

AGENDA

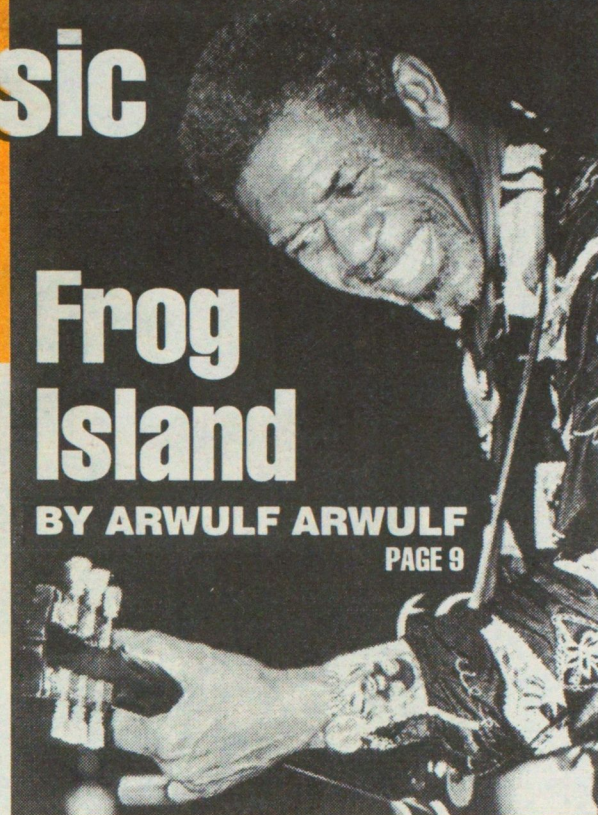
ANN ARBOR'S ALTERNATIVE NEWSMONTHLY

Music

LUTHER ALLISON

Frog Island

BY ARWULF ARWULF
PAGE 9



Top of the Park

BY WILLIAM SHEA PAGE 9

Local Bands

BY ALAN GOLDSMITH PAGE 13

Closing Down the School of Assassins

GOOD MORNING, CLASS! TODAY WE'LL BE STUDYING ADVANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES!

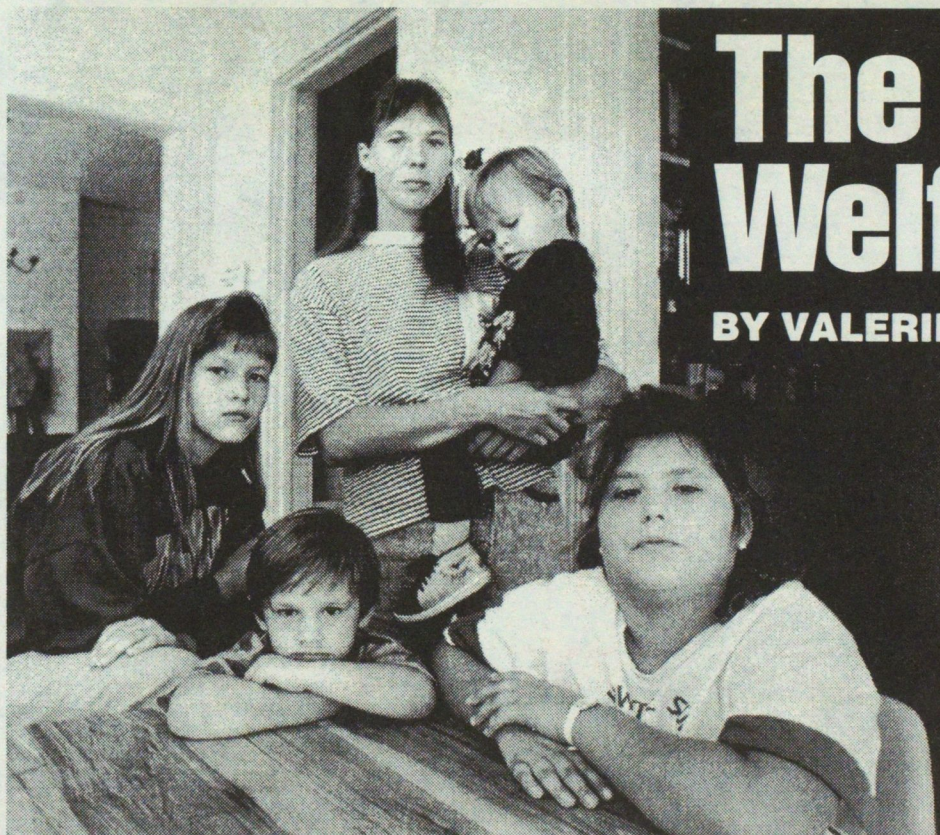
CAN YOU SAY "CATTLE PROD"?

cat



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The end of Welfare?

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Arts Agenda: New Arts Venues— Like Your Own Living Room

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CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGES 15-19

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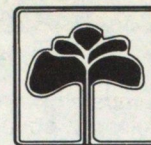
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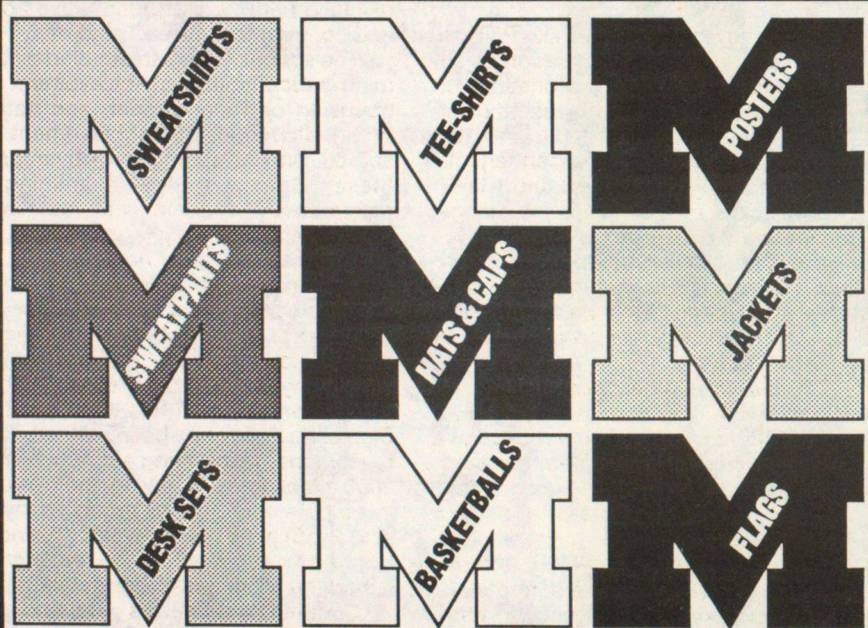
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AGENDA is interested in receiving items from you for etcetera. Press clippings, press releases, summaries of local events and any other ideas or suggestions are welcome. Just mail them to: Etcetera Editor, AGENDA, 220 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Volunteer with SOS Crisis Center

The SOS Community Crisis Center and Prospect Place Family Shelter are seeking volunteers to assist individuals and families struggling with personal and family stress, hunger, homelessness, suicide and substance abuse.

The volunteer roles are Crisis Line Counselors, Food Distribution Aides, Housing Crisis Resources Aides, and Child Care Aides.

Training begins the first week of June. To receive a training packet or to find out more about these volunteer opportunities, call 485-8730.

Guatemala Human Rights Phone-In Day

June 5 is the date designated by the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) as the "National Call for Truth."

To participate, citizens concerned about human rights in Guatemala are urged to call the White House Comment Line at 202-456-1111 (9am to 5pm EST) or send e-mail to president@whitehouse.gov. Stress the following points in your message:

- The U.S. must make a definitive break with the Guatemalan Army. The policy of "constructive engagement" has failed.
- The U.S. must proactively support proposals for demilitarization in the peace process and support the proposal to establish civilian authority over the military.
- The U.S. should immediately disclose information to facilitate the prosecution and purging of military officers involved in human rights violations.

This campaign comes in the wake of recent revelations about the CIA's relationship with a Guatemalan officer accused of the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine and of Guatemalan insurgent leader Efraim Bamaca, the husband of U.S. citizen Jennifer Harbury. Both of these crimes have pointed to U.S. complicity in human rights violations in Guatemala.

For more information contact NISGUA at 202-223-6474; e-mail: nisgua@igc.apc.org.

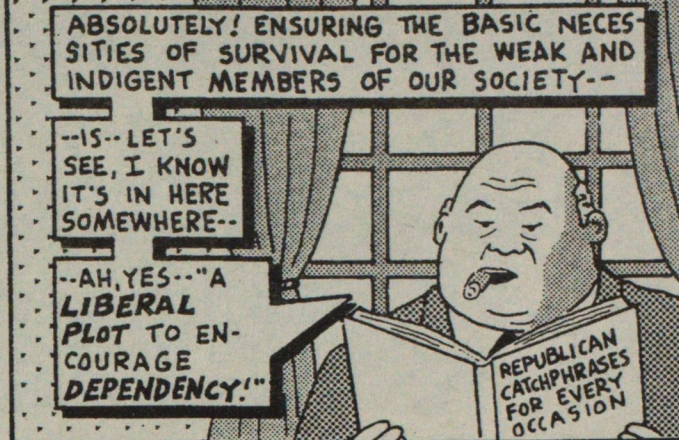
Campus Organizing Guide Available

The Center for Campus Organizing has recently published the "Campus Organizing Guide for Peace & Justice Groups." It covers topics such as: how to start a group; meetings and group process; planning an event; publicity techniques; media and press releases; building your membership base; and much more.

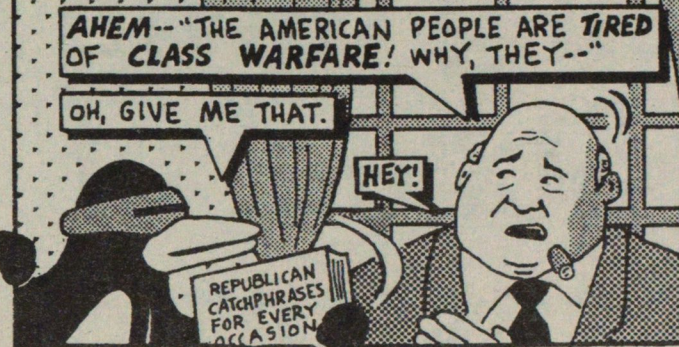
The organization states: "There is a rich tradition of organizing for peace and justice on U.S. college campuses, but too often students have no access to the wealth of experience and skills accumulated by previous generations of activists... The purpose of this guidebook is to provide a missing link, to get campus activists of the '90s started

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

OKAY...THE WELFARE BUREAUCRACY IS UNDENIABLY DEHUMANIZING AND IN NEED OF REFORM... BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD DISMANTLE OUR ENTIRE SOCIAL SAFETY NET?



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CONSIDER THAT CORPORATE WELFARE RUNS AS HIGH AS \$100 BILLION A YEAR... DWARFING SOCIAL SPENDING AND PRESENTING A MUCH MORE OBVIOUS TARGET FOR THE BUDGETARY AX...



--AND THAT THE FEDERAL RESERVE DELIBERATELY TRIES TO MAINTAIN AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF ABOUT 8 MILLION PEOPLE, TO FORESTALL INFLATION...WHICH, TO PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE, IS MORE PEOPLE THAN LIVE IN NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, AND IOWA COMBINED...



more quickly, building upon the work of their predecessors and of students at other campuses.

This 16-page booklet costs \$1. To purchase one, contact UCP/Center for Campus Organizing, Box 748, Cambridge, MA 02142.

Michigan Pride March Set for June 25

"Joining Together for Justice" is the theme of the 1995 Michigan March for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights. The march begins at 11:30 am in Lansing and culminates in a rally at the Capitol Steps. Following this will be the annual festival at Riverfront Park.

The event will pay tribute to Michigan lesbians, gays and bisexuals—a group with a proud history of social, cultural and political change.

Michigan Pride, the sponsoring organization, needs help in the form of donations and volunteers. If you can help, or would like information about organization booth rental or car/float registration, call 517-482-8656 or write: Michigan Pride, P.O. Box 16191, Lansing, MI 48909.

The Wobblies are Here!

The Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.), popularly known as the Wobblies in labor union history, have opened their new international headquarters at 103 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. The office is open from 10 am-6 pm, Mon. through Fri.

The office also houses the I.W.W. Workers' Education Center, which provides an extensive library of books and periodicals on labor, political and social issues; networking with advocacy groups; and labor support services such as unemployment counseling, union organizing, and strike support.

Weekly events at the Wobblies office include a labor film and video series on Tues. evenings, a discussion series on Thurs. evenings, and an open venue coffee house on Sun. evenings (all events at 7:30 pm).

The I.W.W. offers their facilities to democratic advocacy groups and individuals grounded in progressive issues. For more information call 483-3548.

Landowner Conservation Guide Available

The Potawatomi Land Trust (PLT) has recently completed a brochure directed at landowners who wish to protect the conservation values of their property.

Entitled "Conservation Options: A Guide for Washtenaw County Landowners," the brochure outlines several methods by which a property's natural, agricultural or open space features may be protected.

The two basic "tools" groups like PLT use to protect property are Conservation Easements and Transfers in Fee Title. Conservation Easements are legal agreements reached voluntarily between a landowner and a land trust that protects conservation values, permanently limits certain rights of current and future landowners, and keeps property in private hands.

By donating some or all of the development rights to a qualified, tax-exempt organization like PLT, the landowner may be eligible for certain tax benefits. Easements can even be designed to allow for a few carefully placed housing sites.

Land trusts sometimes purchase or receive donations of land outright, also known as "fee title." If the property is purchased at a below-market price or is donated, the landowner may be eligible for certain tax benefits.

The Guide goes into greater detail on how Conservation Easements and Transfers in Fee Title are developed and completed, and describes how the tax benefits are determined.

The Guide is printed in an easy-to-read, question-and-answer format and is available free of charge from PLT at P.O. Box 130122, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0122, or by calling 810-231-4375.

Equity Audit Committee Seeks Members

The Equity Audit Committee (EAC) of the Ann Arbor Public Schools is presently seeking a broad spectrum of interested community members to serve on the greater committee and on its various subcommittees.

EAC's major function is to monitor the school system's progress in attending to its equity needs, commitments, and plans of action, to ensure that they are in keeping with the Board of Education's Mission Statement and

goals and are in line with state and federal laws.

Since its inception five years ago, the Equity Audit Committee has reported on and made recommendations with regard to such issues as: racial and gender composition of schools; the "achievement gap"; sex bias within the Cheerleading program; multicultural curriculum and resources; the discipline policy; staff affirmative action; and concern for "at-risk" students.

The various topics are studied by three main subcommittees: Achievement Gap (focusing on race, gender, and national origin disparities on achievement test scores, and on methods of overcoming these); Special Needs (examining the progress of students who are "falling through the cracks"); and Policies and Procedures (currently analyzing the new "Rights and Responsibilities" handbook to make sure that it is applied consistently and protects students' rights and well-being).

Because of Equity Audit Committee monitoring action, an increased percentage of minority staff has been hired, the Discipline Policy has been revised, "Strategic Plans" for carrying out Achievement 2000 (plans for recognizing and overcoming inequitable school practices by the year 2000) have been developed, and the Board has renewed its commitment to improving all students' achievement.

Community members who would like to join the Equity Audit Committees and work on equal opportunity issues for students and employees should contact the Equity Office at 994-2240 for an application. The entire committee meets on the fourth Monday of each month, and the subcommittees set their own schedules, with meeting and work time totaling about eight hours per month.

All interested persons are welcome, but there is a special need for representatives from the Asian-American, Native-American, Hispanic, Arabic communities, as well as advocates for disability issues, to reflect the actual diversity of our community.

AGENDA

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AGENDA is an independent, nonaligned newsmonthly published by Agenda Publications, 220 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 313/996-8018, ISSN 1047-0727. Vol. 10, No. 3, JUNE 1995, Copyright © Agenda Publications. Subscriptions: \$15/year U.S., \$30/year international.

20,000 free copies of AGENDA are distributed at the beginning of every month from over 300 locations in the Ann Arbor Metro Area.

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Editor's Note: Ann Arbor artist and activist, Phyllis Ponvert, recently participated in a week-long fast and vigil on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Ponvert, and others from all over the country, were protesting the operation of the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA). Critics claim the SOA is responsible for systematically training Latin American army officers in some very undemocratic ways of soldiering including advanced combat skills, interrogation techniques and psychological warfare. Protesters also point out that many of the school's graduates have been involved in some of the most horrific human rights violations in Latin America in recent memory. In El Salvador alone, war crimes committed by SOA graduates include the assassination of Archbishop Romero and the murder of four U.S. nuns (1980), the massacre of hundreds of civilians at El Mozote (1981), and the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women (1989). SOA graduates from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Peru have also been linked to death squads, drug trafficking, coup attempts, tortures, assassinations, murders and massacres.

