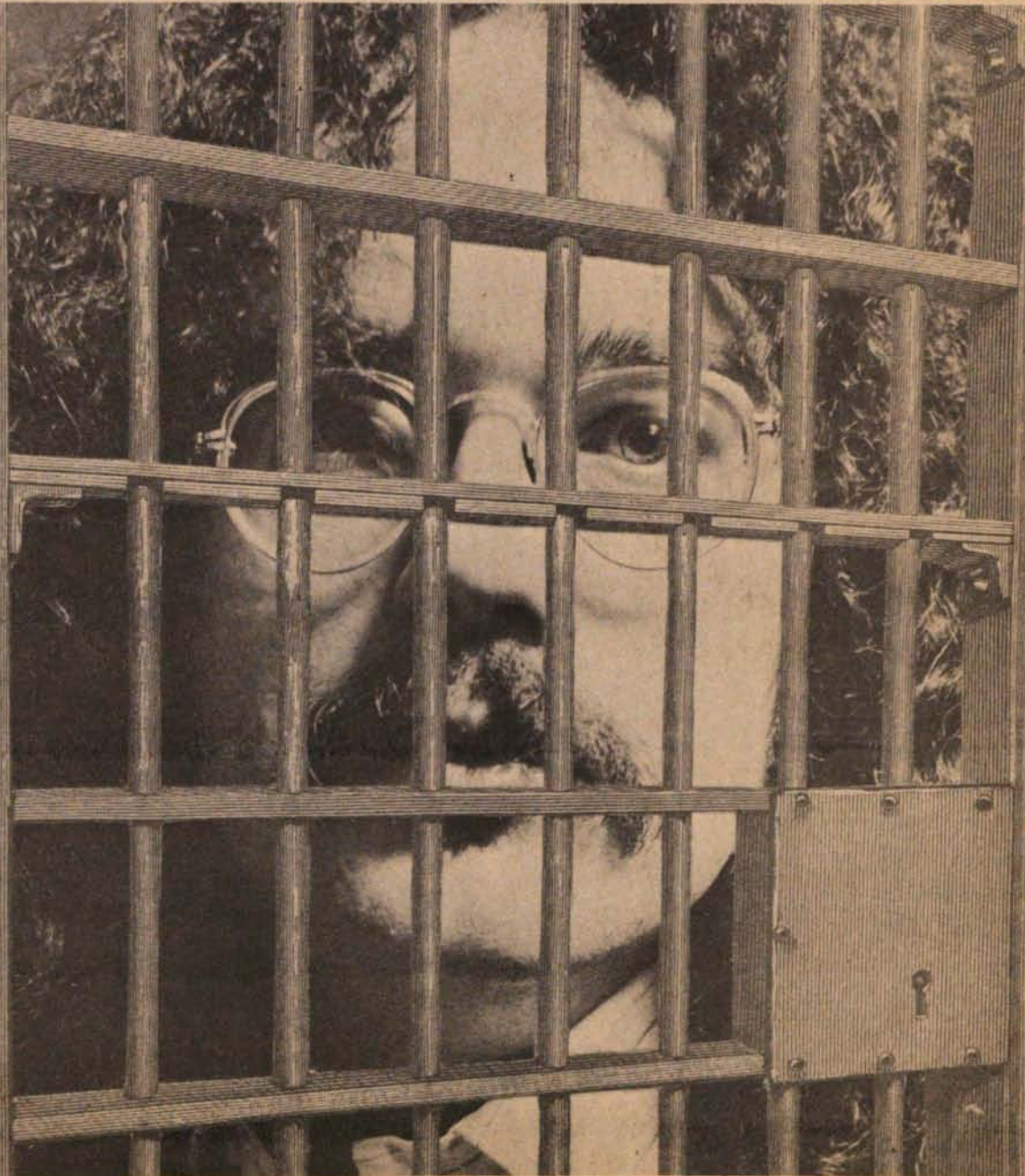


SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT  
TO THE ANN ARBOR SUN

PUBLISHED BY THE  
RAINBOW PEOPLE'S PARTY

IT'S  
TIME TO....

**FREE  
JOHN  
NOW!**



# FREE JOHN NOW!

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...



This is an emergency. For two years we've been trying to get our brother John Sinclair out of the penitentiary, and we've got one more chance before his last state appeal is denied by the Michigan Supreme Court. We've been following the policy of the courts and waiting for them to rule in accordance with the law, and we can't wait any longer. Last month the Michigan Supreme Court denied bond pending appeal, after he's already spent two years in prison, and they're getting ready to deny his appeal a few months from now too, if we let them get away with it. We can't let them do it!

John Sinclair is a political pri-

soner, the victim of the most severe political repression in the state of Michigan--10 years for 2 joints!-- and the state courts have made it clear that they are not going to let this powerful brother back on the streets if they can possibly help it. They are deadly serious about this and they've been counting on our inactivity to help them get away with it. The charge is so ridiculous in the first place that it's hard for any of us to take it seriously, but the fact remains that John Sinclair has already spent two years and three months in the state penitentiary, without bond, and with at least four more years to go before he is eligi-

ble for discharge (the court made sure he couldn't get a parole by setting a 9 1/2 year minimum on his 10 year sentence). If the Supreme Court is allowed to deny his appeal it will take at least another year to get a hearing in the federal courts, and by that time John will be in his fourth year--for two joints of weed!

What's so outrageous about this blatant injustice is that John Sinclair sits in the penitentiary month after month waiting for the courts to rule on the issues raised in his appeal--that marijuana is not a narcotic, that 10 years for two joints is obviously "cruel and unusual punishment"-- while virtually every major political

# EXCERPTS FROM THE PRISON DIARY OF JOHN SINCLAIR

May 1

After 9 months I can write these poems.  
It rained all day today,  
Mayday,  
which speaks for the rest of the year  
pretty much. No flowers,  
or red flags on the yard  
just the wet grey day, and a dude in my block  
going crazy in his cell right now,  
screaming and cursing in the dark-

May 12

Writing by candlelight again,  
listening for the guard to climb the steps  
to the first gallery which holds my cell--  
then I blow out the light until he's past,  
safe for another hour.

May 17

Each day I get farther behind in my work.  
So many possibilities, so little time  
to work them out. Even my weekends now  
shrink smaller & smaller--  
and the weekdays, just enough time  
to answer letter, read the papers--  
bah!  
My books scream at me from their shelf,  
my typewriter begs me to work it,  
my mind is bursting with energy--  
9 1/2 to 10 years  
will never be enough time!

July 1

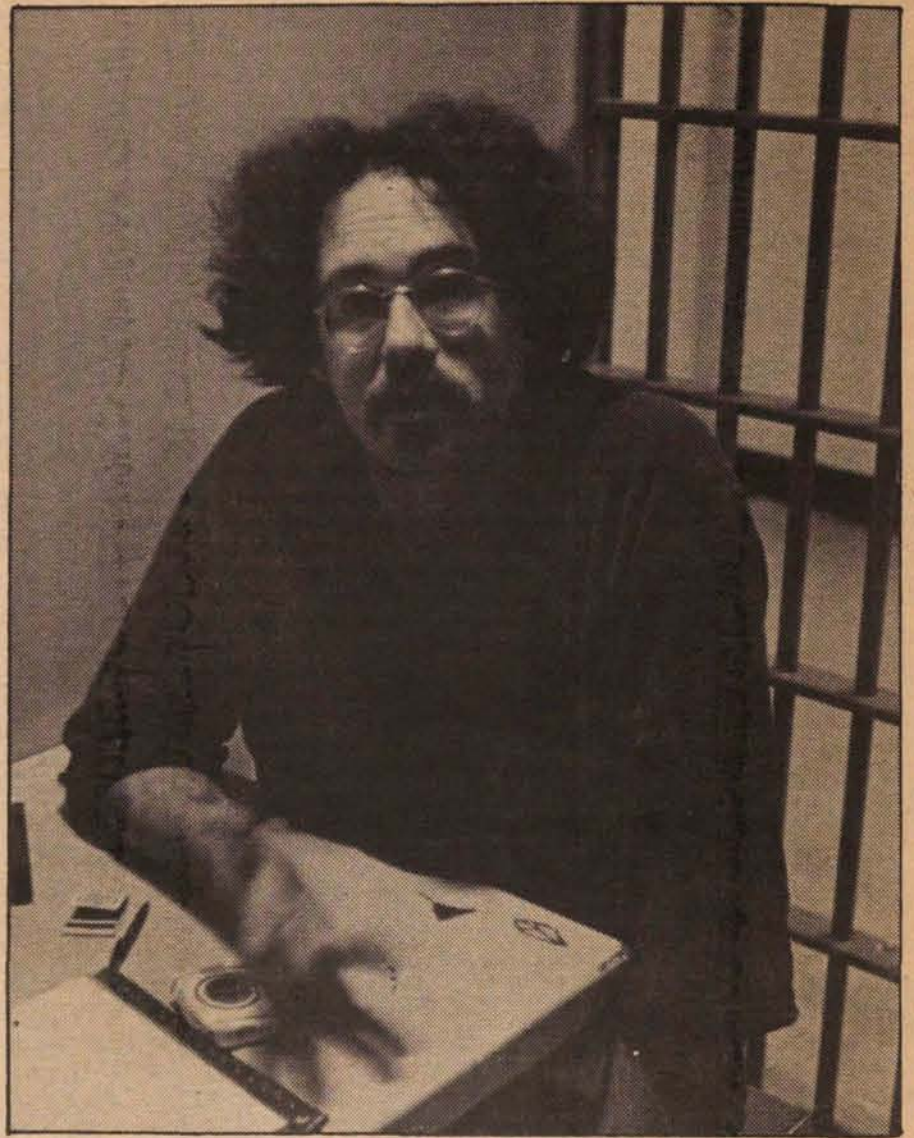
Another month,  
a new notebook.  
The shakedown squad came by tonight.  
Everyone else is out in the yard,  
I'm sitting at my desk typing  
earphones or, music blasting through my head  
and look up surrounded by screws!  
Flashes of paranoia and real fear,  
but it's just a plain old C block shakedown--  
they look through my house--  
a new guard getting broke in--  
and left without taking a thing.

August 27

The unconscious or not  
consciously felt emotional void  
after your visit up here--the way it's  
straight back into penitentiary life  
or non-life when you leave,  
almost like I never saw you out there  
in the visiting room--the minute you're gone  
the whole world you bring with you  
disappears too, and I'm back in prison  
simply and wholly  
until the next time you come

October 1

Long live the People's Republic of China  
on this it's 21st anniversary!  
Long live the brilliant genius Chairman Mao Tse-tung!  
Long live the 800,000,000 brothers and sisters of China!  
21 years ago this day marked a turning point  
in the history of the West so vast and deep  
that still hardly anyone understands it--  
No more Amerikan West!  
No more Asian ripoffs for the capitalist dogs!  
No Coca-colas and Chryslers and electric toothbrushes  
for the toiling masses of the East!  
No Bank Amerikards in Peking!  
The dream of the Rockefellers and Fords  
blown to smithereens by the victory of peoples' war!  
Right on, people, right on!  
Dare to struggle, dare to Win!



November 2

The goon aquad on the rock today  
just as I was leaving for my visit--  
6 pigs kicked the shit out of a Muslim brother,  
gassed him, and filled all of 5 block  
with their nasty fumes--  
5 brothers taken to the hospital for treatment,  
10 or 15 dudes moved from their cells  
because the gas was so thick--

The victims:

Andrews 114997-the Muslim brother;  
Weed 102343, Davis 125528,  
Williams 120911, Page 94943, Gillette  
125055, Cross 83042, 124727 Blanding  
(whose 4-year-old sister was shot and killed  
by National Guard troops in the 1967 uprising),  
Taylor 120687, Williams 94669,  
Westbrook 91842, Bell 119243, Freeman  
125188, 117218 Weatherby, 115893 Bush,  
115114 Kelly, 88064 Cumingham,  
103816 Eaggu,  
and the whole motherfucking block!

December 5

Freezing cold in here all day,  
& a brother just hung himself in his cell  
in the gallery above mine -  
quiet is on this gallery like a pall  
or a sheet they rapped around the dead prisoner  
as they carried him past my cell  
on a stretcher just 15 minutes ago -  
weirdness & terror in the air,  
even the guards are affected.  
Some days it's hard to understand  
how any of us in here manage to keep ourselves  
from hanging it up like that -  
this is no place for men to be caged  
this is no place for men at all.

# STATE VS. JOHN

## SHORT HISTORY OF THE "PEOPLE" OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN VS. JOHN SINCLAIR

Oct. 5, 1966  
Lt. Warner Stringfellow threatens John: "We'll get you this time."  
Oct. 10, 1966  
"Poem for Warner Stringfellow" published by Artists Workshop Press.  
Oct. 18, 1966  
Undercover narc Vahan Kapigian assigned to John Sinclair; attends poetry reading at WSU. Alias "Louie."  
Oct. 26, 1966  
Kapigian attends Grande Ballroom; intensive infiltration begins; police-woman Jane Mumford, alias "Pat," joins "Louie."  
Dec. 22, 1966  
John allegedly gives 2 joints to Jane Mumford. All thru January, "Pat" and "Louie" attend LeMar meetings, communal dinners, sweep floors of Artists' Workshop, and try to score some weed from John on at least 3 different occasions.  
Jan. 24, 1967  
56 people arrested in "Lightening Dope Raid," John labled "leader of campus dope ring" and charged with "sale of 11.5 grains of marijuana (2 joints)."  
Jan. 25, 1967  
John is arraigned, bond set at \$1000. 43 people are released without charged. Everybody else charged with "sale" copped pleas and later got probation.  
John's attorneys prepare motion to dismiss the case on constitutional grounds.  
Judge Crockett invokes a three judge panel to hear the motion. Judges are Crockett, Maher, and Robert J. Columbo.  
April 18, 1969  
This three judge panel denies the motion to dismiss on the grounds that this lower court is not the place to change the marijuana laws.  
John's attorneys Justin Ravitz and Sheldon Otis file an "interlocutory" appeal of this decision in the Court of Appeals.  
Dec. 31, 1968  
This appeal is denied. The appeal goes to the Michigan Supreme Court.  
May 22, 1969  
The appeal is denied by the Michigan Supreme Court. The case goes back to Detroit's Recorders Court. A trial date is set. Robert J. Columbo

is the trial judge.  
June 20, 1969  
Judge Columbo throws out the charge of "dispensing" or "sale" on the grounds that it was "illegal" entrapment. He retains the charge of "possession" based on the same two joints which he ruled were illegally obtained.  
June 24, 1969  
Trial starts.  
June 26, 1969  
Mistrial declared because the witness for the prosecution, Vahan Kapigian, made "misleading and prejudicial statement" to the jury.



