

UofM Evicts Student for Reporting Reeter Robbery!

Chris Hoitt, an East Quad student recently ripped off at gun-point for three ounces of marijuana, has been sent an eviction notice because he reported the crime. He is at least the third student to be evicted this year. One other student was evicted for habitual use of marijuana and one for cohabitation.

Hoitt's case again points up the U-M's continuing inability to deal with the reality that thousands of students smoke weed. Hoitt was robbed on February 26th by two dudes who came to his room looking for weed. They spent about 20 minutes smoking some, then suddenly pulled out guns, tied him up and split with 3 ounces.

Chris reported the robbery to University Security. When John Feldkamp, Director of Housing, found out, he met with Chris, threatened to evict him and then on the second day after spring break, March 13, sent Chris a letter giving him 24 hours to vacate his room.

Feldkamp asserted that the buying and selling of marijuana "leads to armed robbery." he claimed Chris was "creating circumstances threatening life, limb, or property." He said, he hopes Chris's eviction will "teach everyone a lesson" to stop dealing weed in the dorms.

But East Quad residents say that evicting Chris will not make them safer from armed robbery. "This is no solution to the rip-off problem," said one student. "This only stops

people from reporting robberies."

Chris has refused to leave and said he will appeal to Vice-President of Student Affairs Henry Johnson next Monday morning. If the U-M insists on continuing to persecute Chris, attorneys John Rose and Tom Bentley say they'll fight the case in court, delaying any eviction until the semester is over. Feldkamp, meanwhile, has already filed a court suit to evict Chris immediately.

U-M has a history of repression against people who smoke marijuana. Last spring the U-M denied the Friends of the Rainbow People use of the Union Ballroom for an election rally because of reports of dope smoking at the John Sinclair Freedom Rally the previous December. Since the U-M could produce no evidence to support its charges, the Friends of the Rainbow People are suing the University for violating their rights as a student organization.

Recently the U-M broke its contract with another student organization for the use of the Union Ballroom only 2 days before a scheduled voter registration rally. The Union manager, Mr. Hilton, candidly admitted he wanted to keep "those damn street people out of the Ballroom."

There are bound to be more confrontations with the University in the future over this question. As one East Quad resident put it, "No one here is about to stop smoking dope."

Feds continue persecution of weed dealers~

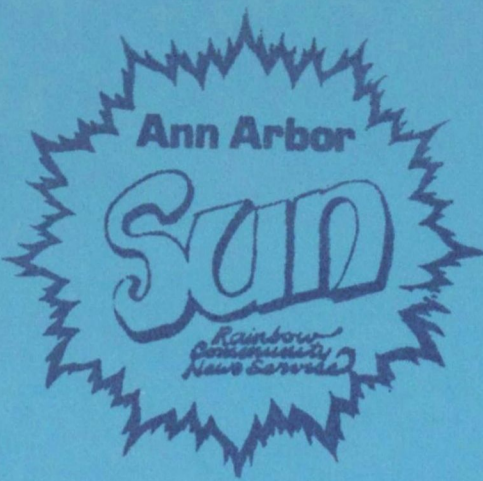
CUSTOM AGENTS BUST 4 ON FOREST st.!

On March 9 a combined force of 15 federal customs agents & 6 Ann Arbor police surrounded & searched a house at 1131 S. Forest. The police team arrested 8 people & reportedly seized 400 lbs. of marijuana & an undetermined amount of cocaine. Charges released to the press immediately after the bust included conspiracy to smuggle cocaine & possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Yet by March 12, the police had backed away from much of their original story. Of the 8 arrested, 4 were released with no charges. The remaining four were only charged with possession with intent to distribute

marijuana. All cocaine charges were dropped. While searching the house, agents continually asked, "Where's the cocaine?" At one point one agent remarked, "Alright, we have the cocaine, now we're all set." But the brothers deny they had any cocaine. They say the alleged charges were an attempt to intimidate them & smear their names. According to one brother, "There has never been any cocaine or narcotics here. The whole cocaine rap is total fabrication on the part of the Feds!" Since Nixon took office in 1968, the federal government has used "Operation Intercept" & various other "anti-drug programs" to try to stop the flow of marijuana. But even straight politicians have