The following article is an edited version of a journal kept by Ponvert from March 24-March 30.



PHOTO: PHYLLIS PONVERT

Jennifer Harbury meets the press holding a photograph of her husband, a Guatemalan rebel commander who was murdered in prison on the orders of Colonel Julio Alpirez, a graduate of the School of the Americas with CIA connections.

Closing Down the School of Assassins

Protest Focuses on Brutal Legacy of U.S. Army's School of the Americas

BY PHYLLIS PONVERT

On a chilly Friday morning in late March, I step out of the subway at Union Station in Washington, D.C. I've left winter behind in Michigan; outside here the daffodils are in flower and the trees are beginning to bud out. With my camera and backpack, I could be just another tourist here to enjoy the museums and cherry blossom time. But I'm here for another reason. I pull on my scarf and hat and cross the street. After several long blocks, I arrive at the east steps of the U.S. Capitol building.

It's almost 10 am and I can see tourists and school groups beginning to line up for a tour of the Capitol. There's another group gathering on the steps, unfolding banners and putting down cushions. For the next seven days I will be part of this group. Over 200 people from across the nation will be here each day from 10 am to 6 pm to hold a liquid-only fast and vigil. We come together to focus attention on a shameful but little-known U.S. military institution: the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. With our fast and by educating both our government and the public, we want to close down the School of the Americas.

Formed in Panama in 1946 and moved to the U.S. in 1984, the school, more accurately named by critics as the "School of the Assassins," has been responsible for the death and suffering of countless people in Latin America. Each year, hundreds of soldiers from Latin America continue to hone their combat skills at the SOA and return home to repress their own people. Their targets are the poor, teachers, trade unionists, farmers and human rights workers; those who dare to speak out against their repressive, military-controlled governments. They are kidnapped, tortured, some are decapitated, and found by the road in plastic bags or in clandestine graves. Most are never found. This

year, 1,800 Latin American soldiers will come to the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Their training and all their expenses (including trips to Disneyland) will be paid for with our tax dollars.

The founder of School of the Americas Watch and Maryknoll priest, Father Roy Bourgeois, recently served 16 months in jail for trespassing on the base and pouring blood on photos of SOA graduates in the school's main hall. An energetic and upbeat activist, he has set up the School of the Americas Watch office just outside the main entrance of Fort Benning. The office does research on and educates the U.S. public about SOA training and its implications on the poor of Latin America.

I find a spot for myself on the steps and take off my pack. I can see Roy talking to people. He is dressed in jeans and an Irish fisherman's sweater. "The school should be closed," he says, "first because of the horrible cost in human lives to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean and second, because we don't think U.S. taxpayers should be funding this type of official terrorism."

Tour groups begin to pass by us as they walk up the Capitol steps. We hand out literature and talk to those who are interested. We find most people don't know

about the SOA and some don't believe us. But almost everybody knows about Jennifer Harbury because the papers and television are full of her story. She is the American woman who has been pressuring the U.S. and Guatemalan governments for three years to tell her what happened to her husband, a Guatemalan rebel commander. Twelve days into her third hunger strike, this time in front of the White House, she has just learned that her husband was murdered on the orders of an officer in the Guatemalan army. Representative Robert Toricelli, Democrat from New Jersey and member of the House Intelligence Committee, has also disclosed that Colonel Julio Alpirez, the responsible officer, was in the pay of the CIA. Alpirez is a graduate of the SOA.

The day grows warm, and people begin to take off jackets and hats. It feels good to be outside basking in the sun and the energy of our common cause. Fasteners from a number of national religious and peace and justice organizations are here: Veterans for Peace representing vets from World War II, Korea, Viet Nam and the Persian Gulf War; The Presbyterian General Assembly representing a membership of almost 3 million; Witness for Peace; Pastors for Peace; the Maryknoll Commu-

nity; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; National Organization in Solidarity with Guatemala; the Nicaragua/U.S. Friendship Office; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Women Against Military Madness; Pax Christi; the Jesuits; the Minnesota AFL-CIO; and The Religious Task Force on Latin America. Many other smaller faith and resistance groups with ties to Latin America are present, including eight fasters from the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice from my hometown Ann Arbor, Michigan who have driven all night to be here with us today.

I am disappointed but not surprised that our fast receives no media coverage, although Jennifer's story and the CIA/Guatemalan military connection are widely reported in The New York Times every day. Even they can't resist reporting the story that Ted Turner wants to do a movie about Jennifer's life, perhaps starring Madonna.

The second afternoon, Jennifer Harbury comes to the steps to be with us. It's late and the tourists are gone. I look up to see people around me standing up and applauding as she walks across the blacktop. Jennifer smiles at us, easy and familiar, as if we are all old friends. She's 43, but looks younger. Her eyes are enormous and I wonder if that's from the fast or all the things she has seen.

"I've been thinking," she says, "of one of the people I wrote about in my book *Bridge of Courage*—a man who lost many of his friends in the Resistance. I asked him, how can you stand it? How can you deal with this insane country? It's just too cruel."

"He said, 'For all of us, we don't expect to survive. But we want it to be different for the next generation. It's gone on for 500 years and we all consider ourselves part of a human bridge. We just lie down across the chasm and let the next generation walk across our backs to the other side.' The next week he was killed by the death squad. They broke both his legs throwing him into a trunk."

Jennifer's short brown hair brushes her face as she talks. I remember reading that she had gone to a government meeting yesterday wearing a borrowed dress and shoes.

"My husband made a choice. He wanted to be part of that human bridge." She looks down and pauses. "It's what I loved him for and still do love him for. I feel like all of you share that sentiment. That's why you're here this week. It's only through this incredible teamwork that our government will change some of its destructive policies like the School of the Americas, and the CIA. I'm very grateful that we have the privilege of being the living half of that bridge."

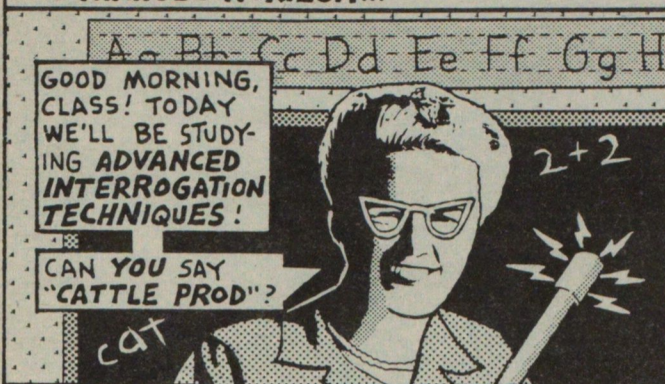
For the third straight year, Rep. Joseph Kennedy, Democrat from Massachusetts, is sponsoring a "Dear Colleague" letter to President Clinton, now circulating for co-signers in the House. The letter asks that the funding—\$3 million a year—be terminated for SOA training. The amendment has been defeated the previous two years and there is little chance of it even coming to a vote on the floor with a Republican majority in Washington.

One of our tasks is to drop off information to each Representative, meet with a foreign policy aide, and encourage them to endorse Kennedy's letter. Thursday afternoon four of us go to the Longworth Building where each of us visits offices on two floors. It is always difficult for me to make these visits. Every detail of the architecture of the buildings and offices is designed to reinforce the vast power of the U.S. government. But I continue to do this work because it would be harder for me not to.

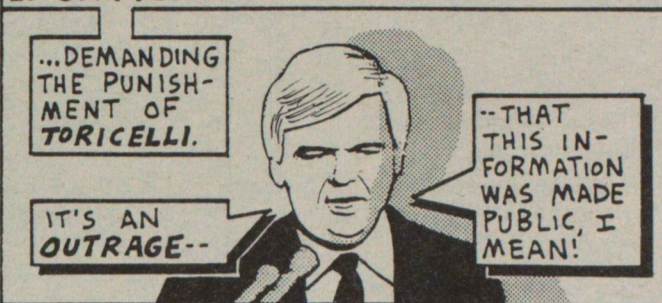
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE PENTAGON RUNS A SCHOOL IN FORT BENNING, GEORGIA WHICH HAS TRAINED, AMONG OTHERS, AN ORGANIZER OF SALVADORAN DEATH SQUADS, THE HEAD OF AN ARGENTINE JUNTA, AND MANUEL NORIEGA...



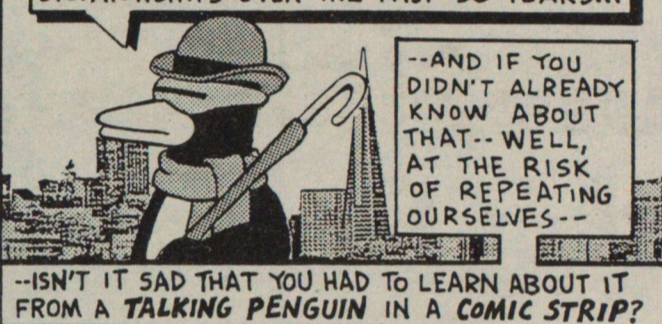
ANOTHER GRADUATE IS COL. JULIO ALPIREZ, THE GUATAMALAN OFFICER ON THE CIA PAYROLL WHO MURDERED AN AMERICAN HOTELIER AND A REBEL LEADER MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN... WHEN COL. ALPIREZ'S EXPLOITS WERE REVEALED BY HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROBERT TORICELLI, NEWT GINGRICH RESPONDED SWIFTLY...



NOW THAT THE CAT IS OUT OF THE BAG, A PREDICTABLE SCENARIO WILL UNFOLD...HEARINGS WILL BE HELD...SHOCK WILL BE PROFESS-ED... AND FINALLY, THE CIA WILL LOUDLY AND PUBLICLY DECLARE THE ENTIRE MATTER A DREADFUL ABERRATION WHICH WAS ENTIRELY THE FAULT OF A CONVENIENT, TO-BE-DETERMINED SCAPEGOAT..



THE MEDIA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COOPERATE EAGERLY WITH THIS RITUAL OF ABSOLUTION...DOING THEIR BEST TO IGNORE OUR COUNTRY'S ONGOING COMPLICITY IN THE DEATHS OF SOME 110,000 GUATAMALANS AT THE HANDS OF SUCCESSIVE U.S.-BACKED DICTATORSHIPS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS...



Most of the Representatives that I visit are in favor of continuing to fund the SOA. I go into one office without reading the name on the door. When I mention the SOA, the receptionist stops me with a smile. She has heard the same story many times. This is Representative Sanford Bishop's office and his district includes the SOA. Bishop has said, "We might as well abolish the University of Pennsylvania because Michael Milken graduated from there." He argues that the school has promoted democracy in Latin America.

Later I visit the office of my Ann Arbor neighbor and Democratic Representative, Lynn Rivers. It is her first term in Washington and I am glad to see her familiar face. It is good news to hear that she supports cutting funding for SOA and has signed on to Kennedy's letter.

On Friday we break our fast at noon with a closing ceremony. A woman from CONPAZ, a Mexican coalition of non-governmental organizations in Chiapas speaks about the Zapatistas' struggle. She has brought a large and colorful canvas painted by schoolchildren from Chiapas and we lay it on the steps in our midst.

A Guatemalan man holds up a basket of freshly made tortillas wrapped in a rainbow-colored cloth. He explains that corn is sacred to the Mayans: In their creation stories, the first people were created from corn paste. He offers the basket to us. I break off a piece of a warm tortilla and pass the basket to the woman sitting next to me. We sit quietly, savoring these last few minutes, breaking our week-long fast together.

We walk over to the lawn near the Capitol for a press conference led by Rep. Joseph Kennedy. The media is out in full force now.

"It's time we break our links with tyranny and oppression throughout Latin America and change the way this school is operating," he says. "We have worked

hard and long at closing down the SOA. But with this Congress our ability to get this amendment passed is going to be difficult. Father Bourgeois and I, and other members of the human rights organizations, met last night with the Army in hopes that we might find a way to change the School of the Americas into a school of democracy that would teach peacekeeping to the military of these third world countries, as I've seen happen in Haiti—that they need to respect human rights and respect the chain of command.

"Now I'm not convinced," says Kennedy, "and I don't think Father Bourgeois is convinced that the military is serious about changing the way the school is operating. We will work with them in the next month or so. If it does not change, we will once again, regardless of the consequences, move forward with an amendment to shut the school down.

"Father Bourgeois was in the military and understands the very positive role the military plays in the United States which is very different than the role the military has played in Latin America."

Jennifer Harbury begins to speak. Her voice is strained from so much talking.

"I'd like to talk a little bit about the case of my husband, Efraim Bamaca Velasquez," she begins, "if only because it's a microcosm of the SOA's problem and the CIA and the State Department's problem that's been going on for a very long time. I think that all these problems are very interrelated.

"My husband disappeared in combat in 1992. The Guatemalan army told us that he'd been killed in combat and that his body was buried in a nearby town. For a long time I assumed that was correct, but at the end of 1992, a young prisoner named Santiago Capero Lopez escaped from a military base.

"He said, 'Your husband is not dead. He is not in the grave. He's in that military base being tortured.' He described seeing

my husband being chained to a bed without a blanket for 20 days. He saw him being tortured. He was strapped down to a medical table with an unidentified gas tank next to the bed. He was swollen up roughly two to three times normal size from head to toe. One arm was completely bandaged from wrist to shoulder. One leg was completely bandaged hip to ankle, as if they'd ruptured. I don't know what they'd done to him. He was raving. They had a doctor standing by; they wanted to break him, not kill him.

"And bending over the table?" She pauses. "Colonel Julio Alpirez, a graduate of the School of the Americas. Turns out he was also on the CIA payroll. He'd been on the CIA payroll a long time. He had already ordered the assassination of Michael Devine, a U.S. citizen, in 1990. There was an investigation, but it was called off by the CIA. Alpirez was then given a fairly large lump sum of money. Shortly thereafter, he apparently ordered the execution of my husband.

"We have a real amazing series of inter-relationships here. Those names, those seven or eight names of high-level military officials became public in February 1993 when Santiago went to Europe—to Geneva—and testified to the UN High Commission on Refugees.

"Last week when the news broke: what a surprise! Colonel Alpirez ordered the execution of my husband. All I can say is, I guess the State Department didn't investigate very carefully the last three years, did they? So what are we seeing? We're seeing total complicity across our government branches, with no accountability. We have a school that is turning out a disproportionate number of people who torture and assassinate and who, coincidentally, are on the CIA payroll? It's against the laws of physics to say it's coincidental. It doesn't happen that way.

"Why is it," she asks, "that I'm reading in this morning's newspaper that military

aid was supposed to be cut off after Michael Devine's assassination which was ordered and carried out by someone on a CIA contract? And that we then turned around and sent the Guatemalan army an enormous amount of money?

"I find all these things sadly not surprising at all. And I would like to say that we're not even seeing the tip of the iceberg here. If you look at me and multiply my situation by 300,000 you might get an idea of how many Guatemalans have gone through far worse than this and not anyone has had the decency to tell their relatives what happened to them. I spent every night for more than two years now going to bed with the last image I have of my husband: him strapped to a medical table, pumped up with some kind of toxic gas until his arm and leg ruptured. I've lived with that every day of my life thinking he was alive and still undergoing this, while the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala watched me go on a 32-day hunger strike risking coma and assassination, among other things. And then again 12 days here on the front lawn of the White House. It was only when Congressman Toricelli came forth with the truth that I was at least released from that image."

Suddenly her voice grows stronger. "The rest of Guatemala is not released. The rest of Salvador is not released. The rest of Chile and Argentina are not released.

"I'd like to ask that all files be declassified, and I'd like ongoing and serious Senate and Congressional hearings on this and related issues regarding the CIA and the State Department in Central America. I'd like to know how it is our taxpayer money is being spent against our will. I don't think that it's done with our consent. It isn't done with my consent, that's for sure." Jennifer steps back from the microphone. She looks exhausted.

Afterwards we walk a few blocks to a church where homemade soup has been prepared for us. The smell brings back the memory of elementary school lunches. I eat slowly, realizing I'm tired.

Roy makes it clear: No matter what the military says it will do to make changes, School of Americas Watch will continue its work to close down the SOA.

"Will we close it down?" he asks.

"Yes!" we respond.

"Will it be hard?"

"Yes!"

"Can we do it?" he challenges us.

"Yes!" we shout.

People are exchanging addresses, remembering last minute things to say. Suddenly, it's over.

I wander over to the Mall and realize that I can eat solid food. I head to the cafeteria in the Air and Space Museum and buy yogurt and a bagel. I find a table near the window where I can look at the Capitol. The afternoon light shifts and changes as clouds move across the sky. My taste buds are on high alert, but the bagel is not fresh and it tastes dried out. I pick up my camera and backpack and head for the subway.

For more information, contact: SOA Watch, P.O. Box 3330, Columbus GA, 31903; (706) 682-5369 (phone/fax).