SUNNY SINCLAIR

July 21, 1969  
New trial date set; postponed another day because Nixon declared the 21st a national holiday because of the first moon-shot.  
July 22, 1969  
Trial starts. Motion asking Judge Columbo to disqualify himself from hearing John's case is denied. Motion challenging the jury selection system whereby people like John Sinclair do not get a "jury of their peers" is denied.  
July 25, 1969  
Trial ends. Jury deliberates one

hour and 15 minutes and finds defendant John Sinclair "guilty as charged." Columbo revokes John's bail and John is held in the Wayne County Jail.  
July 28, 1969  
Columbo sentences John to 9 1/2 to 10 years. Refuses to set appeal bond on grounds that John "shows a propensity for committing the same type of offense while out on bond."  
July 28, 1969  
Emergency application for appeal bond filed with the Court of Appeals. This is denied. Emergency application for appeal bond goes to the Michigan

cases. Case goes to the 6th District Court in Cincinnati, where it is denied some time later.  
Feb. 16, 1971  
Appeal is denied on the grounds that under the existing laws the sentence does not constitute "cruel and unusual punishment," since it is still within the statutory maximum for possession which is 1 to 10 years in Michigan. Judge Bronson issues a strongly worded concurring opinion, urging the state legislature to change the marijuana laws.  
June 4, 1971  
John's appeal is filed before the Michigan Supreme Court, on grounds including that the evidence was obtained through illegal police entrapment, and that the marijuana laws in the state are unconstitutional because they prescribe cruel and unusual punishment and list marijuana falsely as a narcotic. Application for bond pending appeal also filed.

Sept. 16, 1971  
The Michigan Supreme Court agrees to hear John's appeal.  
Sept. 23, 1971  
The Court denies John the right to appeal bond, even though Eric Lorentzen, who was sentenced to 20 years for sale of marijuana, was granted a \$2500 personal bond by the Supreme Court a few months earlier.

Oct. 15, 1971  
Amicus (friend of the court) briefs filed before the Supreme Court from organizations concerned with John's case around the country--including the Michigan ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Ortho-Psychiatric Association, the National Organization to Reform the Marijuana Laws, the Subcommittee on Drugs of New Detroit, Inc., the Michigan Americans for Democratic Action, the Penal Reform Institute, and Center House in Ferndale. The briefs urge the court to FREE JOHN!

October 26, 1971  
A motion written by John from his segregation cell in Jackson Prison is filed before the Supreme Court, requesting that John be present at the oral arguments on his appeal and be able to speak out in his own behalf. The oral arguments are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2, conducted by People's Attorney Chuck Ravitz. November 2nd and beyond...?

## FREE JOHN NOW!

continued from page 1  
and medical authority in the state issues statements calling for the removal of marijuana from the marijuana statutes and the reduction of the penalty for possession to a 90-day maximum sentence. The federal government, 27 states outside of Michigan, and an increasing number of cities and towns in Michigan itself have already passed laws making possession a misdemeanor--the Governor the attorney general, the Michigan House of Representatives, the Michigan Democratic Party, even judges who have already denied John's appeal have admitted that the issues first raised in this state in John's briefs are absolutely true--yet John Sinclair is still in the penitentiary, where he has been subjected to the mental and emotional torture of isolated confinement for the past 14 months. And the Supreme Court has given every indication, by denying his appeal bond without even giving a reason, that they are going to try to keep him in that situation at least four more years!  
**JOHN SINCLAIR MUST BE SET FREE!** We are calling on every marijuana smoker in the country, and every-

one who opposes this kind of blatant political repression, to join us in a massive campaign to FREE JOHN NOW!--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! John Sinclair has put his very life on the line for the right of all of us to get high, and while we're out here smoking the righteous sacrament with each other he's sitting in a cell in Jackson Prison with less and less hope of getting back to the people he loves. He is being pun-

Court of Appeals.  
Sept. 9, 1969  
Michigan Supreme Court denies appeal bond on grounds that John has "shown no meritorious basis for appeal." The decision was 6 to 1, with judge Thomas G. Kavanaugh dissenting. Request for appeal bond goes to the Federal District Court.  
Feb. 4, 1970  
Appeal is filed in Court of Appeals.  
April 2, 1970  
Judge Fred W. Kaess in the U. S. District Court in Detroit denies appeal bond on the grounds that he has no jurisdiction over appeal bond in state



scope of that attack to include an all-out political assault on every front. John Sinclair is in no way a criminal--he is a political prisoner, being punished for his political activity, and the real criminals are the courts and politicians who have perpetrated this outrage for more than two years. These official criminals have flaunted the law and violated the law in regard to appeal bond, subjecting our brother to the daily indignity of being locked up away from his family, his people, and even the other brothers at Jackson, and they must be brought to answer for their crimes.  
For the next three months, or however long it takes, we will be concentrating all our energy and all our resources on getting John Sinclair out of the penitentiary. We can't wait for the courts to move--the power of the people raising their voices in outrage against this terrible injustice is the only effective means we have to see that justice is done....

- Leni Sinclair
- Gary Grimshaw
- Pun Plemondon
- Genie Plamondon
- Frank Bach
- Peggy Taube
- David Fenton
- David Sinclair

Central Committee,  
Rainbow People's Party

ished mercilessly for speaking out against the laws which affect each one of us, he has given his freedom in order to force a change in these laws, and it's up to us--the people who have benefited most from his principled stand against the official madness of the state--to get him out of the penitentiary and back on the streets where he belongs.  
We will continue the legal battle in the courts, but we have to expand the



MC5 KICK OUT THE JAMS AT THE GRANDE BALLROOM

# ROCK *and* ROLL DOPE

BY FRANK BACH

It was back in the fall of 1966 when Rob Tyner, lead singer for the then "Avant Rock" MC5, and myself got in Rob's beat up old Chevy to "go and check out the freaks" down on Plum Street. Detroit's Plum Street--a gayly painted clump of storefronts that housed head shops, art galleries, a coffeehouse, a small folk/blues/rock and roll club, and stores that sold leather goods and all kinds of wierd clothing--is all closed down nowadays, but five years ago it was a brand new thing. Actually, a whole lot of things were new to me back then because I had just graduated from high school, moved away from my parents' house, and found myself amidst a bunch of new friends (like Tyner was), new ideas, and new things to do. And although none of us understood what it all meant, all of us, and all of this, were the creatures and manifestations of a new Rainbow Culture that was beginning to come to life all over Amerika.

## CRAZY MUSIC

The one person who DID understand the importance of what was going down more than anybody else was John Sinclair. He and his partner, Leni, lived out above one of those storefronts on Plumb Street five years ago--their crib being right next to the office of what was then Detroit's new underground newspaper, the FIFTH ESTATE. I was writing some music columns for the paper and, when Tyner and I stopped over there for a minute, we bumped into John. He introduced himself, we started rapping and before too long we were in John Sinclair's apartment, smoking some dope.

"Have you heard 'Unit Structures, the new Cecil Taylor record?" Sinclair said, passing the joint. "It's far out!"

Shit--I didn't even know who Cecil Taylor WAS. I found out in a minute, though, because John gave me a set of earphones and I stuck them on my head and he turned up the volume on the hi-fi full blast and I took another toke and Cecil pounded away on the piano and... well, I've never been the same since.

## PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL

After that Tyner and I called that new music--the music of people like Taylor and Archie Schepp and John Coltrane and Pharoah Saunders--"crazy music." And in one sense it sure is

crazy, but we called it that mostly because we didn't understand it. John did, though. Like I said, he understood a lot of stuff most of us were just getting hip to. And the reason he understood is not because he's some kind of superman or genius or anything wierd like that, but simply because of all of his experience, all the work he's done with music, with the people in the community, for all of US. And, you dig, without that work NONE of us would really be the same.

And it's because of that work that we all got to set that brother free.

The week after John got out of jail the first time, back in 66 again, he and some friends at the Artists' Workshop organized an event called "The Festival of People". It was held in the tiny Workshop headquarters in the slums along the John Lodge Freeway and from early morning till early the next day, hundreds of people literally packed in to have people like Joseph Jarman and Charles Moore and Lyman Woodard and MC5 blow their brains out with some of the farthest out music ever played anywhere. It was without a doubt the highest energy thing that's ever happened in Detroit--until the Grande Ballroom opened, that is.

## BALLROOM SCENE

With the birth of the ballroom scene in Detroit it became clear to John that the work he was doing in the little community around the Wayne State Campus was work that had to be done for people everywhere--this new lifestyle was spreading faster than anyone had imagined it ever would and its new music was leaping across the airwaves all over Amerika in the form of electric ROCK AND ROLL. In 1967, when John decided to manage the MC5 and the fledgling UP, all his experience and energy began to find their full use.

John broke a lot of the most sacred rules of the established music biz while he was out on the streets managing rock and roll bands, and in the process he carved out a whole new set of relationships between the music and the people who made it on one hand, and the people who made it popular by their listening, and their participation in it, on the other. His formula borrowed from the new jazz musicians

whom he knew held the secret for the future of all new music on the planet. The music had to be so righteous and high energy, John showed us, that it would reach out directly to whoever heard it, so that it would literally touch and feel and move the audience into total involvement in the rock and roll experience. We had to make it loud and clear to all that this was the music of the moment, the here and now where you had no choice but to dance and sing with its beautiful life message of LIBERATION from all the confines and limitations of the world that was dieing its awful death all around us and had to fade into the past with all other dead things.

## DANGEROUS PROGRAM

The idea was to make the music totally REAL and HUMAN--a music that destroyed all separations between people, starting with the phony death-culture separation between the "pop-star" musicians and the audiences which sat at their feet. No opportunity to PLAY FOR THE PEOPLE was overlooked--every free concert, every benefit, every place where people waited to hear the music and it was possible to set up the amps and plug in was a place that we had to go to and KICK OUT THE JAMS as best as we possibly could.

All this flew in the face of the accepted policies of one of the honkiest, most uptight music scenes anywhere--a scene where promoters demanded to see hit records first and to hear music never, where creeps like Russ Gibb have called bands to tell them that they'll never get another job again if they continue playing free for the people. And that's what made John's program so effective, AND so dangerous to the jive time owners of the biz--his bands cut through the bullshit and went directly to the people. And the people have to have the music, and the more they hear the more they want, and the more you give the people what they want, the more they'll have to give back.

So one day in 1968 John fooled the Elektra Records Corporation into recording the MC5 and, with almost no cooperation at all from Elektra, the KICK OUT THE JAMS single exploded

onto the AM and the album began shooting up the pop charts. It was during John's incredibly hectic last days on the street that Elektra found out what they had done, freaked, and fired the Five over an obscenity ruse. When the Five started to lose the direction John had helped them find it was all he could do to negotiate a new contract for them with Atlantic, and by the time he was in jail they had split. But they had proven to all who dared admit it that John Sinclair HAD been right about the music all along.

The power structure thought they had put an end to John's work by putting him away, but that's probably one of the worst mistakes they've ever made. In prison John has become even more dangerous to honk than before--studying like a madman, John had turned his amazing energy and experience into finely-tuned dialectical thought. Through his letters and writings John Sinclair has translated the social and political experience of centuries into the rock and roll reality of RIGHT NOW, explaining with an exciting clarity the need for us to criticise, discipline, and above all ORGANIZE ourselves as true people's musicians must, if we are going to make ourselves strong enough to build the beautiful Rainbow Nation of our dreams and visions.

## GIVE IT BACK

It's obvious to whoever will check it out that even behind the ugly brick walls and barred doors of Michigan's prison system John still UNDERSTANDS--he knows what we all need, and how we have to go about getting it. And the study and hard work that we have to do together to reach our goals is just what John has been doing all this time, it's what he keeps on doing as best he can in the cage that they're keeping him in now, and it's what he will be more than happy to continue full speed ahead as soon as we can get him back with us.

Since we've known John, myself and all of the UP have been proud to make his vision our own and to give the last few years to it, because John has always given as much of himself as he could to us. Now it's 1971 and time that we, ALL OF US, gave John Sinclair his freedom.

FREE JOHN NOW!!!

# JOHN MUST BE SET FREE!

For the past 2 weeks I've been trying to write something about John Sinclair. I write a page or two, then sit back and read it. Damn! It always sounds like I'm writing a eulogy, like I'm writing about someone who died.

But John is not dead. John is in the penitentiary, he is in the penitentiary because of a government conspiracy to keep him off the street and away from the people who need his services.

You might ask, what are these services that John can offer the people, what is it about John that strikes fear in the heart of every snake judge, vampire businessman, rat politician, and pig cop? How can one man put in action the entire fascist machinery of the state of Michigan? Of all the people released on appeal bond in Michigan, why is John, time after time, denied appeal bond? I mean this shit just does not happen, there is a reason for it.

The reason is that John Sinclair is a dangerous, cigar chomping, psychedelic, revolutionary gangster.

In one hand he carries a gun that shoots self-determination, self-reliance bullets. In the other he carries a pen that he uses as a sword, to cut away and lay bare the true nature of Babylonian culture, politics and economics. With his pen/sword he exposes the monster that is haunting the people of Amerika, with his self-determination machine gun he shows us how to slay the beast that is oppressing, controlling, exploiting, and fucking over us. He shows us the problem and he shows us the solution. The problem is capitalism, a system where a few get rich through the work of many, a system where a few control the lives of many. The solution is self-determination, self-reliance. Self-determination says that all the people have the right to control every aspect of their life, that they have the right to control their own destinies.

The way John explained it to us, the people of Babylon are totally dependent on the "establishment," the "power structure," the "ruling class," for our everyday needs. The control of our lives is completely in the hands of a few madmen. They control our food, we must go to Kroger, A&P, Safeway, or Wriggley to get our food. They control our electricity. They control our drinking water. Our transportation. Our education. We are dependent on them for our clothes, for our homes. If we are sick we must go to their doctors and hospitals. They control us and shape our world outlook through TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the entire educational system. To hear our music we must buy their records, go to their dances and concerts. In short, a small number of them control a great number of us.

John and his partner Leni were the first to show us how our struggle for self-determination affected our everyday lives. We didn't call it a struggle for self-determination in 1967 when we first hooked up with John and Leni, but that's what it was. John and Leni and Gary Grimshaw in particular were involved in creating a situation, in building a community that was totally controlled by the people who lived there, a community where the people controlled every aspect and every institution of the community.

One aspect of our lives that was most important to us was our music, rock & roll was one thing that we all held in common, it was our common need and our common desire. At that time (summer '67) Russ Gibb had the Grande Ballroom open; John was the prime mover in getting the Grande on its feet. As hip as the Grande was it was still an institution that the people did not control, it wasn't long before contradictions arose that pushed us, with John's direction, to open our own place.

You see the Grande was run by Russ, who was incredibly stupid and had no idea what our culture was about. Still, he meant well. On the other hand,

there was the owner, Gabe "bloodsucking" Glantz, whose money addiction was the root of the problem at the Grande.

John knew that if someone would open a place that put the interests of the people first that the people would rally to this place and support it. We had the energy, imagination, and woman/man power to run a dance/concert hall. All we needed was a hall. We put the work out, after some hang-in out and alot of talkin' we hooked up with this righteous crook who found us a place on Woodward across from the Medical Arts Building. He fronted us enough bread to cop some paint and some brooms and we went to work. For a month and a half we worked, we scrubbed and painted, we had to pump out six inches of water from in front of the stage, we scrubbed and polished the floors, we fixed the wiring and lighting, people from Warren-Forrest would come and offer their services. One cat was on a electricity trip, he fixed the stage lighting, another brother fixed up some wiring for Jerry Yonkin's light show. One day some sisters showed up and painted one whole wall in a beautiful mural. Gary Grimshaw and Carl Lundgran, two peoples' artists, did a beautiful mural on the front of the building. The whole community responded and we really fixed the place up. I was a sandal maker on Plum Street, Detroit's hip capitalist center, at the time, so I got all the people's craftsmen and craftswomen to set up displays: leatherworks, jewelry makers, artists, magic freaks, sword swallows, fire eaters, freaks of all descriptions responded.

