

FREE
JOHN
SINCLAIR

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GUITAR ARMY

Rock & Revolution with MC5
and The White Panther Party

BY JOHN SINCLAIR

INTRODUCTION BY MICHAEL SIMMONS





Leni, Celia and Sunny Sinclair

GUITAR ARMY IS DEDICATED

*To my spiritual fathers & brothers:
John Coltrane, Charles Olson, Jack Kerouac,
Malcolm X, Eric Dolphy, Lenny Bruce,
Frantz Fanon, Albert Ayler, Ho Chi Minh,
Che Guevara, Fred Hampton, George Jackson*

*To our people's martyrs:
Dean Johnson, James Rector, Meredith Hunter,
Diana Oughton, Ted Gold, Terry Robbins,
Sandra Lee Scheuer, Allison Krause, Bill Schroeder,
Jeff Miller, Scott Kabran, Sandy Garland,
Greg Walls, Tony Brown, Alan Wilson,
Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Sam Melville*

*To my comrades & their guards
who were murdered by the State of New York
at Attica Prison September 13, 1971*

*To all the electronic aborigines of the
Rainbow Nation*

*And more than anything, to my powerful
Rainbow sisters:
Celia-Sanchez Mao, Leni & Marion Sunny Sinclair*

with all the love there is in the world



The May 14, 1970 Pulitzer Prize-winning photo by John Paul Filo of 14-year-old runaway Mary Ann Vecchio kneeling over the body of Jeffrey Miller, one of the victims of the Kent State shootings.



*you got to
live it not just
say it or*

*play it that's what this
all
about*

—John Sinclair,
Bridgework IV: 1965

Pun and Genie Plamondon, photo by John R. Fulton Jr.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

12 **INTRODUCTION** by Michael Simmons

18 **PREVIEW**

STREET WRITINGS 1968-69

- 48 Total Assault on the Culture
- 56 Kick Out The Jams, Motherfucker
- 88 White Panther State/Meant
- 92 White Panthers on the Move
- 96 Rock & Roll Is a Weapon of Cultural Revolution
- 102 Two Virgins
- 108 Community Radio
- 114 Informed Sources
- 122 Our Culture Is a Revolutionary Culture
- 130 Backdrop to Urban Revolution: Some New Black Music
- 136 Killer Blues

PRISON WRITINGS 1969-71

- 142 Transcript of Sentencing Proceedings
- 150 The Penitentiary Ain't Shit To Be Afraid Of
- 180 We Are A People
- 200 Bringin' It All Back Home
- 220 The Lesson of Goose Lake
- 228 Slaughter at Stonehead Manor
- 238 Vietnam Parking Lot Blues
- 244 Operation Jones
- 252 Rainbow Power
- 264 Free At Last
- 272 Long Live the Black Panther Party
- 276 The Lessons of July 23
- 294 Rainbow Reading & Listening List

Dennis Thompson of MC5, photo by Leni Sinclair

REVOLUTION
POETRY IS



JOHN SINCLAIR IS FREE

By Michael Simmons

“John Sinclair is a huge lover with masses of curly black hair flowing all over his head and shoulders. John is a mountain of a man. He can fuck twenty times a day and fight like a bear. He and his White Panther brothers and sisters from Ann Arbor, Michigan, are the most alive force in the whole Midwest. They turn on thousands of kids each week to their own beauty and build them into warriors and artists of the new Nation. For this John Sinclair was entrapped into giving two joints of grass to two undercover Pigs. For this some bald-headed judge named Columbo sentenced John Sinclair to nine-and-a-half to ten years in the penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan.”

—Abbie Hoffman, *Woodstock Nation*, 1969

In 1969, John Sinclair began serving a sentence of a decade in prison for *giving* a nark two joints. TEN FOR TWO. Sinclair had become a threat to the ruling class because he was exhorting young people to reject the system that had murdered, enslaved and colonized tens of millions of non-Caucasians. He openly called for Revolution to fight greed and bosses and squares. He publicly dreamed of a Utopia where, after the act of profiting from the blood and sweat of others was relegated to the status of antiquated servitude, the human race would evolve beyond the hamster wheel of WORK, KILL, DIE.

Sinclair championed ROCK & ROLL, DOPE AND FUCKING IN THE STREETS. He insisted it was within our power to create a life that celebrated freedom by means of TOTAL ASSAULT ON THE CULTURE. For this, The Man took his freedom away.