

AUGUST



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ANN ARBOR CHAPTER OF THE
WHITE PANTHER PARTY

LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN JOHN

Message of August 2nd, 1970

Brothers and sisters,

I can't begin to tell you how happy I am to be able to speak to you like this today, through my brothers voice, even though I can't be here with you. I'm happy that you're able to be here—that you are here—getting down in the park, being together like this in the sun, getting down in the music and coming together like you're supposed to—like were all supposed to do.

A lot has happened since I was dragged off the set and locked up in this penitentiary. A lot of incredible things have gone down, but we have to understand this is just the start, that things will get alot better and the bad shit will get alot worse before we're all together again like we're all supposed to be—together and free, running wild on the planet like the electronic aborigines we naturally are. Our culture will keep evolving, getting higher & higher as we get higher & higher, and the forces of repression which are trying desperately to keep us from getting high like that will keep moving against us and trying to scare us away from each other.

As we get farther out and more together, the dinosaur people try harder and harder to keep us down—and the struggle between them is implacable. But what we have to know is that the life/force will win/out the death merchants, and they will pass into history as all old worn-out forces always have—that's why I call them the dinosaur people, because they're on their way to extinction as a species, nothing they can do can arrest that inevitable process, and though they will fight it all the way they can't possibly save their hideous death system from extinction! And that's the only way it is supposed to be.

But we have to understand our situation in these terms because if we don't see and understand the inevitability of our victory—of the victory of the LIFE/FORCE over the death urge—then the creeps will just bring us down to their level where they can deal with us, and our progress toward the future will be slowed down for awhile, which will just make it harder on all of us. If we understand that we are the ascendant force, the natural successors of these obsolete creatures who control our lives right now, the pre-electronic people of the death culture, the decrepit old dinosaur people, if we



understand the laws of nature and our own place in the natural order as the ascendant or rising force on this planet, then we will be able to realize our destiny and carry on our total assault on the death culture with all the confidence and assurance we need to get this transitory stage of passage from the old order to the new with as quickly and as mercifully as possible, so everybody can start enjoying the beautiful new life of the New World right away!

WE ARE THE FUTURE, is all I mean to say, and the hopeless dinosaur people are just trying to keep us from realizing the full extent of our humanity because they're scared of us, they're scared fo the future, they're scared of taking the natural next step in human evolution. They try to destroy us, to make us go away, they outlaw us and call us illegal, they put us in jails and penitentiaries, they beat us on the head or shoot us trying to keep us down—but it's hopeless, it won't work like that, we simply cannot be stopped, and the only thing these old brontosaurus chomps can possibly do is slow us down for a minute and make things miserable for us as they possibly can, while they can still make us miserable.

But that won't even make more than a minute's difference in the eye of eternity—we are destined to move on into the New Age, and the repression the death creeps bring down on us only strengthens our will and our absolute determination to be free—free to evolve and develop ourselves and our beautiful high-energy culture to its highest and fullest extent. The more they try to keep us down, the more determined we get to move these people aside and let our culture, our humanity flourish as it's supposed to. Jails, penitentiaries, courts, massacres, the deaths of our heroic brothers and sisters in Berkeley, in New York City, at Kent State in Ohio, at Jackson State



strength to go on, because we will go on and we will not be stopped!

A year ago, or maybe a week or two more than a year ago, I was out here in the park with you. I've been in the penitentiary for a year, but I've got to say that I'm still with you, and all that this penitentiary time has done is brought me closer to you than I was before they ripped me off. It's given me the opportunity to do a lot of reading and studying, a lot of thinking and meditating, a lot of time to consider and study everything that's going on out there in the world, and it's made me realize more than anything the absolute inevitability of our victory. I used to hope for it and believe in it, I always had faith in our strength and potential—but now I know it, I know it down in my cells, I know without a doubt that we cannot possibly be stopped, and that knowledge inspires me to keep purifying myself in this place where they keep me away from you, to keep studying and learning and growing in this little prison cell so I will be able to make my work more effective when I get out of here and help my people keep moving faster and faster toward the New Age of our holy marijuana visions.

I know that the more we work and play together like this, the closer we unite our bodies and spirits through the holy communion of our music of the killer weed I wish I was smoking with you right now, the more we come together and get down together and move together as a united people, the sooner our ridiculous troubles will be over with, and the sooner everyone will be able to live like they're supposed to, in the New World. You know you're here in this park right now because people have united and worked together, filled and inspired by the music, for four summers now to make these concerts a permanent weekly thing. The city government and the people who put them there—the local dinosaurs—tried to keep these celebrations from happening like this, but the people of the Ann Arbor youth community got together with each other and moved in a political manner to bring about a political result—we took petitions around, we organized ourselves and held community meetings to deal with our problems, we took ourselves downtown to the city council meetings and made our needs known to the "city fathers," and we made it clear that we had to have the music, that we wouldn't be denied our culture, that our needs had to be dealt with just like this, and you can see the results of the struggle, which went on over two whole summers, as you lay here

in the grass getting high and digging the music and each other on this beautiful day.