Then, one day in June, the Mystic Knights of the See Lodge Hall were born. Ta da!! Ta da!! Opening night. How killer it was. MC5. Seventh Seal. Charles Moore. Brothers and sisters from the community served as waiters and waitresses, someone sold tickets, someone was MC. There it was brothers and sisters, some space in the heart of Detroit that was a product of the collective effort of the people, some space that the people controlled, one step on the road to self-determination.

With the immediate success of the See, a massive counter attack was waged by the reactionaries. On opening night, true to his nature, Gabe Glantz appeared on the set with a thug and ripped off \$500, you see Gabe owned this place too, and he was afraid he wouldn't get his fix, I mean rent. Within the next week fire inspectors, water inspectors, wiring inspectors, plumbing inspectors, building inspectors, code inspectors, license inspectors,

and pigs and running dogs of all kinds showed up on the scene to try to close us down. Some up-tight honkies tried to set fire to the building, the whole sickening assault fell on the People's Palace. We managed to keep open for 3 weeks but in the end the Mystic Knights of the See Lodge Hall folded.

What we learned in practical terms and experience and what John taught us far outweighed the negative aspects of having to close. And next time we'll know what to expect and what to prepare for.

We learned that self-determination is the answer to the problems facing the people, and that self-reliance, the use of our own energy, imagination and collective knowledge is the way that we gain self-determination.

There is much more that I could say about John. He founded, with his partner Leni, the Artist's Workshop Press, a self-determination program for writers and artists who published their own work. He founded the Warren-Forrest

Sun with Gary Grimshaw, a community paper and comrade to the Fifth Estate. John, Leni and Grimshaw were the original founders of Trans-Love Energies, a collective of communes that were in the service of the people. John was one of the original organizers of the Ann Arbor Free Park Concerts in '66 and '67, and '68. Anyone who was around then remembers him well. In the extremely limited form of communications we get from him in prison it's clear that his spirit and love for the people continue to grow and motivate his every move and idea. It's good time that the people raise our voices now to show that we support John as much as he supports all of us out here. He's an exceptional brother and we need him out here with us to help on our way to self-determination and freedom.

All Power to the People  
FREE JOHN NOW!  
Pun Plamondon, Central Committee,  
Rainbow People's Party



PUN PLAMONDON

## RAINBOW REPRESSION

Since the summer of love in 1967, the government has made it plain to us that they will not let people be people, that they will do anything to stop the Rainbow Culture from developing into a culture in which people can develop into complete human beings.

Our culture has been continually repressed through the anti-marijuana laws, laws which have no scientific or legal basis, laws that continue to be on the books for only one purpose--to keep the people in the Rainbow Culture from developing to their full potential. These same laws have been used against the members of the Rainbow Party to stop our political growth --and the reason they have used these laws against us is because they don't have anything else to keep us from organizing in the community since we don't do anything else illegal but smoke the sacrament, and they don't want us out here hiping the people to reality.

Since we first started organizing our brothers and sisters the government has used the marijuana laws against us--every time the only basis that they had was because they don't want us around. John Sinclair busted and sentenced to 10 years for two joints that were proven in court to be illegally obtained by the police, Pun

Plamondon busted for the holy smoke 3 times--at Woodstock, Traverse City, and Kent County Jail, Leni Sinclair busted at the Artist Workshop Roundup (the same time as John), and Woodstock, Genie Plamondon--Woodstock, Texas, Ann Arbor, Kent Co., Gary Grimshaw--Traverse City, Larry Belcher--now doing twenty to thirty for dispensing--and most of these charges have no legal basis to be upheld in court! Political repression. Marijuana is a political weed and the members of the Rainbow People's Party are not the only ones to be busted for the sacrament. There are a large number of brothers and sisters that are now sitting in the various prisons in this state and across the country or awaiting trial for possessing a harmless weed!

The marijuana laws have been on the books illegally since 1938 and they will continue to be there until we change that, and we can't do it individually. We have to work together to change these laws, it won't happen any other way because the courts ain't going to change the laws of their own accord. The legislature will not change the laws by themselves--unless we say that they must change these laws which are unconstitutional and exert the Power of the People.

# JOHN SINCLAIR BEHIND BARS

## INTERVIEW WITH LENI SINCLAIR

Sun; We'd like to know what life is like in prison for John; very few people know what it is like being in there every day, and we know that the conditions that he faces in prison forced John to file suit against the warden of Jackson Prison and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Leni: Well, really nobody knows except John himself, what it's like being in there, locked up 24 hours a day behind bars. Anybody who was with John a lot and visiting him 3 times a month I can give a little description. John is at the present time being held in a place called "blue hole", which is a special block in Jackson that they call "administrative segregation." It's not the hole, but it's not the regular prison population, either. Blue-hole card prisoners get out on yard privileges one hour a day, but it's a special yard, segregated for these special prisoners. John is especially watched by prison authorities. He can only correspond with ten people, and all of his incoming and outgoing mail gets censored and photocopied. Copies of his correspondence get sent to the State Attorney General's office and who knows where else; the FBI, state police, whoever is interested in what John is writing can get copies pretty easily.

SUN: What indication do you have that his mail is sent to the attorney general's office or invaded?

Leni: Well in his answer to the suit that we filed against the warden of Jackson and the Corrections Department, the assistant attorney general, Mullaney, cites references from John's correspondence that he could only have gotten by seeing it. Also, myself and Dave Sinclair went up to the Corrections Department one time to complain about the treatment that John was getting and we were shown a file that contained some copies of letters that John had written to me that I had never received. And while John was in Marquette the prison officials left xerox copies of some of his letters in one of his books by mistake. All that is part of the evidence in the suit.

SUN: So basically, John doesn't have contact with the other prisoners in Jackson...

Leni: No. In his special segregation ward there are 12 or 14 other prisoners, and all of them are locked up in their own cells like John, except for the one hour yard-time and during meals. John has reported that if he goes out in the yard and some other prisoners, young brothers who can hang out in the regular prison yard, try to have a conversation with him through the fence, they get arrested and put in the hole for trying to communicate with him. They're holding him in segregated confinement so he doesn't have any contact with the regular prison population, because they're afraid of him.

SUN: What is the situation with visiting John?

Leni: John gets three visits per month from family and three friends who are on his approved visiting list. These three friends are Gary Grimshaw, David Fenton, and Frank Bach. They finally let him have visitors other than his family only after he filed that suit. Legally, under the law, under their own prison regulations, they're supposed



LENI & DAVE SINCLAIR OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF JACKSON STATE PRISON

but they denied John that right for over a year and a half.

The visits are ninety minutes long and they're horrible. They're just awful. Approaching Jackson prison is just a down; the place looks like a concentration camp from miles away...

SUN: It looks like a high-school with barred up windows.

Leni: Yeah, Jackson claims to be the largest walled prison in the world. It's surrounded by this huge wall with a huge gun tower right in the middle, and smaller towers spaced along the wall. In Jackson prison there are about five thousand inmates, all men.

OK, we drive up to the gate and there's an officer who asks you the number of the person you are going to see--just the number--you don't even have to say the name. You just give the number and drive into this parking lot, park, and walk across their landscaped lawn and into the lobby. At the information desk you show your ID and say who you are and who you want to see. Then you sit down and wait until they call you, which sometimes takes a long time. When you're finally called you walk through two sets of sliding, electronic bars... after you walk through the first one you have to take out everything in your pockets for their inspection. Then they search the men. Nobody can take anything inside the prison, except if you have a baby you can take in one bottle and one diaper. You can't take any notes and you can't give the prisoner anything. If you're the wife of a prisoner you can kiss him at the beginning of a visit, but the guards are instructed to watch closely while you kiss so that no illegal substance gets passed through that act.

Then you go into the visiting room, which consists of two long tables that are divided in the middle by a higher ledge. You always have to keep your hands on your side of the table. All the prisoners sit on the other.

It's really awful to have kids in there. When Sunny and Celia visit there's nothing for them to do, and they sure don't like it in there. They pick up the vibes and just freak out.

Celia won't stay in the room for more than five minutes. Sunny really loves being with John. She loves him so much that she just jumps up and down when she sees him on the other side of the bars. Then she just won't stop holding on to him. I know what they'll think about that place when they grow up, can you imagine? Especially when thinking about when Sunny asks "Why is John in jail" and you say "for smoking dope" and she sees people smoking dope every day--you might say that's a contradiction she can't figure out. There just must be some evil people who thought that one up.

When John comes to visit they call him out of his cell and before he comes into the visiting room he gets searched, often stripped. He sits down and we talk for 90 minutes and barely get started with all there is to discuss. Then the guard comes and takes him away, and he gets searched again on the way back to his cell.

SUN: When do you go to see John?

Leni: Usually we go as soon as the new month comes; the next visit will be November 1, and there will be two visits left after that. We try to space the visits out so there isn't a whole long period between two visits, but usually John gets so frustrated not being able to talk to anybody that he'll want us to come all in the first week.

SUN: Could you tell us more about the prison suit?

Leni: Oh, yeah. They've treated John differently than most of the other prisoners every since he was sentenced, and they are still doing that. In some areas they've lightened up a little bit, like on who could visit, but only after we filed the suit. John brought the suit against Warden Perry Johnson of Jackson and against the Michigan Department of Corrections for violation of his civil and constitutional rights. The assistant attorney general to Frank Kelley in the state of Michigan, Mullaney, filed three separate motions to dismiss the suit. These motions to dismiss are really incredible because they're not even written in standard legal language; the dude is making fun of

John. As legal documents they are terrible, they are a disgrace to the state of Michigan. We printed some excerpts from them in one of our issues of the SUN and some people in Lansing who saw them thought that it couldn't possible be true--they thought that we made up these fictitious motions to make a joke. The motions have to be seen to be believed.

Anyway, the Judge in Federal district court in Detroit who is handling the case is John Feiken. I was at one of the hearings where the state filed a motion to dismiss in front of the judge. It was just incredible. Mullaney had a stack of newspapers and books this high, all the stuff I sent John in the last two years that they would not let through. There was a copy of Abbie Hoffman's Woodstock Nation, a copy of Count-Down One, a copy of the History of America by Bill Hutton, copies of the Ann Arbor Argus, the Berkeley Tribe. Mullaney went through these things page by page and told the judge why the prison couldn't allow them in. Some of the pages had things about marijuana in it, you know. Mullaney said they couldn't let in a recipe for marijuana cookies, because that's advocating an illegal act. The state says that they have a right to keep literature out of the prison that is of a revolutionary nature, whatever they mean by that. For instance, in Jackson prison they let books in by Lenin, Marx, Engels and a whole bunch of other people, but they have totally banned any works by Mao, so they are making apolitical decisions that they have no right to make.

Judge Feiken refused to throw out our suit, and there will definitely be a trial. So right now the prison officials have been following their own rules a bit more. In the past they've denied lawyers the right to go visit him. John sends emergency letters to his lawyers and the prison keeps the letters laying around their office for about two weeks before they finally send them. Things are somewhat better now, but much of this weird stuff still goes on. About a month ago, out of nowhere, out of the clear blue sky all my letters started coming back saying "Violation of prison regulations -- enclosures not permitted." Well, I usually sent John clippings that he would be interested in, just general stuff that he has to know. Sometimes it's about music, about what's going on out here, or about similar court cases. Then all of a sudden they just decided well, we've had enough, and they started sending all my letters back. You can imagine what happens to John when this happens. He's just sitting in his cell and he's used to getting a letter from me every day or so, and he just flips out. He doesn't know what is happening -- he thought thought maybe I stopped writing to him or something. He just doesn't have any information about what's happening (other than his AM-FM radio which it took us months of red tape to get to him) on the outside other than through these letters, cause the visits three times a month are just enough to start talking. He's really dependent on his letters, and they know this. We think they do this kind of thing on purpose, for harassment.

They say that John can get a subscription to the SUN, but when we sent it in to him they didn't allow it -- because it had stories about George Jackson and Angela

continued on page 14

photo: David Fenton

It takes us a long time to understand what's happening to us sometimes, and I'm just beginning to wake up to the fact that unless people out there can do something in a hurry I'm going to stay locked up in this penitentiary for a long long time. The way the Michigan Supreme Court denied my application for appeal bond last month, without even giving an excuse of holding a hearing, finally made me realize just how serious the political machinery in this state is about keeping me off the streets, and it has really turned me around. They are never going to let me out of the penitentiary if they can possibly help it, and the only chance I've got--if I've got a chance anymore--is for the people out there who know how wrong this is to put so much pressure on the courts and the rest of the politicians in this state that they will have to cut me loose or stand exposed as the vicious hypocrites and gangsters they are. I'm not in any position to do anything for myself, I've sat in these cells for more than two years now waiting on the courts to do what everybody has been telling me they would be sure to do, that is, rule on the legal issues involved in my case, we've all been waiting and waiting and people, they are not going to do it.

I have never understood that before. We've talked about me being a political prisoner ever since I've been locked up, but underneath it all we really believed that the state courts, or at least the Michigan Supreme Court, would eventually hand down the only reasonable decision possible, that they would be as outraged over the illegal actions of the lower courts as all reasonable people are, that they would set an appeal bond and then reverse my conviction because, after all, 9 1/2-10 years in prison, or anything more than 90 days, is just outrageous, right? Everybody knows this, but nobody ever does anything about it, and meanwhile months and months of my life go by with no relief in sight.

Despite all the evidence to the contrary, and this is what's really stupid about the way we've approached the problem, despite the fact that there is absolutely no legal basis for my being kidnapped like this and held without ransom in the first place, despite the fact that I have never received any justice from any of these courts ever in my life, somehow I believed that when the Supreme Court got this case everything would be all right and I could go home again. Underneath everything I've ever said about the courts was the belief that all I had to do was wait for the "liberal" Supreme Court to dispense its "enlightened" brand of "justice," that G. Menen Williams and Paul L. Adams and Thomas M. Kavanaugh, all members of the "enlightened" Democratic Party which adopted into its party platform last year the position that marijuana possession should be made a misdemeanor, that these "liberals" would take my case and deal with it on its own merits and not make themselves a party to the political persecution which put me here and which has kept me here for two years and three months so far.

It's taken that long for me to understand how wrong I've been--27 months of sitting patiently and waiting for the inevitable good news to come, 27 months of telling the people I love that all we have to do is keep hammering on the legal issues and the courts will have to come around, two years and three months of believing that they really couldn't do this to me and get away with it, right? Not after the Governor, the attorney general, the Michigan House of Representatives, the Michigan Medical Health Association, the Director of Corrections, the Democratic Party, the federal government, the legislatures of 27 other states around the country, the city councils of Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Birmingham, and a whole lot of other cities in Michigan itself, the Detroit Free Press, the Ann Arbor News, just about everybody you can think of has come out in support of the arguments which were first raised in this state in my appeal--it was just too in-

# DRAGON TEETH

A COLUMN  
BY JOHN SINCLAIR

WHEN THE PRISON DOORS ARE OPENED/THE REAL DRAGON WILL FLY OUT!

--Ho Chi Minh



credible to believe that they would let me rot in this place behind two joints of weed, you know what I mean?

Well, the evidence is in now and it's been in for a long time, but I was too stupid to pay any attention to it. These people do not want me out there on the streets, and they will keep me locked up as long as they can get away with it, which means as long as we let them get away with it. We can make them cut me loose, just like we can eventually make them give up everything we need to have to be able to live our lives the way people are supposed to live, but we can't do it by sitting around and waiting for them to deliver on their phony promises of justice and equality. We can get what we need by struggling for it, by refusing to accept the terms imposed on our lives by the control addicts and forcing them to deal with us on our own terms, in every aspect of our struggle.