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Wed, June 21 - 8PM

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Thurs, June 22 - 8PM

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Steve Allen

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McCoy Tyner

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Thurs, July 6 - 8PM

Tom Jones

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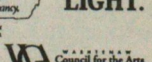
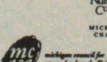
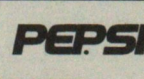
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"I feel so much better about myself when I'm working, but I can't do it without the child care. All this time I'm trying to better myself. I'm not one of those statistics that the government says just gets on ADC and sits there. That's how they think you are anyway, having baby after baby. As if you want to sit all your life on ADC. When you go to the supermarket, I get that different treatment. When I pull out the foodstamps, people look at you and they say, 'You're on ADC. You're not trying to better yourself.' I feel so bad there, I just want to cry. I want to tell them: 'Don't look at me like that. You don't know what's going on in our lives.' Those people who look at you in the line and say: 'She's one of them.' I want to tell them, 'You just don't know. If you had a kid and you got no way out, you'd see what you'd go through.'"

—Anna



PHOTO: JANE REED

The end of Welfare?

"Contract" Shreds Federal Safety Net

BY VALERIE POLAKOW

These stories are not unusual. They are stories that describe the daily struggles of women and their kids who are living in poverty and are on the edge of homelessness. Every woman that I interviewed for my book, "Lives on the Edge," was from Michigan and was working part time or had been working full time and was forced to give up her job because of a housing, or child care, or

The stereotype of a welfare recipient is a woman who has no connection whatsoever to the labor market. The reality is that over 40% of women who are on welfare work 900 hours a year, which is exactly the same number of hours that all mothers in the labor force work. Over 70% of women on welfare are what we call cyclical workers. They move in and out of welfare, or receive part-time welfare assistance while they have young children because they cannot cope with the enormous child care needs that conflict with the ability to maintain oneself in an employable position.

So as we look at daily life, when you're poor, when you're female, when you're a mother, one begins to see that you are confronted with a literal assault on your daily viability as a family. While the Republicans have talked about restoring family values in their Contract On America, what we actually see in that Contract—which has passed in the House and will be debated on the Senate floor in June—is one of the most dangerous and destructive anti-family policies that would essentially dismantle the minimum welfare state that currently exists in the United States.

Valerie Polakow is the author of "Lives on the Edge: Single Mothers and Their Children in the Other America" (Chicago). Her article, "On a Tightrope Without a Net," was recently published in *The Nation* (May 1, 1995). This article is an adaptation of a talk Ms. Polakow gave at Guild House in April.

At the present time the United States is one of the richest and most powerful countries in the world—yet we have 15.7 million children living below the poverty line. The poverty line calculated in the United States is also artificially low and was set at \$11,800 a year for a family of three in 1994. We do not use the same formula as other Western industrialized democracies. If we did, we would literally see millions more children living in poverty.

Right now the average monthly AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) payment for a family of three in Michigan is \$435. That \$435 has to cover essentially all living expenses except food and includes housing, utilities, personal needs/allowances, transportation, clothing. Food stamps come to \$69 a month per family member, which the Michigan League for Human Services recently calculated comes to 77¢ a meal, or \$2.30 in food stamps a day per family member.

Food stamps, as they exist currently, are not sufficient to feed a family, which is why in the last week of the month, many recipients report how they have to skimp; how they go without food so their children can eat. Now what helps children deal with the food stamp deficiency that currently exists? School lunches. If your child is in school, your child gets free school lunch and perhaps free breakfast.

Yet the current Republican proposals include consolidating all food assistance programs into state block grants, which means that the federal entitlement that poor people currently have to food stamps, schoolchildren to school lunches, pregnant women and infants to the WIC (Women, Infant Care) program will be consolidated into one block grant and the money will go to the states. The states can then decide essentially how to use that money. If they decide, as Engler might well do, that he wants to take part of that money to make sure that food stamp fraud doesn't occur and develop a system of fingerprinting welfare recipients (which is now being proposed in several states), some of that money could be used for that!

So what we're looking at is eliminating a legal entitlement from the federal government, which even as it exists now is insufficient to meet a family's needs. But if these proposals go through and a recession hits, there is no automatic expansion of that block grant. So if we have double the number of people in the state living in poverty, tough! The state block grant will serve a limited number of recipients and the rest will be left to forage for food or go hungry.

The second measure that I want to talk about deals with cuts to AFDC, the main federal welfare program. AFDC is also a federal entitlement program. It guaran-

"We were only on a month-to-month lease. The judge gave us 30 days to move out. We had no place to go. It was summer. School was out. DSS, Department of Social Services, gave us this voucher for a motel. You're only meant to stay there for 30 days, but there was no housing for us so they extended it. So we lived for 69 days in this motel. DSS put us there. They said there was nothing else. There were rats and roaches. I called the Health Department and told them but they never came. Outside they were dealing drugs. There were prostitutes walking up and down. My children just lost their personalities. My eight year old stopped eating.

All this time, I tried to search for an apartment with a \$310 limit from DSS. I could find a two bedroom, but not a three bedroom. And with three kids they said I couldn't live there. They said, 'Well, if you could do something about one of your kids.' Well, what do you want me to do? Get rid of one my kids? And the wait for public housing is three or four years in some cases."

—Christy

tees that if you are living below the poverty line, you and your children are entitled to receive cash assistance. However, the states have the right to set the maximum benefit levels, which, of course, has been a disaster because in some states, like Mississippi, the assistance levels for a family of three are as low as \$120 a month. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, if these welfare cuts were in effect today 2.5 million families and more than 5 million children currently receiving assistance would lose their benefits.

In addition, the following provisions are built in to the "Personal Responsibility Act" of the Contract. If you are a young girl who gets pregnant and you're under 18 years old, you will have no entitlement whatsoever to cash assistance, for you or your baby. Now what does that mean? It means that young mothers who become pregnant are going to be put into a situation of immediate homelessness if they have no family support. If they are put into a situation of homelessness, what's going to happen to their babies? Well, the initial proposal was to put them in orphanages. Orphanages cost \$39,000 a year to operate per child. Most women who receive AFDC receive about \$5,000 a year. But an orphanage costs \$39,000!

The second provision targets any mother who has received welfare at any time and restricts her to a lifetime limit of 60 months. The minute she reaches 60 months she's terminated for life and so are her children. It doesn't matter what her work history has been, it doesn't matter what the situation has been, it's a drop-dead time limit of five years.

Another provision stipulates that any woman who becomes pregnant with a second child while receiving welfare will be denied aid permanently for the subsequent child. Even if she conceives the child while married, is abandoned by her husband, and then has to go onto welfare, the new baby is permanently barred from any aid.

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

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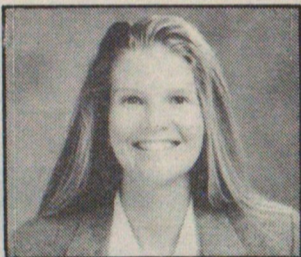
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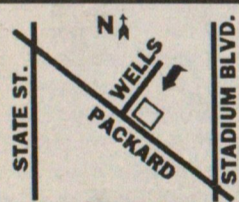
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The end of Welfare?

(FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

In addition, if a woman does not name the father of her child, she is denied aid permanently for unacknowledged paternity. Many women will not name the father of their child. Why? Because they're threatened with kidnapping and with violence. Michigan now has that requirement—Engler instituted it to demonstrate how he is effectively reducing welfare "dependency." And there are many women that I know in this area who right now are unable to receive cash assistance or Medicaid for their babies because they won't name the father and cannot prove their safety is threatened. Yet they fled abusive relationships or the father has threatened to harm them or their children.

None of these welfare provisions protect the large number of women who become destitute and homeless because of domestic violence. Nationally, it is estimated that 50% of women with children who become homeless do so because of domestic violence. It is a very, very significant factor in the lives of women and children.

One of the stated goals of the Personal Responsibility Act is to "reduce illegitimacy and restore the American family"—hence teen single mothers have become a specific target. From the media and from legislators one gets the impression that we have swarms of pregnant teenagers who are becoming pregnant at the drop of the hat and in fact are draining the taxpayers budget. That's the myth. The reality is that 1.2% of AFDC recipients are teen mothers under 18. These are the swarms of pregnant teens draining the taxpayers budget!

Also significant is the startling statistic that 67% of teens who become pregnant are impregnated by adult men between the ages of 20 years and 50 years. Do we hear about adult men and their responsibilities in terms of teenagers? We don't. We've heard about so-called "deadbeat dads," but in terms of looking at who's making teen girls pregnant, we're not looking at teen boys. We're looking at the majority of pregnancies being caused by adult men between 20 and 50 years old—responsible for over 202,000 teen births a year!

And the Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that 74% of girls under 14 who have had sex were actually rape victims. So when you look at the statistics in terms of teenagers under the age of 18, you're looking at the targeting of a population of very vulnerable children who are being sexually coerced or raped—the majority of them by adult men. That is the concealed reality behind the vindictive discourse which essentially says: "If you get pregnant and you don't say 'no,' we're going to essentially toss you into the streets and take your children into orphanages."

The Personal Responsibility Act will also force people into indentured servitude. Mothers on welfare are going to have to work, paid or unpaid, 35 hours a week in so-called "work slots." If they can't find their own jobs, they have to volunteer their labor in order to get their benefits. It's a modern form of indentured servitude as women will be forced into work slots as a way of paying off their benefits and will actually, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, be receiving about \$2.42 an hour (in the me-

dian state), a rate far below minimum wage.

This particular work requirement has its parallel with our own governor. Governor Engler instituted what is called the Social Contract and Work First. The Social Contract mandates that every poor mother who is receiving benefits has to work for her benefits by essentially putting in 20 hours of paid or unpaid labor a week. So if you can't find a job, you have to volunteer. When you

volunteer, neither child care nor transportation are guaranteed.

In the Personal Responsibility Act, 35 hours of work are required and there are no child care provisions whatsoever. It's an amazing and outrageous situation—there are no exemptions for childbirth, for infancy, or for disabled children at home where a mother might be required full time to care for a disabled child. So what we're looking at is a brutal assault on poor families where there is no way to survive anymore. Previously we had a deficient and minimal safety

net. Many people fell through the gaping holes of that safety net. If this bill passes the Senate, we can imagine that the 15.7 million children who are living in poverty—over half of them in utter destitution, according to the Children's Defense Fund—will increase in alarming numbers.

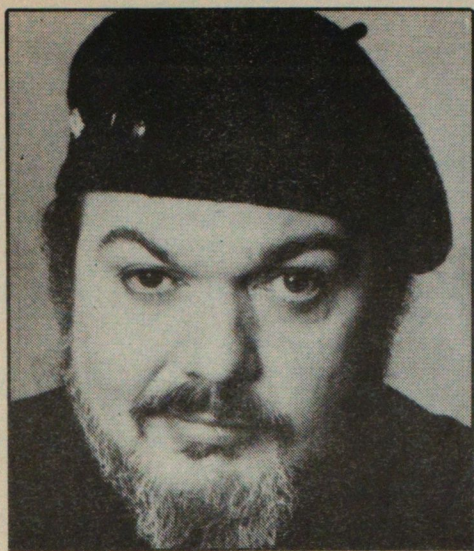
What we have to recognize is, first of all, we're not looking at anything called "welfare reform." We're looking at an unconscionable and vicious attack against poor single mothers that is going to have devastating consequences for children. We're also looking at a set of policies that are going to fall under the whims of a state governor and a state legislature and we shouldn't kid ourselves that those bodies are going to look out for and try to protect vulnerable citizens.

If we look at our own state, Michigan, how did Governor Engler reduce the welfare rolls? Well, in 1991 he threw 83,000 "able-bodied" recipients off General Assistance. He got rid of 83,000 recipients (single people) that way and cut benefits to women and children by 11%.

If you think about the child care crisis that confronts all working mothers, we're looking at a situation in Michigan where at the present time the average child care costs for full-time preschool care are \$4,400 per year. If you work full time at minimum wage, you make \$8,800 a year. With one child, half of your salary will go to child care if you get no other assistance.

It's also important to recognize that over half of low-income families nationally pay up to 70% of their income on housing in the private market. If you don't manage to get public housing or Section 8 subsidized housing, you're essentially left to forage in the private market. And if you're poor and receiving \$435 a month, how are you going to pay rent and child care and take care of all the other expenses from transportation to personal needs? The wait for subsidized housing in our area—Washtenaw, Wayne, and Genesee Counties—is between two and five years.

So we're looking at a situation where, as one woman told me: "We live our lives on the edge." If these Contract proposals pass the Senate and are not vetoed by Clinton—their impact will be devastating and will plunge millions more families into destitution. It is clear that at the present time, the United States has become the most dangerous "democracy" for poor women and their children to live in. Their fundamental rights to survival are under brutal assault.



Dr. John, AKA Mac Rebennack

"In New Orleans, everything—food, music, religion, even the way people talk and act—has deep, deep roots; and, like the tangled veins of cypress roots that meander this way and that in the swamp, everything in New Orleans is interrelated, wrapped around itself in ways that aren't always obvious."

- Dr. John

It was September, 1972. I was a 15-year-old psychedelic ranger working the right rear section of the field at the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festival. In a matter of hours the stage was occupied first by elderly acoustic blues guitarists, then boogie woogie pianna players, then a bristly modern Jazz ensemble, followed by a gigantic Chicago blues revue. I was bewildered and seriously moved. Where had all of this music come from, and why hadn't anybody played it for me before?

Just when I thought I'd seen and heard it all, I found myself wandering up nearer to the stage, trying to figure out who or what was makin' the music sound so spooky and magnetic. Upon closer inspection the singer looked as though he'd crawled out of a coffin. In fact, as I made this

Dr. John's Hoodoo Voodoo FROG ISLAND FESTIVAL

BY ARWULF ARWULF

observation to myself the guy opened his mouth and said "I ROLL outta my COFFIN!" His eyeballs protruding from a greasy haze of white and grey face paint, under a 19th-century-lookin' top hat. The audience, at least half of them peaking on windowpane acid, moaned and hollered as the singer tossed glitter and gris-gris over their heads into the spotlight beams. This was Dr. John, The Night Tripper.

Twenty-three years later the rest of the picture is filled in as I borrow a friend's copy of the man's autobiography: "Under A Hoodoo Moon—The Life of the Night Tripper" by Dr. John (AKA Mac Rebennack). Everybody needs to check this out. Besides providing us with a fascinating glimpse into the life of a legendary Louisiana musician, Mac's book seethes with gutsy, matter-of-fact insights into the workings of the music industry.

He casually explains how the record company dudes would ignore a rhythm & blues genius like Huey "Piano" Smith and plug instead a series of tepid Elvis impersonators. How songwriters were ripped off and flimflammed and bulldozed and scammed. A dirty business.

Or he'll tell you how the New Orleans music scene was seriously destroyed by district attorney Big Jim Garrison's attempts to "clean up" the districts by busting anybody who was doing anything even slightly illegal, and by padlocking the nightclubs. So the gigs dried up. Soon all of the

best musicians from the Crescent City found themselves on the West Coast playing three-chord backups for Sonny & Cher.

Mac wondered why Phil Spector needed "30 violins, 10 horns, a battery of keyboards, basses, guitars, drums, which, mixed with much echo, became his famous 'wall of sound.'" Mac thought to himself, "What's all this—because in New Orleans we put out just as much sound with only six guys?" Now isn't that the truth.

These insights are woven in with hair-raising tales of being strung out on smack for decades, which is a mean story. Dr. John's personality makes for a less depressing narrative than, say, Art Pepper's "Straight Life," but then Art did some hard time in San Quentin. Mac was lucky. But more than lucky. Deeper than luck.

He came from a special part of the world, where the spirits are every bit as tangible as the turf itself. An old, old city where Voodoo flourishes as a living continuation of the original African Earth-based religions. Mac had the good sense to pay close attention to where his city had been. He learned about a root doctor, an ex-slave who held forth in Congo Square during the 1840s and 50s, a certain Dr. John. In 1967, this became Mac's stage name, and the music became riddled with references to goofer dust and gilded splinters.

This was more than a simple Voodoo vaudeville revival; our 20th Century Dr. John studied

with the healers and the spiritual-church people, got with the Mardi Gras Indians and picked up on the minstrel tradition still laying semi-dormant behind the scenes. He combined all of this with his own up-to-date stuff and the result stopped most anybody in their tracks on first hearing. Unforgettable. You start to dig it. Then it grows on you for life. (Mama Roux is with me always.)

Over the years Dr. John has made record after record without copping out or going slack on us. He waxed a date with Art Blakey, and made things difficult for people who like to keep a musician in one category. The common denominator is blues and stomps and woogie. Substance and depth. What'd they used to say? "Soul"—That's the ticket.

And speaking of tickets, Dr. John is going to be at the Frog Island Music Festival Friday June 23rd at 10:30 pm. Will he be solo? Additional rhythm? Horns? Backup vocals? Any way it happens, it'll be a night you'll never forget. But don't go for just one night.

