attendance, increase the patient's anxiety, and intrude upon the physician's exercise of proper professional judgment."

The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS), states in a letter addressed to Senator Jack Welborn's committee, "that the requirement of providing pictures of a fetus to the patient may have a chilling effect on the patient's right to an abortion. We believe this legislation to be unnecessary and places further restriction on the current practice of medicine in Michigan" (April 30, 1991). MSMS also rejects S.B. 141 because of the straightjacket it places upon physicians in their responsibility to best treat and counsel patients.

Rep. Mary Brown (D), a 14-year crusader for the pro-choice movement emphasized to the lobbyists that the time is now to organize and pressure state representatives to oppose legislation that would set the precedent S.B. 141 does by further restricting a woman's ability to obtain an abortion. Rep. Brown and individual leaders of the organizing bodies of the Michigan Alliance for Choice Lobby Day emphasized that abortion rights will be systematically dismantled if state and federal representatives are not made to recognize the strong majority which supports the protection of abortion rights.

Organizations participating in the Michigan Alliance for Choice Lobby Day were Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan, Michigan Abortion Rights Action League, Washtenaw County Pro-Choice Affiliation, Michigan Abortion Rights Action League, NOW, League of Women Voters, Upper Peninsula Coalition for Choice, ACLU and other organizations throughout the state.

Editors Note: At press time the May 28 vote on S.B. 141 had been postponed. It was rumored that physicians were pressuring state representatives to reconsider their positions. Legislators know that if passed, S.B. 141 will result in an expensive lawsuit in state or federal courts.

CALENDAR

To publicize July Calendar events, send formatted listings by June 15 to AGENDA, 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, (996-8018). Listings for more than five events must be sent to AGENDA on Macintosh disc. Send SASE if you want your disc returned.

FORMAT—Date, event, sponsor, time and place. One or two sentence description, fee, phone number.

Unless otherwise noted, all events listed in the CALENDAR are free and open to the public. All locations are in Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted.

1 Saturday

Paintings by Sei Shinohara: U-M Arts & Programming thru 2 Sun, all day, Mich. Union Art Lounge. Abstract works capturing the ethereal and mystical essence of night skies, water and other elements. 764-6498

Canoe Instruction Clinic: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 10 am to noon, Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller. One hour instruction and one hour leisure/practice, \$7.50. Pre-register 662-9319

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 5 & 9 pm, 7339 Third, Detroit. This funny and heartbreaking urban adventure deals with true-to-life problems faced by youths and families today. \$14-\$22. 1-313-875-8284

"Floating Worlds": Intersect Dance Co. 8 pm, Trueblood Theater, Frieze Bldg. A full-length dance-theater work about the lost continent of Atlantis. \$10/\$7 studs. 487-7563

"Tomfoolery": Performance Network 8 pm, 408 W. Washington. "If you feel like a mixture of arsenic and nostalgia," says Clive Barnes, "...this [Tom Lehrer musical review] could be your cup of strychnine." \$9/7 studs. & srs. 663-0681

Straight Forward: Polo Club 8 pm, 610 Hilton Blvd. 761-7800

Ray Brown, Gene Harris & Jeff Hamilton: Bird of Paradise 9 & 11 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$20. 662-8310

2 Sunday

***Brunch with Harvey Reed: Bird of Paradise** 11 am, 207 S. Ashley. 662-8310

PrideFest: Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council noon to 6 pm, Oakland Community College, 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak. Art exhibits, business trade booths, group and agency information booths, food, stage show. (313) 646-3709

The Wonderful World of Chemistry: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 2 pm, Leslie Science Ctr, 1831 Traver. Experiments to demonstrate the three stages of matter: liquid, solid and gas. \$3.50. 662-7802

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 2 & 7 pm (see 1 Sat)

"Tomfoolery": Performance Network 6 pm (see 1 Sat)

"Floating Worlds": Intersect Dance Co. 6:30 pm (see 1 Sat)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church, 118 N. Adams, downstairs. 484-0456

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian Alanon 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church, 118 N. Adams, upstairs. 484-0456

Harvey Reed Jazz Jam: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley. 662-8310

3 Monday

Freedom on the River Rowing Program: Dept. of Parks & Rec. thru October, M-F, 5 to 7:45 pm, Argo Park Livery, 1055 Longshore, \$10 for 6 sessions. 662-9319