We have a lot of changes to make in this world, and we have hardly begun to mobilize ourselves to make those changes, but the lesson of the park concert struggle is clear—if we unite with each other and get ourselves together as a people, united around our high-energy culture and inspired by it, we can make these changes, and we can make them now. Like I said, this is only the start, but it's a killer start if you can dig it, and it points the way to the future as clearly as anything I know.

That's all I can say today, I don't want to ramble on because I know you have to hear the music, and I wish to god I could be here right now to dig the dangerous Upsters sock em out under the sky with you—but I'll be back with you before you know it, and we can all get it on together again, when that day comes. You know they're trying to hang some incredibly bogus rap on me and brother Pun about the CIA building that mysteriously disintegrated a couple of years ago, but we can deal with that when they let us in the courtroom to expose the snakes and pigs and creeps they've bribed into telling a bunch of bullshit lies but that's ok too, and if they do decide to struggle this shit out in their plastic courtrooms they'll be sorry they even thought of trying to frame us like that. All I can say is Power to the brothers or sisters who did explode that creep joint—I didn't even know it was there until I read about about it in the papers the next day, that's how secretive and sneaky those snakes are, but I can't say that I wasn't happy to hear about it getting blown up. Right on to that, whoever did it, even if it was David Valler!

So we'll deal with that when the time comes to deal with with it, and we'll deal with it from a position of strength, because we will be moving with the strength of united people, and we will be saying then as we have now, All Power to the People! Power to Woodstock Nation! Long Live Rock n Roll! Long Live the People revolutionary Culture! Life to the Life Culture- Death to the Death Culture! and free music and plenty of joints to the People!

John Sinclair, Prisoner of War no. 123507
Chairman, White Panther Party
Marquette Prison, an this holy day,
July 26th, 1970



life action

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

Big Steel—"Come Together", a play by Jonathon Slade with music by the Floating Opera. 8:00 and 10:00 \$1.00

MONDAY

City Council Meeting at 7:30

TUESDAY

Ann Arbor Tribal Council meeting at the Mary St. Project at 8:00;
Swimming-meet on Diag at 1:00.

WEDNESDAY

Women's Open House meeting at St. Andrew's church on N. Division—8:00.
Canterbury House flick—"The Virgin Spring" 7,9,11:00. 75 cents



volunteers of amerika

The ARM (American Revolutionary Media) newspaper has been on the streets for a few issues now. They need writers, layout and graphics people and sellers. Call 761-9368.

LEGAL SELF DEFENSE bails people out of pigstys, gives legal advice and provides lawyers. 769-2570.

The Ann Arbor chapter of the White Panther Party will be operating out of the Argus basement for the time being. (708 Arch Street) If anyone knows of an office to rent or share please let us know. Some programs we have started to initiate are:

LIBERATION SCHOOL for kids—all day any day. Anyone interested, please talk to Julie.

POLITICAL EDUCATION classes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights at 8:00. Next Tuesday's class will deal with racism. Come early for dinner.

FREE WHEELS—our van is available much of the day for drives around the city to take people where they need to go. Drivers needed.

JUSTICE / FAST!

1105 N. Stephenson Highway #68, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

Dear Friends:

Almost one year has passed since John Sinclair was cruelly and unjustly sent to a maximum security prison in Marquette, Michigan for 9½ to 10 years for possession of two joints of the innocuous herb, marijuana. If that sentence, for such an absurd "crime", were not appalling enough, it is even further disappointing and depressing that members of the public have evidenced such scant concern and support for the case. A case which, with its further implications (denial of appeal bond, restriction of the paltry privileges one receives when incarcerated, removal from family and friends to a distance of 500 cold miles) bodes as ill for American justice as does the sentence itself.

We know, as you know, that John Sinclair is not now, and never was, a criminal. No marijuana smoker is a "criminal", and the recent actions of the Dearborn City Council in lowering the penalty for possession of marijuana to a misdemeanor, and the beginning of the move in the state legislature to accomplish that act, show that our lawmakers are slowly beginning to recognize this common truth. Far from being a "criminal," John Sinclair has in fact always been a constructive and energetic force in the youth community. He has established a number of cultural organizations, including the Artists' Workshop and Trans-Love Energies, he has worked with the youth of our community in establishing the Grande Ballroom and as a manager of many of their bands, he has served the community as a writer, music critic and poet.

In return, the community has turned their back on him, as he sits in a prison cell unjustly convicted and absurdly sentenced of a crime that is no crime at all. Given the unusual nature of his sentence, one would think that the public would rise up and demand that his case be reviewed, that Mr. Sinclair be released on appeal bond pending that review and that justice be served. It is time now to do so.