Now listen up for a minute: This will be a three-day festival full of dynamite performers from all points of the compass. A three-day series pass is the only way to fly. Otherwise, you're missing out. Don't just go on Saturday night to see Los Lobos. Check out Arthur Blythe in the afternoon—like most real musicians, he is always best when caught live, and besides, he's one of the toughest alto saxophonists on the planet. Check Luther Allison's soulful electric blues on Sunday. Reserve the entire weekend for Frog Island. You'll be happy you did. This year's lineup is about as good as it gets.

Get to the park early on Sunday morning for the 2nd annual Sunday Best Pancake Breakfast. I'll be broadcasting traditional New Orleans Jazz in person and you can sit down to all the pancakes you can stand. Proceeds will go to support WEMU, (89.1 FM), a tireless supporter of Blues, Jazz and World music.

Finally let me say it is imperative that we support those elements in our community which are special to us. If there's something you appreciate in this area, be it a used book shop, a three-day music festival, an irreplaceably wonderful radio station or an alternative newsmagazine, put some support behind what you think should endure or one day you will be wishing it hadn't've disappeared. The Frog Island Festival is too good to be taken for granted. Get that three-day pass so we have a chance of getting to dance at next year's Frog Island.

Top of the Park LOCAL MUSIC SHINES

BY WILLIAM SHEA

From June 16 through July 9, the annual Ann Arbor Summer Festival "Top of the Park" free concert series will again offer a good representation of the breadth of music that's in Ann Arbor. During the 24 nights one will hear blues and folk music, sambas and polkas, two-steps and big-band swings. Unlike in the past, where the performing artists were generally arranged stylistically (i.e., the blues one night, folk the next), this is not the norm this year. While you will hear a night of patriotic marches on the 4th of July, you'll also hear the searing blues and R&B of the **Steve Somers Band**. Similarly, you'll hear folk, jazz, and rock ensembles all on one night and a solo acoustic ballad singer juxtaposed to a raucous brass band on another. The result of these pairings is that the listener can easily hear a broad array of music without necessarily making it to the park every night of the week—which really isn't such a bad idea!

A quick look at some highlights of the TOP concerts: On June 16 some up-and-coming musical stars of Ann Arbor will be featured in the **Forsythe Middle School Jazz Band**. Although not as sophisticated as the **II-V-I Orchestra** that follows them, the energy is sure to be high throughout the night.

Continuing the big band tradition will be the incomparable **The Ambassadors** on June 17. Some might think this music is for parents only, but the cohesiveness and dynamics of this renown ensemble should appeal to all musical aficionados.

The hot **Big Dave and the Ultrasonics** play on June 18. They are arguably the strongest blues band in Ann Arbor. With great harmonica, tight guitars,

driving keyboards, solid bass and drums, and Big Dave's gritty vocals, they shouldn't be missed.

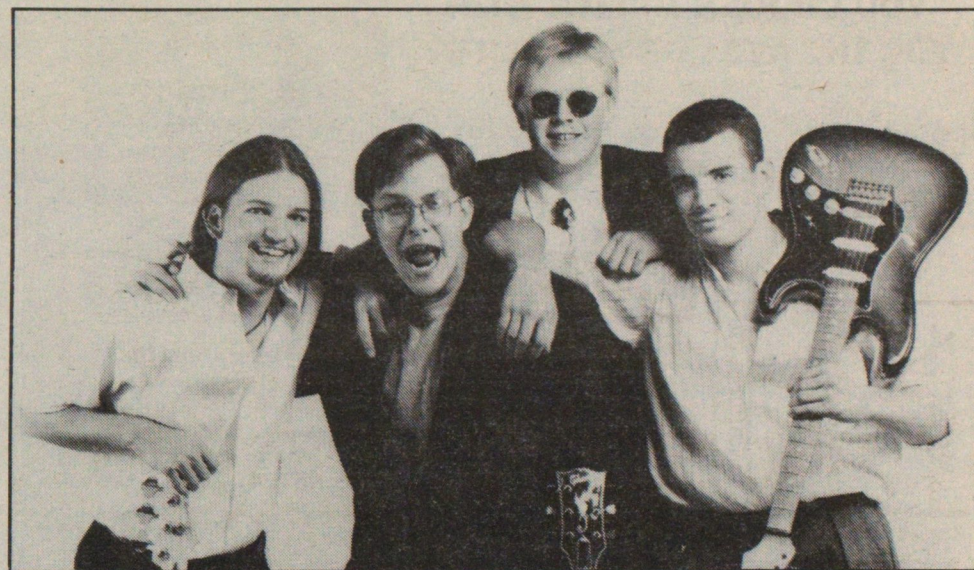
On June 20, songsmith extraordinaire **Dick Siegel** opens with a solo set followed by the **Motor City Street Band**. Where Siegel will lull you with his memorable tunes and ironic and twisted lyrics, the Street Band will have you marching in the aisles, à la New Orleans. On the next night, **Tracy Lee Komarmy** will team up with old band-mate **George Bedard** and his **Kingpins** for some authentic rock-blues-roots music. Bring the kids. Their material will be up-tempo, fun, and rocking.

June 23 brings **The Sun Messengers** with their version of big band funk, R&B, and soul. The music will be dynamic, rhythmic, and very danceable.

Stewart Francke is the opening act on June 24. Francke's new CD, which has received glowing reviews from all over the country, showcases his great storytelling talent. His songs make us hear and feel the images and emotions of everyday life. **Al Hill**, who follows Francke, is a multi-instrumentalist who often plays country music but whose heart is in the blues. He's one of the best blues vocalists in town.

Madcat & Kane play their eclectic music on June 25. With just harmonica, guitar and vocals, they play sophisticated jazz, low-down blues, swinging be-bop and soothing middle-of-the-road fare. Their talent and professionalism alone make this a "not-miss" affair.

The 28th and 29th offer two exceptional shows: the world music of the **Sun Sounds Orchestra** and the powerful R&B of **The Chisel Brothers with Thoretta Davis**. The Orchestra's music tends to



Blue Vinyl, a rock/blues band from Community High will play TOP June 21

be Caribbean rather than African, thus emphasizing great rhythms with a Latin feel. Ms. Davis and the Brothers are phenomenal. Their soulful music transcends the local scene; they are polished and professional enough to make it anywhere. Don't miss them.

Saxophonist extraordinaire **Paul Vornhagen** plays on June 30. His mellow jazz sound coupled with a wonderful technique means a show appealing to all audiences, particularly the young.

The **Jim Tate Band** plays their honky-tonk country music on July 1. With a broad repertoire and a ranging tenor, Tate brings to life Hank Williams (junior and senior), Roy Orbison, and his own material, to the likes of all.

The **Raisin Pickers** play their brand of bluegrass and swing music on July 3. Ann Arbor likes this style of music and these players do a good job of the hitting a responsive chord with local audiences. **Wally Duda and his Trumpet and Orchestra**, playing on July 7, also have a local appeal. Duda has been playing swing, polkas, two-steps, and contem-

porary ensemble music for over 50 years. He still has the energy and pizzazz to captivate the old and the young. Bring the kids.

The **Lollipop Guild**, a rock ensemble leaning toward the heavier side of things, will play on July 8. These performers have this genre down pat. Their music is more accessible to a larger audience than that of most rock music, so one shouldn't be timid. If you are, you'll miss some powerful music.

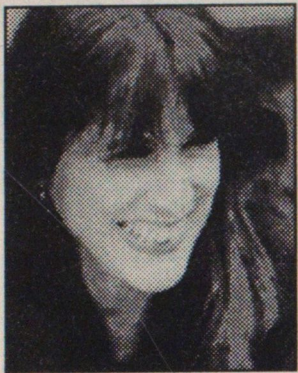
The TOP Festival ends with a reprise of **George Bedard and the Kingpins** (sans Tracy Lee). Even though there are several other groups worthy of closing the Festival (e.g. Steve Nardella or Mr. B), Bedard has the showmanship and material needed to present a great second go-around. This time watch drummer Rick Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. They are more than two-thirds of the show.

Don't forget—although these shows are free, there is a bucket for donations. Even for a couple of bucks these shows are an exceptional Ann Arbor value.

Send your Literary Events for the July/August issue of AGENDA by June 15 to: AGENDA, 220 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

1 Thursday

Book Discussion: Borders 7:30 pm, 612 E. Liberty. SAMUEL J. ELDERSVELD, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at U-M, will discuss his new book "Party Conflict and Community Development: Postwar Politics in Ann Arbor." In this work, Eldersveld examines the relationship between partisan politics and municipal government. 662-7407



Author **NANCILEE WYDRA** will be at **Borders Books & Music** (see 8 Thursday)

2 Friday

"First Fridays" Poetry Reading: 8:30 pm, 616 Wesley. Open mic readings with special guests JERRY DYER, PEGGY MOLLER, and DIANE PINKLEY. 665-9889

3 Saturday

Children's Storyhour: Little Professor 11 am-noon, 2513 Jackson Rd. Join storyteller Patty Meador for stories and activities to celebrate the beginning of summer. 662-4110

Children's Hour: Borders 11 am, 612 E. Liberty. Reading and book signing by MATT FAULKNER, adapter and illustrator of the classic Celtic story, "The Twelve Wild Geese." 668-7652

5 Monday

Writers Series: Guild House 8:30 pm, 802 Monroe. CARMEN BUGAN, the highly regarded poet and winner of several Hopwood Awards, reads her sensual, politically-charged poetry. JILL BATTSON, an animated performance-poet and producer of Virgin Music's new spoken word anthology, "Word Up," travels from Toronto to give a rare A2 reading. And the multi-talented SUZANNA MROZ reads from "Moon Road," a series of fiery narratives and monologues about adolescence and growing up at home. Ken Cormier, 481-9101

6 Tuesday

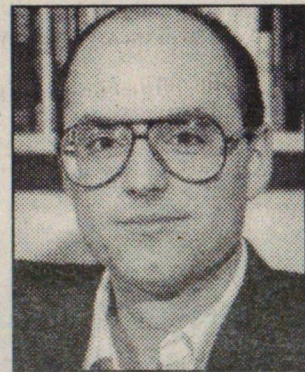
Reading: Borders 7:30 pm, 612 E. Liberty. SHERMAN ALEXIE, a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian from Washington State, writes about life on an Indian reservation. He will read from his first novel, "Reservation Blues," a bittersweet story of an all-Indian blues and rock and roll band. Alexie is also the author of a collection of short stories, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven," and a book of poetry, "First Indian on the Moon." 668-7652

Poetry Slam: The Heidelberg 8 pm, 215 N. Main. The Grand Slam semifinals begin tonight and continue in July. Fifteen of the finest slammers from the previous season's competition will go lip-to-lip to qualify for July's final. Tonight's featured poet is Shaman Drum's KEITH TAYLOR, author of "Life Science and Other Stories," \$3. 663-7758

8 Thursday

Reading and Discussion: Shaman Drum 7 pm, 315 S. State. STEPHANIE MILLS will read from her new book, "In the Service of the Wild: Restoring and Reinhabiting Damaged Land." Mills is a prominent environmental writer and speaker. 662-7407

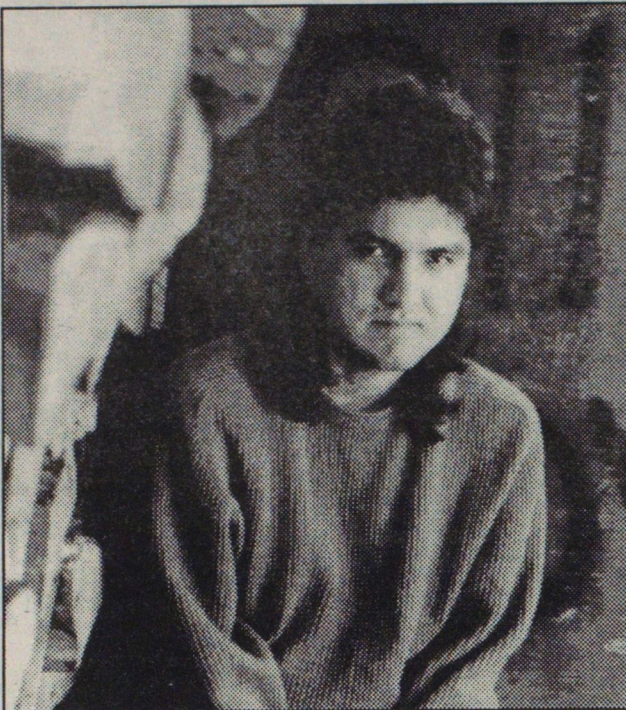
Discussion: Borders 7:30 pm, 612 E. Liberty. NANCILEE WYDRA, author of "Designing Your Happiness: You and Your Living Space," will discuss the ancient Chinese practice of feng shui. This is a blend of astrology, design and Eastern philosophy aimed at harmonizing the placement of human-made structures in nature. 668-7652



Author **Tom Andrews** will be at **Shaman Drum Bookshop** (see 9 Friday)

9 Friday

After Hours Poetry Reading: Shaman Drum 8 pm, 315 S. State. With TOM ANDREWS, recent NEA grant recipient and former Ann Arborite. His first book is "The Brother's Country" and his second is "The Hemo-



Author **SHERMAN ALEXIE** will read from his first novel, "Reservation Blues" at **Borders Books & Music** (see 6 Tuesday)

philiac's Motorcycle." Andrews is on leave from Purdue University to write a personal reminiscence of his life as a hemophiliac. 662-7407

10 Saturday

Author Reading and Signing: Little Professor 11 am-noon, 2513 Jackson Rd. What does your preschooler think about in bed after the lights are out? To find out, come meet CAZ KLIM and his grandmother JEAN A. WILSON. Wilson will read from her latest book, "Caz and his Cat." 662-4110

Children's Hour: Borders 11 am, 612 E. Liberty. The Borders Children's Hour staff will help kids review their letters and numbers with stories and songs. 668-7652

11 Sunday

"Kerry Tales: Sing a Song of Summer with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops 2 pm, Kerrytown courtyard, 410 N. Fourth Ave. TRUDY BULKLEY, storyteller, entertains as Mother Goose with rhymes, riddles and rollicking good fun. All ages welcome, children's imaginations required. 769-3115

SFOHA Meeting: Little Professor 3-4 pm, 2513 Jackson Rd. At this meeting of the Science Fiction Oral History Assoc., LLOYD BIGGLE will interview CHRIS MCGLOTHLIN, author of "Atarron." Nancy Tucker, 429-3475

Mystery Book Club: Little Professor 6:30-7:30 pm, 2513 Jackson Rd. Little

Professor's "Murder on the Second Sunday" Book Group will gather to discuss this month's titles. Group members receive 15% off group selections and new members are always welcome. 662-4110

12 Monday

Writers Series: Guild House 8:30 pm, 802 Monroe. Poetry and fiction readings from three Michigan writers. MARTA SANCHEZ's humorous stories and poems are usually flavored with a tinge of reality. AMY MONTGOMERY, a photographer from Orchard Lake, claims that she's doing this fiction reading on a dare! ROBERTA MEYER's work has been described as atmospheric and morose—this will be her last reading before moving to Ortonville (talk about morose!). Ken Cormier, 481-9101

13 Tuesday

Reading: Borders 7:30 pm, 612 E. Liberty. ANCHEE MIN will read from her first novel, "Katherine." This is the story of a young American woman who goes to China to teach English—which leads to a clash of centuries-old mystical traditions and modern American ways. Min is also author of the award-winning nonfiction work, "Red Azalea." 668-7652

Poetry Reading: P.J.'s Records 8 pm, 617-B Packard. In-store reading by JOHN SINCLAIR. Special appearance by this New Orleans-based poet with strong A2 ties! 663-3441

14 Wednesday

Reading and Book Signing: Borders 7 pm, 612 E. Liberty. ANNE PORTER will read from her collection of poems, "An Altogether Different Language." At 82 years old, this is her first published book of poems. 668-7652

16 Friday

Birthday Brunch with Munsch: Borders 11 am, 612 E. Liberty. ROBERT MUNSCH, Canada's best-selling children's author, will read stories and sign copies of his books. Following the birthday theme of his books "Moir's Birthday" and "Wait and See," Borders will have birthday snacks and party favors for children. 668-7652

Poetry Reading: Galerie Jacques 10 pm, 616 Wesley. Special appearance by JOHN SINCLAIR. 665-9889

17 Saturday

Children's Storyhour: Little Professor 11 am-noon, 2513 Jackson Rd. Bring Dad to listen to Patty Meador read stories especially chosen for Father's Day. 662-4110

Children's Hour: Borders 11 am, 612 E. Liberty. The Balloon Professor will twist balloons into animals, hats and flowers. 668-7652

Monthly Meeting: Rainbow Writers' Salon 4-6 pm, Dominick's, 812 Monroe. Featured reader: GLORIA PRITSCHET. 677-2914