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Gay Liberation Front 8:45 pm, Canterbury House, 218 N. Division. 763-4186

Bird of Paradise Orchestra: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$3. 662-8310

4 Tuesday

Synchronized Swimming: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 6:30 to 9:30 pm, Fuller Pool, 1519 Fuller. Form, body positioning and sculling will be emphasized by U-M swim coach Jill Ingersoll. Ages 7 to adult, \$49. 994-2898

"Health Consequences of the Gulf War": Peace InSight 7:05 pm, A2 Comm. Access TV, Cable Channel 9, Dina Lawrence describes her experience in Baghdad just before and during the first two weeks of coalition bombing. 769-7422

"Closets are for Clothes": Lesbian/Gay Radio Collective 6 pm, 88.3 FM, WCBN. News, announcements, interviews and commentary for the Lesbian, Gay and Bi communities. 763-3500

Paul Keller and Friends: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$3. 662-8310

5 Wednesday

Water Works: Ecology Center 4 pm, Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver. Ages 5 to 7 study the properties of water. \$3. 662-7802

"Womyn's Rites & Rhythms" 6 pm, 88.3 FM, WCBN. 763-3501

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 7 pm (see 1 Sat)

9-Ball Tournament: Billiards and Games Room 7:30 pm, 2nd floor, Mich. Union, \$5. Betsy 766-1422

Drew Westen: Performance Network 8 pm, 408 W. Washington. After comparing his academic salary with the earnings of even the most putrid of rock groups, U-M psychology professor Westen has decided to take his Lehrer-like songs to the masses. \$5. 663-0681

Pere Ubu: Prism Productions 9:30 pm, Blind Pig, 208 S. First, \$12.50 advance. 99-MUSIC.

Ron Brooks Trio: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$3. 662-8310

6 Thursday

Support Group: The Domestic Violence Project/SAFE House 7 pm, 2301 Platt. For women who are or have been in an abusive relationship. 973-0242

Support Group: GLOW (Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser) Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010 Wall. For time 764-2556

"Tomfoolery": Performance Network 8 pm (see 1 Sat)

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 8 pm (see 1 Sat)

Ron Brooks Trio: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$3. 662-8310

7 Friday

"Health Consequences of the Gulf War": Peace InSight 6:05 pm (see 4 Tue)

Benefit for Wellness Network-Huron Valley: Common Vision Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church 7:30 pm, 1917 Washtenaw. "The Wizard of Oz With a Lavender Flair." Featuring Parson Larsen and the The Troubadors. Refreshments, suggested donation \$5. 665-6158

"Tim Allen Rewires America": Power Center 7:30 & 10 pm, 121 Fletcher. Comedian Allen will tape this Showtime Special with you as audience, \$17.50. 99-MUSIC

Simple Minds: Prism Productions 8 pm, Clubland (at the State Theater), 2115 Woodward, Detroit. All ages, \$18.50 advance. 99-MUSIC.

"Tomfoolery": Performance Network 8 pm (see 1 Sat)

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 8 pm (see 1 Sat)

Paul Vornhagen Quartet: The Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$5. 662-8310

Dance Jam: People Dancing 10 pm, People Dancing Studio, 111 Third St. Varied recorded dance music. Okay to bring own music and acoustic instruments. Smoke- and alcohol-free. Children welcome, \$2. 665-7911

8 Saturday

Safety Class: U-M Student Woodshop 9 to 11 am (today) and 11 am to 1 pm (9 Sun), Student Activities Building (Thompson side). Two-day class mandatory for equipment use. Kurt 763-4025

Canoe Instruction Clinic: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 10 am (see 1 Sat)

Heart-to-Heart for the Homeless Walk: Interfaith Council for Peace 10:30 am, Start at West Park, A2 or Prospect Place, Ypsilanti. The walk ends at Carpenter School. 995-1536

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 5 & 9 pm (see 1 Sat)

Support Group: Common Language Bookstore 6 pm, 214 S. Fourth Ave. For lesbians 35 or older. We will carpool from bookstore at 7 pm to lakeside home for get-acquainted picnic/potluck. 662-2302

"Tomfoolery": Performance Network 8 pm (see 1 Sat)