That's why I feel so stupid right now, because I've just realized that my whole approach to the problem of getting my own stupid ass out of prison has been entirely contradictory to the analysis I keep running on all of you week after week, year after year, and I've really got only myself to blame for being locked up all this time, you know what I mean? I have been insisting for years that we can't depend on the established order to give us anything we need, that we have to rely on our own energies and our own resources and use them as economically as we can to get what we need for ourselves, that we have to rely on our brothers and sisters and not on the treacherous hypocrites in power if we want to liberate ourselves, and yet I've been sitting here waiting for the same people who put me here in the first place to turn around and cut me loose just because it's "illegal" to do what they've done! And what's even more incredible is that I actually thought they would do that with nothing more than a few gentle nudges from us to put them on the right track, you dig?

I was wrong, I was stupid, I was a complete fool and I want to apologize to you for what I've done, ok? You might think this is silly, because after all I'm the one who's had to suffer for it, right? I'm the one who has had to live in this penitentiary for the past 27 months, and if I made a mistake then I've certainly paid for it--with my life too, because believe me, there is no life in these places at all. But it's not as simple as that finally--I've

wasted a lot of people's time, energy, and money, especially the people I love most in the world, by advising them to move along the lines of an incorrect strategy, and I've done all of you a serious disservice by projecting an unrealistic picture of my situation and how it can be corrected. Now it's down to the wire, I've got one more chance to get some air before the Supreme Court slams the door shut once and for all, and I hope with my heart--really!--that you will see fit to help us do what has to be done now so I can get back out there with my people and contribute what I can to our struggle for survival and freedom.

I'm trying to be as up front with you as I possibly can, because I really need your help now and above and beyond all that, you deserve as much honesty and truth as you can get, especially from people like me who say they want to serve the people and deal with the people's needs. If there were any other way I could get out of here, believe me, I'd try it, but we've tried the other way for 27 months now and it was all a big mistake. If we had come to you like this from the very beginning, if we had had sense enough to follow our own analysis, then I would've been out of here a long time ago, and we'd be taking care of plenty business together right now instead of spending more time and energy on this stupid problem. I know I have something to contribute to our common struggle, that's why they put me here and that's why they are determined to keep me here away from you, and if I couldn't do anything for you then I wouldn't be asking you for help in this battle, ok? I don't want to be beating my own drum or anything like that, but I do want to make it clear that the reason the state has gone so far to keep me isolated from you is because they know that I've got something to offer the people, and they do not want me out there.

I really don't know what else to say right now--I'm not very comfortable writing about myself like this, I'd much rather be talking about what we can do to build up our alternative community and how we can work together to get what we need, but I'm really fucking desperate, people, I want to get back to work, I want to be with my partner Leni and our two little daughters who are growing up without me, I want to be back with my comrades and with all of you out there in the streets, I'm tired to death of being locked up and I know that they're gonna keep me locked up unless we all

really get our shit together and start agitating for my release as hard as we can. I will keep up the legal battle in the courts, with the help of our righteous attorneys, but the only way I can get any air from them is if the people out there who care about this outrageous shit make it clear to the political structure of this state that they aren't gonna be able to get away with talking all that shit about the "hypocrisy of the marijuana laws" unless they let me out of prison. I'll do everything I can to put pressure on them from here, but you have to realize that there really isn't much I can do for myself, and that I have to depend on you out there, everybody who smokes dope and gets high and knows how outrageous it is to have somebody locked up for possessing two joints of grass, to give us all the help you can, because we've never needed it like we do now.

I won't be continuing the series I was writing before until I get some air, because I've got to spend all my time on trying to get myself out of here, like I should've been doing all along. Ever since I've been locked up, that is since July 1969, I have never really talked about my own situation, or what people can do to help me get out of it, because like I said I've always felt that it was just a matter of time before the courts would cut me loose, and I didn't want to waste my time, or much of my people's time, dealing with something that would come out all right in the end anyway, you dig? I figured I could make it OK in here as long as I had to, and that the best thing I could do was study and write about the situation on the streets in the hope that I could do my people some good even if I had to be locked up. I don't like to talk about myself very much anyway, and it always seemed much more important to me to try to deal with the problems my people were having out there in the world. My comrades would always tell me that it was important to get me out of here first, because that way I'd be able to do a lot more towards trying to solve some of the problems out there, but I kept telling them that I could take it, it'd just be a little while longer, and if they spent a lot of time on my case that'd just be time taken away from the community, which didn't seem right to me at all. I just couldn't see spending a lot of time on a big campaign to get me out of prison, at least not the kind of campaign we have to start now, because it simply didn't seem to be necessary, you know? But now I know they were right and I was wrong, and I'm not going to do anything for the next three or four months except try to get myself out of this place --and when I do get out then we can work together to deal with everything that holds all of us down.

If our work means anything to you, if what we've been trying to do over the past seven years to create a real alternative community in this place has moved you at all or brought you any pleasure, if it means anything to you that I have put my ass on the line to get the marijuana laws changed once and for all, if you can imagine what it's like to sit in the penitentiary for two years and three months with only more months and years of the same deadly existence to look forward to, if you can relate to this outrage in any way, then I hope and pray that you'll help us get me out of here however you can. We've got one last chance to put an end to this particular madness, and if we don't do it now it'll be too late to try for another few years, once the Supreme Court comes down with its decision three or four months from now. If you don't think it's worth it then please let me know, because all I want to do is what the people want me to do, and if it means staying in here and contributing to our struggle through my writing then I can do it as long as you want me to. But if you want to get me back on the streets you can do it, and I can really dig that! It's up to you, people, it really is, what else can I say? ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

John Sinclair  
Chairman, RPP  
Jackson Prison  
October 6, 1971



# LT. CALLEY

CONVICTED BY MILITARY COURT MARTIAL OF MURDERING  
109 VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS---

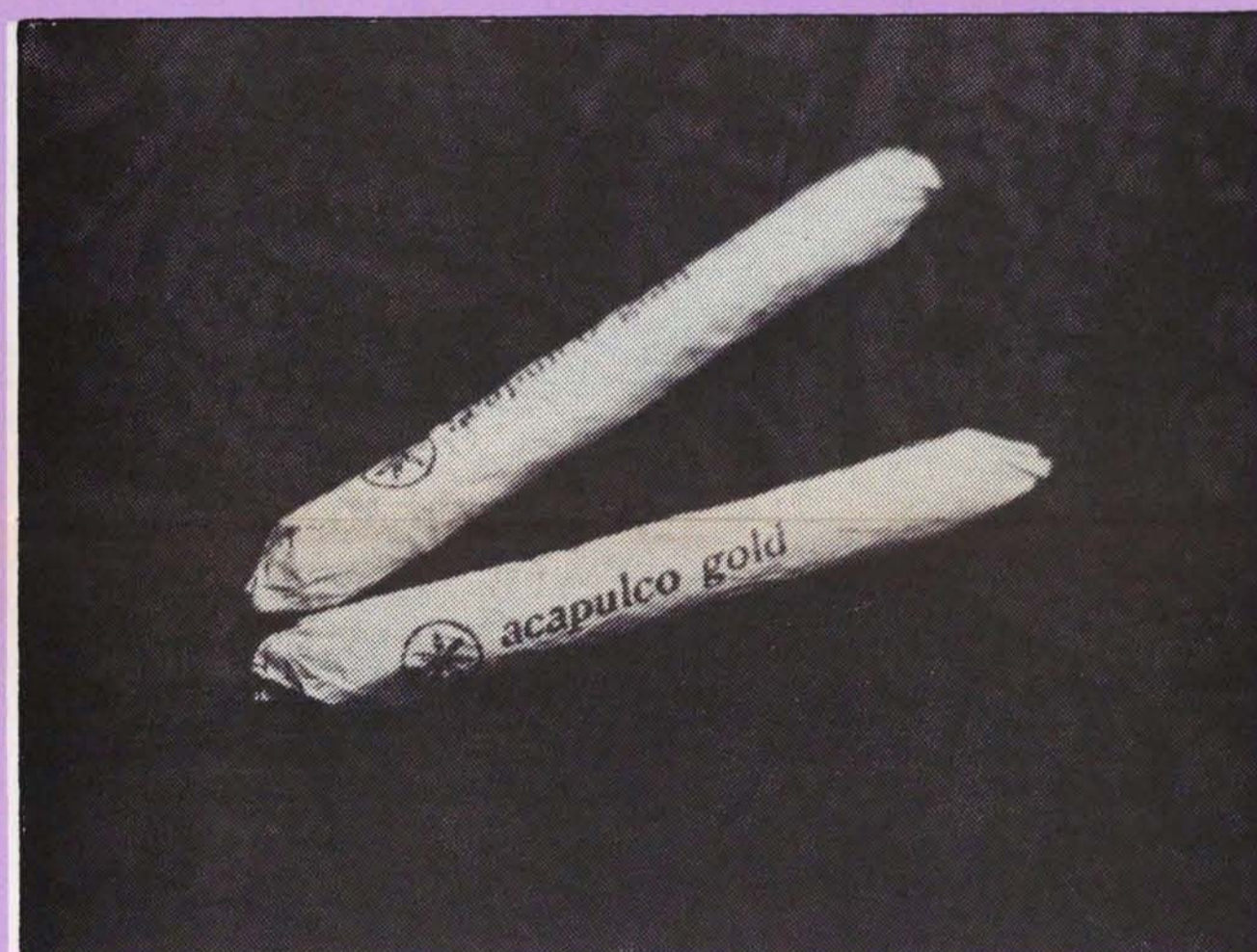
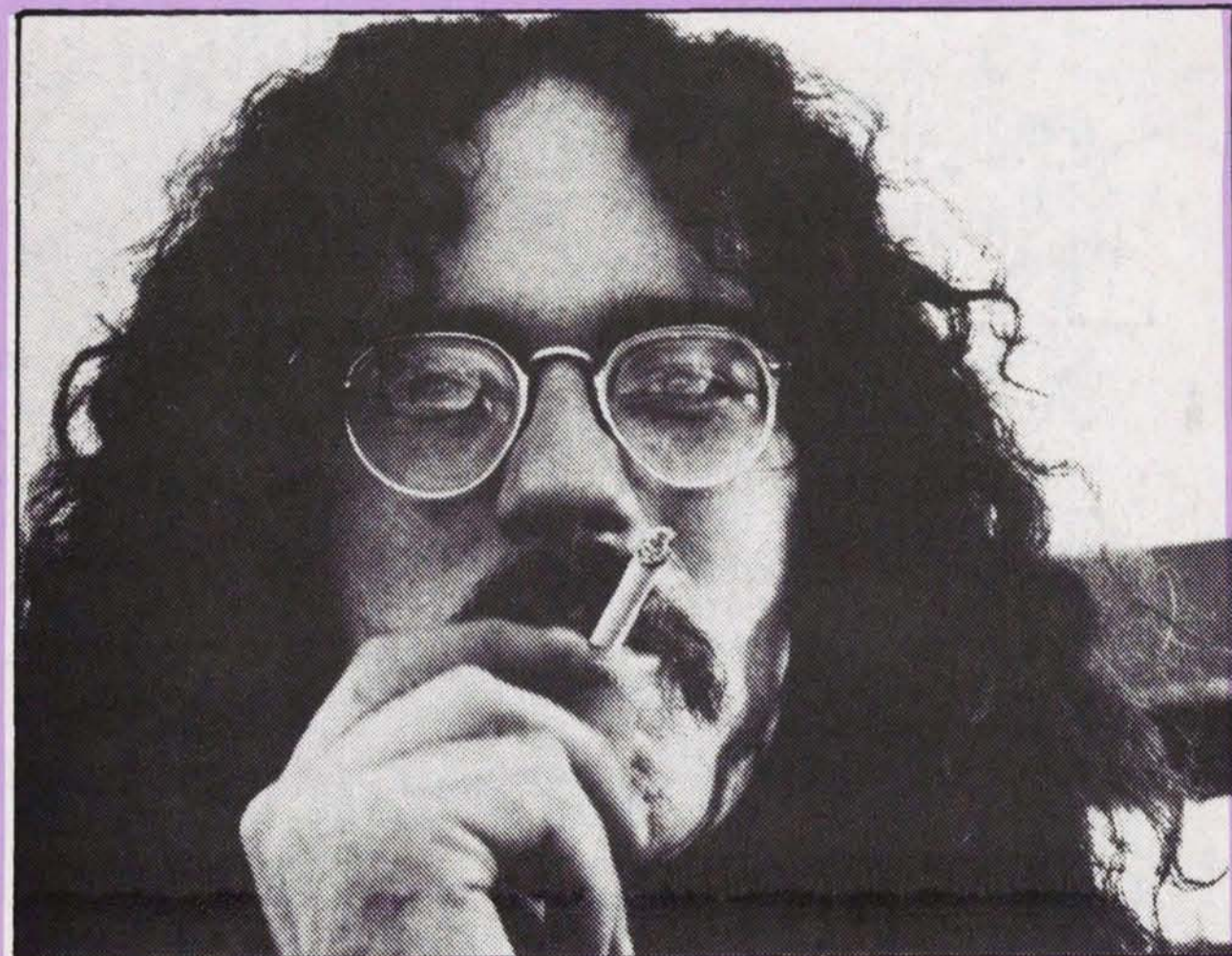
NOW FREE ON APPEAL BOND



# JOHN SINCLAIR

CONVICTED BY DETROIT RECORDER'S COURT OF POSSESSION  
OF TWO JOINTS OF MARIJUANA---

APPEAL BOND DENIED BY STATE SUPREME COURT



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO JUSTICE IN AMERICA?

If John Sinclair  
were a thug  
selling heroin to grade school children  
& paying bribes to police and public officials  
he'd be a free man today

If John Sinclair  
were a pilot for Air America  
dumping polyethylene bags of opium/heroin  
in the Gulf of Siam  
he'd be a free man today

If John Sinclair  
were shaking down bar owners  
in Pontiac  
forcing mafia juke boxes down scared throats  
he'd be a free man today

If John Sinclair  
had bayoneted Vietnamese women  
or smashed off their face-skin with  
bamboo mallets  
he'd be a free man today

If John Sinclair  
had slimed through the system  
scratching backs & sucking back down further  
picking up appointments for no thing no where no service  
like Judge Robert Colombo  
he'd be a free man today.

Two years after  
his sentenc-  
ing

it curses our miserable death-trampled  
lives  
that John should still be  
enslaved in the mind of  
Stringfellow/Colombo

And that's what it is  
where John lies buried  
in boulders & steel.

o subtle currents of power  
o rainbow humans roaming like Blake-folk

set him free  
set a gentle  
man free.

The only answer  
is pressure

and a solemn' declaration  
before the  
boundless universe:

Love & public  
tranquility  
& sharers' bliss  
for those who  
help him free

& a huge screaming mob  
outside the homes  
of every official  
who keeps  
John Sinclair in jail.