18 Sunday

Book Discussion: Little Professor 5-6 pm, 2513 Jackson Rd. The choice for June's book discussion is Robert Heinlein's "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress." Chad Childers, 390-2369

19 Monday

Writers Series: Guild House 8:30 pm, 802 Monroe. Ypsilanti's DAMON NURNBERG performs hard-edged, acoustic guitar lines and dazzling vocals. Ken Cormier, 481-9101

23 Friday

Publication Celebration: Shaman Drum 4-6 pm, 315 S. State. With CLAUDE J. SUMMERS, editor of "The Gay and Lesbian Heritage." This book (a compilation of writings of over 150 scholars) provides valuable overviews of the gay and lesbian presence in various literatures and historical periods worldwide. 662-7407

24 Saturday

Children's Hour: Borders 11 am, 612 E. Liberty. Borders is gettin' the sillies. This will be an hour of giggles, chortles and guffaws. 668-7652

Poetry Reading by Ken Cormier 1 pm, Mich. Theater, 603 E. Liberty. This event will take place in the theater's Grand Foyer and will celebrate the release of Cormier's cassette tape, "God Damn Doghouse." Cormier is known for his energetic delivery, his dynamic mix of pre-recorded and acoustically generated noise, and his roller coaster of subject matter ranging from the taboos of sexuality to the frustrations of modern superheroes. \$2. 481-9101

25 Sunday

Poetry Reading: Del Rio Bar 1:30-4:30 pm, 122 W. Washington. Join the FEED THE POETS GROUP for an afternoon of poetry from the area's finest poets. There will also be one hour of open mike reading for those brave souls yet to achieve recognition. Interested poets should contact the Del Rio for scheduling arrangements or further information. 761-2530



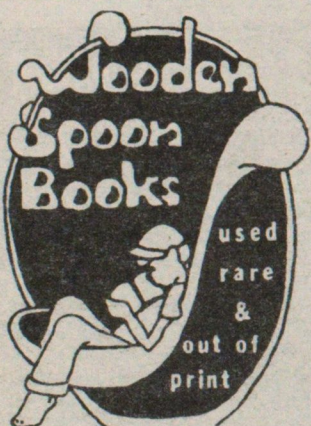
Author **ANCHEE MIN** will be at **Borders Books & Music** (see 13 Tuesday)

26 Monday

Writers Series: Guild House 8:30 pm, 802 Monroe. SAM HYDE reads short stories he describes as "urban tales of morbid wackiness." HEATHER SWEENEY reads startling, mind-piercing narratives with a blend of unique language and stunning visual images. MAJA WILSON, who appeared in "The Woman Next Door" in April, performs an original monologue. Ken Cormier, 481-9101

30 Friday

Reading: Borders 7:30 pm, 612 E. Liberty. CYNTHIA HEIMEL, author of "Get Your Tongue Out of My Mouth, I'm Kissing You Goodbye" will read from her new book, "If You Leave Me, Can I Come Too?" 668-7652



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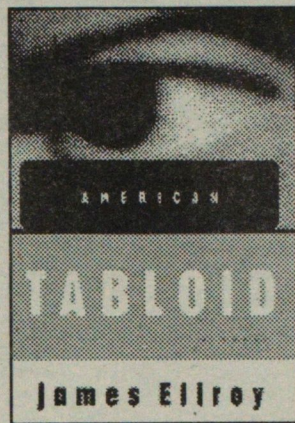
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CRIME FICTION

American Tabloid

By James Ellroy
Knopf, 576 pages, \$25

Reviewed by Jamie Agnew
Owner of Aunt Agatha's, a
mystery & true crime book store



As long as I can remember Baby Boomers have tyrannized the cultural landscape. Americans have been forced to endure a stale repetition of Boomer icons (Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Jim Morrison) and Boomer preoccupations (sex, drugs and rock and roll—all O.K. for them but not for you). Part of this cultural myopia is a certain ahistoricism—the events of their wonder years are conceived of as unique, pumped up by hypes like Oliver Stone into mythic significance. Who would have thought that Robert McNamara's tepid, belated misgivings about Vietnam would somehow become front page news? Part of this nonsense is the claim that the Kennedy assassination was some kind of watershed event in American history, a sort of "loss of innocence," on par with that suffered by Adam and Eve.

As a true student of L.A., that very American city, James Ellroy knows better. The greatest American novelists (Hawthorne, Melville, Poe) have all known, as Ellroy says, that "we popped our cherry on the boat over." How could there ever have been real innocence in a land founded by misfits and convicts, its greenbacks printed with the blood of Indians and slaves. Since that primal assassination, double dealing, illusion and murder have been business as usual here, and it's our groove as much as anything Chuck Berry ever laid down. Which brings me (finally) to Ellroy's wonderful new novel "American Tabloid."

Make no mistake about it, Ellroy is quite simply a great American writer, and this book finds him in the prime of his powers. In typical Ellroy fashion, it begins with several characters—Pete Bondurant, hard-guy killer; Kemper Boyd, infiltrator chameleon; and Ward Littell, bug-and-wire man—threads who are woven into an increasingly twisted pattern, wracked on the loom of history until they create a fictional fabric so strong that the reader can actually forget how it's all going to come unraveled. Along the way there are major players like Howard Hughes, who "always shot up by TV light"; Jimmy Hoffa, "heaving and voodoo-eyed stuporous"; J. Edgar Hoover; various Mafia bosses and toadies; RFK; and, of course, his equally doomed brother, "Bill Clinton minus pervasive media scrutiny and a few rolls of flab."

Like most great writers, Ellroy is also a great stylist, and here he perfects a spare, slang-peppered prose that zings and swings like the coolest lounge lizard that ever hung. He takes his own dark territory and obsessions and grafts them onto the body of history, taking a shot at the head of a national fixation and making it indelibly his own. Anyway, I hope you get the idea that I think this is a great book, much better than whatever sentimental and/or flatulent "work" they've presented with the Pulitzer lately. It's not a tidy, open-and-shut mystery, but a sprawling pop-top Pandora's box that, once open, will continue to haunt for some time.

SCIENCE FICTION

Towing Jehovah

By James Morrow
Harcourt Brace & Company
371 pages, \$23.95

Reviewed by Eric Jackson
AGENDA Associate Editor



"To earn a living, some men merely have to haul oil."

Such was the lot of Captain Anthony Van Horne, until the night that he left the supertanker's bridge for some shuteye, just before the first mate steered out of the way of Colombian drug smugglers sailing without running lights—and onto a reef. The jury acquitted Capt. Van Horne of the charges arising from the 11-million gallon oil spill, but the company fired and blacklisted him, and as the novel begins it appears that he will be spending the rest of his days in disgrace, his nights tortured by nightmares of accusatory oiled birds and turtles.

But then life gets really weird. A depressed and dying angel comes to him with the strangest mission. God, says the Angel Raphael, is dead: "Died and fell into the sea." Anthony Van Horne is called to assume the helm of a tanker once more, this time to tow the two-mile-long corpse to the Arctic for a proper burial.

The journey is eventful. Dogged by marine predators, uncharted islands, a mutinous crew, a well-heeled Central Park atheist cult, a maniacal World War II re-enactment club and the Irish Republican Coast Guard, Van Horne sees nautical terrors that nobody ever should. And that's not even counting the Vatican intrigues and the strange compulsions that pursue the captain every nautical mile of the way.

Author James Morrow is one for dark satires. My first experience with him came at the recommendation of an old friend with an appreciation for such things. A federal prisoner doing 45 years, my friend and pen pal Linda Evans gave me a copy of Morrow's "This Is the Way the World Ends" a few years back. As somebody who enjoyed such end-of-the-world works as Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.'s "Cat's Cradle" and Harlan Ellison's "Deathbird," I liked Morrow's earlier work. But despite first glance appearances, "Towing Jehovah" is a far more optimistic work. It's a tale of redemption, an exploration of that common denominator of human decency which unites the truest of believers in every faith—whether religious or anti-religious. "Towing Jehovah" is even a whacked-out love story too.

But there are believers in every denomination for whom love is just a slogan. Such people will dislike this book. Some will want to ban it. If you possessed such a book in Panama 400 years ago, Spanish Inquisition agents would have questions for you—probably in a newly-built dungeon at Fort San Lorenzo. Don't get caught walking around present-day Tehran carrying a copy of "Towing Jehovah." And if Frank Zappa's Brain Police exist, watch out for them, too.

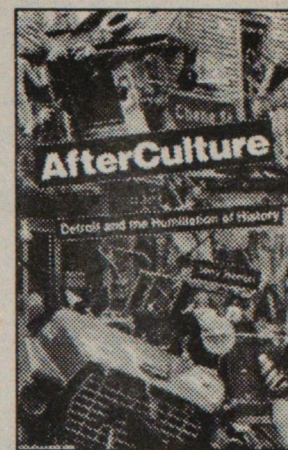
But if a wild sailor's yarn about a voyage through uncharted religious and philosophical waters might appeal to you, "Towing Jehovah" is a good way to spend your time and money.

HISTORY

AfterCulture: Detroit and the Humiliation of History

By Jerry Herron
Wayne State Univ. Press
209 pages, \$14.95

Reviewed by Lou Hillman
Staff member at Little Professor
Book Center



Jerry Herron's history of Detroit was first published in late 1993. The paperback version available now is every bit as rich—in terms of ideas—as its more expensive sibling.

Herron, an English professor at Wayne State University, writes a different type of history than we are used to. He admits being unable to tell the "whole" story, though by virtue of that, comes as close to a configuration of that whole as anyone can. Herron writes: "...I'd like to think of my project as a book of visits, some of which are to theoretical or technical sites, but the majority of which are visits to the city. I have concluded, finally, that it is not possible to write about 'the city' as if that were a fixed and uniform subject. It's more accurate to think of my subject as a figure comprised of overlapping, often contradictory 'moments.'"

But rather than following the media trend—the total coverage of everything that goes wrong in Detroit—Herron turns his focus on the culture which abandoned this "first postmodern city." What has happened to its promises of upward mobility? What has become of its institutions, museums, theaters and shopping? And finally, what has happened to public space in general in the wake of its "absence?"

In short, they've been "seen through." Herron's problem is "...to understand that the seeing through things and the subsequent covering of what is seen through, are not ends, but openings to knowledge. Unquestionably, the great seeing through has made it possible for people to get inside things: institutions, objects, the computer, their own bodies. And once there, they make new demands based on new levels of information, some of them obviously better than others. The problem is that the further inside we get, the further we get away from each other."

Hence, the future of Herron's Detroit remains open to negotiation, even amidst its "theme-park" historicity and "yuppification." Somewhere, in between the American Dream of "more-equals-better" and the violence of urban blight, lies the theoretical space of a livable city. Who knows? It might be there already.

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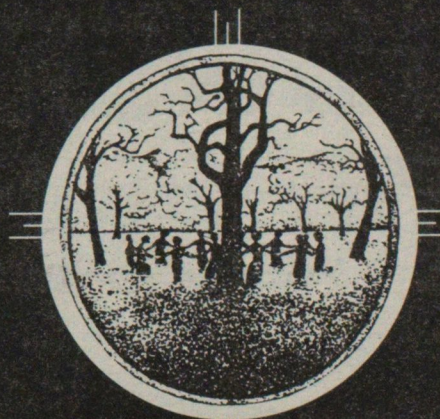
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SCREEN SCENE

By John Carlos Cantú

CRIMSON TIDE

[1995. Directed by Tony Scott. Cast: Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Hollywood Films. 113 mins.]



Progressivism may be taking its hits on Capitol Hill, but it's holding its own at the box office. This year's first blockbuster, *Crimson Tide*, is an enthusiastic (if also muddled) endorsement of liberal values against mindless reaction. That the film resolves itself in a humane fashion is indicative of liberalism's deep-seated belief (as reflected by Hollywood) that reason will ultimately triumph over self-interest.

Civil war has erupted in Russia just as Lieutenant Commander Ron Hunter (Denzel Washington) is accepted as second-in-command of the nuclear strike submarine U.S.S. Alabama. The Navy is then put on alert when Vladivostok becomes the battleground where Russia's nuclear warheads are being contested between their elected government and fascist insurgents. As the film gets underway, the world might be on the verge of World War III by default.

While patrolling in the Pacific, the Alabama receives a garbled transmission suggesting a possible American preemptive nuclear strike to offset a threatened Russian attack. Captain Frank Ramsey (Gene Hackman) enthusiastically orders his men to prepare to launch the sub's missiles despite the fact that he has no confirmation for the directive. When his new subordinate, Hunter, refuses to go along without checking for the order's accuracy, an onboard power play emerges between the two officers and the race is on to control the Alabama's red button.

Granted the story's a bit overwrought—a sort of soggy nuclear on the Bounty. But both Washington and Hackman keep their ends of the bargain up through clenched teeth and stentorian dialogue. Their talent holds up the credulity of a workmanlike draft that reportedly ran through no less than four screenwriters. *Crimson Tide* keeps us in moderate suspense despite its not being intrinsically suspenseful.

Hackman gets the character melt-down while Washington takes the high road. His Captain Ramsey is irascible without being ham-fisted. A supposed "by-the-books" commander, Ramsey intimidates his subordinates into doing his bidding, but his eyes consistently betray that he's well over his head in this predicament. As such, when the Harvard-educated Hunter corrects him on what von Clausewitz meant as opposed to what he is attributed to have said about war being the continuance of diplomacy by other means, Ramsey doesn't immediately go ballistic. He merely waits for the weight of command to assert itself when the Russians provide him with the opportunity to flex his muscles.

The presumption of the screenplay—and Washington's calmly measured performance—fully sustains the belief that reason rather than authoritarian reaction provides the best strategy for wrestling with moral and political dilemmas. The fact that Hunter has the discipline to follow orders as demanded by naval command only makes the film's sense of justice seem that much more plausible. Still, he's probably the first-ever American action-film leading man to take a straight slug to the jaw twice without responding violently.

This restraint is, of course, all for the good. But by also adopting such a passive stance, the film indicates that broadmindedness equals tolerance and tolerance may be next to indecisiveness. Or at the least, tolerance may be an indecisive form of cowardice. Like last year's *Forrest Gump*, which made a virtue of bashing the character of every social activist in its story, *Crimson Tide* touches upon its serious issues without seeking to seriously examine their consequences. For the question the film seems to be ultimately posing is whether or not liberalism has lost its virility.

Rather than face the consequence of such a controversial political position, the film closes the issue by making the confrontation between Hunter and Ramsey a matter of military discipline. Saving the world by a melodramatic

hair's breadth, *Crimson Tide* brushes aside the weightier issues of whether or not reason and compassion should triumph over intolerance and anger. The film merely presumes its positions reflexively and implicitly falls on the side of liberalism by default. Unlike the intensely personal gut-checking taking place in American politics today, mainstream Hollywood cannot yet bite off the notion that it is fair game to undermine the higher aspirations of social and political conduct when the world's fate hinges on the balance.

On the plus side of the ledger, *Crimson Tide* never descends to inchoate polemicizing. Like most Hollywood products, it's been sheared of any controversial ideological elements. But rather than debate the merits of fascism (in either its social or interpersonal guises), the film weakly caps the conflict between Hunter and Ramsey by resorting to a thinly veiled, sophomoric racism. Ironically, this backhanded compliment indicates America's preoccupation with melanin is abating marginally. Or, at the least, racism is abating when the weightier issue of national patriotism and survival of the species is banded about.

Crimson Tide's mingling of conservative and liberal inclinations serve a flimsy pretext for the issues brought up in the screenplay. Seeking to play one political side off the other, the script lists to and fro like the submarine where the action is taking place. Just as by promoting itself as a high-tech *Caine Mutiny*, *Crimson Tide* casts a lukewarm light on the contrast between loyalty and the need for a secure military command structure as opposed to the opposite issues of personal integrity and the psychopathology behind a willingness to destroy civilization for the sake of an encoded piece of paper.

Director Tony Scott hasn't the sufficient resources (much less a philosophically developed moral conscience) to examine the ethical implications of his screenplay. In his hands, the technologies and vocabularies of nuclear seamanship are sufficient unto themselves. His penchant for an affected radar palette gives the movie a heightened visual touch, but with no lessons to impart his viewers, his cinematography has an abstracted eerie glow that invites observation rather than involvement. *Crimson Tide* preaches liberal constraint in an almost absent-minded manner. Such a lack of commitment is only possible when the filmmaker behind the camera concentrates solely on atmosphere rather than the ideas behind his artistic devices. Ultimately, Scott is only interested in big toys that go boom in the night and his lack of sociality—much less a simpler sense of humanism—makes the film negligible.

Scott aspires to be as relevant as today's headlines, but he also carries the whiff of the old world order's Cold War paranoia. The film is therefore anachronistic in the sense that politicians of both the left- and right-stripe once believed bravado and bluster would solve anything in international affairs. Indeed, the film is anachronistic except for one significant mitigating factor. While Scott idles himself with his reified technology, Denzel Washington is elevating the film's script in somewhat the same manner that Henry Fonda did 20th Century Fox's socially oriented melodramas of the 1930s.