Jerry Sawicki and the Murphys: Polo Club 8 pm, 610 Hilton Blvd. 761-7800

Paul Vornhagen Quartet: The Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$5. 662-8310

9 Sunday

Brunch with Harvey Reed: Bird of Paradise 11 am, 207 S. Ashley. 662-8310

Living History Day: Dept. of Parks & Rec. noon to 4 pm, Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Demonstrations of butter churning, candle making and rug beating. \$1.50/\$.75 children & srs. 994-2928

Kitten and Cat Behavior and Care Clinic: Humane Society of Huron Valley 2 to 4:30 pm, Ann Arbor Dog Training Club, 1575 E. North Territorial. Cat health and behavior demonstrations, \$2 don/under 12 free. Linda 662-5545

"Three Ways Home": Attic Theatre 2 & 7 pm (see 1 Sat)

"Tomfoolery": Performance Network 6 pm (see 1 Sat)

Bowl-A-Thon: K-Mart Good News Committee 7 pm, Bel Mark Lanes, 3530 Jackson Rd. Benefit for Susie Walter-Brown, a local woman who needs a \$75,000 bone-marrow transplant. Geno 761-8557

Update on National WAND and the Women Legislator's Lobby: Women's Action for a New Direction 7:30 pm, St. Aidan's/Northside Church, 1679 Broadway (across from Baits Drive). National WAND Board member Arlene Victor will talk about the WLL, the only coalition of woman state legislators working at a national level for adequate funding of human needs and decreased military spending. 761-1718.

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Harvey Reed Jazz Jam: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley. 662-8310

10 Monday

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Gay Liberation Front 8:45 pm (see 3 Mon)

Bird of Paradise Orchestra: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$3. 662-8310

11 Tuesday

"Closets are for Clothes": Gay Radio Collective 6 pm (see 4 Tue)

"Technology of the War": Peace InSight 7:05 pm, A2 Comm. Access TV, Cable Channel 9. Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellerman describes the relationship of weapons technology and the greater society. 769-7422

Meeting: Washtenaw Citizens for Animal Rights 7:30 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. 665-2480

Meeting: Amnesty International Group 61 7:30 pm, Mich. Union, check room # at desk. Activities to protect human rights and free prisoners of conscience around the world. 761-1628

FINAL WEEK! — Don't Miss Tomfoolery
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Homeless Action Committee

(from page one)

a generator and propane heater have been made and some HAC members and homeless folks stay overnight. The squat of 337 S. Ashley provokes support and interest from the community. Churches, businesses, political groups and individuals donate blankets, canned food, meals, and space heaters. Our group and network of supporters grows."

With one house under their control, HAC keeps up the pressure on city council by conducting a "People's Council" in city council chambers during city council time. One week after their squat of "Day One," HAC members forcefully occupy the chairs of councilmembers for the first 30 minutes of council's regular Monday night meeting.

"Our People's Council of 13 includes four people who live in Day One," the HAC diary reads. "The meeting is called to order by one person who, only a week before, lived in a shelter. Each councilmember reads from a script about development and homelessness in the city. We present to the public four resolutions for city action. Over 100 supporters come to the meeting and chant 'House People, Not Cars!' in approval of our people's agenda for housing and downtown development.

"Again we are not arrested. The Democrats on the council do not object to the action, while the Republicans, for the most part, are annoyed. In fact one Republican councilmember orders the worker from Community Access TV to stop their broadcast during the action. After we turn the seats over to the council the regular meeting begins and HAC members again ask that the Ann Arbor housing crisis be dealt with. The following day, The Ann Arbor News covers the council takeover with a front page story which includes quotes from our speeches and script and details of our four resolutions."

The squat of 337 S. Ashley in the winter of 1989 proves to be a difficult but rewarding task for HAC. "The house has neither heat nor water," the HAC diary reads, "and while space heaters offer some warmth they are no match for the deep cold of a Michigan winter. Water for drinking is obtained from a supporter next door, but neither hot water, nor showers, nor flush toilets are available to those in the house.

"In addition to these physical hardships, the work of the house is incredibly time-consuming, disillusioning and stressful. Though it is a difficult time, it also brings new members to the group. Support and recognition from the public also grows. And our commitment to the squat, in spite of the considerable difficulties, shows to city council, the community, and ourselves the depth of our strength and support."