On July 28-31, we will hold a four-day fast, a Justice/Fast, for John Sinclair, as a demonstration of our outrage at the shoddy treatment that he has received at the hands of our courts and as a gesture of support for John, himself. We ask that you contribute to one part of our demonstration.

The Justice/Fast Committee wants to run a full-page advertisement in the **Detroit Free Press** on August 2nd. A copy of that ad is enclosed. But to run the ad we need funds and our resources are low. We ask therefore, as a minimal gesture of your support, that you send whatever funds you can spare to the Justice/Fast Committee at the above address.

We would also ask for your support for Justice/Fast and for John Sinclair in his battle with the oppressive laws which have taken him away from those who love and need him. If you wish more information on Justice/Fast, or on John Sinclair's case against the ridiculous marijuana laws, please call 831-1654 or write Justice/Fast at the above address.

We need your support in order to bring John's case before the public via the **Free Press** advertisement. Read it; we think that it states our case, and John's with admirable precision. It is high time that John Sinclair was given Justice. It is high time that the community showed its recognition of that fact. Please give what you can.

Thank you.

Justice/Fast Steering Committee

Pete Andrews - SRC

Dan Carlisle - WKNR-FM

Barbara Plesky - New University Committee

David Marsh - CREEM Magazine

Judge Julius Hoffman [upon request to subpoena John Sinclair during the Chicago CONSPIRACY Trial]:
"I don't think a judge in this building or a judge in Michigan would sentence a man to 9½ years in prison for possessing two sticks of marijuana."

Leonard Weinglass [CONSPIRACY defense lawyer]:
"Your shock is shared by the defense and a good portion of the country."

JUSTICE!

Was John Sinclair "flaunting the law," or was he just speaking out against its injustices? Let's look at the record. It took two disguised undercover agents two months to entrap John Sinclair into giving them two marijuana cigarettes. No charge. He gave them the marijuana, and Judge Colombo himself ruled that the transaction was a case of "Illegal Entrapment," i.e. that the police created the crime! The same evidence, which had been obtained illegally by the Judge's own ruling, was then used to convict Sinclair on the possession charge. Who was flaunting the law?

John Sinclair's case also involves another important aspect: Since 1967, when he was arrested (along with 55 other people) on this charge, he has mounted an effective attack on the constitutionality of Michigan's anti-marijuana laws. The effects of this legal attack, aside from his 9½ year sentence without appeal bond, include bills in the Michigan House of Representatives, which remove marijuana from the narcotics category and the felony laws, and a bill which makes possession a misdemeanor under Michigan's law and provides a maximum sentence of one year in jail for the crime (27 states have already done this).

All of these bills have passed in the Michigan House of Representatives and have received Governor Milliken's strong public endorsement. The bill that would make possession of any amount under 2 oz. a misdemeanor was passed by the House by 83 to 3 votes! On May 21, 1970, Gov. Milliken told a group of educators and medical experts that "We know that marijuana is not medically or scientifically a narcotic drug like heroin or morphine. . . It should not be associated with narcotics, either medically or legally."

John Sinclair has argued this point in his legal briefs for more than three years now, yet the Michigan Supreme Court, in denying his motion for an appeal bond, stated as their only reason for denying bond that Sinclair had failed to show that he had a "meritorious basis for appeal."

Who is flaunting the law? Who is making a mockery of our legal system? John Sinclair has taken this case against the marijuana laws to the Legislature, and they have agreed with him. The Governor has agreed with his arguments. Yet the courts, who know better, refuse for three years to answer the questions presented in John Sinclair's legal briefs because they know that to do so would be to sign his release papers, and they do not want John Sinclair in the community.

AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS we urge the Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court to investigate the record, read John Sinclair's legal briefs, and to reconsider their arbitrary decision to deny bail to John Sinclair. He has already served one year of his 9½-10 year sentence, and justice cannot be served until he is released.

If he is indeed guilty of political crimes, then a trial should be held and those charges against him brought forward. But to keep John Sinclair imprisoned on the cynically stated grounds that he has presented "No meritorious Basis for Appeal" is a blatant miscarriage of justice which must be corrected immediately.

We are not asking for amnesty for John Sinclair, although that is the proper demand to make in behalf of political prisoners. What we are asking is that John Sinclair be admitted to bail in this case while he waits for the courts and the legislature to repeal the admittedly cruel and unusual penalties surrounding marijuana prohibition. This is not a frivolous request, and we should not be forced to bring this injustice to the attention of the public if the courts of Michigan were not so callous in their disregard for the rights of political prisoners, and of John Sinclair in particular. JUSTICE/FAST!

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Royal Oak, Michigan 48067.

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