It's almost a paradox that the actor who masterfully portrayed the uncompromising Malcolm X only a few years back has done an ideological about-face. When push comes to shove—and with the world's future scripted on a piece of paper—Denzel Washington's Ron Hunter does the right thing by not adopting whatever means necessary. This liberal-leaning twist of fate is what becomes the difference between the apocalyptic worldviews of *Crimson Tide* and *Dr. Strangelove*.

RATING KEY

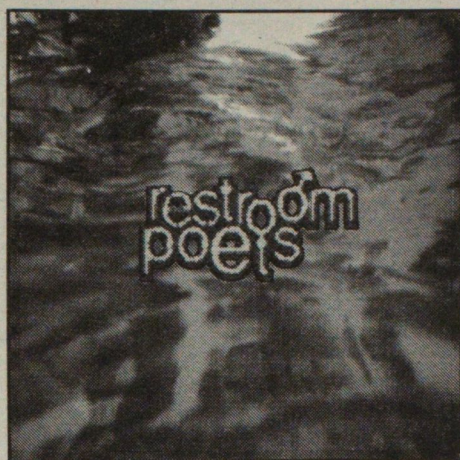
- ★ Acting
- ✿ Cinematography
- ☛ Direction
- ✂ Editing
- 📖 Narrative
- 🔊 Sound
- ⊠ Special Effects

When a symbol appears following a title, it implies that the corresponding category is a strength of the movie.

LOCAL MUSIC



New Release: "Sounds of Ann Arbor"
(Skillet Records)



New Release: "Restroom Poets"
(Harmonie Park Productions)

"The View from Nowhere"

By Alan Goldsmith

The brand new Restroom Poets self-titled CD and the "Skillet Records Presents: Sounds of Ann Arbor" compilation of 12 tunes from six local pop outfits, are both perfect examples of how some local rock and roll bands will be part of the soon-to-be massive wave of national attention and how others will be doomed to the trash heap of musical history. Great rock and roll, like all great art, takes soul, smarts and guts. And I don't mean Motown, a Ph.D., or stupidity masking as bravery either (though these things work quite well at times). Nothing ever happens by playing it safe, and these two new releases are textbook examples of both ends of the scale.

The folks at Skillet Records do deserve credit for putting "Sounds of Ann Arbor" together. A collection of music from so many different groups, with all the artistic ideas, egos and various financial and technical roadblocks involved, is a major feat in itself. For that, this locally run label should be praised highly. But the six-band CD (with Whirling Road, Kiss Me Screaming, Lucky Haskins, the impatient, The Melba and The Lollipop Guild) plays it SO safe; it's like drinking milk or something. The truth is painful sometimes, and while there is some highly wonderful music here, "Sounds of Ann Arbor" fails as a musical postcard from the town that will be the next: Seattle, Athens, London, New York, LA (pick one).

The good things first. The lead-off cut—"Alright" by Whirling Road—is a classic. With

its grainy vocals, country overtones, and catchy chorus, not to mention really painful lyrics that beg for redemption, you have no other choice than to sing along after hearing it once. This tune is made for the radio and the only flaw I can see is that it clocks in at over five minutes. Otherwise, it's a perfect tune and should be played on the radio 30 times a day.

Kiss Me Screaming weighs in with tracks from their Schoolkids' collection. "Mutually Assured Destruction" and "Flush" are two of the many sides of the best band in the city: The first is your basic crunchy Rolling Stone riff on a slide into an emotional and relationship gutter and the latter is more overdubbed, low-key introspective pop. Unfortunately, the mastering here isn't as hot and sharp as the band's own CD. But the two tracks are major-label bait and may wake up some of the people who are still unaware of the group's amazing genius.

One small step behind these three songs comes The Lollipop Guild. Fronted by the saintly vocals and lyrics of Kristin von Bernthal, the band is careful not to fall into the folkish-female-poet-joins-a-rock-band trap. It IS folkish, it IS feminine, it IS POETRY, and it sure is rock and roll. But it's also unique, and real, heartbreaking, and soaring, and sounds like a long-lost private musical diary no one was meant to hear. Both LG cuts are world class, but "Wearing Thin" is the best of the two. The Lou Reed and the Velvets "Live at Max's" CD and the second Cowboy Junkies record are best played at 3 am, when the world is asleep

and it's just you and your thoughts. The Lollipop Guild are just as powerful and make me feel the same way—sad, but somehow uplifted.

You should buy "Skillet Records Presents: Sounds of Ann Arbor" for the above five cuts alone. The three bands are writing about what's in the soul, screaming to get out, and it just so happens this turns out to be great music. Kiss Me Screaming, The Lollipop Guild and Whirling Road recorded these songs because THEY HAD TO. And this direct connection to what is real makes for memorable, touching rock and roll. For ten bucks it's a steal.

But—everything else here isn't as good or as important. Lucky Haskins are young, and teen idols at Community High and all, and I'm such they sure can rock a dance floor. But their originals (from their upcoming "Hop That Train" LP), despite their enthusiasm, are lame and sound so far removed from the originals of Gene Vincent and Cliff Gallup that the boys need to know there's more to great music than reading fashion magazines and watching Stray Cat videos. What's that expression... "safe as milk?"

Other cuts, from the impatient, the now departed The Melba, and even the second Whirling Road, are timid, second-level recordings with little to say that's from the heart. Maybe next to the other tracks they never had a chance. Each band PLAYS just fine, and the lyrics are ok. I've played this CD maybe two dozen times over the last few weeks and if I heard "Under Foot" on the radio, I wouldn't remember it ten seconds later. Even "Stars" by the impatient sounds like it was a throw-away song written in the studio.

"Skillet Records Presents: Sounds of Ann Arbor" underscores the fact that this town desperately needs someone to get together a compilation CD to show just how wonderful the local music scene really is. Unfortunately, even with the high points, this isn't it.

Which brings us to the Restroom Poets. I confess, I've only seen this band once, and that was at Cava Java, so when their debut CD hit my stereo I wasn't sure what to expect. It's so easy to get run over by a train when you're not paying attention.

"Restroom Poets," out on the local Harmonie Park Productions label, is—what's the word—AMAZING. I could spend days writing about the sheer talent and genius, the poetry and the killing-guitar licks, the band's perfect talent for going from a whisper to a scream sonically and emotionally.

This is one killer rock unit, with the twin guitar team of Jason Magee and Brad Skinner blasting out solos like it's the end of time. The rhythm section of Ben Lorenz and Brian Poore is solid as hell too. But...that's not it.

One minute singer Jason Magee rips his vocal chords to shreds and the next it's almost a sigh. Tim Buckley's (Jeff's father) soaring scat rock and roll turns into a Bruce Springsteen smoky barroom shout at times, and then back

to a powerful, straight-ahead, total original wail. Magee is one smart singer and blends everything he knows into his own thing. One fine rockin' voice. And the lyrics...it isn't easy to write SMART hard rock and roll lyrics without sounding like a smart-ass English major or a total idiot in way over their head, but Restroom Poets pull it off, perfectly. Songs like "Death In Canada" and "Decadence" could stand alone in print and still lose none of their magic or power. There's an overall sadness, an aching that hovers over all the tunes and it's obvious that this is REAL.

The recording itself is nice, too. Lots of subtle overdubs, a ringing drum lick, or a ringing guitar add a fullness and complexity to the actual sound without getting in the way. The entire package—recording, songs, performance—fits together sooooo well that it's hard to imagine this being a debut.

How does this stand in contrast to the Skillet Recording? The Restroom Poets have important stuff to tell us, they are smart enough to take the time to do it right, and they know in order to create the future, you need to understand the past. Any major label could re-release Restroom Poets exactly as is and it would stand on equal footing with anything out there by Sponge, Pearl Jam, or any hip, poetic guitar outfit. The Poets go out on the edge, succeed and in the process have made an important recording.

Additional note to WIQB-FM: "Sensible Woman" is the first Restroom Poets track you can add to your playlist. It rocks like hell!

La la la. Don't forget to actually BUY these two recordings now, ok? And, do remember to send more stuff to me at: The View From Nowhere, AGENDA, 220 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Or hell, it is 1995, so if you like you can e-mail your comments to me at: AAnnArbor@aol.com.

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Deep Space Six

SATURDAY JUNE 17
Scott Morgan's Key to the Highway

THURSDAY JUNE 22
Lucky Haskins 8PM • ALL-AGES SHOW

FRIDAY JUNE 23
Nick Strange & the Bare Naked Octavia

SATURDAY JUNE 24
Fritz's Surprise Birthday Bash

THURSDAY JUNE 29
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AGENDA

arts agenda

NEW ARTS VENUES

Like Your Own Living Room

by Orin Buck

ART CULTURE attracts many who are uncomfortable with the normal boundaries—those who wish to explore beyond or perhaps just bend the normal definitions. Normal places of business are unfriendly to the personal creative spirit of the arts, but people seeking refuge from the impersonality of mass culture can now find innovative businesses which try to make you feel like you are at home in your own living room, with the arts providing a natural focus.

Ann Arbor's Cafes are growing as places for people to connect in a comfortable atmosphere where you can just hang out and not feel obligated to leave when you are done buying things. **Not Another Cafe (NAC)**, which opened April 26 in the South University space left vacant by the old Community News Center, is going even further in this direction. In a flyer they say "If the old-fashioned town square could be reinvented (yes, in some ways, it can't) we'd like to try. We're interested in the creation of a place where anyone can feel like this place in some way belongs to them....If you're not as comfortable here as you can be at home, please help us make it that way for you."

If NAC is like a home, it is an artist's home, open til 4 am every night. Besides the diverse menu, there is a curtained stage area with lights, sound, a video

projector and enough space for live bands and theater. The decor is rich victorian post-modern, with lots of deep color, varied textures, eclectic and non-uniform lighting and furnishings (including several couches), and mirrors and spray-painted graffiti-style objects mixed with 19th century prints in gilt frames. Games, books and magazines are free for the using, and there is an "aquarium" — a glass-walled room for smokers with its own door to the outside. Events (all free) focus on the arts, with DJs Thursdays and Open Mic Fridays, and movies, bands and theater scheduled for times like 11-4 am. Unlike the other venues in this article, NAC is too big to totally escape the isolating energy of the crowd, but we'll see how it develops.

Down the street from NAC is another new lower-level store, **Underworld**, which specializes in new & used science fiction, gaming, comics, cards and horror. Visitors can sit and read, play games, or just hang out, all for no charge. Manager John Schippers says "I want to create a community around the store," and the gamers are making themselves at home there especially in the evening.

Underworld represents genuine cutting edge art not accepted by the USA art establishment. Comics (or "graphic novels") are a serious art form recognized as such in Europe since the 60s. Even more recently, role playing games (RPGs) have

been maturing as a collaborative art form like film and improvisational theater. The players are like actors writing their own story under the direction of the Game Master (GM), who is the artistic author creating the fictional reality of the game in the same sense that the Director is the artist or "auteur" of film. There is plenty of bad art in the gaming world, but a well-run game can be more intense and more personal than a good movie or novel. Upcoming free seminars include Eric Todd, a "world-class GM," who on Sunday June 4, noon-6 pm, teaches "Amber," the innovative game that has done away with dice as a means of resolving events and relies more on real-world conflict resolution and the aesthetic sense of the participants. An "Advanced Dungeons and Dragons" seminar will be given Sunday June 25, 1 pm, and "Learning to Play 'Rage,'" (the werewolf vs. werewolf card game) will be taught by Chris Gadulka, Sunday June 11, 1 pm.

The popular card game "Magic" available at Underworld has a new slant on art—painters can come up with their own ideas for cards, which are then published as collectible trading cards so that each player can assemble their own custom deck. The paintings cover a wide range from fantasy to sci-fi to horror, and artists have a new popular market to pursue at their own initiative.

I have been emphasize-

ing opening receptions in the Visual Arts Calendar (below) because they connect people in the art community. Openings are commercial promotional events, but they are also social events where friends and potential customers mingle, and the goods on display take second stage to the people enjoying free food and drink offered in the spirit of hospitality. This is even more so at Galerie Jacques and Clare Spitzer Works of Art, where the gallery is in the owner's private home.

Besides openings, **Galerie Jacques** has hosted a wider arts community in their "First Fridays" poetry readings. At the recent "Homage to Artaud" 40 or 50 people in the open second floor gallery space were treated to lectures, poetry and a puppet show in tribute to the life of Antonin Artaud, French poet and actor who first contributed brilliantly to modern art with his concept of the "Theatre of Cruelty" and then was victimized by modern psychiatry's enforcers of conformity with over 50 electroshock sessions. French artist Sanfourche actually knew Artaud, and his paintings relating to Artaud were on exhibit. Among the speakers were poet and Metro Times editor Thom Jurek, DJ and writer Arwulf Arwulf, and Maurice Greenia, a Detroit writer and artist who illustrated the Theatre of Cruelty with a hilarious puppet show where all characters, good and bad, were eventually abducted from the stage by a "giant" lobster.

For nearly two years **The Gathering** and the music jams at **Griff's Jams** has been creating a community in the spirit of artistic gatherings of the past like the Keats-Byron-Shelly group in the 19th century. For **The Gathering** small groups of self-invited people discuss life and art and play music from 8 pm into the night every 2nd and 4th Thursday in the old AM radio studio on the third floor above Selo-Shevel on the corner of Liberty and Main. Jams are generally on the remaining Thursdays. You are invited to

bring your own food and drink to a very relaxed, informal atmosphere that is "not structured by restaurant circumstances." The suggested donation of \$2.50 reflects the fact that non-profits still need to pay the rent, and **The Gathering** is funded by participants, not taxes.

The Green Room in Ypsilanti is another friendly space featuring a very homey second-hand Populux/Art Deco atmosphere. The Not Another Cafe people came in to the Green Room regularly for a month, checking out the ambience before they created their own place. Catering to the all-ages crowd with non-alcoholic drinks and low cover charges for innovative rock & roll, the Green Room also has visual art and wild second-hand clothes for sale. People there don't have little bubbles of privacy that you don't dare break. The Green Room has a series of events with free coffee (while it lasts) where they don't charge admission: in June they are featuring "The Palm Reading" open mic poetry hosted by John Unger every other Tuesday, June 6 & 20; "Acoustic Open Mic" hosted by Jo on the other Tuesdays, June 13 & 27; every Wednesday "Ambient Music Night" hosted by "Tropica"; and every Thursday "16mm Cartoon Animation" from the collection of Steve Stanchill. The Green Room would love to get a video projector, especially for Ambient Night, since many ambient artists also combine video with their music.