Ed Sanders  
Aug-Sept-Oct  
1971

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

# If You are Concerned with Justice and Drug Laws . . . THIS IS YOUR CASE!

"Now, as to bond, in view of the fact that Mr. Sinclair shows a propensity and a willingness to further commit the same type of offenses while on bond, and I am citing you the cause of *People v. Vito Giacalone* just decided by the Michigan Court of Appeals, this is one instance where there is a likelihood of that type of danger and which the Court of Appeals said that refusal to set bond is a good grounds. And based on that and my belief that he will continue to violate the law, and flaunt the law in relation to narcotics, I deny bond pending appeal." — Judge Robert J. Colombo, in sentencing John Sinclair to 9½-10 years in prison on July 28, 1969.

With those words John Sinclair was shipped off to prison two years ago for possession of two marijuana cigarettes.

His attempts to secure an appeal bond from the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court were denied over a year and a half ago without a hearing. The Michigan Supreme Court stated, in denying John Sinclair's application for appeal bond, that "the defendant and appellant has failed to persuade the Court that he has a meritorious basis for appeal or that the determination of the Court of Appeals was clearly erroneous."

"No one should go to prison unless it's absolutely necessary. It should be the last resort. And to send this kind of person (John Sinclair) to prison is a kind of mockery. It's often a case of putting them away as a subterfuge and as a means to get somebody locked up, and I think it's what's happening . . ." — Harold J. Harbo, Director of Corrections, Michigan Corrections Department, March 28, 1971.

On July 12th, John Sinclair entered a new application for appeal bond with the Michigan Supreme Court.

This application asserts that "the determination of the Court of Appeals" to uphold Judge Colombo's denial of appeal bond "was clearly erroneous." We believe the facts bear this out. There has never been a hearing on the "facts" cited by Judge Colombo. We have, therefore, taken this method to bring the facts to you:

- Marijuana is not a narcotic.

• John Sinclair has never used narcotics, or "flaunted the law in relation to narcotics."

• John Sinclair was free on bond for 2½ years before his trial and was not once arrested "for committing the same type of offense."

"*Marijuana is not a narcotic, and it is not rational for the law so to classify it . . .* (This) causes many innocent people to be labeled as criminals." — Michigan Public Health Association, May 20, 1971.

"The hypocrisy of our present law, which falsely classifies marijuana as a narcotic, affects the credibility of our entire drug abuse program." — Governor William Milliken, March 4, 1971.

We think it is clear that John Sinclair is not a criminal trying to escape justice on a technicality. He has made a substantive challenge to the constitutionality of the state's marijuana laws — a challenge which after four years in the state's courts has not yet been given its due consideration. The Court of Appeals has twice refused to grant a full hearing, the Supreme Court once so. Now, if John Sinclair is forced to pay for his freedom for the coming year, he will have to grapple with the issue on his own terms.

The argument proposed in John Sinclair's appeal to the state's unconstitutional marijuana laws has been embraced by the Michigan House of Representatives, which twice in 1970 passed new marijuana bills (by margins of 83-3 and 71-1) based on the language and substance of John Sinclair's appeal; by House Bill #4882 now before the legislature, based on a proposal by Governor Milliken, which removes marijuana from the narcotics statute and provides a maximum 90-day penalty for possession; by the Michigan Public Health Association; by the Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Abuse; by the U.S. Government, which has already removed marijuana from the federal narcotics statutes and deemed possession a misdemeanor; and by the cities of Ann Arbor, Berkley, Birmingham, Dearborn, East Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, Livonia, Redford Township, and St. Clair Shores which have already passed legislation designating possession of marijuana as a misdemeanor.

Yet in 1969 the Supreme Court refused to grant John Sinclair bond pending the final determination of his appeal. And the Supreme Court continues to accept the version of the facts proposed by Judge Colombo, without making an investigation into the veracity of those "facts."

"Michigan law prohibiting the possession of marijuana violates equal protection guarantees of federal and state constitutions because marijuana is classified in this statute as a "narcotic drug" and treated like heroin and other hard drugs to which it bears no rational resemblance." — Brief for Defendant-Appellant John Sinclair, in *State v. John A. Sinclair*.

John Sinclair is not a criminal. His imprisonment, though based on the tenuous grounds of the constitutionality of the marijuana laws, and the fact that he was arrested by the Detroit Narcotics Bureau. He is further being punished for his constitutionally-protected political activity in Michigan's Youth Community. A fair bond hearing would demonstrate why John Sinclair deserves his freedom pending the final determination of his appeal.

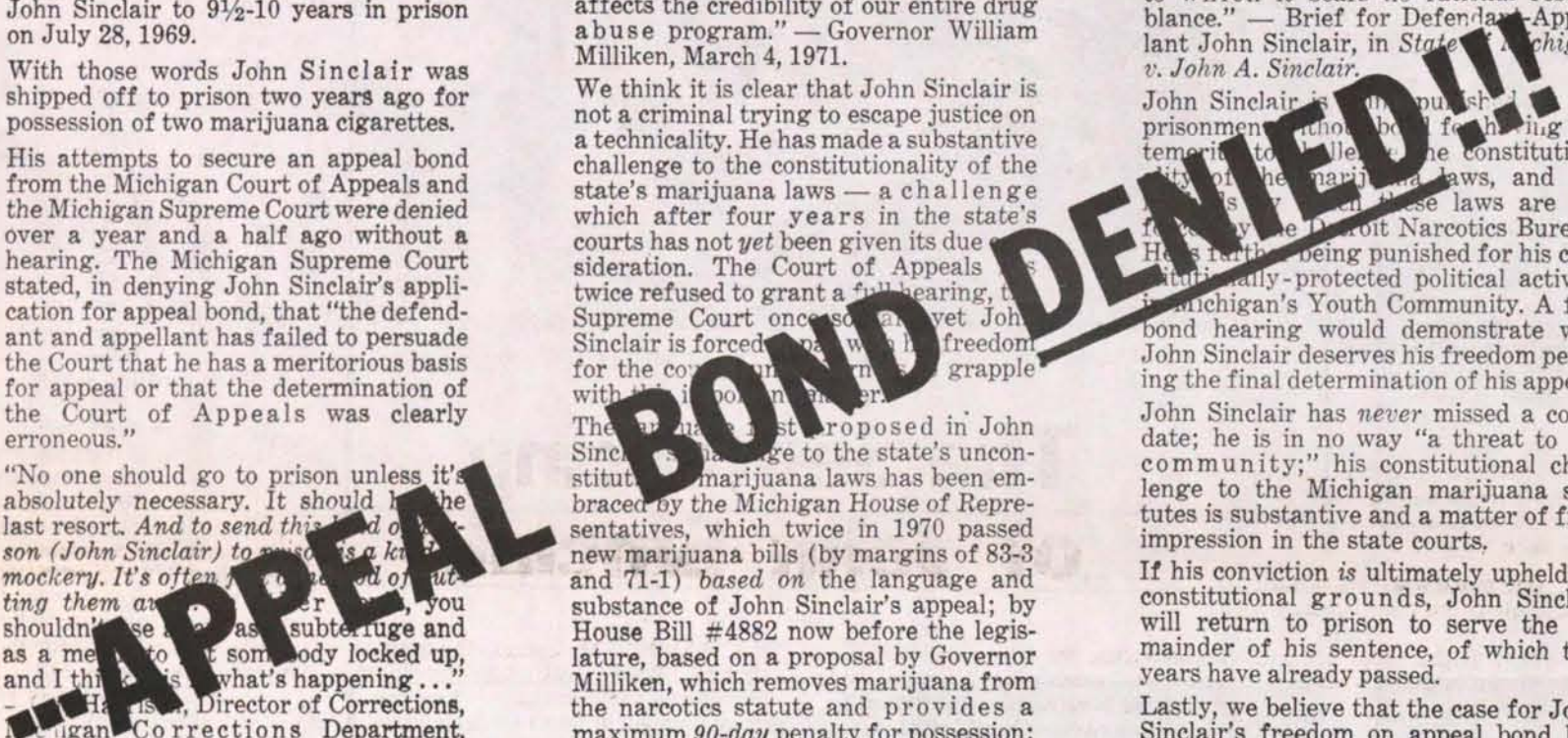
John Sinclair has never missed a court date; he is in no way "a threat to the community;" his constitutional challenge to the Michigan marijuana statutes is substantive and a matter of first impression in the state courts.

If his conviction is ultimately upheld on constitutional grounds, John Sinclair will return to prison to serve the remainder of his sentence, of which two years have already passed.

Lastly, we believe that the case for John Sinclair's freedom on appeal bond has been decisively stated by Justice William O. Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Garbo v. Illinois*:

"Where the constitutionality of an act is at issue, the likelihood that the applicant, if released on bail, might repeat the offense is not a proper circumstance to take into consideration . . . For it is deep-seated in our law that one may take his chances and defy a legislative act on constitutional grounds."

Ten years for two marijuana cigarettes — and no appeal bond. Think about it . . . We have.



## We Support John Sinclair's Right to Freedom...

- Roger Craig — Americans for Democratic Action
- Nadine Brown — Michigan Chronicle
- Zelton Ferney — Human Rights Party
- Hugh M. Davis — National Lawyers Guild
- Paul Lowinger, M.D. — Lafayette Clinic
- Ernest Mazey
- Jane Fonda
- Allen Ginsberg
- William Kunstler, Attorney, Law Center for Constitutional Rights
- Jackie Vaughn III, State Representative
- Mitch Ryder, Musician
- Danny Fields — Atlantic Records
- Robert J. Harris
- Shirley MacLaine
- Dennis Hopper
- Judy Collins
- Anetta Miller, Michigan State Board of Education
- Basil Brown, State Senator
- Coleman Young, State Senator
- Melvin Wolf, Legal Director, Natl. ACLU
- Thomas Fleming — President, P.E.N. American Sector
- Norman Dorsen — Prof. of Law, N.Y.U.
- Anthony G. Amsterdam — Prof. of Law, Stanford U.
- Jerry Wexler — Pres. Atlantic Records
- Bob Thiele — Flying Dutchman
- Bob Krasnow, Blue Thumb Records
- Maynard Solomon, Vanguard Records
- John Sack — Esquire Magazine
- Jann Wenner — Rolling Stone
- Nat Hentoff — Village Voice
- Jack Newfield — Author
- Ralph Gleason — Writer
- Ken Kesey — Author
- Cheryl McCall
- Bennet Sims
- Gregory Armstrong — Bantam Books
- Ross Firestone — Douglas Comm.
- Alan Douglas
- Howard Smith — Village Voice
- John Lombardi — Esquire Magazine
- Peter Max
- Rick Ives — New Democratic Coalition

- Allen & Susan Jones — New Democratic Coalition
- Leonard Weinglass — Attorney
- David Lubal — Attorney
- Bill Schaap — Attorney
- Vincent Hallinan — Attorney
- Terrence Kayo Hallinan — Attorney
- Robert G. Faber
- Gary Snyder
- Jerry Schwarzbach — Attorney
- Sheldon Halpern — Attorney
- George Goldstein — Attorney
- Harry M. Philo — Attorney
- D. William Maki — Attorney
- Justin Ravits — Attorney
- Kenneth V. Cockrel — Attorney
- Charles Jones — Attorney
- Barbara Robb — Attorney
- F. Randall Carfanta — Attorney
- Sol Plofkin — Attorney
- Dick McMillin — Attorney
- David Goldstein — Attorney
- Martin Reissig — Attorney
- James Neuhard — Attorney
- Lawrence Farmer — Attorney
- Bill Friedman
- Tom Donahue
- Chuck Ferry — Producer
- Dr. John Spellman — Head of Asian Studies, U. of Windsor
- Steve Roday
- Lawrence Farlinghetti
- George Manupelli
- Alex Bennet — Radio Announcer, WPLJ-N.Y.
- Art Penhallow
- Barbara Holliday — WRIF
- Dan Carlisle
- Jerry Lubin
- Paul Greiner
- John Dets
- Jim Dulso
- Dave Dixon
- Paul Krassner
- Craig Karpel

- Barry Kramer — CREEM Magazine
- Dave Marsh — CREEM Magazine
- Peter Werbe — Fifth Estate
- Michael Spepanian
- William F. Costello — D.O.
- Watson A. Young — M.D.
- Dr. Al Schneider
- Isadore Lampe — M.D.
- Tod Mikuriya — M.D.
- Dr. Robert E. Beyer
- Gene & Ruth Gladstone
- Dave Gordon
- Mr. & Mrs. John A. Sinclair
- Ralph Hogg — Contractor
- Linda Chabot — Staff, Labor Defense Coalition
- Very Rev. Charles D. Robertson
- Dr. & Mrs. J. E. Lenzo
- Rev. Michael J. O'Connor
- The Rev. Charles D. Robertson
- Adrienne James
- David Y. Klein
- Stanley Krippner
- Bill Allinger
- David Wineman
- Nancy Hartssock
- Rd. Robert A. Kreucher
- Anthony F. & Karen Friess Perrino
- Harvey A. Silverglate
- Hugh H. Hobart
- John L. Erlich
- Sam Bass Warner, Jr.
- The Divisionaries
- Duncan McNaughton
- Irving J. Gordon
- Mike Forman
- Dennis Frawley
- Larry Monroe
- Bud Spangler — Program Director, WDET
- Charles Moore — Musician
- Rob Rudnick
- Steve Roday — University Review
- Michael Aldrich — Ph.D.
- Ann Smith

- Warren L. Smith
- Dorothy Herberg
- Charlotte A. Wolter
- Elinore Maki
- Christine Thomas
- Bonnie McFadden
- Godfrey Gillard
- J. Neil Hunt
- Kenneth Mogul
- Theodore Spearman
- John L. Erlich
- Charles Garvin
- Jack Rothman
- Don Chamberlain
- Janet L. Handy
- Betsy Robertson
- Cecil Thomas Ault
- Charles Thomas

### COMMITTEE TO FREE JOHN SINCLAIR

715 E. Grand Blvd. Detroit, Michigan 48207

\*Affiliation listed for identification purposes only.

Contributions are urgently needed to help with the substantial legal costs. Make checks payable to: John Sinclair Freedom Fund, 715 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48207. Name: Address:

Note: What follows is an excerpted transcript of court proceedings the day John Sinclair was sentenced to 9 1/2 - 10 years in jail for possessing nature's holy weed, by Judge Robert Colombo, July 28, 1969, Detroit.

THE CLERK: File No. A-134588. The People v. John A. Sinclair. You were found guilty by a jury July 25th of Possession of Marijuana. You are here today for sentence.

Do you have anything before the court imposes sentence?

THE DEFENDANT: I haven't had a chance to say anything so far, and I'd like to say a few things for the record. The Court is aware that these charges have been fabricated against me by the Detroit Narcotics Squad. He came to me one day and said a month and three days ago you did this, you gave so and so this, you did that. I had no opportunity to construct a defense. But I know what was going on all along, and it was a conspiracy by these people, Warner Stringfellow, Vahan Kapagian and Joseph Brown and the rest of them to frame me on this case, and to bring me right here, and on two marijuana cigarettes, and say I gave them to them, and then let the rest of you who are in it with them manufacture this whole case and bring me here.