In early January 1990 HAC finally gets a long-asked for meeting with city council in a special Friday session devoted exclusively to housing. HAC puts its platform before council and a

packed room of over 130 people. Council listens but does not act. Unsatisfied, HAC launches a series of actions aimed at influencing city council. In late January they march from Day One to city hall to demand a meeting with Mayor Jernigan. They don't get one. In February HAC places a shanty on the lawn of city hall symbolizing, they say, the conditions of those who have to live on the streets. Media coverage of these events is significant.

HAC continues to hold meetings in Day One, which now has a smaller but more permanent number of residents. On April 5, 1990 HAC begins their second squat by moving into a vacant house at 116 W. William, one of the three houses set to be destroyed for the parking structure. "For this squat, we have arranged to work closely with social workers and the residents because we are committed that the house become a permanent and stable home," reads the HAC diary. "Again we make a political point while we provide a real service to the families affected.

"One of the families that move in has three small children. The other is a man, a woman who is pregnant and her child. Media coverage for the people in the house is almost overwhelming. Stories in four newspapers (The Ann Arbor News, Agenda, The Observer, and Detroit Free Press) include interviews with the residents. People in the area read about the personal suffering and hardship of homelessness and the squat on city property. Homelessness is given a human face at the same time it is placed in the center of city politics."

Media coverage of HAC is plentiful at this point but not always favorable. The Ann Arbor News editorializes against the lawless actions of HAC and demands that city council take action against them. The city shuts off water at 116 W. William at one point and even changes the locks on the doors when residents are away from the house. Nonetheless, no one is ever arrested and the two squatted houses remain occupied until early 1991.

Through the summer and fall of 1990 HAC sponsors another takeover of the current Kline's lot, holds a benefit concert, co-sponsors a travelling theater group, and continues to build alliances with other groups in town. HAC also temporarily turns its attention to the vacant Ann Arbor Inn. HAC members attend city hearings to advocate using the Inn for low-income housing.

But HAC is forced to refocus its energy on the houses and parking structure as the inevitable eviction process against the squatters begins in earnest in September. In November the remaining resident of Day One, who has lived in the house for more than a year, moves into 116 W. William. Day One has provided a shelter and home to dozens during the squat but is now unheatable and unsafe and the group conducts a service of "last rites" for the house a few nights before it is demolished.

The eviction process at 116 W. William is another story. After exhausting all legal appeals, a crowd of HAC supporters gathers on eviction day at the house, on a cold mid-February morning, vowing

not to give up the house without resistance.

At the last moment Mayor Jernigan strikes a deal with HAC, brokered by Democratic councilmembers Ann Marie Coleman and Thais Peterson. The mayor agrees to vote for a resolution that will turn the remaining two houses over to a nonprofit housing agency and provide city finances for the moving and rehabilitation of the homes. HAC agrees to leave the house (when it is ready to be moved) without protest. The houses, containing 11-units, are eventually sold by the city to the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor for \$1 per house.

In early February HAC asks city council to let the voters decide the fate of the Kline's parking structure by putting the issue on the April 1 ballot. The council denies the resolution by a 7-4 vote. Then what appears to be a major setback to HAC's cause, an 8-3 council vote on March 4 to begin to sell city bonds for the parking structure, actually provides yet another mechanism for HAC to organize around.

HAC responds immediately by launching a petition drive aimed at putting the bond issue to a citywide vote. By law, HAC faces a 45-day deadline to collect about 8,000 signatures (10% of registered voters) to force a special election.

The April 1, 1991 city elections change everything. Instead of having to lobby a city council with a 6-5 Republican majority, HAC now faces a more sympathetic city council, stacked with an 8-3 Democratic majority.

The rest is history. At an April 22 press conference at the vacant Ann Arbor Inn, HAC tapes their petitions on the doors with 4,800 signatures, a significant show of support but not enough to force the referendum. A week later HAC lobbies city council to hold the advisory election anyway. Council votes 6-5 in favor and the referendum is set for June 24. Council also votes to halt the sale of bonds for the project pending the outcome of the election.

A week later, Mayor Brater surprises everyone by announcing that the special election is off, and that she will veto any future council resolutions that authorize selling city bonds for the Klines parking structure. What appears to be the final vote on the matter comes May 20 when city council votes 6-5 to not sell bonds for the parking structure.