All of these venues want you feel like family instead of like an also-ran in the rat race, and art is a natural ally in this quest. **Not Another Cafe**, 1301 S. University. Contact Eiad or Garrett for bookings, 665-6611
Underworld, 1202 S. University, 998-0547
Galerie Jacques, 414 Wesley, 665-9889
Griff's Jams, 106 E. Liberty, 761-MUSIC
The Gathering, Tim Mantyla, 665-7620
The Green Room, 206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, 482-8830

CALENDAR

JUNE 1995

Visual Arts

STILL SHOWING

"In Focus: Kai Ch'I" U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. 7 scroll paintings by 19th c. Chinese painter thru June 4. 764-0395

"Eric Fischl: Solar Intaglio Prints" Alexa Lee Gallery, 201 Nickels Arcade. New etchings thru June 3. 663-8800

"Featured Artists Show" Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Ann C. Cooper, Janet Gallup, Ann Rubin, Ellen Wilt show thru June 8. 973-3300

"Vis/ability: Views from the Interior" Slusser Gallery, Art & Arch. Bldg., N. Campus, 200 Bonisteel Blvd. An interdisciplinary exhibit on disability and the arts thru June 15. 764-0347

Julie Bedore White Matrix Gallery, 212 Miller Ave. New drawings and paintings thru June 18. 663-7775

MADE (Michigan Artists Design for the Home) 4410 Lake Forest Dr. A2 Art Assoc. with builder Larry Salliotte blend art & architecture w/work by Michigan artists & crafters. \$35 to benefit A2 Art Assoc. Community Art Programs, reservations required. Home tour \$5 thru June 25. 994-8004

1 THURSDAY

Bill Kelly North Campus Commons Gallery Wall. Watercolor and mixed media thru June 30. 764-7544

2 FRIDAY

"Gallery Artists" Opening 7:30 pm, Galerie Jacques, 414 Wesley. Thru June. 665-9889

"The Best of the Guild" Special evening hours 6-8 pm, Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans, 118 N. 4th Ave. Top artists in 20 different media from 1994-95 A2 Summer Art Fair Jury, including the actual slides reviewed by jury. 662-3382

3 SATURDAY

"Docents' Choice: Celebrating 20 Years of Museum Teaching" U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. Volunteer group's selection from the permanent collection thru October 1. 764-0395

4 SUNDAY

"The Voyage of Marco Polo" 3-6 pm Preview Party, Clare Spitzer Works of Art, 2007 Pauline Ct. Recent works by ex-Yugoslavian Lilya Pavlovic-Dear thru July 25. 662-8914

9 FRIDAY

"Land" Opening 5-8 pm, Alexa Lee Gallery, 201 Nickels Arcade. Group show pushing definition of landscape includes Christopher Campbell, Larry Cressman, Tyree Guyton, Susan Goethel Cambell, David Lubbers, Stephen Magsig, Allie McGhee, Nancy Mitchnick, Jennifer Reeves, Scott Stephanoff, Robert Wilbert & Carole Zak thru July 22. Also, "Small Talk," group exhibition by gallery artists in the Project Room. 663-8800

10 SATURDAY

"Outlaw Crawl" 4-10 pm, Michigan Gallery,

2661 Michigan Ave., Detroit. Bus tour of at least 8 Detroit stops including several well established and experimental galleries. Limited space, \$15 per person. 313-961-7867

17 SATURDAY

"The Allure of the Nude" U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. Works on paper from the Museum's collection thru August 20. 764-0395

18 SUNDAY

Wayne Meiggs Matrix Gallery, 212 Miller Ave. Recent paintings thru July 15. 663-7775

19 MONDAY

A2 Summer Festival Installation Noon-2 pm, Power Center, 121 Fletcher. Installation artist Larry Cressman and Miami composer Gustavo Matamoros available to discuss their work while they collaborate in a multimedia work. Exhibit in Power Center lobby during Summer Festival thru July 9. 747-2278

20 TUESDAY

A2 Summer Festival Installation Youth Arts Forum 1-3 pm, Power Center, 121 Fletcher. Installation artist Larry Cressman and Miami composer Gustavo Matamoros available to discuss their collaboration with Junior High, High School & College Art Students. Exhibit in Power Center lobby during Summer Festival thru July 9. 747-2278

23 FRIDAY

"Grapes & Glass" An Artistic Unveiling and Fund Raising Reception, 5:30-7:30 pm Power Center, 121 Fletcher. Collaboration by Larry

Cressman & Gustavo Matamoros unveiled (see June 19 & 20). \$40 & \$60 tickets include wines, light buffet & desserts. 747-2278

Opportunities

St. Andrews Univ. Watercolor Workshop, Scotland 10-day workshop June 24-July 2 led by Prof. Mignonette Cheng. 764-0397

"Water" Send slides or make appointment before June 15 for July show. Send up to 20 slides & SASE to: Michigan Gallery, 2661 Michigan Ave., Detroit MI 48216. 313-961-7867

"Ann Arbor Artisan's Market" 11 am-4 pm Sundays, May-Dec. You can join 50 Michigan artists and sell your art & craft work directly to the public in Farmer's Market at Kerrytown. Marilyn Mattingly 453-2606

Arts Foundation of Mich. Slide Bank Up to 3 slides and résumé will be kept on file by AFM for corporations, galleries & others searching for art to buy or display. Arts Foundation of Michigan, 645 Griswold, Ste. 2164, Detroit MI 48226. Kimberly Adams or Mark Packer 313-964-2244

America's New Contract With the Arts July 28-31 National Coalition of United Arts Funds 1995 Annual Conference in Rye Brook, NY. Learn how united arts funds raised over \$82 million for the arts last year. United arts funds are the fastest-growing community arts funding method in the nation. American Council for the Arts, Oscar Marin, 212-223-2787 x.231

"Michigan Masters of Clay" Two day symposium Aug. 4-5 in Frankfort & Crystal Lake with John Glick, Robert Piepenburg, & Alan Vignand. \$95. Michigan Masters of Clay, C/O P.O. Box 1732, Frankfort MI 49635. Jackie Murray 810-348-2557

Publisher Seeks U-M Scribes. Submit fiction, memoirs, essays, humor and poetry for an anthology of U-M experiences. B/W photos & art also accepted. Any era, anything goes. Materials + SASE to: Tamarack Publishing Co., P.O. Box 7, Rhinelander WI 54501.

Ann Arbor Playwrights group meets biweekly 2 pm Sundays in a structured workshop environment for the development of new plays. Playwrights, screenwriters, directors, actors & interested others are welcome to join. Contact: John Dodt, 204 N. 7th, Ann Arbor MI 48103. 995-2047

"Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Artist Fellowships" deadline May 15. Crafts, photography & sculpture. Applications: AMW, 528 Hennepin Ave., #310, Minneapolis MN 55403-1899. Arts Midwest Funding Associates Sandra LeBlanc-Boland or Scott Staupé 612-341-0755

Art & Humanities Supporters can respond to the current threat to national funding by using two national phone campaigns to send messages to their elected officials in Washington. Live operators will provide details (incl. cost): 1-900-370-9000 (Emergency Committee to Save Culture & the Arts); 1-800-651-1575 (Cultural Advocacy Group). Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan 313-961-1776

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Bird of Paradise Orchestra: Bird of Paradise 9 pm, 207 S. Ashley. 14-piece band, \$3. 662-8310

6 Tuesday

Tenant Talk: A2 Tenants Union 6 pm, WCBN 88.3 FM. 763-3500

Teen Les/Bi/Gay Support Group 6:30 pm, call for location. 662-2222

"Dinosaurs: Extinct Myths & Radical New Theories": EMU Continuing Education 6:30-8:30 pm, 32 E. Cross St., Ypsi. With Geology Prof. Dave Thomas, \$8/\$12 for two. 487-6815

Frontrunners, Walkers: LGBPO 6:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Meeting: Rainbow Oasis Center 7 pm, Common Language. Washtenaw County's gay, lesbian & bisexual community center. For info.: P.O. Box 492, Saline, MI 48176

"Haiti Update": Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Cable Channel 9. Talk by local members of a U.N. delegation on human rights. 769-7422

"Burn": Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm, 103 W. Mich. Ave., Ypsi. Marlon Brando film about revolution on an 18th-century Caribbean island. 483-3548

Meeting: Living with HIV 7:30-9 pm, call for location. HARC, 572-9355

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 8-9:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

Cary Kocher/Paul Keller Quartet: Bird of Paradise 9 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$3. 662-8310

Steve Somers Band: T.C.'s Speakeasy 10 pm, 207 W. Mich., Ypsi., (fee). 483-4470

7 Wednesday

"Achieving Effective Decisions in Board Meetings": NEW Center 4:30-6:30 pm, 1100 N. Main. Workshop for members of Boards of Directors, \$25. 998-0163

Meeting: WomanCircle 5-6:30 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. Spirituality celebration for women. 662-5189

"Closets R 4 Clothes": WCBN 88.3 FM 6 pm. News and more for the Les/Bi/Gay communities. 763-3500

Services for Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals 6 pm (see 4 Sun)

Men's Support Group: LGBPO 7:30 pm, 3116 Mich. Union. Open to all men. 763-4186

Shamanic Journeys: The Seeker 7:30 pm, 1522 Hill (behind 1520). Journey to other worlds via the shaman's drum. 665-3522

Tim Brockett Quartet: Bird of Paradise 9 pm, 207 S. Ashley. Jazz, blues, and R&B, \$3. 662-8310

Steve Somers Band: Barnstormer 10 pm, 9411 E. M-36. Blues, R&B, (fee). 487-1977

8 Thursday

Racial & Economic Justice Task Force Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice noon, 730 Tappan. 663-1870

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 5:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Frontrunners, Walkers: LGBPO 6:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

"Before Stonewall": LGBPO Pride Films 7 pm, 3116 Mich. Union. 763-4186

Support Group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Adoptees or Birth Parents: Catholic Social Services 7:30-9:30 pm, 117 N. Division, \$10. Marianne Bach, 662-4534

"Fire Your Boss": Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Oz's Anything Goes Jam: Oz's Music Environment 8 pm, 1920 Packard. Jam session for musicians and artists of all genres. Smoke-free, \$1 (musicians free). 662-3683

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Two couples accidentally rent the same cabin—which leads to a wild weekend, \$10-\$20. 475-7902

Len Wallace: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main. Singer armed with truth, justice & an accordion, \$8.75/\$7.75 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee 8 pm (see 1 Thu)

Van Gunter: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 pm, 314 E. Liberty. HBO & Comedy Central veteran, \$10. 996-9080

II-V-I Orchestra: Soup Kitchen Saloon 8:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Ron Brooks Trio Featuring Eddie Russ 9 pm (see 1 Thu)

9 Friday

Hal Davis: Leonardo's 4-6 pm, N. Campus Commons. Dexter-based jazz band. 764-7544

Marc Falconberry Blues Band: Tower Records 5-6 pm, 1214 S. University. 741-9600

Symphony Swing Golf Outing: A2 Symphony Orchestra 5 pm, Stonebridge Golf Course. AASO fundraiser—9-hole mixed scramble, with buffet dinner, \$70 (\$40 buffet only). Reservations, 994-4801

Steve Springer's Caribbean Casino: The Tap Room 5-7 pm (see 2 Fri)

Trumpet Technique: Oz's Music 6 pm, 209 S. State. Workshop with local jazz trumpet player Anna Calahan. 662-8283

"Haiti Update": Peace InSight 6:05 pm (see 6 Tue)

Bardic Night: Shining Lakes Grove Druids 7-11 pm, 1522 Hill (behind 1520). Free-form drumming/singing/dancing. Fox, 665-8428

Chris Buhalis: PJ's No-Kickdrum Acoustic Concert Series 7 pm, 617B Packard. Up-and-coming songwriter/storyteller. 663-3441

"Male/Female Relationships": Practical Psychic Institute 7:30-9:30 pm, McAuley Ed. Center Aud. Julia, 761-6999

Discussion: Older Lesbians Organizing (OLO) 7:30-9:30 pm, call for location. Open to women of all ages. 482-2996

Meetings: Lesbians, Gay Men, & Bisexuals' AA & Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

"Trills, Peeps, and Guck-Gooms": A2 Parks & Rec. 8-9:30 pm, Leslie Science Center, 663-7758

1831 Traver Rd. Night hike to see the Black Pond amphibians, \$3/\$10 family. Pre-register, 662-7802

Raisin Pickers: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main. String band plus trumpet, tuba & more, \$8.75/\$7.75 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 8-9:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

Van Gunter: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 & 10:30 pm (see 8 Thu)

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

Marc Falconberry Blues Band: The Heidelberg 10 pm, 215 N. Main. Has opened for Janice Joplin, Rod Stewart & others (fee). 663-7758

10 Saturday

Third-World Handcrafts Sale: SERRV 9 am-noon, Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty (rear ent.) SERRV promotes social and economic progress of people in developing countries. 663-0362

Meditation & Healing Seminar: Practical Psychic Institute 10 am-4 pm, call for location. Four-part series, thru 11 Sun (fee). Julia, 761-6999

A2 Aid for AIDS Walkathon: PFLAG 10:30 am, Detroit Edison parking lot, Main & Williams. Call for pledge forms, 761-2535

Cycling: Steer Queer Bicycle Group 10:30 am (see 3 Sat)

Bike Maintenance Clinic: A2 Parks & Rec. 1-3 pm, Gallup Park Meeting Rm. Learn basic bike repair skills, \$5. Pre-register, 662-9319

Teen Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Discussion Group 2 pm, Common Language, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Lesbian, gay and bisexual teens invited to discuss needs and concerns to be served by a safe and supportive lesbian/gay/bisexual youth center in Washtenaw County. 663-0036

Wolfstone: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main. Traditional Scottish music, \$11/\$10 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

King Crimson: Prism Productions 8 pm, Mich. Theater, \$23 (adv). 99-MUSIC

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Van Gunter: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 & 10:30 pm (see 8 Thu)

Paul Vornhagen Quartet: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm (see 9 Fri)

Wild Sheep Riders: The Heidelberg 10 pm, 215 N. Main. Country-Western music (fee). 663-7758

11 Sunday

Third-World Handcrafts Sale: SERRV 9 am-noon (see 10 Sat)

Weekly Chinese Meditation: International Yan Xin Qigong Assn. 10:30 am-noon (see 4 Sun)

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 11 am-1 pm (see 4 Sun)

Second Sunday Stroll—Edible & Medicinal Plant Hike: A2 Parks & Rec. 1-2:30 pm, Leslie Science Ctr., 1831 Traver, \$3/\$10 family. Pre-register, 662-7802

"Upstairs at Borders": Borders 1 pm, 612 E. Liberty. Performance by jazz duo Tenaj and Anderson. 668-6652

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 2 & 7 pm (see 8 Thu)

"Haiti Update": Peace InSight 2:05 pm (see 6 Tue)

Grillin' for Food Gatherers: Food Gatherers 4-8 pm, 1731 Dhu Varren Rd. Community picnic benefit for not-for-profit food rescue program serving Washtenaw County. Gourmet menu, live music (George Bedard, RFD Boys & others), kids' activities, \$40 (adv)/\$45 (door)/\$10 kids under 13, 761-2796

Services for Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals 6 pm (see 4 Sun)

Sunday Jazz: Del Rio 6-9 pm (see 4 Sun)

II-V-I Orchestra: The Heidelberg 7-9:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Coffee House: Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Lesbian, Gay Men, & Bisexuals' AA 7:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Austin Lounge Lizards: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main. Slithering saloon bluegrass, \$10/\$9 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

A2 Bluestage: Blind Pig 9 pm (see 4 Sun)

Paul Finkbeiner's Jazz Jam Session 9 pm (see 4 Sun)

12 Monday

"Women's Rights & Rhythms": WCBN 88.3 FM 8:30 am. 763-3500

Oz's Kids' Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment 2 pm, 1920 Packard. Stage experience for very young musicians. 662-3683

Women's Support Group: LGBPO 5 pm (see 5 Mon)

Meeting: Mich. Anti-Poverty Coalition 7 pm, Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw. Work to change the direction of the "welfare reform" debate. Jen, 677-1400

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group 7 pm (see 5 Mon)

Weekly Meditation & Healing Classes: Practical Psychic Institute 7:30-9:30 pm, call for location. Focuses on intuitive development. Runs 5 weeks (fee). Julia, 761-6999

Social for Lesbians, Bisexuals & Gay Men: Canterbury House 9 pm (see 5 Mon)

Bird of Paradise Orchestra 9 pm (see 5 Mon)

13 Tuesday

Tenant Talk: A2 Tenants Union 6 pm, WCBN 88.3 FM. 763-3500

Teen Les/Bi/Gay Support Group 6:30 pm, call for location. (see 6 Tue)

Canoe Instruction Classes: A2 Parks & Rec. 6:30-8:30 pm (see 3 Sat)

Frontrunners, Walkers: LGBPO 6:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

"The Economics of Equality & Creating a Peace Culture—Part II": Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Cable Channel 9. Women's International League for Peace & Freedom-sponsored discussion. 769-7422

"Adjusting" in Nicaragua: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice 7:30 pm, 1st Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron (enter on Washington). Video about World Bank's "structural adjustment" in Nicaragua. 663-1870

Middle East Task Force Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice 7:30 pm, Bethlehem United Church, 423 S. Fourth Ave. 663-1870

"The Wobblies": Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm, 103 W. Mich. Ave., Ypsi. Film about the history of the IWW. 483-3548

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 8-9:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

Cary Kocher/Paul Keller Quartet 9 pm (see 6 Tue)

Steve Somers Band: T.C.'s Speakeasy 10 pm (see 6 Tue)

14 Wednesday

Services for Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals 6 pm (see 4 Sun)

"Closets R 4 Clothes": WCBN 88.3 FM 6-7 pm (see 7 Wed)

Men's Support Group: LGBPO 7:30 pm (see 7 Wed)

Shamanic Journeys: The Seeker 7:30 pm (see 7 Wed)

Tim Brockett Quartet 9 pm (see 7 Wed)

Steve Somers Band: Barnstormer 10 pm (see 7 Wed)

15 Thursday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 5:30 pm (see 1 Thu)



Marcia Ball is part of The Louisiana Red Hot Music Tour at the Majestic in Detroit (see 28 Wednesday)

Pride Awards Banquet: Affirmations & MAPP 6:30 pm, Ukranian Cultural Center, Warren. 810-545-1435

Frontrunners, Walkers: LGBPO 6:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

"Fire Your Boss": Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Wally Pleasant & Timothy Monger: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main, \$6/\$5 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

Oz's Jazz Jam: Oz's Music Environment 8 pm (see 1 Thu)

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Comm. 8 pm (see 1 Thu)

Jack Coen: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 pm, 314 E. Liberty. Comic from L.A., \$12. 996-9080

II-V-I Orchestra: Soup Kitchen Saloon 8:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Ron Brooks Trio Featuring Eddie Russ 9 pm (see 1 Thu)

16 Friday

Disarmament Group Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice noon (see 2 Fri)

Bowling for People who are Blind/Visually Impaired: A2 Center for Independent Living 3:30-6 pm, Colonial Lanes, 1950 S. Industrial. A social dinner follows, \$1.35/game, .75/shoe rental. 971-0277, 971-0310 (TDD)