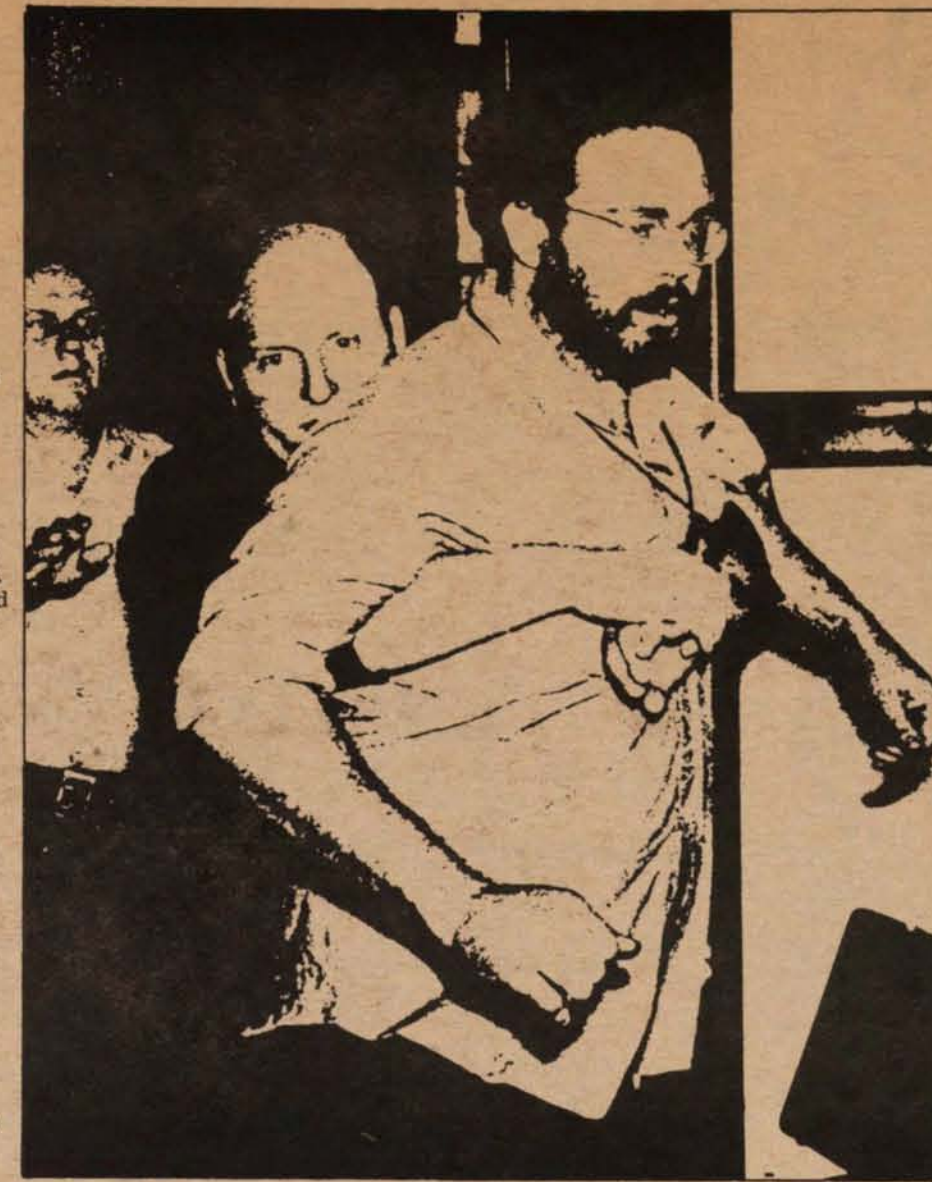
The punishment I have received already in the two and a-half years since this case started is cruel and unusual, if I had committed the crime of possessing two marijuana cigarettes. And everyone who is taking part of this is guilty of violating the United States Constitution and violating my rights and everyone else that's concerned. And to take me and put me in a pig sty like the Wayne County Jail for the weekend is a cruel and unusual punishment, to sleep on the floor, to have no sheets, no blankets, pig swill to eat. You see, but you can get away with this and you can continue—I don't know what sentence you are going to give me, it's going to be ridiculous whatever it is. And I am going to continue to fight it. And the people are going to continue to fight it, because this isn't justice. There is nothing just about this, there is nothing just about these courts, nothing just about these vultures over here.

THE COURT: One more word out of the crowd and I will clear the courtroom.

THE DEFENDANT: Right. And that will continue in the tradition that's been established here.

MR. RAVITZ: If your Honor please, Mr. Sinclair is 27 years of age, he is married, he had one child in the audience today, two years of age. A beautiful child, she is there. His wife is pregnant. He's lived in the State of Michigan all his life.

In Amerika, which has never known anything but the history of racism and in America which practices those imperialistic and those brutalistic and inhumane wars in Asia and elsewhere around the globe, and in America, which sends a man to the moon while millions of its citizens starve, John Sinclair is brought before this Court and he is said to be a criminal. He isn't a criminal, he isn't a criminal at all. The criminals with respect to this law are the doctors, the



JOHN SINCLAIR BEING HAULED OFF TO PRISON AFTER SENTENCING

## The Sentencing of John Sinclair

legislatures, the attorneys who know, who know because they have knowledge that these laws are unconstitutional. That these laws defy all knowledge of science. That this sumptuary legislation, are on the books to go after and to oppress politically unpopular people and groups and minorities.

This very day, twenty-five percent of the future doctors of America who are studying at Wayne State University Medical School have possessed marijuana. Twenty-five percent of future lawyers, indeed future judges, who will be sitting on that bench someday, have possessed and have smoked marijuana.

THE COURT: That's your opinion.

THE DEFENDANT: That's fact.

MR. RAVITZ: My opinion is based on studies. What I really hope the Court recognizes and that other judges and other persons of this society charged with responsibilities come to recognize is that America cannot single out unpopular leaders and go into their arsenal of over-kill, be it through stone or rifles, or highly punitive sentences and think that the problems in this country can never be solved in that fashion. Yet all around this country we see political prosecutions. We see the Tommie Haydens, we see the Huey Newtons, the John Sinclairs singled out, and somewhere in the warped minds of those so-called leaders, they think that they are going to stem the tide of revolution by picking out leaders. Well, they simply not going to do so, because leaders are no longer indispensable in this country. Because there are a great many people who are awake to the crimes

and atrocities committed by governments, and because it simply cannot work.

I hope that this Court in particular begins to act by exercising some degree of rational thought process, and by recognizing the reality of the situation. Thank you.

THE COURT: Well, in this matter here, Mr. Sinclair was arrested in January, 1967, in connection with an offense that took place on December 22, 1966. It is interesting to me that he, and you, assert that he has been violated of his constitutional rights, because all the rights he's entitled to, as any citizen is under the constitution have been asserted in his defense.

Now, Mr. Sinclair is not on trial and never was on trial in this courtroom because of his beliefs. He represents a person who has deliberately flaunted and scoffed at the law. He may think that there is nothing wrong with the use of narcotics. Although an enlightened and intelligent people think to the contrary, and otherwise. And medical studies back them up far more completely than they do the people on his side of the particular question.

The public has recognized that the use of narcotics is dangerous to the people that use it. The public, through its legislature has set penalties for those who violate and traffic in narcotics. Now, this man started in 1964, in which he first came to the attention of this court, and upon the offense of possession of narcotics, on a plea of guilty, was placed upon probation. We have tried to understand John Sinclair, we have tried to reform and rehabilitate John Sinclair.

John Sinclair has been out to show that the law means nothing to him and to his like. And that they can violate the law with impunity, and the law can't do anything about it.

Well, the time has come. The day has come. And you may laugh, Mr. Sinclair, but you will have a long time to laugh about it. Because it is the judgement of this Court that you, John Sinclair, stand committed to the State Prison at Southern Michigan, at Jackson, or such other institution as the Michigan Corrections Commission may designate for a minimum term of not less the 9 1/2 nor more than 10 years. The Court makes no recommendation upon the sentence other than the fact that you will be credited for the two days you spent in the County Jail.

Now, as to bond, in view of the fact that Mr. Sinclair shows a propensity and a willingness to further commit the same type of offenses while on bond, and I am citing you to the case of the People v. Vita Giacalone just decided by the Michigan Court of Appeals, this is one instance where there is a likelihood of that type of danger and which the Court of Appeals said that refusal to set bond is a good grounds. And based on that and my belief that he will continue to violate the law, and flaunt the law in relation to narcotics, I deny bond pending appeal.

THE DEFENDANT: You just exposed yourself even more. And people know that. You gave somebody 9 1/2 to 10 years...

## P.E.N. CLUB SUPPORTS JOHN

The American Center of the P. E. N. Club, a world association of writers with 80 Centers in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas has written a letter to Michigan Governor Milliken urging that he commute John Sinclair's sentence. The P. E. N. center has in the past organized protests over the imprisonment of Soviet authors: Solzhenitsyn, Daniel Sinyavsky and A-malrik, as well as interceded for writers in Greece, Nigeria, Brazil and Taiwan. This is the first time it has been forced to intercede on behalf of an American author. The letter follows:

January 8, 1971

Dear Governor Milliken,

I am writing to you on behalf of a young writer who is currently serving a nine and a half year term in a Michigan prison, for possession of marijuana.

I am Chairman of the Writers in Prison Committee of the American Center of International P. E. N. Slightly over a thousand writers belong to the American chapter. They include some of the most important names in Ameri-

can literature, such as the playwright, Arthur Miller; the historian, James Thomas Flexner and the novelist, John Updike. There are sixty chapters of P. E. N. around the world from South Korea to Yugoslavia. The Writers in Prison Committee plays a vital role in P. E. N.'s primary purpose—to permit the free expression of literary creativity, and to defend writers who have been imprisoned for their political or literary opinions. Recently we have protested the imprisonment of writers in countries as various as Brazil, Taiwan, Greece and Russia. In politics, P. E. N. is neutral.

John Sinclair is a revolutionary, in his ideology, a member of a considerable group of citizens loosely described as the Left Wing. He is also a poet of talent and sensitivity. He has been invited to read his poetry at colleges as distant as the University of California, and the Artist's Workshop he created in Detroit was considered by many reputable writers, such as poets Robert Creeley and Allen Ginsberg, one of the most promising centers of poetic-musical experimentation in America. Differing with the present government position, John Sin-

clair honestly believed that drug use, particularly marijuana, stimulated and heightened his creativity. Thus he came into conflict with the laws of the State of Michigan.

Since John Sinclair was sentenced on July 28th, 1969, there has been considerable debate on the use of marijuana, and a steady trend toward milder punishment for its use, in the legislatures of numerous states, in the federal Congress, and in the courts.

We therefore urge you out of compassion, and in response to our assurance of John Sinclair's high regard and value among his fellow writers, to commute or at least sharply reduce his sentence.

We invite you, as Governor of Michigan, to survey punishments imposed on others for possession of drugs, even so called hard drugs, to see if there is any case of so lengthy a sentence in Michigan's last decade. We have not heard of any cases in the history of Michigan which have resulted in 9 1/2 - 10 year sentences for possession of any drug, and certainly no one has ever been sentenced to that length of time for possession of two marijuana cig-

arettes.

At a time when Americans of every political creed are struggling to create a spirit of reunion and communication between all parts of our country, we think this gesture on your part would be greeted with gratitude and the strongest approval by thousands of young people, who now consider John Sinclair a political martyr, imprisoned for his Left Wing beliefs. We do not believe you will allow these beliefs to influence your judgement in this serious matter. But there is one aspect of John Sinclair's case which helps to promote this belief in his martyrdom, among young people. The evidence against him was obtained by a police informer, using the tactics of entrapment. It seems to us that this fact casts a moral cloud over the state's case, making our request for a re-examination and possible commutation of John Sinclair's sentence all the more urgent.

Sincerely yours,  
Thomas J. Fleming  
Chairman  
Writers in Prison  
Committee

# Detroit Free Press

ON GUARD FOR 140 YEARS  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1971

## Punished for Being Sinclair

The Michigan Supreme Court has granted John Sinclair the right to appeal his 1969 conviction for marijuana possession, and the court is to rule shortly on his request for bond pending the outcome of that appeal.

Certainly he should be allowed bond. His applications have been denied by lower courts on the grounds that he would be likely to repeat his offense again

were he let free.

Considering the nature of the offense --possession of two marijuana cigarettes --and the case with which far more dangerous criminals gain their bonds, those grounds would seem to reinforce the general impression that justice has been applied selectively in Sinclair's case.

He has now served two years in prison. Many people believe he is there not for the popular crime of marijuana

possession but rather for being John Sinclair--a long haired, profane, self-aggrandizing libertine, a hippie guru, a proselytizer for marijuana and other drugs.

In the public clashes that have occurred between the old morality and the new --between shorthairs and longhairs, beer-guzzlers and potheads, fathers and sons--our police and judges have sometimes demonstrated a lamentable

disregard for the impartiality --a better word might be "fairness"--with which they were supposed to discharge their duties.

That disregard has disturbed older adults than John Sinclair. If the legal system would preserve respect from a disillusioned citizenry, it must return to the old standard of fairness. And by any fair standard John Sinclair has been sufficiently punished for his crime.

# THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1971

## Pot Law Penalties Still Depend On Geography

Ann Arbor has a city ordinance under which possession of small amounts of marijuana is classified as a misdemeanor, but prosecutions continue to be brought under the state laws which makes a marijuana offense a felony.

Some city officials are unhappy at this state of affairs. The Police Department and the county prosecutor's office are not, because they believe the city and state laws should be in conformance. The laws might be in agreement if it were not for the fact that state legisla-

tion reducing minor marijuana offences to a misdemeanor is one of the bills put on the back burner while the Legislature argues endlessly over appropriations.

If anyone thinks Ann Arbor's situation is peculiar; however, he should take a look at our sister university town to the northwest, East Lansing.

East Lansing's City Council took similar action to Ann Arbor's last spring, modifying the law so that marijuana violations would be treated as misdemeanors, with the penalty a \$500

fine and/or 90 days in jail. On Michigan State University property, however, the same violation is a felony and can bring penalties up to \$5,000 and/or 20 years in prison.

MSU's Board of Trustees hasn't done anything about drug law reform, and in the absence of any action state law applies on the campus.

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While Michigan waits for the Legislature to do something about the governor's recommendation to reduce

the penalty for marijuana possession, John Sinclair continues to serve his long sentence and judges are lenient with first and minor offenders because they know the penalties are severely out of line.

That isn't the way to run a railroad, however. It is not fair to police and judges to ask them to recognize the manifest injustice of a law and act accordingly. It is the duty of the Legislature to make the penalties of the law fit the crime and not take forever to do it.

# The Michigan Daily

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1971

## The case of John Sinclair

Throughout their collective history, Americans have been a people plagued by fear.

They fear the Indian, the Asian, the black man, the communist--and they have tried everything in their power, including murder, to eradicate from their collective conscience the fear these groups instill.

The basis for this fear, while quite irrational, may lie in the uncanny apprehension Americans feel for anyone who lives differently from them. Anyone who wears different clothes or comes from a different background or holds a differing set of beliefs has "foreigner" branded across his soul; and he is tucked away in the conscience as somehow threatening the peculiarly American individualism so many have cultivated, and come to cherish.

Most recently, many young people have come to fit this classification; for their sensitivity to American commercialization--wherein people, the environment, and basic values are treated as marketable commodities--has caused in them a revulsion to American culture and as a consequence they have sought a lifestyle which insists fundamentally upon respect.

But, like other groups who have refused to calmly boil in the melting pot,

the young have had to pay a price.

In many ways John Sinclair is an example. A poet, founder of the Detroit Artists Workshop--a center for writers, artists, and musicians creating new culture motifs--and a founder of the commune, Trans Love Energies, Sinclair can be seen as an example for what is very best about the new culture.

