

“Obscene” Kite Busts *Fifth Estate* Art Editor

Fifth Estate Collective

1967

The local gestapo ended their celebration of National Police Week Sunday, May 21, by staging a tiny raid on the offices of the FIFTH ESTATE’S brother newspaper, THE SUN, at 4863 John Lodge, and took SUN editor Gary Grimshaw into temporary custody for “exhibiting an obscene drawing.” Grimshaw is also Art Editor of the FIFTH ESTATE.

The drawing under indictment was an American flag kite which carried the legend “Fuck America—go fly a kite,” and a drawing of the Egyptian peace eye superimposed over the flag which was hanging from a light fixture.

Grimshaw was in the SUN office counting papers when two officers from the Vernor precinct walked in the open door and started talking with him about his appearance, the newspaper, the neighborhood, and other topics of concern to them when one of the officers spotted the decorated kite, which was facing the back of the room.

He flipped, cut down the flag, and called three more squad cars for help. By this time SUN staff member Jerry Younkens and other reinforcements had shown up and were questioning the police agents about their activities. Grimshaw was taken to the Vernor precinct station where the arresting officers gave the desk sergeant this story:

“We were traveling down the John Lodge expressway and looked up to see the door of the SUN building wide open on a Sunday afternoon. We disembarked and went over there to check it out when we noticed the obscene drawing, which we could see FROM THE SIDEWALK.”

A check of the rulebooks determined that there was an ordinance forbidding the display of obscene drawings which could be seen from outside, and Grimshaw was issued a ticket.

His court date will be June 7th, in Traffic Court (!), 600 Randolph, in downtown Detroit. All interested parties are urged to be there to witness the weird courtroom proceedings.

"Obscene" Kite Busts Fifth Estate Art Editor

By [illegible]

DETROIT (AP)—A kite with a picture of a woman in a bikini was used to bust the art editor of the Fifth Estate magazine, a Detroit-based publication known for its explicit content.

The kite was thrown at the art editor, [illegible], who was sitting at a table during a meeting of the Detroit Art Association. The kite was found to contain a picture of a woman in a bikini, which was considered obscene by some members of the association.

The art editor, [illegible], was not hurt by the kite. He said that he was not surprised by the incident, as he had often received threats and harassment from people who disapproved of his work. He said that he would continue to publish the magazine as he saw fit.



[illegible]

THE FIFTH ESTATE

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Detroit Fan Fair

DETROIT (AP)—A fan fair featuring a variety of activities and exhibits is being held in Detroit this weekend. The fair is open to the public and is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

The fair will feature a variety of activities, including a parade, a concert, and a fireworks display. There will also be exhibits for a variety of organizations and businesses.

The fair is being held at the Detroit Convention Center. Tickets are available for purchase in advance. For more information, contact the Detroit Convention Bureau.

The fair is expected to be a major success for the city. It will provide a great opportunity for visitors to enjoy a variety of activities and exhibits.

The fair is being held from [illegible] to [illegible]. It is a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy a day of fun and entertainment.



[illegible]

fifth Estate

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<https://www.fifthestate.org/archive/31-june-1-15-1967/obscene-kite-busts-fifth-estate-art-editor>
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