The Blue Tops: Leonardo's 4-6 pm (see 2 Fri)

Steve Springer's Caribbean Casino: The Tap Room 5-7 pm (see 2 Fri)

"The Economics of Equality & Creating a Peace Culture—Part II": Peace InSight 6:05 pm (see 13 Tue)

Top of the Park Jazz Concert: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Music Box, Forsythe Middle School Jazz Band & II-V-I Orchestra. 747-2278

Business & Planning Meeting: Older Lesbians Organizing (OLO) 7:30-9:30 pm, call for location. Open to lesbians 40+. 769-4750

Meetings: Lesbians, Gay Men, & Bisexuals' AA & Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

The RFD Boys: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main. A2's favorite bluegrass band, \$8.75/\$7.75 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 8-9:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

Jack Coen: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 & 10:30 pm (see 15 Thu)

The Ron Brooks Trio: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm, 207 S. Ashley, \$5. 662-8310

Deep Space Six: The Heidelberg 10 pm, 215 N. Main. 50s & 60s music and Grateful Dead covers (fee). 663-7758

Steve Somers Band: Boomba's 10 pm, 23 N. Washington, Ypsi. Blues, R&B, soul & funk (fee). 487-1977

17 Saturday

Free Tree Clinic: A2 Parks & Rec. 9 am-1 pm, Burns Park. Consultation on your tree's aches and pains. 994-2769

Canoe Instruction Classes: A2 Parks & Rec. 10 am-noon (see 3 Sat)

Cycling: Steer Queer Bicycle Group 10:30 am (see 3 Sat)

Summer Solstice Ritual: Shining Lakes Grove Druids 2-5 pm, Botsford Rec. Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. Rain date: 18 Sun. Fox, 665-8428

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Top of the Park Concert: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. The Ambassadors. 747-2278

Cards & Games Night at The Farm: Older Lesbians Organizing (OLO) 7:30-midnight, call for location. Open to women of all ages. 428-8824

Owen McBride: The Ark 8 pm, 637-1/2 S. Main. Irish folk music & humor, \$10/\$9 mems, studs & srs. 761-1451

Ben Vereen: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center. Afterglow reception follows at 10 pm, \$22-\$28 (show)/\$20 (reception). 764-2538

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Jack Coen: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 & 10:30 pm (see 15 Thu)

The Ron Brooks Trio: Bird of Paradise 9:30 pm (see 16 Fri)

Scott Morgan's Key to the Highway: The Heidelberg 10 pm, 215 N. Main. Rock & roll/blues (fee). 663-7758

18 Sunday

Lesbian & Bisexual Women of Color Collective (see 4 Sun)

Festival of Cycling: A2 Parks & Rec. 8 am-3 pm, Downtown A2. Tour de Kids for ages 3-12, with separate races for each age & gender (8 am-11:30 am, \$3) followed by the Pro-Am Criterium and USCF Open (noon-3 pm, \$25/\$10). 971-5471

Wetlands by Canoe: A2 Parks & Rec. 10 am-noon, Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd., \$7.50/\$12 per 2-person canoe. 662-9319

Weekly Chinese Meditation: International Yan Xin Qigong Assn. 10:30 am-noon (see 4 Sun)

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 11 am-1 pm (see 4 Sun)

"Upstairs at Borders": Borders 1 pm, 612 E. Liberty. Performance by The Vanguard Saxophone Ensemble. 668-6652

Gemini & Friends: A2 Summer Festival 2 pm, Power Center. Kids' show, \$10/\$5 kids. 764-2538

Meeting: Parents-FLAG/Ann Arbor 2 pm, Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw. 741-0659

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 2 & 7 pm (see 8 Thu)

"Creating a Peace Culture—Part II": Peace InSight 2:05 pm (see 13 Tue)

Meeting: Social Group for Bi and Bi-Friendly Men 3 pm (see 4 Sun)

Sunday Jazz: Del Rio 6-9 pm (see 4 Sun)

Services for Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals 6 pm (see 4 Sun)

Top of the Park Concert & Film: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Big Dave & the Ultrasonics; "The Big Chill." 747-2278

22+ Women's Bi-Friendly Group 7 pm (see 4 Sun)

II-V-I Orchestra: The Heidelberg 7-9:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Coffee House: Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Lesbian, Gay Men, & Bisexuals' AA 7:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

A2 Bluestage: Blind Pig 9 pm (see 4 Sun)

Paul Finkbeiner's Jazz Jam Session 9 pm (see 4 Sun)

19 Monday

Emerald Empress Cruise: A2 Parks & Rec. 8 am-8 pm, Bryant Community Ctr., 3 W. Eden Ct. Winery tour (Sandusky) and a lunch cruise on Lake Erie, \$55. Pre-register. 994-2722

"Women's Rights & Rhythms": WCBN 88.3 FM 8:30 am. 763-3500

Women's Support Group: LGBPO 5 pm (see 5 Mon)

Top of the Park Concert & Film: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. 20'Clock Jazz Ensemble; "The Muppets Take Manhattan." 747-2278

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group 7 pm (see 5 Mon)

Marvin Hamlich: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$24-\$30. 764-2538

Social for Lesbians, Bisexuals & Gay Men: Canterbury House 9 pm (see 5 Mon)

Bird of Paradise Orchestra 9 pm (see 5 Mon)

20 Tuesday

Tenant Talk: A2 Tenants Union 6 pm, WCBN 88.3 FM. 763-3500

Teen Les/Bi/Gay Support Group 6:30 pm, call for location. (see 6 Tue)



The American Indian Dance Theater will be at the Power Center as part of this year's Ann Arbor Summer Festival (see 29 Thursday)

Frontrunners, Walkers: LGBPO 6:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Top of the Park Concert & Film: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Dick Siegel, Motor City Street Band; "The Glenn Miller Story." 747-2278

"Helen Caldicott—Healing the Planet": Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Cable Channel 9. Talk by 1985 Nobel Peace Prize-nominee. 769-7422

"Battle of Algiers": Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm, 103 W. Mich. Ave., Ypsi. Film about the revolution in Algeria. 483-3548

Meeting: Living with HIV 7:30-9 pm (see 6 Tue)

Dance Gallery/Peter Sparling & Co.: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$10-\$15. 764-2538

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 8-9:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

Cary Kocher/Paul Keller Quartet 9 pm (see 6 Tue)

Steve Somers Band: T.C.'s Speakeasy 10 pm (see 6 Tue)

Water Carnival: A2 Parks & Rec. 2-4 pm, Buhr Pool, 2751 Packard, \$2 adults/\$1.25 youths & srs/ \$4 families. 971-3228

Meeting: WomanCircle 5-6:30 pm (see 7 Wed)

Services for Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals 6 pm (see 4 Sun)

"Closets R 4 Clothes": WCBN 88.3 FM 6-7 pm (see 7 Wed)

Top of the Park Concert & Film: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Blue Vinyl, Tracy Lee with George Bedard & the Kingpins; "Ghost." 747-2278

Nicaragua Delegation Report: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice 7:30 pm, 1st Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron (enter on Washington). Hear from the sister city delegation just back from Juigalpa. 663-1870

Men's Support Group: LGBPO 7:30 pm (see 7 Wed)

Shamanic Journeys: The Seeker 7:30 pm (see 7 Wed)

Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$12-\$18. 764-2538

Reiki Clinic: The Reiki Channel 8-9 pm, call for location. Experience this stress-reducing technique. 996-2530

Tim Brockett Quartet 9 pm (see 7 Wed)

Steve Somers Band: Barnstormer 10 pm (see 7 Wed)

22 Thursday

Racial & Economic Justice Task Force Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice noon, 730 Tappan. 663-1870

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 5:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Frontrunners, Walkers: LGBPO 6:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

"Times of Harvey Milk": LGBPO Pride Films 7 pm, 3116 Mich. Union. 763-4186

Top of the Park Concert & Film: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Footloose, Joel Mabus; "The African Queen." 747-2278

"Fire Your Boss": Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Lucky Haskins: The Heidelberg 8 pm, 215 N. Main. All-ages rockabilly show (fee). 663-7758

Oz's Acoustic Jam: Oz's Music Environment 8 pm, 1920 Packard. Jam session for musicians, singers and songwriters, hosted by Steve Osburn. Smoke-free, \$1 (musicians free). 662-3683

The Will Rogers Follies: Crowell Opera House 8 pm, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Musical, upbeat celebration of this folk hero, \$15/\$13 studs & srs. 517-264-SHOW

Glenn Miller Orchestra: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$14-\$20. 764-2538

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Comm. 8 pm (see 1 Thu)

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Jim McLean: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 pm, 314 E. Liberty. "Sit-com ready to happen," \$10. 996-9080

II-V-I Orchestra: Soup Kitchen Saloon 8:30 pm (see 1 Thu)

Ron Brooks Trio Featuring Eddie Russ 9 pm (see 1 Thu)

23 Friday

Mulligan Stew: Leonardo's 4-6 pm, N. Campus Commons. Traditional Irish tunes & contemporary ballads. 764-7544

New Orleans Night: Frog Island Music Festival 5 pm-midnight, Cross St., Ypsi. Motor City Street Band, Charlie Gabriel's New Orleans Jazz Band, Al Rapone & Zydeco Express, & Dr. John, \$17.50/\$40 weekend pass (adv). 487-2229

Steve Springer's Caribbean Casino: The Tap Room 5-7 pm (see 2 Fri)

Classical Guitar Technique: Oz's Music Environment 8 pm, 1920 Packard. Mini-performance and discussion with Steve Osburn. 662-3683

"Helen Caldicott—Healing the Planet": Peace InSight 6:05 pm (see 20 Tue)

Top of the Park Concert: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Three Men & a Tenor, Sun Messengers. 747-2278

Meetings: Lesbians, Gay Men, & Bisexuals' AA & Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

Steve Allen: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$24-\$30. 764-2538

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 8-9:30 pm (see 2 Fri)

The Will Rogers Follies: Crowell Opera House 8 pm (see 22 Thu)

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Jim McLean: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 & 10:30 pm (see 22 Thu)

Nick Strange & the Bare Naked: The Heidelberg 10 pm, 215 N. Main. Reggae/blues with Octavia (fee). 663-7758

24 Saturday

Meeting: Mich. Anti-Poverty Coalition 10 am (see 10 Mon)

Canoe Instruction Classes: A2 Parks & Rec. 10 am-noon (see 3 Sat)

Cycling: Steer Queer Bicycle Group 10:30 am (see 3 Sat)

Gourmet Jazz Picnic, Soulful Blues Party: Frog Island Music Festival 11:30 am-midnight, Cross St., Ypsi. Taslimah Bey, Teddy Harris Quintet, Mr. B & The Bird of Paradise Orchestra, Arthur Blythe, Garfield Blues Band, Steve Ferguson & the Midwest Creole Ensemble, & Los Lobos, \$17.50 (adv). 487-2229

Gay Pride Picnic: Rainbow Oasis Center 3 pm, West Park. BYO food. For info.: P.O. Box 492, Saline, MI 48176

Reveling on the River: A2 Parks & Rec. 6:30-8:30 pm, Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. Bring a picnic to this free concert. 662-9319

Top of the Park Concert: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Stewart Francke, Robin Berry, All Hill. 747-2278

Campfire Tales & Tunes: A2 Parks & Rec. 7:30-8:30 pm, Leslie Science Ctr., 1831 Traver. Bring a blanket & bug spray, \$4/\$12 family. Pre-register, 662-7802

McCoy Tyner: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$14-\$20. 764-2538

The Will Rogers Follies: Crowell Opera House 8 pm (see 22 Thu)

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 8 pm (see 8 Thu)

Jim McLean: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase 8:30 & 10:30 pm (see 22 Thu)

Fritz's Surprise B-day Bash: The Heidelberg 10 pm, 215 N. Main. Restaurant celebrates 35 years (fee). 663-7758

25 Sunday

Weekly Chinese Meditation: International Yan Xin Qigong Assn. 10:30 am-noon (see 4 Sun)

Swimmers: A2 Queer Aquatics 11 am-1 pm (see 4 Sun)

"1995 Michigan March: Joining Together for Justice": Mich. Pride 11:30 am, Capitol steps, Lansing. March for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights. 517-482-8656

"Feel the Spirit!": Frog Island Music Festival 12:30-10 pm, Cross St., Ypsi. The Gospel Warriors, Orquesta Tradicion Latina, Tabu Ley & Orchestre Afrisa, Luther Allison & The Staple Singers, \$17.50 (adv). 487-2229

Log Cabin Day: A2 Parks & Rec. 1-4 pm, Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Rd. View demonstrations in the 1837 Harris Log Cabin, \$1.50 adults/\$1 youths & srs. 994-2928

"Upstairs at Borders": Borders 1 pm, 612 E. Liberty. The Hope Orchestra performs issue-oriented rock. 668-6652

Chronic Fatigue/Immunity Deficiency Support Group: A2 Center for Indep. Living 1-3 pm, 2568 Packard. 971-0277, 971-0310 (TDD)

Megamasks: A2 Summer Festival 2 pm, Power Center. Kids' show, \$10/\$5 kids, 764-2538

"Weekend Comedy": Purple Rose Theatre Co. 2 & 7 pm (see 8 Thu)

"Helen Caldicott—Healing the Planet": Peace InSight 2:05 pm (see 20 Tue)

The Will Rogers Follies: Crowell Opera House 3 pm (see 22 Thu)

Sunday Jazz: Del Rio 6-9 pm (see 4 Sun)

Services for Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals 6 pm (see 4 Sun)

Top of the Park Concert & Film: A2 Summer Festival 7 pm, adjacent to Power Center. Madcat & Kane; Dr. Suess animated film collection. 747-2278

Rock, Blues & Hot Country Guitar Technique: Oz's Music Environment 7 pm, 1920 Packard. Workshop with Chris Casello. 662-3683

II-V-I Orchestra: The Heidelberg 7-9:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Coffee House: Industrial Workers of the World 7:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Lesbian, Gay Men, & Bisexuals' AA 7:30 pm (see 4 Sun)

Trisha Yearwood: A2 Summer Festival 8 pm, Power Center, \$26-\$32. 764-2538

A2 Bluestage: Blind Pig 9 pm (see 4 Sun)

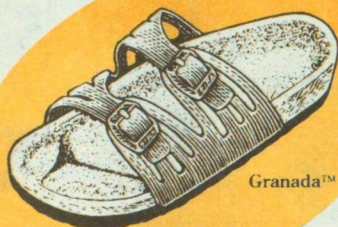
Paul Finkbeiner's Jazz Jam Session 9 pm (see 4 Sun)

Fourth Ave Birkenstock®

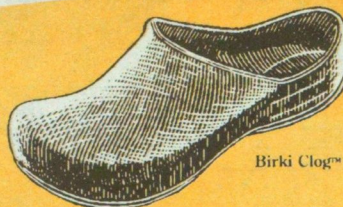
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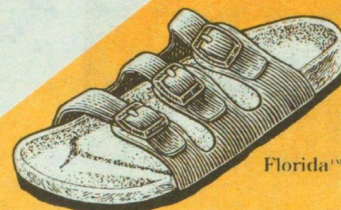
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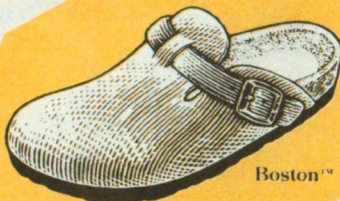


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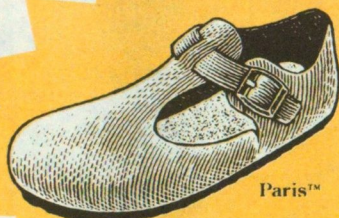
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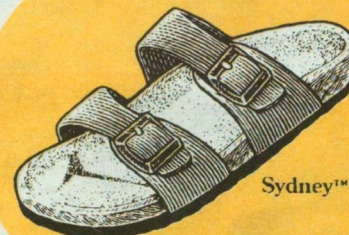
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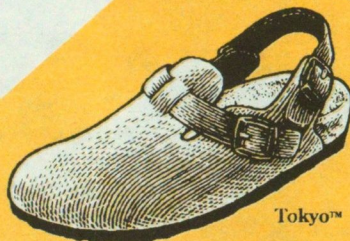
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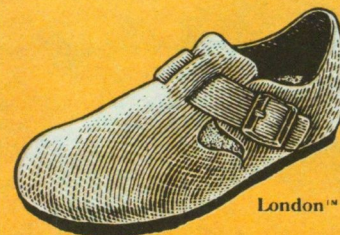
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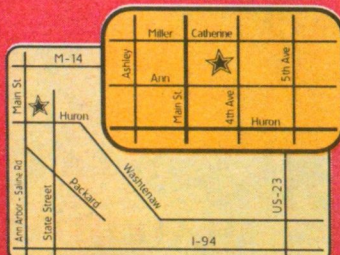


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