And yet he presents a threat to the American culture, for Americans have learned to distrust people, to keep to themselves, to live in cubicles hopelessly separate from one another. But Sinclair in his communal living, his zest for creation, his dedication to change, opposes all this--intensely. He lives differently--from most Americans.

Because he is different, he is feared. And at least it can be rationally understood why John Sinclair has been sentenced to a term of 9 1/2-10 years on the charges that he possessed two marijuana cigarettes.

The State Supreme Court recently agreed to hear an appeal of Sinclair's case, after refusing to do so two years ago. And while on Thursday the court denied Sinclair release on bond, Sinclair's lawyers have expressed some optimism that the court will rule favorably on the appeal.

Indeed it should.

A man is sentenced to ten years in jail because he possessed what the state believes to be a narcotic, a dangerous drug. And yet, most medical authorities do not classify marijuana as "dangerous" at best they are skeptical of its dangers--and ten years is a long punishment for possessing something whose danger is unproven, unclear; and quite likely, imaginary.

This is also the view of 27 state governments, which have modified their marijuana laws. And it is also the belief of Gov. William Milliken.

Milliken has proposed drug legislation which would change the crime for possession of marijuana from a felony to a misdemeanor and would lower the penalty for first time possession to 90 days in jail or a maximum fine of \$500.

Milliken's Proposal passed the House in May and is expected to pass the Senate by a close vote. And yet, unless the court decided to abide by the spirit of the law, or the Governor commutes the sentence, Sinclair will remain a victim of the archaic law that imprisoned him over two years ago.

He will remain a victim of a law which also jails a person 20 years for selling heroin--a drug whose danger is far clearer. Sinclair has been punished

in a cruel and unusual manner and this marks a violation of the U.S. constitution ban on such punishments.

Originally, Sinclair was charged with dispensing marijuana to an undercover agent, but this charge was thrown out because it was based upon evidence obtained illegally--the agent trapped Sinclair into selling him the joints. But the possession charge stuck--though based on evidence obtained in exactly the same manner.

That is indeed interesting.

Clearly the Detroit Records Court and its judge, Robert Colombo, grew desperate when it became clear the dispensing charge just would not stick; for it then submitted to bending the law in order to nab its man. As Colombo said himself, prior to sentencing: "John Sinclair is out to show that he and his like can violate the law with impunity. Well, his day has come. You may laugh, but you will have a long time to laugh."

How long this prejudice will last is uncertain. One can only hope the State Supreme Court will consider the issue, the law and the man who has been convicted and then judge accordingly.

Rick Perloff  
Associate Editorial page  
Editor Michigan Daily



## New Democratic Coalition of Michigan

July 26, 1971

Dear NDCM Friends:

The accompanying appeal from the Committee to Free John Sinclair represents, we feel, an issue and a personality which are important to, but have been neglected by the New Democratic Coalition of Michigan over recent years.

John Sinclair is blatantly a political

prisoner. He is the victim of a system which used Michigan's repressive marijuana laws to rid itself of a political activist.

NDCM has opposed the militaristic, racist elements in American society; so has John Sinclair and his Rainbow People (formerly White Panthers).

NDCM has opposed repression in American society--but nearly always from the outside, far removed from any actual threat of repression ourselves. We have supported the release of Angela Davis, the Berrigan Brothers, the Chicago Seven, the Detroit Fifteen, and other victims of our peculiar system of

"justice," but we have neglected the most innocent and most victimized of America's political prisoners, right here in our own state--John Sinclair.

We urge you to respond to this appeal from a brother in need.

Peace,  
Alan and Susan Jones

## OPEN LETTER TO THE GOV...

May 27, 1971

Dear Gov,

Since we're both from Traverse City surely you won't mind my being informal, would you?

Mostly I want to write this letter to talk about John Sinclair. I know the case has been called to your attention in the past so I imagine your hip to most of the particulars, but just for the purpose of clarity I'll just touch on some things lightly.

John Sinclair was arrested along with 56 others in a weed raid in Detroit on January 24, 1967. Of all those people arrested John was the only one sent to the penitentiary.

It seems that a undercover scurvy pig hounded John for 3 months to give him 2 joints. Now the judge ruled that the pig intraped John into breaking the law, so that the evidence, the 2 joints, was illegal evidence, therefore John could not be charged with "distributing marijuana without a license". But now dig this, the same evidence that the Judge says was illegal was used to convict John for possession of marijuana. If that isn't bad enough John was sentenced to 9 1/2-10 years in the slammer, and if that isn't enough John has been denied appeal bond pending appeal.

Now look here Governor, when you took office you swore to uphold the laws of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Constitution and the United States Constitution. Now I know what you are going to say, your going to say, just like you did in 1969, that the Sinclair case is out of your hands, that we have three branches of government, the Executive, that's you, the legislative and the Judicial, and your going to tell me, or rather your going to try to tell me, that its up to the Judicial brnach act on John's case.

I say that's bullshit, what you should do is mobilise the National Guard, have them go to Detroit and arrest Judge Colombo for violating John's constitutional rights, you should have the whole court of appeals arrested. You should have all dope smokers set free because of cruel and unusual punishment, that's what you should do.

That's what you should do, but you won't cause you're a manipulating politician. Instead you'll sit back 'n grunt 'n oink, talkin' about how you entered a bill to have the penalties for possession reduced to a 90 day maximum and the penalties for sale reduced to a two year maximum. Cool. If that's the way you feel then why don't you commute the sentences of all dope smokers now, not tomorrow, now! And that ain't quick enough.

No Gov, there's not really much you can do when you stop to think about it. Oh you can liberalize the marijuana laws, but then our sisters want the right to abortion, what are you going to do about that? And when you get done dealin' with that how are you going to give the people full employment? How are you going to see that all the people have access to the best health care available? How are you going to put an end to pollution? How are you going to give people control over the institution that affects their lives, the schools, hospitals, police, A & P, Kroger, public transportation, TV & radio stations, newspapers? The people must control these institutions, because these institutions control and affect peoples lives. That's what we mean when we say, Power to the People!

Ya know, I wouldn't be in your \$180 shoes for all the weed in Mexico. Here I sit, been locked up almost 11 months now, facing a whole bunch of years in the penitentiary, but I still feel my future is much brighter than yours. Your caught up in just too many contradictions. Too much wierdness for ol' Pun Plamondon. But you live so far in the past, you probably want to be the President or something.

I'm not going to write any more. I don't see much sense in it. I'm going to read "The Political Thought of James Forman" now, a great book published by Black Star Press, 8824 Fenkell, Det. Michigan 48238. You should send them a couple hundred bucks and get a copy, you might learn something. Free John Now!

There will be no peace and freedom anywhere until there is peace and freedom everywhere.

Pun Plamondon  
P. S. If you see Attorney General John Mitchell tell him he better not come to Michigan cause I got a peoples arrest warrant out on him for tapping my phone without a search warrant.



## Letters To and From GOVERNOR MILLIKEN

June 5, 1971

Dear Governor Milliken:

As a teacher concerned with the welfare of young people in and out of the university here in Ann Arbor, I wish to urge you stonely to reconsider the plight of John Sinclair. His prison sentence--9 1/2-10 years for possession of two marijuana cigarettes--is surely an indefensible moral absurdity, and is legally correct only according to a law which you yourself have admitted to be unjust.

Sinclair and the people who follow him have been a force for good in this community. Their organization has ever been a steady source of anti-heroin propaganda, and they follow words with service, supplying drug help as well as other forms of medical aid and counsel to those in need. More positively, they provide a great variety of activities for the large community which looks to them for leadership to name but a few, there are rock concerts, outings, farming projects, and artistic undertakings of all kinds--all of which owe their existence to the positive efforts of the people who acknowledge Sinclair as their leader.

In view of the very practical worth of the man, the "crime" he is imprisoned for is what seems petty indeed, as I am sure you readily acknowledge. I therefore urge you very strongly to commute the remainder of his sentence.

Respectfully,  
J. Duncan Robertson

June 14, 1971

Dear Governor Milliken:

We are a group known usually for our concern with peace among nations--something all of us want. But we all also hope for peace among the people of our own nation, and we believe that you can, by commuting the sentence of John Sinclair, contribute significantly to peace in America.

We do not maintain that John Sinclair, the Rainbow People's Party, and their supporters will rise in revolutionary, violent wrath if you refuse to commute his sentence. We live in Ann Arbor. And though most of us are middle-aged, middle class, straight establishment-arians, we are all working for change, peacefully.

We maintain, instead, that the commutation of John Sinclair's sentence would help to end the hypocrisy and selective enforcement of marijuana laws in Michigan and reduce the cynicism with which many of the young, and many of

us, regard governments.

John Sinclair has already served nearly two years in prison for possession of two marijuana cigarettes. There are very serious legal questions about the manner of his arrest and the evidence used to convict him of possession.

The penalties for possession of marijuana are being reduced in many parts of the country. Though it's unclear whether they are legally able to do so, several cities in Michigan, including Ann Arbor, have recently made the possession of marijuana a misdemeanor, rather than a felony. You have recommended that the maximum in Michigan be reduced from twenty years to ninety days.

It is impossible, therefore, to see the continued imprisonment of John Sinclair as anything other than cultural-political repression of the most abhorrent sort. This must not become a country, if it hasn't already, in which men and women are jailed for their beliefs or for their politics.

So long as we keep one political prisoner, we will never "crown our good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea", we will never achieve peace in America, we will only perpetuate tension, rage, and violence.

Yours,  
Tom Rieke  
Interfaith Council for Peace

## ... AND THE GOV'S REPLY

June 10, 1971

Dear Professor Robertson:

This is in reply to your recent letter regarding the sentencing of John Sinclair. Our constitutional structure, with its delegation of duties and responsibilities to three distinct branches, determines that each branch must tend to its own matters, while at the same time respecting the rights and obligations of the other two to do likewise.

The trial court, a branch of the judicial system, has within its power the authority (subject to statutory restriction) to impose the sentence which it deemed appropriate under the particular circumstances.

Mr. Sinclair is now exercising his constitutional rights of appeal within the judicial system. It is the policy of the Governor not to intervene in matters that are still pending in the courts.

Thank you for taking the interest in writing and expressing your views.  
Very truly yours,  
Kenneth Frankland  
Assistant Legal Advisor

Dear Leni,

Please print the enclosed letter in your paper and wish John a Happy Birthday from me and Barbara.

The Office of the Governor  
Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Governor Milliken,

I have read excerpts from the brief of the Michigan Attorney General's office moving to dismiss the suit of John Sinclair against the wardens of Jackson State Prison in the October 1-14 issue of The Ann Arbor Sun, and I find it disgraceful. I found the brief to be incredibly arrogant and lacking in all good taste, common sense, and fairness. If the Attorney General has a case to make, it can certainly be made with dignity and reason. To characterize Mr. Sinclair's complaint as "immature", "boyish", "pretentious", and "puerile" (which are only a few of the many ad hominem arguments leveled in the brief) does not credit either the people of the State of Michigan or its government. I ask you to consider, sir, that Mr. Sinclair has been sentenced to incarceration for ten years for the possession of two marijuana cigarettes--a substance that has doubtful detrimental effect.\* If we are to concern ourselves at all with justice, we must be concerned about the treatment that John Sinclair has received at the hands of the State of Michigan.

I have been employed by the State of Michigan Department of Mental Health to work in the area of drug education amongst young people. I find my job is made increasingly difficult, indeed, negated by statements of law enforcement officials and others who wrongly classify marijuana as a narcotic drug. It is from this basic misconception that all other communication failures stem; the wrong thinking and bad feeling that is generated from this mistake results in statements like the brief of the Michigan Attorney General's office which illustrates nothing but misconception and ill-will. The persecution of John Sinclair and countless others for the possession of what may prove to be a harmless weed has done nothing to curb the rising tide of substance abuse that threatens to engulf us. The only way we can find our way out of the tragic maze of drug abuse is by the exercise of intelligence, honesty, and good will. The Michigan Attorney General's office has exercised none of these.

In light of the cruel and unusual punishment given to Mr. Sinclair and many others, in light of the dubious tactics employed by narcotics agents and other law enforcement agents to silence the voice of youth, to oppress, harass, and alienate what could be the healthiest and most creative contributors to our society (our artists and young people), in light of the findings of past and current research on marijuana, I add my name to the growing list of concerned, responsible citizens who request the official pardon of John Sinclair and all others who are presently incarcerated for possession of cannabis sativa, the legal reclassification of this substance to correspond to current medical and scientific data, and a concentrated effort on the part of the State of Michigan legal and educational authorities to arrive at a sane program of drug education.\*\* Unless steps are taken to move quickly in this direction, I fear we will lose the confidence of young people in all drug education efforts and the disturbingly high incidence of drug abuse which we experience now will be considered small compared to the amount of drug abuse we can look forward to in the future.

Yours truly,  
Peace  
Lee Elbinger

\* I refer you to the May 1971 issue of Psychology Today for an intelligent discussion of current marijuana research.

\*\*I enclose my essay "Toward a Sane Program of Drug Education" for your perusal and consideration. This essay has been widely distributed by the Wayne County Intermediate School District and I offer it as a first step toward a uniform policy that all parties can agree upon.

# INTERVIEW WITH LENI SINCLAIR

continued from page 6

Davis in it. Here's a funny thing that happened a while back. In the prison newspaper, the SPECTATOR, they reported they were changing the dress regulations due to the changing nature of fashions in society and would now allow prisoners to wear bellbottoms. So I bought him a pair of Levi bellbottom pants and sent them to the prison. They came back with a note saying "bellbottoms not allowed." So I called up the mail department first and asked how come these pants were returned. They said the regulations say bellbottoms are not allowed. So I said I just read in the Spectator today that they allow bellbottoms now, and the guy said lady, you don't believe everything you read in the newspapers, do you? So I talked to the assistant warden and he said well, a rule is a rule and that was a misprint and bellbottoms are not allowed. So I said cool and I got the pants back and took them to the lawyer to use as evidence of special treatment in the suit.

John said he saw about 5 or 6 other prisoners inside the prison walking around in bellbottoms. So I talked to the warden and he said well, you know, we don't allow bellbottoms here but prisoners can wear flairs. I said what are flairs? He said well, they're like bellbottoms but we don't call them that, we call them flairs. So if you bring bellbottoms in and leave them at the desk and call them flairs John can get them. This is how incredible things get there, and John HAS TO LIVE WITH THESE PEOPLE and be constantly under their control.

SUN: Could you run through a chronology of what's happened at the various prisons John's been held at in this state?

Leni: Well, the judge sentenced John to 9 1/2 - 10 years to be served in the southern Michigan prison at Jackson or at any other institution that the corrections department sees fit. After he was sentenced John was shipped off to Jackson and put in quarantine. Prisoners are supposed to stay in quarantine for about six weeks where all kinds of tests are run on them to see where they would fit best, what kind of job they should be assigned to as prisoners, etc. Well, John was in there for a couple of days when he heard rumors that he was going to be shipped to Marquette. Usually Marquette is reserved for prisoners who have gotten into trouble in other institutions or have to serve a long time, like 50 years to life. They don't usually send people right after they're sentenced to Marquette, so it was really surprising that after 3 weeks, before he was even done with quarantine, they shipped him up to Marquette. We couldn't figure it out except the warden said in the newspapers that John had started to organize and pass around a petition and that he was a threat to the institution, so they were shipping him to Marquette. That was a total lie and Perry Johnson has admitted to us that it was. He claimed he never said that and the newspapers made it up, but he has never publicly apologized for it. That petition he was talking about was started by some other inmates. John never saw a copy and didn't even know of its existence. It was passed around by all the brothers and said Free John Sinclair! Everybody knew about John and really sympathized with him for getting such a rotten deal.