With the Kline's parking structure dead, HAC plans to spend more time pursuing their ultimate goal: housing for people who can't afford it. HAC's story should serve as inspiration for all who work for social and political change. It proves that you don't need to be a politician or have big money on your side in order to prevail in the public arena. HAC's story also proves that courage and determination, coupled with an unwillingness to accept roadblocks as failures, are essential to ultimate victory.

by Ted Sylvester

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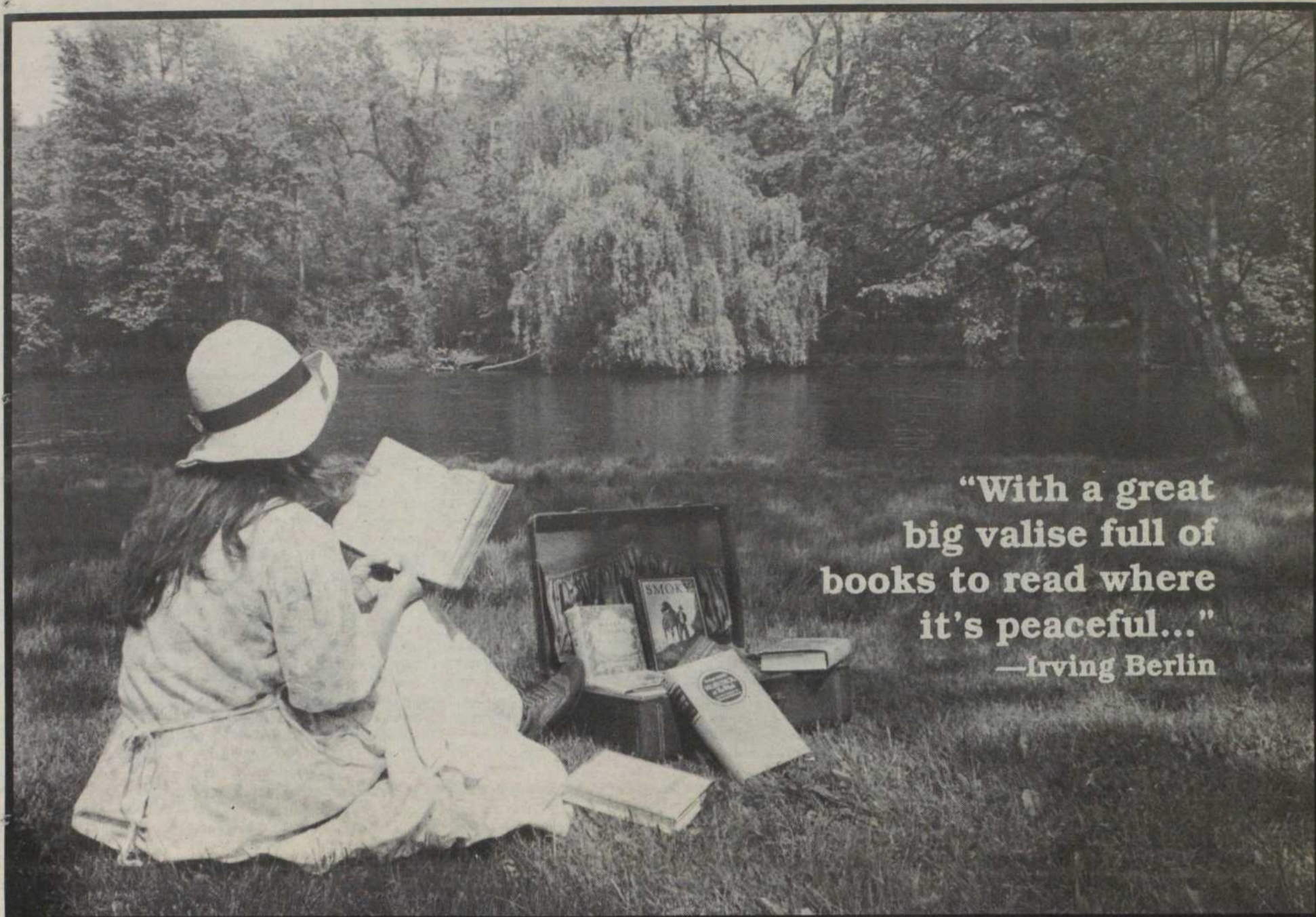
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