begun to criticize Nixon's campaign against a harmless weed when deadly drugs are being smuggled into the country. So now federal agents are trying to portray weed dealers as hard drug dealers. In this case, all four brothers have been released on bonds ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. They pleaded not guilty in their March 12 arraignment in federal court in Detroit. Their next hearing is set for March 26. If convicted, they could get five years in prison & a \$15,000 fine. Kenneth Aschim, director of customs in Detroit, said he wasn't sure what penalty was in store for them, but "it won't be a \$5 ticket. I can tell you that much."



PUN and CRAIG STILL IN JAIL! EYEWITNESS CONTRADICTS CHARGES; BUT... BONDS REMAIN \$100,000

At a preliminary examination upstate in Beulah, Mich., on March 12, Pun Plamondon and Craig Blazier were bound over for trial and their \$100,000 ransoms bond was continued, despite testimony by one of two prosecuting witnesses that the alleged crimes were never committed.

As reported in the last SUN street-sheet, Pun and Craig, both members of the Rainbow People's Party, were arrested on March 1 in Ann Arbor on charges of conspiracy, extortion, armed robbery, and criminal usury.

In an highly unusual move, special prosecutors from Frank Kelley's state attorney general's office appeared for arraignment in place of the local prosecutor, while Kelley himself simultaneously issued a statement charging that Pun and Craig had intimidated and robbed a dude (later identified as Uwe Wagner) over a reefer deal.

Several carloads of freeks made the 250-mile trip on time for the March 12 hearing, joining local freeks and many other area citizens in a packed courthouse.

By the time the fiasco ended, even old Republicans sitting in the back rows were outraged.

The first prosecution witness was a brother named Bruce Peterson. Peterson testified he was present at the home of Uwe Wagner when Pun and Craig visited Uwe to discuss a debt and saw them leave with Wagner's belongings.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Buck Davis, Peterson testified he had been subpoenaed back to Michigan against his will after moving to Massachusetts. (Peterson later said that two Michigan State Police agents had flown to Mass. and threatened to put him "in a little box until the trial" if he resisted returning.)

But his testimony was obviously not what the prosecution expected. He testified that Pun and Craig did not force their way in, were not armed,

made no physical threats, and did not demand interest on the debt. He further said that Wagner himself suggested that Pun and Craig take his belongings temporarily as collateral until he repaid the people he had ripped off.



Peterson also testified that Wagner dealt "on a large scale" such drugs as morphine, opium, methadone, speed and downers (as well as marijuana), and that Wagner has a history as a dishonest rip-off.

When Wagner took the stand, after being barred from the courtroom during Peterson's testimony, he repeated the "facts" alleged in the prosecution's complaint. But Wagner also revealed he is on probation for an earlier dope conviction and may be in some danger of being deported.

(Wagner also said he considered Peterson to be an "honest and truthful person.") Attorney Davis then asked the judge to lower the \$100,000 bonds on the grounds the case is "phony, illegal and political in nature". Davis also read a statement calling for reasonable bond, signed by 12 State Legislators and four Ann Arbor City Council members. The judge refused the request. Instead he ordered Pun and Craig bound over for another hearing in Circuit Court April 4.

We urge people who oppose this prosecution to express their outrage in a letter directly to Attorney General Kelley in Lansing and to join us at the April 4 Circuit Court arraignment in Beulah.

Also, get down at the RANSOM BOOGIE to raise money for the legal defense, at the Union Ballroom Sunday, April 1. Look for further activities after an official defense committee is formed.

You can write Pun Plamondon and Craig Blazier at the
BENZIE COUNTY JAIL, BEULAH, MI. 49617
They are really eager to keep in touch with people.