So they shipped him up to Marquette, 750 miles away. In Marquette he was OK, he was up there for about a year. He had to

work in the laundry eight hours a day sorting dirty under wear and that was a drag, they wouldn't give him a job as a clerk because they didn't want him to have access to a typewriter, because they said they didn't like the kind of stuff that he was writing. So he studied a lot and talked to other prisoners in there, most of whom were black. The black inmates started an organization called the Society for the Advancement of Educational and Rehabilitative Opportunities, which was started with the purpose of asking the prison administration to institute a black studies program at Marquette, along with all the other programs they had which didn't teach anything but white man's history. The prison just denied that request without saying anything so the prisoners just got mad and planned a strike. John was never a part of their organization and did not take part in making the decision to strike in any way. He knew some of the people involved and talked with them in the yard once in a while. The prison guards rounded up all of the leaders of the Society and locked them up in the hole. They figured these black prisoners couldn't possibly do all this organizing by themselves, they must have somebody white to lead them!! So they claimed John was the leader of this planned sit-down strike to get the black studies program, and put him in the hole, too. A couple days later the Marquette 11, as they call themselves, were shipped to different institutions all over the state. John and three other brothers were sent to Jackson; the three brothers were put in Jackson's general population almost immediately, but John was kept in segregated confinement, where he remains today. They've never brought any criminal charges against John for this activity -- they're acting totally arbitrarily and illegally.

Now Marquette Prison has a black studies program that was started by the administration, but it seems that anytime some prog-

ressive changes go down in any prison the first people that advocate it have to go to the hole for it and have to suffer.

John remained at Jackson for quite a while, until December when he was transferred to the Wayne County Jail awaiting the CIA Conspiracy trial. The trial hasn't happened because it got tied up in the US Supreme Court since the government admitted tapping phones without a court order.

When the trial was supposed to start Federal Judge Damon Keith in Detroit ordered Pun and John not to cut their anymore until after the trial, so that they would have the same appearance as they did when this alleged crime was supposedly committed. So John and Pun had to let their hair grow. It really drives the Jackson prison administration crazy cause John's hair is just getting longer and longer now, and he's even growing a beard. His hair is down to his shoulders, and when he walks into the visiting room it's not like an inmate walking in-- he looks like a visitor. They've tried to cut John's hair on numerous occasions. Once he went to the hole for it. They said we'll give you an ultimatum, by Friday you have got to get your hair cut. John argued that he couldn't cut his hair, because he was under a court order by a federal judge not to, and if he did it could mean that his identity couldn't be established and he could get wrongly convicted and serve five years in the federal penitentiary. The prison officials tried to cut it anyway, and John refused to let them. So they put him in the hole for not obeying their orders. Then a lawyer went up there to verify it to the prison administration that there was a court order that prevented them from cutting his hair, and if they didn't follow that then they could be held in contempt of court and fined. So they left John's hair alone, but they're using that now as another excuse to keep John in segregated confinement. They say now that he's not in there for any other reason except having long hair. If it wasn't for his long hair he could

go to the trustee division. But John can't cut his hair because there's a court order against it, so actually they're punishing him by being in segregation because he has a court order from a federal judge -- it really gets bizarre.

They're uptight because there are a lot of other young brothers in Jackson who are asking them everyday well, if Sinclair has long hair, why can't we. There is a real movement going on to liberalize the hair rules which is just a reflection of the changes going down in the whole culture.

When John got back to Jackson he complained of having backaches all the time because of the old mattress he was sleeping on. They took him to the hospital ward, which is one isolated cell where he couldn't talk to anybody for 5 days and no doctor came to see him. He didn't know what was happening -- he was locked up without any contact with reality or the outside. During these five days there was a big strike in Jackson -- almost all of the inmates took part in it, it was beautifully organized, totally non-violent. The strikers were asking for higher wages. The prisoners still get 15 or 25 cents a day for making license plates, the same as they made 35 years ago. That's hardly enough to buy cigarettes or anything, and they work hard for it. They demanded a minimum \$1.00 a day for the work.

The strike fell apart eventually, but while it was going on John was in the hospital and he heard on the prison radio-earphones about this strike. Then he heard Perry Johnson on the news talking about who caused the strike, and he said the main troublemaker is John Sinclair, leader of the White Panther Party. John just flipped out -- he didn't know anything about it.

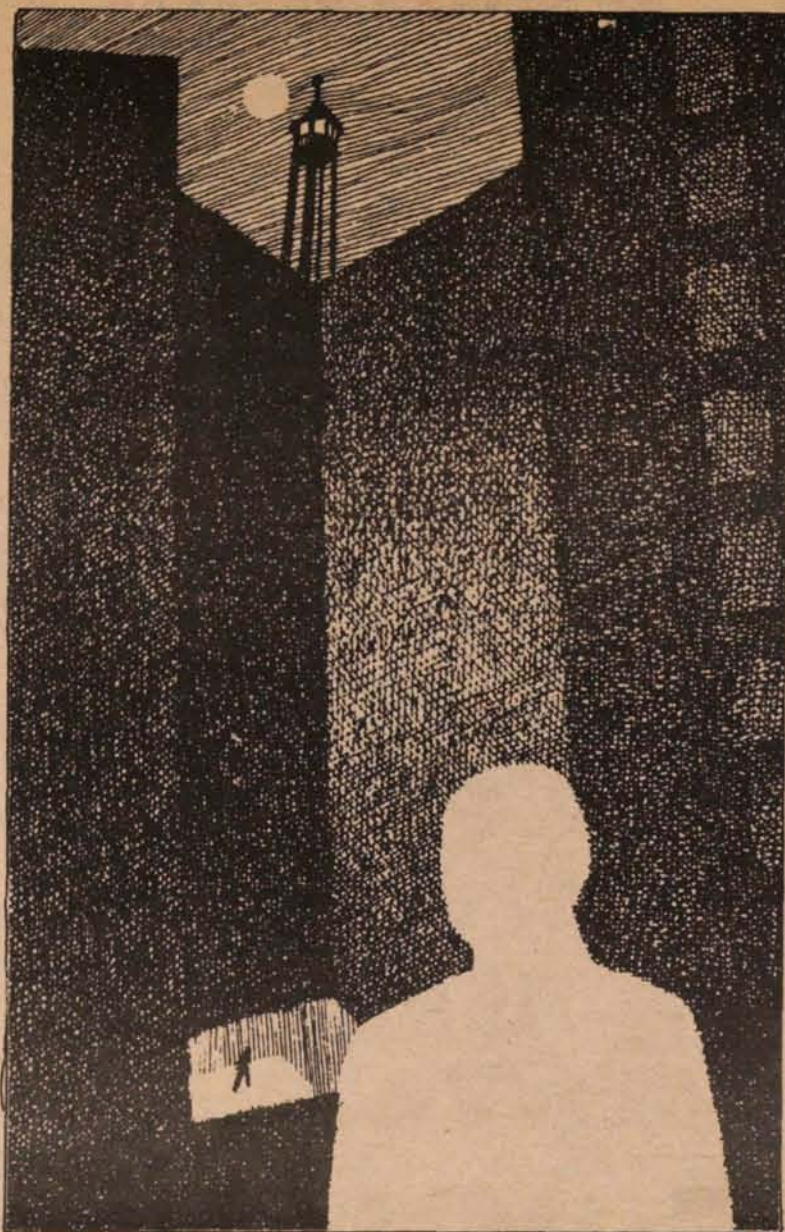
The only violation of prison rules that they ever charged John with officially was at Jackson, and that was for typing up copies of the Black Panther Party 10-point program and ideology for some brothers. During the disciplinary hearing they admitted that they never enforced this rule against anybody else, and that the material John typed up was legally admitted into the prison. They were just looking for another excuse to keep John locked up and away from everyone else.

SUN: What is a disciplinary hearing?

Leni: It's a kangaroo court inside the prison and the people who are present at it are the Deputy Warden and prison guards; they're the judges. John doesn't have any right to have an attorney to defend him. That's how they punish people who they regard as "troublemakers."

SUN: How does the warden at Jackson treat you when you talk to him.

Leni: Well, he's weird. He appears very nice, simple and cordial but then behind your back he does things just really to mess with John and try to make it as hard for him as possible. Some really perverted people are running these prisons. They're overcrowded, everybody in jail is talking about a riot. In every prison in this country it's just a matter of time before something breaks out because the conditions are just intolerable and dehumanizing. People inside prison have been going along with it because they know any kind of rebellion or any kind of attempt to organize for better conditions would just be brutally repressed, and nobody is into self-destruction. But now that a lot of people on the outside are becoming aware of the medieval conditions that still exist in prison the prisoners will start moving for better conditions themselves. They are installing special sharp-shooters at Jackson in case anything breaks out, and it's really really scary and it's really scary to think about what just happened to George Jackson and at Attica, and then to think about John and how much they hate him.



Young people in America suffer from imperialism; youth is a colony. Corporations, almost entirely headed by the Euro-American ruling class, rip off the music, clothes, and products of the Rainbow People's culture, and sell them back to us (!) at huge profits. Almost all of the work we can do goes to produce cheap and often valueless consumer goods—all in an effort to increase the imperialist's hoard. And we're forced to serve in the mother country's armies, in order to quell the just uprisings of people around the world.

The only way out from under is to organize our people for self-determination, just as the other domestic U.S. colonies are doing, and, working with them, create the cosmic Rainbow Nation that exists now only in our visions. We must create People's Bands, Ballrooms, presses, hospitals, schools—every institution that we need we must control, until eventually the people control everything and the reactionaries are kicked off the set forever.

One of the most fantastic examples of self-determination programs is AMORPHIA, the Cannabis Co-op, started recently in California. Just think about the possibilities as you read this...

At least 20 million marijuana smokers, of whom over 100,000 were arrested last year, have as yet been unrepresented by any effective national organization advancing their interests.

AMORPHIA, the Cannabis Co-operative, has invented a unique non-profit funding mechanism to coordinate a massive national campaign for legalization of marijuana through the sale of "Acapulco Gold" cigarette papers.

In addition to regular papers (Rice, Maiz, and Licorice), AMORPHIA is introducing America's first Cannabis Papers, made with pure hemp fiber—legal because non-psychoactive.

Tax statistics show that last year heads used over 150 million packs of

papers (enough for 10 billion fat joints), spending at least \$20 million to roll weed. For each 10% share of that market, "Acapulco Gold" papers will generate well over half a million dollars non-profit towards legalization.

Reasons for repeal of the anti-marijuana laws have been cogently articulated by a variety of experts, and AMORPHIA'S immediate task is to communicate these reasons to the 75%

of the electorate now opposed to legalization. Proceeds from "Acapulco Gold" papers will support (a) a massive all-out media campaign for repeal to counter the effects of over 30 years of government lies, misinformation and emotionalism; (b) news and information services; (c) research experiments, surveys, and conferences; (d) assistance to significant court cases; and (e) cooperation with other groups

# amorphia

working for repeal of marijuana prohibition.

If AMORPHIA can garner even one-sixth of the legal marijuana market, we will gross \$500 million a year, provide jobs for tens of thousands of people, pour at least \$10 million non-profits a year into peaceful social change, and serve as a model for experimenting with new systems of productive organization, utilization of resources, and distribution of power.

After legalization, the marijuana industry will probably total about \$3 billion a year. We think it is absurd to work toward repeal and then passively allow a complete takeover by establishment interests when there are obviously more interesting possible uses of the money.

After legalization, AMORPHIA (which has the earliest trademark application on the name "Acapulco Gold") will engage in the production and sale of marijuana as a non-profit foundation, devoting all proceeds to experimental communities, social action, alternate culture projects, and consciousness research. Apportionment of funds thus generated will be controlled by the people (anyone wishing to be a member) on a one person, one vote basis through a monthly magazine polling system.

We are issuing ACAPULCO GOLD Rolling Papers, even though Mr. Rizla and Zig-Zag are fine dudes. But people are getting busted while using their products, and to our knowledge, they're not doing anything about it. We plan to. The time is right for an all out campaign to end marijuana prohibition. The success of the Cannabis Co-operative is entirely dependent on whether you will choose one product instead of another because you understand what's happening with your money. It's up to you.

Blair Newman  
Michael Aldrich, P.H.D.  
Frank Richards

note: papers available at Little Things in Ann Arbor.

## ACAPULCO GOLD


ROLLING PAPER

### HELP LEGALIZE MARIJUANA!

All Amorphia's profits from these papers go to legal efforts and a media campaign to repeal marijuana prohibition.

AMORPHIA  
THE CANNABIS CO-OPERATIVE  
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Write for details:  
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# FREE JOHN NOW!

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A 24 page pamphlet by John Sinclair  
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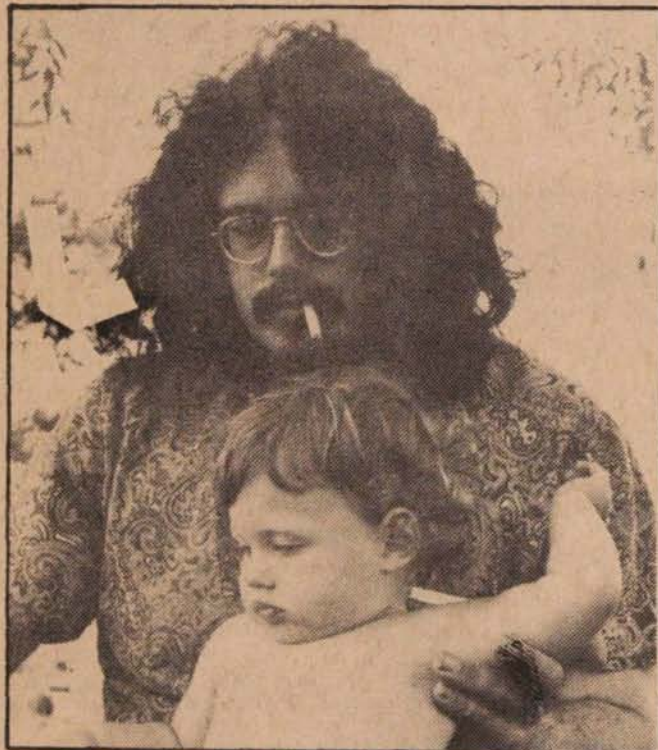
Send cash, check, or money order to:  
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If you're ordering T-Shirts, be sure to specify size (small, medium, or large).  
Please allow at least 2 weeks for delivery

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# FREE JOHN NOW!

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## MONEY IS NEEDED!

Money is urgently needed in the effort to free John Sinclair, to help with the tremendous legal costs and the political campaign. Make contributions out to the John Sinclair Freedom Fund, 715 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48207.

## WRITE THE GOVERNOR!

The Committee to Free John Sinclair urges people across the country to write Governor Milliken of Michigan and urge him to commute John's sentence, especially considering the Governor's proposed 90-day maximum penalty for weed use.

## RADIO SPECIAL TAPE AVAILABLE

A 40 minute radio special on John's case is available from the Rainbow People's Party, 1520 Hill St., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104. Tape available at reasonable rates for college and commercial stations.